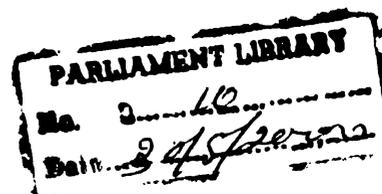


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 4, 1998/Agrahayana, 13 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform to the House about the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri L.V. Singh.

Shri L.V. Singh was a Member of Ninth Lok Sabha representing Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during 1989-91.

An advocate by profession, Shri L.V. Singh was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence during 1990-91.

An active parliamentarian, Shri L.V. Singh was Member of Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and of the Central Consumers Protection Council.

Shri L.V. Singh worked relentlessly for the welfare and upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, women and the depressed classes. He also worked for the promotion of education and the Rule of Law.

A man of letters, Shri L.V. Singh wrote several articles in various journals.

Shri L.V. Singh passed away on 8th November, 1998 in Delhi at the age of 67.

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.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Question Hour. Q. No. 81.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Mr. Speaker, I have moved an application for suspension of Question Hour today. I have a very serious issue to raise.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, today is being observed as 'National Protest Day' by the Christian community in this country. As a matter of protest, I have moved an application for suspension of Question Hour to discuss the matters regarding atrocities against some of the minorities and the dalits of this country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing this on Monday. We have allowed the matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : All the Christian communities are observing today as a 'National Protest Day'. It is a very serious matter on which a discussion has to take place...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Sir, kindly permit us to raise this issue during Zero Hour today.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, please take your seats now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : On Monday, we are going to discuss the atrocities on minorities. If necessary, I will allow this matter to be raised during Zero Hour today also.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Thank you, Sir.

11.03 hrs.

[English]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Revival of NTC Mills

*81. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt three fold strategy to revive the loss making NTC run mills;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed three fold strategy;

(c) the details of NTC mills running into losses for the last several years; and

(d) the extent to which the new three fold strategy is going to help in revival of the sick NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) On the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interests of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

A statement indicating names of the Mills and the profit/loss incurred by them during each of the last three years in enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in crores.)

S.No.	Name of the Mills	Location	1995-96	1996-97		1997-98 (Prov.)	
				Profit/Loss			
				+	-		
1	2	3	4	5	6	6	
NTC (DPR) Ltd.							
Punjab							
1.	Dayalbagh Spg. & WVG. Mills	Amritsar	-3.69	-3.63		-4.70	
2.	Kharar Textile Mills	Kharar	-2.66	-1.46		-2.14	
3.	Panipat Woolen Mills	Kharar	-2.84	-3.91		-5.47	
4.	Suraj Textile Mills	Malout	-3.11	-1.88		-2.78	
Rajasthan							
5.	Edward Mills	Beawar	-2.59	-2.46		-3.39	
6.	Mahalaxmi Mills	Beawar	-2.24	-2.05		-3.09	
7.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Bijaynagar	-1.94	-2.69		-2.87	
8.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	Udaipur	-3.19	-1.69		-2.45	
NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.							
9.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	Rajnandgaon	-9.53	-12.06		-13.00	
10.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur	-5.71	-7.71		-8.97	
11.	Hira Mills	Ujjain	-6.78	-8.04		-8.10	
12.	Indore Malwa United Mills	Indore	-10.09	-12.33		-12.52	
13.	Kalyanmai Mills	Indore	-9.00	-10.26		-11.74	
14.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal	-5.89	-7.67		-8.33	
15.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	Indore	-5.62	-6.90		-7.46	
NTC (Uttar Pradesh)							
16.	Atherton West Mills	Kanpur	-4.73	-5.71		-7.67	
17.	Bijli Cotton Mills	Hathras	-1.85	-1.76		-2.42	
18.	Lakshmi Rattan Cotton Mills	Kanpur	-7.85	-8.72		-11.34	
19.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	Saharanpur	-4.10	-5.57		-5.78	
20.	Muir Mills	Kanpur	-9.88	-12.22		-13.46	
21.	New Victoria	Kanpur	-11.41	-12.58		-13.32	
22.	Rae Bareli Textile Mills	Rae Bareli	-2.01	-2.48		-2.74	
23.	Sri Vikram Cotton Mills	Lucknow	-2.00	-2.78		-2.97	
24.	SW. Cotton Mills Mau.	Mau. Bhanjan	-2.94	-2.76		-2.86	
25.	SW. Cotton Mills Kanpur	Kanpur	-12.99	-14.91		-14.40	
26.	SW. Cotton Mills. Naini	Naini	-8.10	-9.92		-10.10	

1	2	3	4	5	6
N.T.C. (South Maharashtra) Ltd.					
27.	Apollo Textile Mills	Mumbai	-5.08	-5.30	-7.82
28.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	Aurangabad	-1.11	-1.23	-1.56
29.	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi	-.24	-.09	-.02
30.	Bhrat Textile Mills	Mumbai	-5.68	-6.65	-7.64
31.	Chalgaon Textile Mills	Chalgaon	-.80	-1.37	-2.36
32.	Dhule Textile Mills	Dhule	-4.11	-3.95	-4.46
33.	Digvijay Textile Mills	Mumbai	-10.61	-10.21	-12.69
34.	Elphinston Mills	Mumbai	-6.41	-6.54	-8.08
35.	Finlay Mills	Mumbai	-5.65	-6.16	-10.12
36.	Gold Mohar Mills	Mumbai	-3.93	-4.64	-7.47
37.	Jupiter Textile Mills	Mumbai	-8.43	-9.61	-10.49
38.	Mumbai Textile Mills	Mumbai	-8.26	-8.85	-10.36
39.	Nanded Textile Mills	Nanded	-2.68	-3.96	-4.45
40.	New City Textile Mills	Mumbai	-5.14	-4.68	-6.04
41.	New Hind Textile Mills	Mumbai	-9.99	-10.41	-8.86
42.	Podar Processers	Mumbai	-4.37	-5.06	-5.89
43.	Shree Madhusudan Mills	Mumbai	-3.81	-4.72	-5.30
NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.					
44.	India United Mills No-1	Mumbai	-11.30	-11.93	-13.52
45.	India United Mills No-2	Mumbai	-8.37	-9.04	-11.41
46.	India United Mills No-3 &]	Mumbai	-12.32	-14.42	-14.10
47.	India United Mills No-4]	Mumbai			
48.	India United Mills No-5	Mumbai	-5.23	-6.51	-8.06
49.	India United Mills No-6	Mumbai	-5.81	-6.03	-6.95
50.	Jam Mfg. Mills	Mumbai	-4.58	-5.27	-6.22
51.	Kohinoor Mills No-1)]	Mumbai	-6.32	-18.07	-9.77
52.	Kohinoor Mills No. 2)	Mumbai			
53.	Kohinoor Mills No- 3)]	Mumbai			
54.	Podar Mills	Mumbai	-4.78	-5.58	-7.23
55.	Model Mills	Nagpur	-9.90	-12.77	-14.96
56.	R.B.B.A. SPG. & WVG. Mills	Hinganghat	-2.39	-3.36	-5.04
57.	R.S.R.G. SPG. & WVG. Mills	Akola	-3.35	-4.26	-4.71
58.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	Akola	-2.21	-3.30	-3.16
59.	Shri Sitaram Mills	Mumbai	-2.83	-5.56	-4.41
60.	Tata Mills	Mumbai	-6.85	-8.46	-11.30
61.	Vidarbha Mills	Achallpur	-3.49	-4.84	-4.90

1	2	3	4	5	6
NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.					
62.	Ahmd. Jupiter Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	-7.35	-7.42	-10.73
63.	Ahmd. New Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	-7.51	-7.86	-10.57
64.	Himadri Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	-5.21	-6.60	-6.94
65.	Jehangir Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	-10.05	-10.04	-12.88
66.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	Bhavnagar	-6.21	-6.79	-9.14
67.	New Manakchowk Tex. Mills	Ahmedabad	-5.85	-6.74	-7.32
68.	Petlad Textile Mills	Petlad	-2.93	-3.01	-3.98
69.	Rajkot Textile Mills	Rajkot	-2.35	-2.27	-2.81
70.	Rajnagar Textile Mills 1	Ahmedabad	-8.30	-9.03	-11.83
71.	Rajnagar Textile Mills 2				
72.	Viramgam Textile Mills	Ahmedabad	-4.96	-5.25	-6.59
N.T.C. (APKK & M) Ltd.					
Andhra Pradesh					
73.	Adoni Cotton Mills	Adoni	-2.08	-1.41	-1.37
74.	Anantpur Cotton Mills	Tadapatri	-2.31	-2.75	-2.37
75.	Azam Jahi Mills	Warangal	-3.41	-4.09	-4.54
76.	Natraj Spinning Mills	Adilabad	-3.44	-2.44	-3.37
77.	Netha Spinning Mills	Secunderabad	-2.12	-1.72	-1.63
78.	Tirupathi Cotton Mills	Chitor	-3.04	-2.84	-3.00
Karnataka					
79.	M.S.K. Mills	Gulbarga	-5.21	-5.78	-7.24
80.	Minerva Mills	Bangalore	-7.48	-8.18	-10.43
81.	Mysore SPG.& MFG. Mills	Bangalore	-3.74	-5.93	-6.14
82.	Shree Yallamma Mills	Tolahunse	-3.53	-2.78	-3.87
Kerala					
83.	Alagappa Textile Mills	Kerala	-3.00	-2.90	-2.93
84.	Cannanore Spg. Wvg. Mills	Mahe	-1.22	-1.76	-1.31
85.	Cannanore Spg. Wvg. Mills	Cannanore	-1.05	-1.13	-0.68
86.	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	Trichur	-2.62	-2.69	-3.16
87.	Parvathi Mills	Quilon	-4.43	-4.36	-7.08
88.	Vijaymonini Mills	Trivandum	-0.89	-1.59	-1.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
NTC (TN & P) Ltd.					
Pondicherry					
89.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Pondicherry	-7.04	-5.21	-4.67
90.	Sri Bharati Mills	Pondicherry	-5.95	-4.88	-3.89
Tamil Nadu					
91.	Balaramverma Textile Mills	Coimbatore	-1.25	-.69	-1.46
92.	Combodia Mills	Coimbatore	-.99	-.16	+33
93.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore	-2.58	-.42	-.24
94.	Coimbatore SPG. & WVG. Mills	Coimbatore	-6.47	-6.43	-8.43
95.	Kaleeshwarar Mills No. A	Coimbatore	-4.93	-5.11	-5.43
96.	Krishnaveni Textile Mills	Coimbatore	-2.00	-1.09	-1.10
97.	Om Parasakthi Mills	Coimbatore	-.37	-.50	-1.04
98.	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore	-.66	-.47	-.34
99.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Coimbatore	-.91	-.03	+35
100.	Shri Rangavilas Mills	Coimbatore	-2.91	-.29	+21
101.	Somasundaram Mills	Coimbatore	-1.28	-1.54	-.97
102.	Sri Sarda Mills	Coimbatore	-2.76	-1.38	-1.08
103.	Kaleeshwarar Mills No. B	Coimbatore	-1.80	-.17	+30
NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd.					
Assam					
104.	Associated Industries	Gauhati	-3.27	-7.39	-2.44
Bihar					
105.	Bihar Co-operative Mills	Mokamah	-2.11	-2.26	-2.41
106.	Gaya Cotton Mills	Gaya	-3.36	-3.71	-3.86
Orissa					
107.	Orissa Cotton Mills	Bhagalpur	-3.29	-2.38	-3.43
West Bengal					
108.	Arati Cotton Mills	Howrah	-2.12	-2.56	-2.40
109.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	Sukhchar	-2.27	-2.26	-2.25
110.	Bengal Fine Mills No-1	Konnagar	-3.58	-4.32	-3.77
111.	Bengal Fine Mills No-2	Kotaganj	-1.92	-1.89	-1.54
112.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	Serampore	-4.27	-4.39	-4.54
113.	Bengal Textile Mills	Berhampore	-3.28	-3.56	-3.33
114.	Jyoti Wev. Factory	Calcutta	-1.71	-1.86	-1.91
115.	Luxminarayan Cotton Mills	Hooghly	-3.55	-3.18	-3.10
116.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	Serampore	-5.01	-5.34	-5.48
117.	Central Cotton Mills	Belur Manth	-4.82	-6.24	-6.24
118.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotten. Mills	Palta	-4.67	-4.89	-4.79
119.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	Sodepur	-1.46	-1.68	-1.55

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have submitted a letter for seeking permission to speak in Gujarati. It is an interesting coincidence that the hon. Minister of Textiles is also from Gujarat. So, he may reply in Gujarati. For the benefit of other hon. Members, arrangements for Gujarati translation may be made. I hope, I will be given the permission to raise my question in Gujarati.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, permission granted.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : *Sir, would the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of NTC mills incurring losses and the extent of loss incurred by these mills till date? Whether any action plan has been implemented to improve the condition of these mills Whether Government are contemplating to handover these closed mills to anybody else and the final position?*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, in the interest of the hon. members, I would try to reply in Hindi or English.

[Translation]

There are 119 NTC mills. The loss incurred by these mills is as under : Rs. 518.38 crore in 1995-96, Rs. 573.21 crore in 1996-97 and Rs. 646.25 crore in 1997-98.

As the hon. member wants to know whether NTC or the Ministry has taken any steps to start these mills?

In this regard, I would say that we have made efforts four times. Firstly, we nationalised all the mills. Thereafter, we tried to modernize these mills in sixth five year plan and spent Rs. 519 crore for this purpose. The profit was much less than the profit we had estimated while starting these mills. Our second effort is known as the turn-around strategy of 1992. We had sent a plan under the said scheme but out of our nine subsidiaries, eight are still pending are with the B.I.F.R. The Financial Institution neither promised nor provided us finance under this scheme and that is why the whole strategy of 1992 had failed. When Shri Sangmaji was the Speaker here, a committee was constituted on the lines of the turn around strategy of 1995. The Committee formulated a plan of Rs. 2005.72 crore to modernise the closed N.T.C. mills. That amount was not to come from the Government but to be recovered from sale of the land of the closed mills. Out of Rs. 2005 crore, Rs. 1780 crore were to come from the closed mills in Maharashtra but the Government of Maharashtra did not give permission for that. A committee went there, I also went there but still there is no outcome and that plan had also failed. When this Government came to power, they decided to formulate a new strategy. That report is with us. Besides, as per suggestions of the Prime Minister, we wrote to the concerned Chief Ministers that we would take over the closed mills and they should take the responsibility of the workers but none of them sent a positive reply. Now we are pursuing a new strategy.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Gujarati.

[English]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I expected the Minister to reply in Gujarati but he has not. I now but my second question in Gujarati.

[Translation]

*Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Government have formulated any plan to deal with this situation? Sir, single reply has been given to all the four parts i.e. a,b,c, and d of my question and therein it is stated that this mill is incurring this much loss and this mill is earning this much profit?

Different committees were constituted to find solutions to the problems of sick mills, what is the outcome thereof?

In this regard, I would like to give a suggestion to the Government that in many Departments of Union Government and State Governments, be it the social welfare department or the Railway Ministry, there is always a need of textile material for their own use.*

The State Governments and the Union Government should issue instructions to their Departments and Ministries that the necessary textile material should be purchased from the NTC so long as NTC mills continue to manufacture cloth so that those mills could get some job and help. The Union Government, the State Governments and the private mills, which purchase cloth from elsewhere, should purchase cloth from NTC mills. Committees are constituted and efforts have been made four-five times. I want to say that Government should formulate some concrete plan so that NTC mills should get some job and the workers too get benefited.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Member's suggestion is very good. We will definitely write to the State Governments to buy the cloth manufactured in NTC mills.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that in 1995-96 there was a loss to the tune of Rs. 518 crore 30 lakh, in 1996-97 it was Rs. 573 crore 21 lakh and in 1997-98 Rs. 646 crore. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any plan for 119 NTC mills during these nine months. I think you have passed these nine months without doing any thing fruitful. Presently in the running NTC mills, the workers have not been paid salaries for two months resulting in resentment among them. The Hon. Minister has said:-

[English]

"The Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is this revised turn around strategy.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. member has said that there has been no achievement during these

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Gujarati

nine months. I want to say that we have not wasted these nine months. We have been contemplating on the viability of these mills during this period and we are preparing a new project for this purpose. We have put in our best efforts and we have got the report also.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : How much time will it take to work out the new strategy?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I would give you the complete reply and if the Hon. Speaker permits, you can definitely ask it later on.

I do not want to blame the previous Government because the strategy of 1990-93 completely failed for want of funds. Prior to that, the 1992 plan had also failed. We inherited these mills in a very poor condition and we have worked out a project to revive the viable mills. I think we will definitely make a headway in this regard. Secondly, you have mentioned about two months wages. I should say that we have paid the salary upto October end. Our Government has been paying the salary even in such a situation.

You have asked about the plan. I would like to tell you that we have made a threefold strategy. We will give you the full details soon. (1) As per our information, out of 119 mills, only 37 mills are viable. (2) We want to close the unviable mills and offer V.R.S. to the workers (3) About the V.R.S. strategy, till date 95,000 workers got benefited under V.R.S. We are formulating a new scheme and I hope that this will certainly help in solving the issue.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : We want to know, when you are going to implement this scheme? Is there any fixed time limit for it?

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : As early as possible.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the surplus lands with some of these mills and the proposed package to revive the mills by selling these surplus lands. So far as the question of modernisation is concerned, the Hon. Minister has not presented any definite proposal for modernisation.

I would like to know about some of the mills in Ujjain and Indore in Madhya Pradesh which can be revived. A package programme has also been prepared for them. Would the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in regard thereto so that the problems faced by the workers could be solved and the mills could be revived and start smooth functioning and production.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we will bring our revival project or the strategy as soon as possible.

As regards the question raised by the hon. member about the mills in Madhya Pradesh, the Government are very

much interested in reviving the maximum possible mills. We do not want to render our workers unemployed. We would try to keep those mills running. As he has said that there is surplus land, the total area of NTC mills is 1514.57 acres and its estimated value is around Rs. 2349.10 crore. The number of freehold mills is 104 and the number of lease hold mills is 13.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made over years to solve the problem of N.T.C. but no result has been achieved so far. Most of these mills are located in Mumbai and Maharashtra. It is a duty to pay salaries to the workers. They are being paid without work. The jobs of these mills are sent some where else and the workers are sitting idle. If these mill workers are given benefit of VRS and rendered idle, the employment problem in the State would become more and more serious. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that in the proposed three point programme, what is being done to revive these mills and how many workers are going to retaining their employment. There is a lot of underhand dealing in powerloom sector where the jobs of the sick mills are being transferred. nothing is going on smoothly. The people, whom you have given responsibility are making merry. Whether Government have properly studied this problem and formulated any scheme to revive these mills? If so, the efforts being made by the Government for proper implementation of the scheme? This is my question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. member has asked, I have already said that we are trying to revive and modernise some of the NTC mills which could be viable and that is why we have prepared this three-fold strategy.

As far as the question of implementation of this strategy is concerned, we will try our best to make this plan fully result oriented, we will bring this strategy before you. I would like to say one thing that most of these mills have obsolete machinery and excess staff. We will prepare our strategy keeping these things in mind.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister through you that there are 11 cotton mills in Uttar Pradesh out of which one, The Naini Swadeshi Cotton Mills is situated in Allahabad. Most of these cotton mills are either at the verge of closure or have been closed down. The workers of these mills are on the starvation point. They are being given notice and compelled to leave the job. In these circumstances I would like to ask the hon. Minister, what plan the Government have to revive the closed spinning mills and whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to revive them?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied this question in the first part itself. It is not a fact that we are forcibly giving VRS to the workers. We are not turning out any worker unnecessarily. We will consider your suggestion regarding revival of the NTC mills.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Workers of the Naini cotton mill, Allahabad are being given notice and forcibly turned out.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The issue of modernization of NTC and making it viable is a long debated issue. Four years ago, a viable package was prepared which included all the trade union leaders and Government officials. It was prepared by the Textile Research Association. It was said in the package that around Rs. 2000 crore would come from the sale of the surplus lands.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a brief supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am coming to the question. The NTC mills, most of which are situated in Maharashtra, would be revived with that money. A committee was constituted for this purpose which included myself, Mr. Sirpotdar and Mr. Ram Naik also. We went there and we talked to the Chief Minister but to no avail.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief. There are other questions also.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The hon. Minister has said that we will not turn out any body forcibly and instead, we will revive the mills, my question is, what happened to the revival package which was prepared 4 years ago unanimously? Why was it not implemented and by what time you will implement it?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I have already replied this question. But for the knowledge of the Hon. member, I would like to tell why the revival package of 1995 failed, I am going to read to the House one of the conditions mentioned there. As regards its implementation, I would like to say that the tripartite committee has mentioned about the source of funds.

[English]

"The entire fund of the turned around strategy is to be made from out of the sale of surplus land and building of NTC"

[Translation]

For the revival plan of Rs. 2000 crore, the Government did not try to sell the land, little bit of efforts were done but failed.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the same issue has been discussed many times in the House and the same reply was

given by the previous UF Government and the present Government.

That is why, my humble request to the hon. Minister and to you is that, please admit Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject. The hon. Members have given so many suggestions. Otherwise, there would be no solution to this problem. In the last three years, all the 190 mills have not shown any entry in the profit column. All the entries are in the loss column. We are paying hundreds of crores of rupees to the employees without taking any work from them. I would request you to raise money for VRS to make it more attractive so that this problem could be solved. It is because we are spending Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 crore every year. In my view, there is no scope for revival of these mills because we cannot achieve anything without modernisation.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is supposed to reply and not you. Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : I want to know when this problem will be solved by this Government. This issue is pending for the last six years. What are the steps taken by this Government in this regard?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is going to prepare a three pronged strategy. I would say that within a short time, it will be solved.

MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Members are interested, I can allow a Short Duration Discussion on this subject.

(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : We are having a discussion under Rule 193 on inflation already. The next question is also on inflation.

MR. SPEAKER : It is left to the House. I have no problem. It is up to the hon. Members.

Inflation Rate

+
*82. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steep increase in the consumer price index and rate of inflation;

(b) if so, the trend of consumer price index, wholesale price index and inflation since January, 1998, till date, and the comparative figures for the previous two years, month-wise;

(c) whether despite low rates of inflation recorded during the month of September, 1998 the prices of most of the commodities have increased too high;

(d) if so, the reasons for increase in the prices and inflation thereafter;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check price rise and to control the rate of inflation;

(f) whether the RBI has suggested some measures to check the price rise; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the said measures have been implemented?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) the WPI based annual inflation rate reached 8.5% as on 14th Novembr 1998 where as the CPI-IW based inflation rate for the latest available month of October 1998 has risen to a high of 18.6%. The WPI and CPI-IW based annual inflation rate since January 1998 and during the last two years is listed below:-

Annual rate of Inflation based on CPI and WPI (point to point)

	1996		1997		1998	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI
January	9.0	5.0	11.1	7.5	9.7	5.8
February	8.6	4.6	10.8	7.9	9.1	4.9
March	8.9	5.1	10.0	7.1	8.3	5.0
April	9.8	5.0	9.3	6.4	8.2	5.6
May	9.3	4.5	7.3	5.8	10.5	6.6
June	8.8	4.5	6.6	5.7	12.4	7.5
July	8.3	6.0	5.6	4.0	14.8	8.3
August	8.9	6.2	4.7	3.7	15.0	8.3
September	8.5	6.5	4.9	3.8	16.3	8.1
October	8.5	6.6	5.5	4.4	18.6	8.2

(c) In September 1998, WPI based annual inflation was 8.5%. the moderation in the overall inflation rate was due to little or no rise registered in fuel, power, light and lubricants Group and just about 5% inflation in manufacturing sector. Much of the rise was observed in the primary articles which rose by 15.5% and within this group, sharp rise was registered by vegetables, (128.2%) and pulses (11.5%) and edible oils (22.8%). Within vegetables, potato has risen by (257.6%) and onion by (350.9%) over the year.

(d) This year's price rise is mainly due to supply side shortfalls in a handful of products such as pulses, onions, potato, and edible oils. The adverse climatic conditions caused substantial decline in the production of pulses, oilseeds and vegetables during 1997-98 crop year leading to sub-

stantial decline in their market arrivals thus causing spurt in their prices.

(e) to (g) A number of policy initiatives have been taken by the Government to check the rise in prices. State Governments were requested to take action against hoarders, black marketeers, anti-social elements. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oils from 25% to 15%. To moderate further the prices of edible oils, Govt. itself is importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil for supply through PDS. Imports of pulses are allowed under OGL and export has been banned, and import duty of 10% on pulses has been abolished. Export of onions has been banned and it's imports has been allowed under OGL duty free to increase domestic availability. Open market sale of wheat from FCI stocks has been authorised. Role of macro-economic factors such as the fiscal deficit and growth of money supply, mentioned by RBI also, cannot be ignored. Control of fiscal deficit is important for managing inflation and growth of the economy.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, during 1991-96 when our Government was there, both prices and inflation were fully under control. Even during last year, namely, in November, 1997 the inflation rate was just 3.5 per cent. But now there is an abnormal increase in the inflation which has gone up to 8.5 per cent. It has created further impact in the minds of the people throughout the country which has been reflected to some extent in the recent elections.

The factors responsible for higher inflation are not only the increase in the prices of primary products as the hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply, but the factors like huge fiscal deficit, monetary policy, exchange rate and interest rate are also responsible for this. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to bring down the fiscal deficit in the near future? I also want to know whether he agrees that there is an urgent need to bring drastic changes in the monetary policy and if so what is his reaction?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as statistics are concerned, I would like to put the record straight. In 1991-92, which was the first year of the Congress rule, the rate of inflation, that is the Wholesale Price Index, was 13.7 per cent. In 1992-93, it was 10.1 per cent; in 1993-94, it was 8.4 per cent; in 1994-95, it was 10.9 per cent; and in 1995-96, it was 7.7 per cent. These are the figures of the five-years of Congress rule.

As far as two years of the United Front rule are concerned, in 1996-97, it was 6.4 per cent; in 1997-98, it was 4.8 per cent; and in 1998-99 up till now it has been 6.7 per cent on an average for the 33 weeks. These are the figures.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What are the point to point figures?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The point to point figure was around 8.5 per cent in the last week. My latest information suggests that it has come down to 8.1 per cent for the 34th week.

Sir, an issue has been raised here about the fiscal and monetary policies. We had a discussion in the House yesterday. I would like to point out a few figures in that regard. Between 1985-86 and 1989-90, during those five years, the average fiscal deficit was 8.2 per cent. In 1990-91, it was 8.3 per cent.

Between 1991-92 and 1995-96, the average fiscal deficit of these five years was 6.1 per cent having touched a high of 7.4 per cent in 1993-94. In 1996-97, it was 5.2 per cent, and in 1997-98, the revised figures suggest we do not have the actuals yet – that it was 6.1 per cent. That means, for those two years, the average was 5.7 per cent. In 1998-99, as per the Budget Estimate, the fiscal deficit is 5.6 per cent.

The other point which I had mentioned in the House yesterday and I would like to repeat once again is that there are three broad categories in the WPI. One is, fuel, Power, light and lubricants where the rise this year has been 1.1 per cent as against 13 per cent during the same period last year. As far as manufactured products are concerned, the annual increase this year is 4.7 per cent as against 3.7 per cent last year. That means, an increase of 1 per cent. It is in primary articles, I would like to repeat, that the increase during this period has been 17.6 per cent as against 1.2 per cent in the same period last year. If fiscal and monetary policies were responsible for price increase, then surely in these two categories, namely, manufactured products as well as fuel, power, light and lubricants, this would have had some reflection. But I would dare say before this House that these increases within these two groups have been contained. In one case, they have actually come down substantially and in another case, there is a very marginal increase. This is it.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, many hon. Members while taking part in the discussion under Rule 193 have expressed that the hoarders, profiteers, black-marketeers have contributed their mite to the steep increase in the price and inflation. In view of this fact, I would like to know : (a) will the hon. Finance Minister advise his colleagues in the Cabinet to withdraw the amendment which they have proposed to the Essential Commodities Act which is now before the Joint Select Committee whose objective is to reduce the penalty and change the penalty of non-bailable arrest to bailable arrest; (b) and whether the Finance Minister propose to bring VDIS for a period of one more year to unearth huge black-money that is circulated in this country? It may help to bring down the inflation rate. If so, the details thereof and if not, why not ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : There are three parts to this supplementary. First, as far as implementation of the Essential Commodities Act is concerned, it rests entirely with the State Governments. The State Governments are authorised to take action under the Essential Commodities Act and as far as the Government of India is concerned, we have

repeatedly written to the State Governments to take whatever action is necessary under this Act.

Secondly, as far as the amendment of the Essential Commodities Act is concerned, the House knows that this is the property of the House. It is before the Standing Committee and it is up to the Standing Committee to make recommendations and then only the Government will take a view.

As far as the VDIS is concerned, I have already indicated that the Government has no intention of repeating that experiment. We have taken a number of other steps in this year's Budget to make sure that black-money is not generated. The policy of the Government is to hit at the source of the generation of black-money rather than allow black-money to be generated and then come up with sops....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister is putting the blame of the Govt. of India on the State Government ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, there has been three fold rise in the inflation during the last three months.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not a discussion. This will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of inflation has been from 8.3 per cent to 8.8 per cent by the end of July. In the Chief Ministers meeting held recently, a policy of intervening in the market was placed. It was stated that we would control the rate of inflation created by the black marketeers and hoarders by intervening in the market. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether any discussions or consultations was held between the Ministry of Food and the Chief Ministers of various States of the control the rate of inflation and price rise and for taking any effective measures in this regard. I also want to know what further steps would you take if the price rise is not checked even then?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the House is aware, the State Governments were contacted and letters were also written to them. My colleague, the Minister of Food, had written that letter and the Secretary, Food had written letter to the Chief Secretaries. Thereafter, a meeting of the Chief Secretaries was convened by the Cabinet Secretary. Thereafter the Hon'ble Prime Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers of various States on 27th November. Discussions on taking several effective measures were held and the State Governments and the Union Government are jointly taking action on those measures. Both

* Not Recorded.

are fully agreed and we are succeeding in achieving our motives to control prices. The response, which we are receiving so far, indicates that the prices have started coming down.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister has given very graphic details about the price rise and particularly the steep growth in the consumer price index since March, 1998. In the first part of the question, we have very specifically asked whether he thinks that there has been a steep increase in the Consumer Price Index. He has avoided answering by saying either "yes" or "no". There is almost 240 per cent increase in the last six months. If it is not a steep increase, I do not know what it is. But anyway, the figures are before us.

I would like to point out one very interesting aspect of the CPI and the WPI. If you look at the figures of the last three years, you will come to know that the difference between the CPI and WPI is not very large. The Consumer Price Index for the Industrial workers is always slightly higher than the WPI. But if you look at the figures from March 1998 to October 1998, you will find that there is steep diversion between the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index. Now, who benefits out of this situation? When the wholesalers are selling goods at a particular price and the consumers are getting it at a much higher price, who benefits out of it? It is the traders, the blackmarketeers and the hoarders who are benefiting. It is a matter of very serious concern. 18.6 per cent is the inflation rate for the consumers. Therefore, we have requested the Finance Minister to tell us what specific steps have been taken. But he is completely silent on what he has done to unearth hoarding, black-marketing etc. The traders' lobby in the country is very strong.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a pointed question. You need not give all the information.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What has he done to check the traders' lobby? About the RBI, we have asked what the RBI has suggested. But he has lectured the theory that this cannot be ignored and this is very serious. Mr. Minister, what are you doing about it?

The first part of my question is about the steep diversion between the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index. Are you not worried about it?

What are you doing to check the traders and hoarders? ... (Interruptions) Is this Government protecting the traders? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The explanation for the point raised by the hon. Member is very simple, but before I answer that, let me say that we are worried, we are concerned and that is the reason why a number of steps had been initiated including the meeting of the Chief Ministers. But, Sir,

the reason why there is a mismatch between the WPI and CPI for industrial workers which was not noticed earlier and which has become very pronounced now is that in earlier years, there was a general price increase which covered manufactured products and all categories of products, including essential commodities. So, the mismatch was not there. That is the point I am trying to make before this House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mismatch between the WPI and the CPI has occurred largely because of the fact that the weight of the essential commodities in WPI is 21.7 per cent, and the weight of the essential commodities in CPI is 48.8 per cent and, therefore, the prices of essential commodities raised. Then, it is quite clear that the CPI will rise potentially. That is the reason why there is a mismatch between the WPI and the CPI. The WPI at the moment which is now on a decelerating trend is not so much a cause for concern. The cause of concern, basically, is the rise in prices of essential commodities. As I mentioned earlier, even there, we are noticing deceleration and in the latest week, the Wholesale Price Index has come down in two weeks from 8.8 per cent 8.1 per cent. This suggests that the influence of essential commodities is also declining.

Now, therefore, there is a general deceleration in prices. As far as the traders and the attitude of the ruling coalition towards the traders is concerned, it has been repeatedly explained in this House, that there is absolutely no desire on the part of the Government to save anybody and if you want to make only a political point, you are welcome to do it. But the point remains—I would like to repeat—despite the fulmination of my friend, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that it is the responsibility of the State Government to take action under the Essential Commodities Act..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the discussion, please understand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned my name, therefore, I want to say something... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. This not a discussion.

(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Haghuvansh Prasad Singh, please understand, this is Question Hour. Please take your seat. Please do not disturb. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT . Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the wheat prices are rising very fast. Every year, during sowing period the prices of wheat goes up. The Hon'ble Minister has stated that the prices of several items are declining. I want to know from him. The measures being taken by him to control the fast increasing prices of wheat? The wheat stock in the Food corporation of India's godowns is more than targetted quantity. It is getting spoiled as it is lying in the open.

When is it being released and the quantity released during the last three months.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Central stores are concerned, however, it is not my subject, even though I would like to say that central stores are full of foodgrains it may be wheat or rice. We are having sufficient stock. Therefore, the Government have taken a decision to release the wheat in the open market.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It is not being released even now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is being released ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing the rise in prices also. You can participate in that debate. Please take your seat.

Purchase of Shares of Reliance Industries by UTI and PSFIs

*83. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India and other Public Sector Financial Institutions (PSFIs) had purchased shares of the Reliance Industries Ltd. worth Rs. 1000 crores during 1994;

(b) if so, the prices at which these shares were purchased, and the rate of dividend received during the last three years;

(c) whether the Reliance Industries invested an equivalent huge amount in UTI mutal funds; and

(d) if so, the rate of dividend paid on his investment of the Reliance Industries Limited during the last three years?

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

Statement

- (a) Unit Trust of India, the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation had invested a total amount of around Rs. 945 crores through private placement in the shares of Reliance Industries Limited in 1994
- (b) The shares were purchased at a price of Rs. 385/- each. The rate of dividend received on these shares was 60% in 1995-96, 65% in 1996-97 and 35% in 1997-98 (after adjusting for a 1:1 bonus declared in October, 97).
- (c) and (d) The scheme-wise investment by Reliance Industries in UTI during the last three years and the dividends declared by UTI in these schemes are given below:-

1. Investments by Reliance Industries Ltd. in various schemes of UTI.

Year Ending	Scheme	Amount (Rs. Crores)	Number of Units (in Crores)
As on March 31st., 1996	US-64	173.97	11.41
	US-65	3.00	.03
As on March 31st., 1997	US-64	0.13	.0086
	US-65		
As on March, 31st., 1998	US-64	0.13	.0086
	US-65		

2. The rate of dividends by UTI under the respective schemes are as under:

Year Ending	Scheme	Dividend/Income (Rs. per unit)
June 30, 1996	US-64	2.00
	US-65	13.50
June 30, 1997	US-64	2.00
	US-65	12.50
June 30, 1998	US-64	2.00
	US-65	13.50

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask my supplementary, I would like to ask some clarifications.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to first ask the main question and then supplementary.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, before I ask the main question, I would like to have clarification on two points. First, I would like to know whether it is US-65 or US-95. Secondly, I would like to know whether the rate of dividend is

on the face value of Rs. 10 or on Rs. 385, because that has not been made clear.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member, Dr. Swamy for having pointed out this. There could be a typographical error in the reply. It is actually US-95 and not US-65. So, that typographical error has to be corrected. Then, the point about the rate of dividend is a regular question. If he is prepared to sacrifice his question, I am prepared to answer that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : No, if he says that the rate of dividend is 60 per cent, I want to know 60 per cent on what.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I will ask my question. I hope, it is a typographical error, not to derail me.. (Interruptions) I would like to ask the Minister the following question. According to the numbers that he has given in the written statement, the rate of dividend paid by the UTI to Reliance is guaranteed at Rs. 2 per unit and since almost 11.5 crores of units have been purchased. That means there is a guaranteed income of Rs. 23 crore on an investment of Rs. 174 crore roughly. It means the rate of dividend was 12 per cent. I had asked for the rate of dividend. He gave me numbers. That is why, I asked for this clarification. So, had I not been an economist, I would have never found out this. But having found this out that it is 12 per cent, whereas Reliance shares will fetch a dividend of only two per cent, that is, the UTI is investing Rs. 775 crore in Reliance by buying their shares and Reliance is only paying them two per cent. Out of Rs. 775 crore, Reliance is investing Rs. 174 crore in UTI and earning 12 per cent which is almost double the amount in aggregate to what they are losing.

Therefore, may I ask the Minister whether it is a fact that the CBI was asked to investigate this fraud after a big furore in the Rajya Sabha some time ago and the CBI submitted a report which was prepared by Shri Y.P. Singh, Superintendent of Police of the CBI. (Interruptions) No; I am asking a question whether it is a fact. Are you speaking on behalf of Shri Dhirubhai Ambani?

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Now, I want to know whether it is a fact that a CBI report was submitted to the Ministry of Finance for permission under the single directive and that report said that the institutions had entered into a criminal conspiracy with the Reliance Industries to place the deal without following the SEBI procedure thus defrauded the Government of its funds and the public of its funds. Was such a CBI report submitted to the Ministry of Finance about this fraud?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the transaction, to which the hon. Member is referring, took place in late 1994. There-

fore, let me make it absolutely clear that there is no reason for this Government to be on any defensive posture. This Government is not interested in saving anyone is that is the purport of the question.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : But you are given a clean chit to the Reliance Industries.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No. We will come to that. We can discuss that if you want.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him come.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Yes, we will do so sometimes.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : But I would like to put some facts. The return on income, as far as dividend is concerned, is on face value. That is the question that he had asked. It is always on face value. These Rs. 2 are also on the face value of Rs. 10 which means 20 per cent and not 12 per cent.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The question is on the investment.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : On the investment, as I said, the UTI made investment in the equity of Reliance Industries in late 1994. The Reliance Industries have been investing money, as other industries have been doing, in the US 64 Scheme of the UTI. I have figures before the figure of 'as on March 31, 1996'. In March 1994, for instance, the figure of investment by Reliance Industries in US 64 Scheme was Rs. 449.40 crore. As on 31st March, 1995, the investment by Reliance Industries in US 64 Scheme was Rs. 834.91 crore. It came down to Rs. 173.97 crore on 31st March, 1996. As the main reply to the question says, subsequently, it has come down to 0.13 per cent.

Now, unless these have been bought in the open market, because US 64 are traded, no order since then has been placed by the Reliance Industries directly on UTI for purchase of US 64. Therefore, I have answered the question of all the money they made and what money the UTI is making. In the main reply I have said that UTI has not lost money on the equity of Reliance Industries. The rates at which they have received the returns are mentioned in the main question, that is 65 per cent, 35 per cent and all that.

Now, I come to the second part of the question that Dr. Swamy has asked in regard to CBI investigation. It is true that there has been and there is a CBI investigation. It is going on. It is also true that the CBI had sent a report to the Ministry in 1996 to which the Ministry had then replied: "The matter is pending today with the CBI." It is still under their investigation.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I would like to know about the CBI report which was submitted in 1996 when you were not the Minister of Finance. Who was the Finance Minister at that time? He was Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : He is your old friend.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : So are you, my friend. Look at my position. If I have friends like you, then, what will happen to me?

Since 1996, the matter is pending. The CBI report is about what? I have read that portion. He did not say anything about that.

So, I ask this question again as my second supplementary taking it forward. The CBI Enquiry Report of Shri Y.P. Singh sought permission to prosecute in 1996 and he says, "it is still pending". I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister that the Finance Ministry, which under the single directive is required to give this permission and which is also the single directive as an artifact of Shri Chidambaram, will immediately give the permission and that he would come and report to the Parliament that the CBI has been given permission to prosecute the Reliance Industries on this fraud.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : This is a suggestion and not a question.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I am not in a position to give any such assurance for the very simple reason that when this reference was made by the CBI, as I said, in the 1996.... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : It was a permission to prosecute.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I cannot disclose what is there in the Government files. But I am saying that a reference was made....(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The Government files would be found in the Reliance Industries' office ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, you discuss it. Because you have made some comments and I am prepared to come forth on that. Let us not...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : What is the secret of holding it back?... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, there is no reason to hold it back...(Interruptions) There has to be a finality about things, and it cannot be shared unless there is a finality about things. I can only say that it is under examination. I am making a point without trying to be on the defensive at all that in 1996 a reference was received by the Ministry of Finance. We referred the matter back to the CBI. We have reminded the CBI. The CBI is making its investigation and the matter is pending now. How can I give an assurance? I am not the Minister in charge of CBI...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have asked whether the CBI has sought the permission to prosecute... (Interruptions) You are not answering to that question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have asked a specific question, 'Did he ask permission to prosecute?'...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, they did not...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHMED : The question was regarding the permission(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : When the enquiry is being conducted, how it can be handed over for prosecution?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I can only say...(Interruptions) in reply to the very specific question that Dr. Swamy has asked that they did not ask for permission to prosecute.

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Sir, the UTI has also invested in other business houses in the private sector as well as in the public sector undertakings. It has invested in the Steel Authority of India worth hundreds of crore of rupees at the rate of Rs. 55 per share. Now, the value of the share has come down to about ten per cent. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the investment of the UTI in other business houses in the private sector as well as in the public sector undertakings, especially in the Steel Authority of India Limited?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as far as the Steel Authority of India is concerned, as on 30th June 1998, the investment in the equity of SAIL by UTI was Rs. 872.30 crore and in debt instrument, it was Rs. 369.97 crore, thus making a total of Rs. 1242.27 crores.

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY : How much money it has lost in the investment?

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 84. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

Closure of Sick PSUs

+
*84. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down eight chronically sick public sector undertakings on the recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such PSUs and reasons for closure;

(c) the number of employees working therein;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any concrete action plan for payment of statutory dues and for the future of employees working in these PSUs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the representatives of the trade unions have urged the Government to reverse the decision; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Govt. has taken a decision to extend benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to employees of following unviable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Deptt. of Heavy Industry (DHI) which are facing the prospect of winding up.

S. No.	Name of the PSU	No. of Employees	Status
1.	National Instruments Ltd. (NIL)	863	Prima-facie conclusion by BIFR for winding up.
2.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)	472	Prima-facie conclusion by BIFR for winding up.
3.	Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL)	183	Final decision by BIFR for winding up.
4.	National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd.	676	Final decision by BIFR for winding up. Under stay by Court.
5.	Cycle Corpn. of India Ltd. (CCIL)	1718	Prima-facie conclusion by BIFR for winding up.
6.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn.	4217	Prima-facie conclusion for winding up. Under stay by Court.
7.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. Ltd. (TAFCO)	1400	Final decision by BIFR for winding up.
8.	Rehabilitation Ind Corpn. Ltd. (RIC)	1272	Discontinuance of operations recommended by Disinvestment Commission.

Besides Govt. have also decided to extend the period of VRS for another 3 months to the remaining employees of Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL) for which a decision to give VRS was taken by the Govt. in Sept. 1997. BIFR has given its final recommendation for winding up this Company.

(d) to (f) Statutory Dues of the employees would also be paid alongwith VRS benefits.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir The decision to offer benefits of VRS in the case of these chronically sick PSUs has been taken only after it emerged that no credible and acceptable revival or rehabilitation scheme could be drawn up in these cases. Also the decision is in the interests of workers who would otherwise be entitled to receive the compensation available under the Industrial Disputes Act. Benefits under VRS are substantially higher. Government has also decided to pay alongwith the VRS benefits the entitlements towards statutory dues. Compensation under winding up would get long time to be settled whereas VRS benefits would be available immediately. The final winding up or otherwise of these units will be as per decision of BIFR/Courts.

* BIFR-Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, since the time is very short, I will ask two questions at a time. I would like to know has any VRS payment started in relation to these companies to the employees. If not, when is it to start? And I want to know whether there is any scheme of retraining and

reemployment of the concerned employees being contemplated.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Sir, the Government

has sanctioned the VRS package. At the moment, it has not been distributed.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : That is what I am asking. Sanction is another thing. How long will it take to get that?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you have the second supplementary.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, the Minister has not answered my first supplementary. I want to know whether any scheme is there for re-training and re-employment of the concerned employees and whether any such scheme is being contemplated.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Sir, the Government always encourages to train people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Please do not go into the generalities. Please say, 'Yes' or 'No'. I have put a specific question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : She wants a specific answer from you.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I seek your protection...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Foreign Investment Promotion Board

*85. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of Foreign Direct Investment cleared by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the last six months, company-wise, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount of investment involved in each of the proposal;

(c) the number of proposals lying pending with the Government, company wise, sector-wise;

(d) the reasons for pendency and the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the measures adopted for protecting the interests of domestic industries while clearing such projects?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) During the six months April to September, 1998, 591 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals involving foreign equity of Rs. 15,489.13 crore have been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

Sector-wise and State-wise details of these proposals are given in Statement I and II respectively. Details of FDI approvals, company-wise, are published on a monthly basis in the SIA Newsletter brought out by this Department, which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library. As such, information on company-wise approvals upto August, 1998 is available in circulated Newsletters and that for the month of September, 1998 is given in Statement-III.

(c) As on 30th November 1998, 24 FDI proposals pertaining to the following sectors were pending beyond the prescribed time limit of 6 weeks for disposal of applications. Company-wise details of these proposals are given in Statement-IV.

Sectors	No. of Proposals.
i. Information and Broadcasting	14
ii. Food Processing Industries/C & PC	6
iii. Tobacco	1
iv. Minerals	1
v. Rapid Transport	1
vi. Petroleum and Natural Gas	1

(d) These proposals are deferred for final decision at the request of the Administrative Ministry (ies) concerned pending finalisation of sectoral policies on Print Media and Broadcasting Policy, examination of Supreme Court Judgement and Law Commission's recommendations on licensing powers in respect of alcohol etc. The proposals will be taken up for consideration by FIPB as soon as Administrative Ministries are able to finalise their views.

(e) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is invited as a measure to supplement domestic investment. In addition to infusion of capital, Foreign Direct Investment often involves induction of State-of-the-art technologies as also global management practices that in fact strengthen the over-all competitiveness of the Indian industry. However, FDI approvals are subjected to certain conditionalities as listed in Statement-V with a view to ensuring level playing field to the domestic industry. They are also subjected to certain sectoral restrictions and ceilings on foreign equity participation as given in Statement-VI.

Statement-I**Sector-wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment approved during the period***(01/04/98 to 30/09/98)*

Sr. No.	Name of Industry	Fin.	Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total Amount Approved
1	2	3	4	5
1.	METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES			
	Ferrous	7	1716.97	11.08
	Non-Ferrous	1	2.12	0.01
	Special Alloys	3	109.20	0.71
	Mining Service	8	79.79	0.52
	Misc. (other Items)- Metallurgy	1	0.00	0.00
	Total	20	1908.07	12.32
2.	FUELS			
	Power	10	2537.83	18.38
	Oil Refinery	9	1825.83	11.79
	Power (Other)	6	37.99	0.25
	Oil Refinery (Other)	6	3136.92	20.25
	Others (Fuels)	1	250.00	1.61
	Total	32	7788.57	50.28
3.	BOILERS AND STEAM GENERATING PLANTS	1	1.38	0.01
4.	PRIME MOVERS OTHER THAN ELECTRICAL	1	25.00	0.16
5.	ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT			
	Electrical Equipment	33	345.81	2.23
	Computer Software Industry	97	339.26	2.19
	Electronics	10	50.20	0.32
	Others (S/W)	2	0.25	0.00
	Total	142	735.53	4.75

1	2	3	4	5
6.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
	Telecommunications	11	755.90	4.88
	Radio Paging	2	0.00	0.00
	Cellular Mobile/ Basic Telephone Service	4	14.30	0.09
	Telecommunication (I & B)	8	107.89	0.70
	Others (Telecommunications)	3	6.57	0.04
	Total	28	884.66	5.71
7.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY			
	Automobile Industry	17	507.02	3.27
	Air/Sea Transport	5	189.55	1.22
	Passenger Cars	1	28.00	0.18
	Auto Ancillaries/ Parts	11	71.13	0.46
	Ports	2	83.30	0.54
	Others (Transport)	8	81.55	0.53
	Total	44	960.56	6.20
8.	INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	16	61.82	0.40
9.	MACHINE TOOLS	1	0.01	0.00
10.	EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY	1	0.39	0.00
11.	MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING	27	96.50	0.62
12.	COMMERCIAL, OFFICE & HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	5	206.84	1.34
13.	MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES	2	15.80	0.10
14.	SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	1	1.14	0.01
15.	FERTILIZERS	0	.000	0.00
16.	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	32	270.68	1.75
17.	DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	6	44.63	0.29
18.	TEXTILES (INCLUD. DYED, PRINTED)	27	156.47	1.01

1	2	3	4	5
19.	PAPER AND PULP INCLUDING PAPER PRODUCT	8	14.82	0.10
20.	FOOD PROCESSING			
	Food products	21	389.14	2.51
	Miscellaneous (Food prod.)	1	2.12	0.01
	Total	22	391.26	2.53
21.	SOAPS, COSMETICS AND TOILET PREPARATIONS	1	15.00	0.10
22.	RUBBER GOODS	5	379.18	2.45
23.	LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND PICKERS	11	31.06	0.20
24.	GLASS	5	116.70	0.75
25.	CERAMICS	5	38.11	0.25
26.	CEMENT AND GYPSUM PRODUCTS	3	89.53	0.58
27.	TIMBER PRODUCTS	1	0.00	0.00
28.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES			
	Design & Eng. Services	15	177.34	1.14
	Management Services	10	16.04	0.10
	Marketing	5	12.86	0.08
	Construction	1	0.50	0.00
	Others (Consultancy Service)	5	1.84	0.01
	Total	37	208.59	1.35
29.	SERVICE SECTOR			
	Financial	12	215.12	1.39
	Non-Financial Services	13	108.76	0.70
	Banking Services	4	50.85	0.33
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	6	29.39	0.19
	Other Services	1	31.71	0.09
	Total	36	417.83	2.70
30.	HOTEL & TOURISM			
	Hotel & Restaurants	13	62.67	0.40
	Tourism	5	412.84	2.67
	Total	18	475.51	3.07
31.	TRADING	18	20.50	0.13

1	2	3	4	5
32.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES			
	Horticulture	5	2.14	0.13
	Agriculture	2	5.06	0.03
	Floriculture	1	0.50	0.00
	Diamond	1	0.10	0.00
	Ornament & Gold	1	0.01	0.00
	Construction Activities	5	3.99	0.03
	Others (Misc. Industries)	20	121.22	0.78
	Total	35	133.01	0.86
	Total	591	15489.13	

Statement-II

State-wise Break up of Foreign Collaboration and Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved during (April, 1998 to September, 1998)

State	No. of Approvals	Amt. of FDI Approved		% to Total
		Fin	(Rs.crore)	
Andhra Pradesh	33	471.63	3.04	
Bihar	3	44.45	0.29	
Gujarat	20	818.96	5.29	
Haryana	19	155.74	1.01	
Himachal Pradesh	1	0.33	0.00	
Karnataka	57	4369.06	28.21	
Kerala	6	4.48	0.03	
Madhya Pradesh	5	304.64	1.97	
Maharashtra	84	1709.31	11.04	
Meghalaya	2	44.46	0.29	
Orissa	6	176.87	1.14	
Punjab	6	53.89	0.35	
Rajasthan	8	65.14	0.42	
Tamil Nadu	67	2297.76	14.83	
Uttar Pradesh	23	92.19	0.60	
West Bengal	19	171.73	1.11	
Andaman & Nicobar	1	12.12	0.08	
Chandigarh	3	0.98	0.01	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0.86	0.01	
Delhi	41	541.54	3.50	
Goa	9	64.83	0.42	
Pondicherry	2	0.50	0.00	
Daman & Diu	2	3.19	0.02	
Others (States not indicated)	173	4084.65	26.377	
Total	591	15489.11		

Statement-III

Foreign Collaboration proposals approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during September 1998

(In Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Foreign Collaborator	Country	Name of Indian Company	Item of Manufacture	Amt. of FDI Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	System Pvt. Ltd. 12, Randell Street Perth 6000, Western Australia Australia	Australia	Dolphin Underwater Park Private Ltd. 57, Mount Road Guindy Chennai-600032 Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	Multi Dimensional Theme Park	0.00
2.	Smithers-Oasis Asia Co.	Australia	Smithers-Oasis India Pvt. Ltd., C/o Price Waterhouse B-102, Himalaya House 23, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001 Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	To set up a wholly owned Subsidiary to Manufacture and Distribute the Foreign Company's Product in India which include Floral Foams and Growing media Industrial Absorbents L Greenstuff.	0.00
3.	Worldwide Business Limited Bahamas	Bahamas	Yenepoya Minerals & Granites Pvt. Ltd. P.O. Juchmurga-574219, Muda Village, Bantwal Taluk South India Location : Not Available	Polished Granite Tiles, Slabs, Monuments	20.00
4.	Banque Be Paris, Paris, France	France	Banque Nationale De Paris C/o Arthur Andersen & Co. STC Building Tolstoy Marg New Delhi-110001 Location : Not Available	To Establish a Non-Banking Financial Company in India India to undertake a Comprehensive Range of non-banking financial services including but not limited to the following :-	19.00
5.	Infogrames Multimedia S.A., France	France	Christian Ardule Infogrames Groupe 46, 2nd Cross, Dcosta Layout, Cooke Town Bangalore-560 084 Location : Bangalore (Urban)(Karnataka)	To set up 100% Foreign Investment Company which will be engaged in marketing and Development of Education, Entertainment and Games related computer CD-ROM software for the SE Asian and Indian Markets	0.17
6.	Air Liquide International, France	France	Air Liquide India Holding Pvt.Ltd. Vaitalik, 3rd Floor, A-8, USO Road Qutab Institutional Area New Delhi-110067 Location : Not Available	For Manufacture of Industrial Medical and other Gases	0.78
7.	Christofle (S.A.) of France	France	Rivona Industries Ltd. 28, Maniyar Bhuvan, 3rd Panjrapole Lane C.P. Tank Mumbai-400004 Location : Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	For Manufacture of Table Ware of S.S. Sheets of Export Quality with an Installed capacity of 600 Tonne Per Annum	0.80
8.	Sollac France	France	R.S. Jhaveri & Co. 636/37, Panchratna Bldg. Mama Parmanand Road Opera House, Mumbai-400004 Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	For Setting up a Steel Service Centre which will undertake the work of Steel Processing for specialised purpose as per International Standard	11.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	M/s. Essilor International France France		M/s. Essilor International C/o. SRF Ltd., Express Building, 9-10, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002 Location : Not Available	For the Manufacture of Plastic Ophthalmic Lenses with the Technology provided by Essilor & Sola International Inc.	0.00
10.	Millimages France	France	Millitoon Animations Private Limited No. 14, Basement, 1st Main Road Gandhi Nagar Adyar Chennai-600020 Tamil Nadu Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	Records, Tapes and other Recorded Media for Sound or other Similarly Recorded Phenomena, Including Matrices and Masters for the production of Records But Excluding Products of Chapter-37, 2D/3D Computer Graphics with Accessories on Any	0.04
11.	M/s. Alstom Energy Systems S.A., France	France	M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. BHEL House, Siri Fort, New Delhi-110049 Location : Not Available	Steam Turbines Etc.	0.00
12.	Microminerals Micafine, Germany	Germany	Micafine Ratan (Bharat) Pvt. Ltd. 11/11A, Mayfair Road Calcutta-700119 Location : South 24-Paragans (West Bengal)	For Production of Dry and Wet Ground Mica Powder	0.10
13.	Werner Kammann Maschinen fabrik GMBH, Germany	Germany	Kammann Machines India Private Limited B-129, Oshiwara Industrial Centre Op. Oshiwara Bus Depot, New Link Road, Goregaon (West) Mumbai-400104 Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	Manufacture of Printing Screens	1.00
14.	Mr. Clavs Wilhelm, Germany	Germany	Kamla Ornapec Ltd., Kamla Centre, SCO 88-99, Sector BC Chandigarh-160018 Location : Chandigarh (Chandigarh)	Manufacture of Presentation Boxes	0.45
15.	Stemens AG, Power Generation (KWU) Germany	Germany	Stemens Power Engineers Pvt. Ltd. 484-485 Phase-III Sector 20, Udyog Vihar Gurgaon Haryana-122 016 Location : Gurgaon (Haryana)	To Develop Software for Drawings and Designs for Planning and setting up of Power Plants Worldwide	7.50
16.	Friedrich Boysen GMBH Internationale, Beleillgungen Germany	Germany	Krishna Boysen Exhausts Private Limited 409, 12th Main Road Raj Mahal Vilas Extn. Bangalore-560080 Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	For Manufacture and Develop all types of Exhaust Systems Complete with Mufflers, Exhaust Silencers, Catalytic Convertors and Pipes for all types of Internal Combustion Engines	6.05
17.	M/s. Allianz Aktiengesellschaft, Germany	Germany	Allianz Alpic Ind. Risk Mgt. Services Pvt. Ltd. 6th Floor, New Excelsior Building Wallace Street Fort, Mumbai-400001 Maharashtra Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	To Establish a Risk Management Company which would offer Risk Management Activities, Loss Control Activities and all other Activities including Consulting Activities that may be Incidental or Ancillary to the Afdregoinq.	0.63
18.	Mannesmann Demag AG, Germany	Germany	Mannesmann Demag AG Wolfgang Reuter, Platz,D-47053, Duisberg, Germany Location : Delhi (Delhi)	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of all relevant steel making equipment for the Indian Market.	24.53

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Dorma GMBH + Co. KG Breckerfelder STR 42-48 D-58256 Ennepetal	Germany	- Location : Delhi (Delhi)	To Establish Wholly Owned subsidiary in India to Manufacture and Market Automatic Doors and Automatic Door Operators and Accessories in India and to Import and Test Market Automatic Doors and Automatic Door Operator and Accessories in India	0.00
20.	Siemens Matsushita Components GMBH & Co. KG.	Germany	Electronic Hitech Components Ltd., Plot No. E-22-25, MIDC Satpur Nasik-422007. Location : Nashik (Nasik) (Maharashtra)	AC Capacitors in DTA	0.00
21.	Zimmer AG, Germany	Germany	South Asian Petrochem Ltd., Dhuseri House, 4A, Woodburn Park Calcutta-700 020 Location : Midnapur (West Bengal)	Bottle Grade Polyester CHIP Under EOU Scheme	18.42
22.	Acotex Far East Ltd., Hongkong	Hongkong	Acotex Far East Ltd. 2/F Wharf Cable Tower, 9 Hoi Shing Road, TSEUN WAN, New Territories, Hong Kong. Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	To Develop, Export and Trade Locally Software Products	0.26
23.	Acotex Far East Ltd., Hongkong	Hongkong	Acotex Far East Ltd. 2/F Wharf Cable Tower, 9 Hoi Shing Road, TSUEN WAN, New Territories, Hong Kong. Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	For Manufacture, Export and Trade Locally various Plastic Products Like Hangers, Taggings Mainly Related to the Garment Business.	0.26
24.	PT. Asia Cellular, Satellite Indonesia	Indonesia	ACES India Private Limited A-60, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110028 Location : Not Available	To Provide Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) using Footprints of Indonesian Satellite (called Garuda-1) and by Installing/Commissioning Gateway Earth Stations in India	29.40
25.	Officine Naccafferri SPA, Italy	Italy	Naccafferri Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd. 1408, Maker Chamber V Nariman Point Mumbai-400021 Location : Thane (Maharashtra)	For 100% Foreign investment to provide a Total Environmental system solution package comprising of Design Consultancy, Construction Assistance as well as Manufacture and supply of Fabrics, Renomatrsts, Terramesh at an Annual	5.00
26.	Isabella Pologna, Italy	Italy	Isabella Pologna Kanchanjunga 1st Floor 72, Gopalrao Deshmukh Marg, (Pedder Road) Mumbai-400026 Location : Maharashtra (Maharashtra)	To Undertake Manufacture and Export of Embroidered Fabrics	0.15
27.	Magneti Marelli Climatizzazione SPA, Frazione Maslo-24 10046 Poirino (Torino) Italy	Italy	 Location : Faridabad (Haryana)	Developing, Manufacturing, Distributing, Marketing and Selling Automotive Thermal Components and Systems Namely Heat Exchangers, Air Conditioning Systems radiators, Condensers and other such Automotive System and components to car	13.83
28.	Isvor Fiat SPA Italy	Italy	Isvor-Fiat India Pvt. Ltd. 77, Friends Colony (West) New Delhi-110065 Location : Not Available	To provide Technical and Managerial Training Service to Fiat Group Companies in India as well as to the Industrial and services sector in India.	1.90

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Toyota Tsusho Corporation (TTC) Japan	Japan	Kirloskar Systems Ltd. P.B. No. 2475 Hebbal Agrifarm Bangalore-560024 Karnataka Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	For Manufacture of Plastic Parts in the Interior and Exterior Parts and Steering Wheels for Automobiles In India	16.28
30.	Toyota Motor Corporation Japan	Japan	- Location : Bangalore (Rural) (Karnataka)	To set up An Industrial park in Bidadi Industrial Area Bangalore for use by the proposed supplies of Automotive parts to Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.	45.00
31.	Tokita Seed Co. Ltd., Japan	Japan	Tokita Seed Co. Ltd. C/o. Raghunath Rai & Co. 206, Manisha 75, Nehru Place New Delhi-110019 Location : Delhi (Delhi)	To cultivate, produce and To carry on the Business of Import, Export of Seeds	0.20
32.	Toyoda Iron Works Co. Ltd., Japan	Japan	Toyoda Iron Works Co. Ltd. C/o. M/s. Sakura Capital India Limited 21, Mittal Chambers 228, Nariman Point Mumbai-400 021 Location : Bangalore (Rural) (Karnataka)	Designing, Developing, Engineering, Manufacturing And Selling Auto Parts Manufactured by Stamping Welding used for Automobiles and other Vehicles and Components with an Annual Capacity of 1.5 Lakh Numbers	1.40
33.	Itochu Corporation Japan	Japan	Itochu Corporation 5-1, Kita Aoyama 2, Chone, Minato Ku Tokyo, Japan Location : Calcutta (West Bengal)	Setting up A 100% Subsidiary Company in India for Rendering Technical/ Engineering Services to Power/ Infrastructure Projects	0.15
34.	M/s. Honda Motor Co. Ltd., 2-1-1 Minami-Adyama, Minato-Ku, Tokyo	Japan	Honda Steel Car India Ltd. Plot No. A-1, Sector 40/41 Surajpur-Kasna Road Greater Noida, Industrial Development Area, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. Location : Delhi (Delhi)	Motor Cars	180.00
35.	HS Chemcial Co. Ltd. Korea	Korea (South)	M/s. HSI Automotive Ltd. A-21-22, Guindy Industrial Estate Chennai-600032 Location : Chengelpattu (Tamil Nadu)	For Manufacturing of PVC Profiles, Rubber Profiles Radiator Coolant Home for PVC Injection Mouldings For Automotive Industry	3.10
36.	Savino Del Bene Finanziaria S.A. Luzembourg	Luzembourg	Savino Del Bene Freight Forwarders (India) Pvt. Ltd. 110, Gokul Arcade 1st Floor, Near Garware, Andheri Sahar Road Mumbai-400057 Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	Cargo Transport Handling Services by Air Water & Land	0.19
37.	Dr. Mansoor Marican Malaysia	Malaysia	Mecron Publishing (P) Ltd. 5-2-15E Sattur Road Sivakasi-626123 Location : Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu)	For Printing and Manufacture Exercise Books, Registers Letter Pad	0.06
38.	Mr. Ang Kiram and Chin Soay Malaysia	Malaysia	Kamma Srinivasa Rao Madhucon House, Sai Temple Street Dwarakapuri Colony Punjagutta Hyderabad-500 082 Location : Krishna (Andhra Pradesh)	To Undertake Quarrying and Crushing of Stone Aggregates	0.07

1	2	3	4	5	6
39.	M/s. K.P.S. Holding, Mauritius	Mauritius	Srishti Videocorp Ltd. 13, Filmcity, Sector 16-A Noida-201 301 Location : Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)	To Enhance the Telecast Capacity of Digitally Digitally Compressed Satellit TV Platform from 8 Channels to 14 Channels from the same Transpon Der.	2.34
40.	South Asia Software Exports Ltd. Mauritius	Mauritius	South Asia Software Export Ltd. C/o Multiconsult Ltd. LES Jamalacs Vieux Consell Street Port Louis, Mauritius Location : Not Available	To set up a 100% owned Software Programming company in India. The Company's Activity will Focus on Educational and Entertainment Software and will include amongst others the following.	
41.	Nandi Investment Ltd. Mauritius	Mauritius	Enclotex Ready Panels Limited 482, 80 Feet Road Ganganager Bangalore-560 032 Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	For Manufacturer of Modular Sheet Metal Enclosures and to set up Facilities For Assembly-cum-Storage/ Marketing Centres at Pune and Delhi	4.00
42.	Nandi Investment Ltd. Mauritius	Mauritius	Harman Engineers Private Limited 482, 80 Feet Road Ganga Nagar Bangalore-560032 Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	Manufacture of control Panels and Harmmonic Filters	0.05
43.	International Rectifier Mauritius Inc. 100 N, Sepulveda, 7th Floor, EL Segundo California -90246-4359	Mauritius	- Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	For Setting up a 100% wholly Owned Subsidiary in India to Undertake the Following Activities :-	6.30
44.	Clipsal Investment Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius	Mauritius	Elcon-Clipsal India Limited Rakhial Road Ahmedabad-380023 Location : Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	For Manufacture of Low Tension Electrical Switchgear Products, Safety Products and Wiring Accessories	11.83
45.	TCW/CICI India Private Equity Fund, LLC Mauritius	Mauritius	Varma Trafag Pvt. Ltd. A-25, New Friends Colony New Delhi-110065 Location : Rewari (Haryana)	For Manufacture of Pressure and Temperature Control Equipments and Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) Which has Multiple Application in Domestic and Industrial Sector	4.76
46.	Armess Finance Trading Ltd. C/o Multiconsult Ltd. Less Jamalacs Bldg. Vieux Consell, St. Port Louis Mauritius	Mauritius	- Location : Not Available	Setting up a Subsidiary Company for the following Activities:-	49.32
47.	Telesoft Ltd. Mauritius	Mauritius	Mafatal Consultancy Service (India) Ltd. Ranjan House, Opp. Century Bazar Prabhadevi Mumbai-400 026 Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	To Develop Computer Software	3.00

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48.	Latex Investment Ltd., Mauritius	Mauritius	Suretex Prophylactics (India) Ltd. No. 65/1, Vasavi Milaya, 36th Main, 4th Cross, Dollar Scheme, 8th Layout 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 068 Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	Condoms (Latex Prophylactics) - 150 Million Pieces per Annum	25.00
49.	Welden Nikko Mauritius Co. Mauritius	Mauritius	Globsyn Technologies Limited U-18, Green Park New Delhi-110 016 Location : Not Available	For Carrying on the Business of Providing Training to Software Engineers in Cobol on IBM Mainframes and Developing Software Offering Solutions to Y2k Problems	1.60
50.	Indocean Fund Co- Investment (I) Ltd. Mauritius	Mauritius	Ashima Syntex Limited 310, Ashima House Near M.J. Library Kavi Mamalal Marg Ahmedabad-380006 Location : Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Yarn Dyed Cotton Fabrics	8.23
51.	M/s. De Beers Mauritius Ltd.	Mauritius	De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited 44, Main Street, Johannesburg, 2001 PO Box 61212 Marshall Town- 2107 Location : Madhya Pradesh (Madhya Pradesh)	To undertake Prospecting and Mining Activities for Diamonds in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa Including other States and Procespecting for other Minerals (Except Coal and Iron Ore)	0.00
52.	M/s. RX3 Limited, NRI	-	RX3 India Pvt. Limited 6, Jain Bhawan, 12, Bhagat Singh Marg, New Delhi-110001 Location : Not Available	Manufacturing and Development of Computer Software and Hardware	0.04
53.		-	TCG Software Service Pvt. Ltd. Block GP, Plot G Sector V, Siemens Campus Salt Lake Electroni Complex, Calcutta-700091 Location : Calcutta (West Bengal)	Computer Software	10.00
54.		-	V.J. Coresoft Pvt. Ltd. 1204/24, Shivaji Nagar Opp. Jangal Maharaj Road Pune 411004 Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	Computer Software	0.21
55.	S.N. Investment Ltd. (OCB) NRI	-	LLOYDS Brokerage Ltd., 709, Rajeha Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021 Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	Stock Broking	0.00
56.	NRI	-	Indo German Carbons Ltd. XI/20, Chembakassery Junction Alwaye-683101 Kerala Location : Ernakulam (Kerala)	Activated Carbon	0.67

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57.	ABN AMRO Lease Holding, Netherlands,	Netherlands	ABN Amro Lease Holding N.V. C/o. J. Sagar Associates Advocates and Solicitors 84-E, C-6 Lane Sainik Farms New Delhi-110062 Location : Delhi (Delhi)	To Set up a Wholly Owned Subsidiary in India which will Undertake Management of Large and Medium Sized Fleets And/or to Provide Management and Advisory Services in the Surface Transport Sector	4.95
58.	Camara Securities Corporation Netherlands	Netherlands	Rose Interior Concepts Pvt. Ltd. Vikas Business Centre, 106, S.V. Road, Santacruz (W), Mumbai-400054 Location : Raigad (Kulaba) (Maharashtra)	For Manufacture of Modern Range of Modular Furniture Based on Flat Packed Self Assembly Production System such as Wall Units, Book cases, T.V. Stand, Workstation Desk, Ward robe, Kitchen, Furniture and other Similar Items	0.44
59.	Cerestar Holding B.V. Netherlands	Netherlands	Cerestar Holding B.V. C/o Chambers of Zia Mody 16, Ali Chambers, N. Master Road Fort, Mumbai-400 001 Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	Manufacture and Marketing of Starch and Its Derivatives Including Glucose Syrupus, Dextrose Modified, Starches and by Products such as corn Gluten Meal And Crude Corn Oil	190.00
60.	BT (Netherlands) Holdings BV, Netherlands	Netherlands	Bharti Internet Limited 1/6, Sirifort, Institutional Area Khei Gaon Marg, New Delhi-110049 Located : Delhi (Delhi)	To provide Internet Services, Multimedia Services, Website Communications and Other Allied Matters.	9.80
61.	M/s. Segment B.V., Netherlands	Netherlands	M/s. Elektor Electronics Pvt. Ltd. 52-C, Chhotani Building, Proctor Road, Grant Road (E), Mumbai-400007 Location : Greater Mumbai (Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	Permissions to Remit Royalty at the Enhanced Rate of HFL 3600 Per Issue of their Magazine Elektor India.	0.00
62.	Elektrin Energetyka SA Poland	Poland	Elektrin-Energetyka SA C/o. Mr. A.K. Pal B-29, Hauz Khas New Delhi-110016 Location : Not Available	For Setting up a Wholly owned Subsidiary to Carry on the Business of Design, Engineering Promotion Consultancy, Service and Supply in the Areas of Power Plants	10.00
63.	Kurgansky Mashinostroitelny Zavod, Russia	Russia	Russian Technology Centre Pvt. Ltd. Russia, C/o, Mr. Munish Uberoi Uberoi Sood & Kapoor, Chartered Accountants 606, Visal Bhawan, 95, Nehru Place, New Delhi Location : Not Available	To set up a 100% Owned Subsidiary which would act as Holding Company for the Foreign Company and would Explore the Prospects of Collaborating Development and will Undertake other Activities on behalf of the Foreign Company	1.14
64.	Bakri International Energy Co. Ltd. Sondi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Bakri International Energy Co. Ltd. P.O. Box, 3757, Jeddah, 21481 Saudi Arabia Location : South24-Pargans (West Bengal)	To Develop and Construct Infrastructure, Storage and Terminal Facilities and own and Operate such Facilities with products such as Chemical/Lube and Base Oil/Fuel Oil for Bunker Operations/Aircraft Refuelling and LPG in the State of West Bengal	12.77
65.	ECON International Ltd., Singapore	Singapore	ECON Piling Pye Ltd. 2 ANG MO KIO Street 64 ANG MO KIO Industrial Park 3 Singapore-569084 Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	For Setting up a Wholly Owned Subsidiary in India for the purpose of carrying on the Business of Engineers Designers, Builders, Contractors for Infrastructure and other Projects	1.90

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66.	Mr. Janus Engelbrecht, South Africa	South Africa	Cape Clean 9, East PH Venkateswara Nagar, Kodungyur Chennai-600 118 Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	For the Manufacture of Cleaning Liquids and for Providing Services of Cleaning Buildings, False Ceilings, Walls, Doors Carpets Etc. with Chemical Manufactured by the Firm	0.20
67.	Danisco A/S, Sweden	Sweden	Shiv Kumar Jatia, Block E-5, Commercial Co. Majid Moth, Greater Kailash-II New Delhi-110048 Location : Not Available	To Undertake Manufacturing, distributing marketing/selling Flavour and Intermediate Products	7.03
68.	Martin HUG., Switzerland	Switzerland	Agastya Resorts & Tours (P) Ltd. No. 594, Palazhi House Pulinkudi, Nullor P.O., Vizhinjam, Thiruvanthapuram Location : Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala)	To set up a Joint Venture which would operate in the are a of Promoting Tourism to Vizhinjam, Kerala	0.99
69.	Training Centre for Investment Professionals Inc., Switzerland	Switzerland	Kare Software Developers Pvt. Ltd., 335, Prof. D. Kossombe Street Margad, Goa Location : Goa (Goa)	To undertake Development of Software Primarily for Investment and Banking Applications	0.25
70.	Model Holding AG, Switzerland	Switzerland	Wadpack Limited 1103 Akashdeep Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001 Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	For Manufacture of Corrugated Paper Board/Fibre Board and Boxes	0.65
71.	Krebs & Co. Switzerland	Switzerland	Fine Salt Works Ltd. 6-2-953, IInd Floor, 201, Krishna Plaza, Khairatabad Hyderabad-500004 Location : Nellore (Andhra Pradesh)	Manufacture of Iodised Free Flow Salt and Derivatives	2.12
72.	C & C Holding Ltd. U.K.	U.K.	Star Coolers & Condensers Private & Amber Vihar, Kantinagar Andheri E Mumbai-400 059 Location : Jalgaon (Maharashtra)	For Manufacture of Air Cooled Heat Exchangers & Finned Tubes mainly used by Captive Power Generation Plants, Diesel Generating Sets, Chemical Industry and Refrigeration System for cold Storage Units	0.60
73.	Boots Company Ltd. UK	U.K.	The Boots Company PLC C/o, New Delhi Law Office 5th Floor, Rajendra Bhawan 210, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi Location : Not Available	Manufacture or have Manufactured, Market and Sell and Existing Range of Pharmaceutical Products and Launch and Further Range of Pharmaceutical Products in India	5.10
74.	Concentric Pumps Ltd., U.K.	U.K.	- Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	To Establish a 100% Wholly Owned Company in India which would undertake to Engineer & Manufacture Components and Parts for the Automotive Sector particularly but not only Oil Pumps, Water Pumps for Commercial Vehicles in India	7.60
75.	AES Corporation U.K.	U.K.	AES Corporation C/o, Arthur Andersen & Co. 17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan STC Building Tolstoy Marg New Delhi-110001 Location : Not Available	To Set up a Wholly Owned Subsidiary in India to act as the Holding Company to make Investment in Development of Power Project Either Independently or in Conjunction with the Parent Entity or other Affiliate Group Entities	3.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
76.	Worldwide Channel Investment Ltd., 80 Wood Lane London W12 0TT UK	U.K.	- Location : Not Available	To Provide Advertisement Support Services to Indian Advertisers for Advertising in Overseas Media	0.70
77.	Interneius PLC., UK	U.K.	Internexus PLC. U.K. C/o, Sandipan Gangopadhyay Indian Country Manager D-53, Arenja Complex Sector 8, CBD Belapur Navi, Mumbai, Maharashtra Location : Thane (Maharashtra)	For Setting up and Operation of a Software Technology Park for Undertaking Data Processing, Software Development, Computer Consultancy, Information Technology Base Services	0.71
78.	James Capel & Co. Thames Exchange 10, Queen Street Place London UK	U.K.	M/s. HSBC Securities India Holdings Ltd. Hongkong Bank Building 60, Mahatama Gandhi Road, Mumbai-400001 Location : Delhi (Delhi)	For Undertaking Stock Broking Business	30.41
79.	Odlings Ltd.,	U.K.	Odlings (Memorials) Pvt. Ltd. 203, Bhavanam Estates Panjagutta Hyderabad-500 482 Andhra Pradesh Location : MEDAK (Andhra Pradesh)	Granite Memorials, Granite Vases, Urns, Granite Slabs, Tiles, Granite Art Facts	0.03
80.	Krishna SCL Ltd. U.K.	U.K.	Kingston SCL Ltd. 20, LSC, Pushp Vihar Madangir New Delhi-110062 Location :Noida (Uttar Pradesh)	Computer Software	1.63
81.	Atchison Casting Corporation, USA	U.S.A.	Atchison Casting Corporation, USA C/o Crawford Bayley & Co. State Bank Buildings, N.G.M. Vaidya Marg, Mumbai-400023 Location : Not Available	To Establish a 100% Owned Subsidiary to Undertake (I) Production and Marketing of and Trading in Ferrous and non-ferrous casting in India; and or (II) Investment in Companies Manufacturing and/or Marketing Ferrous And Non-Ferrous Casting in	11.40
82.	First National Corporation 164, Brighton Road Crittton New Jersey-07470 USA	U.S.A.	Ventura Lighting Limited C-33, East of Kailash New Delhi Location : Delhi (Delhi)	Outdoor Lighting Systems (Details in Annexure I)	0.03
83.	Synco Chemicals Corporation, U.S.A.	U.S.A.	SYNCD Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd. 13, Mugdhali Orion, Complex Khadki, Pune-411 003 Location : Not Available	To Manufacture Synthetic Lubricants and Other Allied Products which Contain No Petroleum Distillates and are Biodegradable and Non-Pollutant	0.35
84.	Mr Dale Okund, C/o, E-Z Data Inc., 918 East Green Street Pasadena, CA-91106 U.S.A.	U.S.A.	- Location : Nagpur (Maharashtra)	Software Development, Training, Import-Export And Research Activities	0.05
85.	Ogden Engery Inc. U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Ogden Energy Inc. 40, Lake Road, CN 2615 Fairfield, NJ 07007 Location : Calcutta (West Bengal)	For the purposes of Rendering Operation and Maintenance Services to Independent Power Products in India	0.19
86.	REZ Solbutions Inc., U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Rez Solutions Inc. C/o, Coopers & Lybrand Pvt. Ltd. 5th Floor, 1, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110001 Location : Not Available	Providing Centralised Reservation System Service To the Hotel and Tourism Industry	0.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
87.	M/s GC International Corporation 60, State Street, STE 700 Boston NA 02019 U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Garner Company (India) Private Limited Chitnis House 1, Kodanbakkam High Road Chennai-600 034 Location : Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	Surge Suppressers, Moulded Case Circuit Breakers	0.05
88.	Christopher Klin U.S.A.	U.S.A.	CYN Corporation C-303, Manubhai Tower Sayajigunj, Vadodara-5, Gujarat Location : Vadodara (Gujarat)	To Undertake Development And Export of Computer Software	0.17
89.	Compliance International 4713, First Street Suit 115 Pleasanton California 94566 USA	U.S.A.	- Location : Not Available	To Undertake Consultancy Business in Telecom Sector	0.10
90.	Mr. Habib H. Ravjee USA	U.S.A.	Jasmine Textiles Private Limited 125, Aruppukkottai Road, Pervgudi Madurai-625022. Location : Not Available	Manufacture of Cotton Yarn At Annual Capacity of 14, 24 Lakh Kgs	0.80
91.	PPG Co. USA/any other Fiat Group Company	U.S.A.	Fiat India Automobiles Ltd., C/o. Ind Auto Ltd. L.B.S. Marg Kurta, Mumbai-400070 Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	To Build and Operate the Paint Shop as a Vendor to be Located Inside the Fiat Plant	38.00
92.	M/s. Atlantic Duncans International USA	U.S.A.	- Location : Delhi (Delhi)	Establishment of 100% Subsidiary Company in India for Setting up Software Development Centre (SDC)	7.60
93.	Hydro Incorporated 834, West Madison Chicago Illinois-60607	U.S.A.	- Not Available	To Set up a 100% Subsidiary for carrying on the Business of Pump Rebuilding and Repairs for steel petroleum and Chemical Industries.	0.10
94.	Novatek Information System Inc., USA	U.S.A.	Novatek Information System Pvt. Ltd. 1159 Swojas House Sadashiv Peth. Pure-411030 Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	For providing Information Services, Other Software and Hardware Develop- ments to Establish and Operate Computer Centres to Facilitate Training and Manpower Development Placement Services	0.10
95.	Mr. David R. Gault U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Direct-Resource (I) Private Limited C-15, South Extn-I New Delhi-49 Location : Delhi (Delhi)	For providing Service to Foreign Foreign Collaborators By Sourcing Indian Products like Coir, Handloom Brassware Products	0.95
96.	Nafi-Trench Corporation U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Nafi-Trench Turbomac Hinery (India) Pvt. Ltd. 205, Yash Kamal Building Lokmanya Tilak Road, Sayajigunj Vadodara-390005 Location : Vadodara (Gujarat)	Repairs and Maintenance of Turbo Expander Compressors in India and South East Asian Countries	0.14
97.	Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Group 20S, VAN Buren Avenue Barbeton, OH 44203-035, USA	U.S.A.	- Location : Not Available	For Under Taking Renovation and Modernisation Contracts as an Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractors, Repowering of Old Power Plants, Boiler Upgrades, Sales of New Utility Boilers and Other Related Segments of	29.00
98.	Lincoln Electric Co., U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Saroj Kumar Poddar Hongkong House 31, Dalhousie Square (S) Calcutta-700001, West Bengal Location : Not Available	For Manufacture of ARC Welding Products	7.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
99.	Store & Webster Engineering Corporation 1430, Enclave Parkway Houston, Texas 77077-2023	U.S.A.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited Scope Complex Core-2 Lodhi Road New Delhi-110003	Motor Spirit, LPG, High Speed Diesel, LSHS	0.00
100.	Warwick Industries Inc. U.S.A.	U.S.A.	Warwick India Pvt. Ltd. M-4, Greater Kailash Part - I, New Delhi-110048 Location : Muradabad (Uttar Pradesh)	Manufacture of Different Indian Handicraft Items Like Glassware, Iron-Ware, Readymade Garments Pottries, Leather Goods Etc.	0.05
101.	Stone Webster Engineering Corporation USA	U.S.A.	Store and Webster India Pvt. Ltd. 5th Floor, Rajendra, Bhavan 210, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg New Delhi-110002 Location : Not Available	Setting up A Consultancy venture to provide Services for Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction Management and Commissioning of Projects for the Power Sector of India	0.10
102.	M/s. Discovery Communications Inc.	U.S.A.	Discovery Communications Inc. Ltd. Gopaldas Bhavan, 9th Floor, Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110003 Location : Not Available	To Set up a 100% Wholly owned Subsidiary in India for High Quality Highly Educations Real-Life Entertainment Programmes and Marketing of Air time of the Discovery Channel.	0.00
103.	Donaldson Company Inc. 1400 West 94th Street Minneapolis Minnesota 55431 U.S.A.	U.S.A.	D-1, Filter Systems Private Limited B-22, Gitanjali Enclave, New Delhi-110017 Location : Gurgaon (Haryana)	Intake Air Filters for Internal Combustion Engines	0.21
104.	Nicrohard Technologies Inc USA	U.S.A.	Nicrohard Technologies Pvt. Ltd. E 812, 8th Floor, Prestige Meridian-1 M.G. Road, Bangalore Location : Bangalore (Urban) (Karnataka)	Computer Software	
105.	Funschool, Com. Corpn. USA	U.S.A.	Fun School Com (India) Pvt. Ltd. Plat No. 17, Gardenia Apartments Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500016 Location : Hyderabad (Twin Cities) (Andhra Pradesh)	Computer Software	0.10
106.	B.K. Rath 1520, Richardson Drive Suit 512, R'Swon Texax. U.S.A.	U.S.A.	- Location : Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)	Computer Software	0.11
107.	Health Carer Media Enterprises Inc. 1301, Redwood way, Suit No. 200, Petaluma, California 94954 USA	U.S.A.	- Location : Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	Computer Software	1.50
108.	Corporate Computing Service USA	U.S.A.	CCS Software India Pvt. Ltd. A1, Technology Park NIDC, Talwade Pune Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	Computer Software	1.00
109.	Bricmont Inc 500, Technology Drive Southpoint Indl. Park Canonsburg PA 15317-9584 USA	U.S.A.	- Location : Pune (Maharashtra)	Computer Software	0.25
110.	Petroclyne Inc. USA	U.S.A.	Petro Energy Products Co. India Ltd. 23, Dicott Kuppam Road, Besant Nagar Madras-600090 Location : Pondicherry (Pondicherry)	Motor Spirit/Naptha	0.00
111.	M/s. GE Electronic Company U.S.A.	U.S.A.	GE Lighting (India) Ltd. Aifacs Building 1, Rafi Marg New Delhi-110001 Location : Not Available	High Pressure Mercury Vapour Lamps, High Lamps Sodium Vapour Lamps, GLS, Fluorescent Lamps and other Lighting Components	50.00

Statement-IV

*Proposal Pending with Foreign
Investment Promotion Board*

Information and Broadcasting Sector

1. M/s. Chaitra Leo Burnett Pvt. Ltd.
2. M/s. WD India Pvt. Ltd.
3. M/s. Ashpin Holdings
4. M/s. Infinitiv
5. M/s. Mudra Communications Pvt. Ltd.
6. M/s. Newage Production Pvt. Ltd.
7. M/s. United Entertainment Network Pvt. Ltd.
8. M/s. Zen Communication Pvt. Ltd.
9. M/s. Chafma B.V. The Netherlands
10. M/s. IF Productions, France.
11. M/s. Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., USA
12. M/s. Bloomberg Data Services (I) Pvt. Ltd.
13. M/s. Optima India Pvt. Ltd.
14. M/s. Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

Food Processing Industries/Chemical & Petrochemical Sector

15. M/s. William Grant & Sons
16. M/s. Vijay Breweries Ltd.
17. M/s. Colanac Breweries & Products (P) Ltd.
18. M/s. Bhaskar S. Kotiyan
19. M/s. Reh Kendermann Weinkellerei GmbH
20. M/s. United Breweries Ltd.

Tobacco Sector

21. M/s. Rothmans of Pall Mall (International) Ltd.

Mineral Sector

22. M/s. WSIL Mineral Sands India Pvt. Ltd.

Rapid Transport Sector

23. M/s. U.B. Transit Systems

Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector

24. M/s. British Gas India Pvt. Ltd.

Statement-V

The FIPB guidelines as also Sector Specific Guidelines have the following in-built criteria to consider proposals for FDI:-

- (i) The level of investment as also the level of technology is taken into account while considering proposals for 100% foreign owned subsidiary;
- (ii) In case of FDI beyond 24% for manufacture of items reserved for SSI sector, the investing company is required to obtain industrial licence and undertake 50% export obligation on its turnover;
- (iii) In respect of 22 specified industries in the consumer goods sector, foreign investors are required to balance the out flow on account of dividend repatriation by an equivalent amount of export earnings over a period of 7 years with effect from the date of commercial production;
- (iv) In addition to dividend balancing, investments in potable alcohol sector are required to neutralise foreign exchange outflow on account of imports by an equivalent amount of export earnings over a minimum period of five years;
- (v) Proposal for acquisition of part/whole stake in an Indian company by a foreign company would necessarily have to come to FIPB for approval. Such proposals have to be supported by a Board resolution from the target company and a consent letter from the foreign acquirer. Further issue/transfer/pricing of shares shall be in conformity to SEBI/RBI guidelines.
- (vi) In case of FDI proposals in areas where there already exists a joint venture, the FIPB insists on "no objection" from the existing joint venture partner before considering the proposal so long as the product/activity in question and/or the market segment are similar or identical;
- (vii) The automatic approval route for FDI is applicable to 69 high priority industry groups *within the ceilings prescribed* for investment.
- (viii) Automatic approval is not open to the following activities.
 - Export Oriented Units;
 - Items reserved for Small Scale Sector;
 - Items requiring compulsory licensing;
 - Acquisition of shares in the existing company by foreign company by way of transfer to shares.

Statement-VI*Restrictions on FDI*

- (i) Certain sectors such as real estate, plantation, agricultural activities and insurance are not yet open to FDI;
- (ii) Based on sector-wise sensitivities, ceilings have been prescribed on the extent of foreign equity participation in certain sectors such as NBFC activities (upto 75% in operating companies), banking (upto 40% in the case of multilateral financial institutions, 20% in the case of other foreign banking companies), civil aviation (upto 40% and no direct or indirect equity by foreign Airlines), telecom services (49%), etc.;
- (iii) Trading companies with foreign equity are not allowed to undertake domestic retailing.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

*86. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-banking financial institutions/private banks/plantation companies/agro-based investment companies/chit fund companies functioning in the country presently;

(b) the total amount invested by the investors in these companies during the last three years;

(c) the names of companies against whom the cases of frauds with the public have been registered during the above period;

(d) the action taken by the Government against those companies;

(e) whether the task force set up by the Government on non-banking financial companies has recommended sweeping changes in regulation and operation of these companies;

(f) if so, the details of recommendations made by the task force; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the said recommendations and also to protect the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI

KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Pursuant to the amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 in January, 1997 registration of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) was made compulsory. Subsequent thereto, 37788 NBFCs applied for registration out of which 7063 NBFCs have been issued registration certificates and 846 applications have been rejected as on 30.11.98. The total number of chit fund companies in the country during the year 1996-97 was 1376. There are 35 private sector banks as on date.

In response to the public notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued on 18.12.97, 643 plantation companies have filed information with SEBI.

(b) According to RBI, the total amount invested by the investors in these companies during the last three years is given below:-

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year	Aggregate deposits	Public deposits
NBFCs		
1995	90092.8	13224.8
1996	108435.5	20792.1
1997	133279.9	28747.0

Private Sector Banks

1995-96	Rs. 34314.11 Crores
1996-97	Rs. 46147.75 Crores
1997-98	Rs. 62703.37 Crores

As per information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), an amount of Rs. 2,400 crores has been mobilised by the entities which issue Agro bonds, plantation bonds etc.

(c) and (d) The list of NBFCs to whom RBI issued prohibitory orders from 1.1.97 to 31.10.98 and other action taken by RBI is given in Statement-I. As regards the complaints received by Company Law Board from the depositors of NBFCs and the action taken by them in terms of Section 45QA of the RBI Act, the details are given in the Statement-II. SEBI has initiated court proceedings, based on investor complaints against the following entities:-

1. Golden Forests (India) Ltd.
2. Arror Global Agro Tech Ltd.
3. Libra Plantations Ltd.
4. SPG Green Gold Plantations Ltd.
5. Okara Agro Industries Ltd.

(e) to (g) A summary of recommendations is given in Statement-III. Action for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force in Consultation with Reserve Bank of India has been initiated.

Statement-I

Particular of adverse action against erring NBFCs initiated by Reserve Bank of India during the last two years

- I. List of NBFCs to whom Reserve Bank of India issued Prohibitory Orders from January 1, 1997 to October 31, 1998

Sr. No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	Chancellor Housing Dev. & Finance & Investment Ltd. Nutan Bazar, P.O. Dhubulla, Dist. Nadia.
2.	Welfare Savings & Credit Ltd., School Bagan, Bolpur, Dist. Birbhum.
3.	Bityodaya Housing Finance (P) Ltd. Dist. Bhojpur Bihar.
4.	Research Savings & Finance (P) Ltd. Mohini Market, Exhibition Road, Patna, Bihar-800 001
5.	Manav Sansadhan Vikas Finance & Investment (I) Ltd. Shreesh Bhawan, Bailey Road, Khajpura, Patna, Bihar.
6.	CRB Capital Markets Ltd., CRB House, Panchkuyian Road, New Delhi
7.	Presitigious Finance & Investment (I) Ltd. Swayam Sidhi, Commercial Complex, Road No. 12, Exhibition Road, Patna, Bihar.
8.	Global Finance Corporation Ltd.
9.	World Link Finance Ltd. 151, Maker Chamber III, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021
10.	Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd. 60, Nagarjuna Hills, Punjgutta, Hyderabad-500 082
11.	Helios Finance & Investment Ltd Helios Bhavan, Station Road, Patna-800 001
12.	Helios Corporation Ltd. Helios Bhavan, Station Road, Patna 800 001
13.	Amnet India Credit Corporation Ltd. Nalin Apartments (1st Floor) Andheri (West) Mumbai-400 058

1	2
14.	Gadgil Western Corporation Ltd. Western India House, B-6/6, Commercial Complex, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110 029
15.	NITL Mutual Benefit (I) Ltd. 9A, DG-1, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110 018
16.	Prudential Capital Market Ltd. Tobacco House, 2nd Floor, 1 & 2 Old Court House, Corner, Calcutta-700 001
17.	JVG Finance Ltd. B-22, Ansal Chambers-1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110 066
18.	JVG Leasing Ltd. B-22, Ansal Chambers-1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110 066
19.	JVG Securities Ltd. B-6/7, Moha Building, Bhikaji Cama Place New Delhi-110 066
20.	Western India Securities Ltd. B-6/7, DDA Commercial Complex, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110 029
21.	Mcdowell Krest Finance Ltd. 312, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 018
22.	DSJ Finance Corporation Ltd. 105, Shreyas Building, Behind Monginis Factory, New Link Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai -400 053
23.	Standard Economy (P) Ltd. 28/2/1, Old Baligang, 2nd Lane, Calcutta-700 019
24.	Aneja Financial Services Ltd. Behind Model House, Punjagutta, Hyderabad
25.	Joydip Savings & Credit India Ltd. Dr. Ambedkar Road, Palta, P.O. Bangal Enamel, Dist. North 24-Pargana, West Bengal
26.	Bihar Capital Financiers (I) Ltd. Surya Complex, Jamal Road, Patna-800-001
27.	Rich Capital and Financial Services Ltd. 14/123 A, 5th Floor, Gopala Chambers, Parade, The Mall, Kanpur-208 001
28.	Patliputra Housing Dev. & Fin (I) Pvt. Ltd. West Boring Canal Road, Near Dwarika Mandir, Patna - 800 001
29.	Entrust Finance (P) Ltd. D 671, "Nayana", Mandipet, Davangere-577 001

1	2
30.	DCM Financial Services Ltd. 75, Amrit Nagar, NDSC Part-1, New Delhi-110003
31.	Patla Savings and Investment Pvt. Ltd. Ganj No. 2, Bettiah (West Champaran), Bihar
32.	Subidpur Janakalyan Investment & Finance Co. Ltd. Ramnagar Road, VIII, Subidpur P.O. Purandarpur, Dist. 24—Parganas (North) West Bengal
33.	Rockland Leasing Ltd. 81A, Himalaya House, 23, KG Marg, New Delhi-110001
34.	Raunaq Finance Ltd. 418, 3rd Floor, Shallmar Complex, Church Road, Jaipur-302006
35.	Schematic Finance Ltd. New Delhi
36.	Samruddhi Saving & Investment (India) Ltd, Raipur
37.	Ennoble India Savings & Investments Co. Ltd., Bellary
38.	Genius Financial Services Ltd., Hyderabad

1	2
39.	Midwest Hire Purchases Ltd., Hyderabad
40.	Midwest Mutual Fund Ltd., Hyderabad
41.	Midwest India Industries, Mumbai

According to RBI they have taken action against erring NBFCs against whom a large number of complaints regarding non-payment of deposits were received and on inspection, the companies were found to be insolvent. Accordingly, RBI have filed winding up petitions in the respective High Courts in the case of CRB Capital Markets Ltd., New Delhi, JVG Group of companies, New Delhi and Asia Pacific investment Trust Ltd., Hyderabad, RBI have also launched prosecution proceedings in respect of JVG Finance Limited, New Delhi, JVG Leasing Ltd., New Delhi, JVG Securities Ltd., New Delhi, Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi, Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd., Hyderabad, NITL Mutual Benefits Ltd., New Delhi, Endowment investment (I) Ltd. Chandigarh and Rockland Leasing Ltd., New Delhi. In addition RBI have filed a police complaint for cheating the public under section 420 of IPC against Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi.

RBI has been taking various steps to effectively monitor NBFCs.

In addition to the above action, several rounds of advertisement have been published by RBI to make general public aware about the framework for deposit acceptance by NBFCs.

Statement-II

*Subject : Complaints received by Company Law Board
from the Deposits of NBFCs.*

1.	No. of complaints received from the depositors in terms of Section 45QA(1)	13367
2.	No. of companies against whom the complaints have been received.	109
3.	No. of cases where companies have been directed to repay the principal and the interest	10589
4.	In how many cases NBFCs have honoured the directions of Company Law Board	In CLB orders passed u/s. 45QA of the RBI Act, 1934, it is indicated that in case of non-compliance, the applicant depositor may approach the concerned General Manager, RBI who will take necessary action under sec, 58B (4) (a) (a) of the RBI Act. It is also stated in some cases that in case of non-compliance of CLB orders by the Company, the RBI may take necessary action (i.e. prosecution of the Company)
5.	In how many cases the defaulting companies have not honoured the directions of Company Law Board	
6.	Any other information for framing replies to supplementaries.	In some cases because of non-availability of addresses of the Directors of Companies, the service could not be effected to the companies and its Directors.

Statement-III

Summary of the Recommendations

1. Diversification of financial markets is an important component of financial sector reforms. In this environment, NBFCs have flourished and have become prominent in a wide range of activities like hire-purchase finance, housing finance, equipment leasing finance, loans and investments.

2. It is recognised that the existing legislative and regulatory framework requires further refinement and improvement because of the rising number of defaulting NBFCs and the need for an efficient and quick system for redressal of grievances of individual depositors. The procedure for taking over the assets and liquidation of defaulting and insolvent NBFCs remains deficient and is neither able to effectively prevent asset stripping nor does it enable quick disposal of assets for the benefit of all creditors whether secured or unsecured. There is also the preception that the regulatory regime in some respects is over restrictive and has constrained the growth of well performing healthy NBFCs.

3. The three year period for attaining minimum NOF would expire in January, 2000. Any extension granted by the RBI should be made conditional upon the concerned NBFC having taken adequate steps to increase NOF in the initial three year period and satisfactory arrangements to attain the minimum capital requirement as may be applicable at that point of the time within the extended period. Further, the present minimum capital requirement of Rs. 25 lacs itself may have to be reviewed upward keeping in view the need to impart greater financial soundness and achieve economies of scale in terms of efficiency of operations and higher managerial skills.

4. It would be necessary for the RBI to draw up a time bound programme for disposal of applications for registration as an NBFC. Given the fact that the operations of NBFCs are often concentrated in far flung areas, the RBI may apprise the State Governments of the companies which have been granted registration as well as the companies whose applications have been rejected.

5. Given the relatively higher risk involved in NBFCs operations, a higher level of CRAR compared to banks is essential. While the present stipulation of 12% of CRAR for all rated NBFCs may continue, the RBI may prescribe a higher CRAR of say 15% for those NBFCs which seek public deposit without credit rating.

6. It is also necessary that the prudential norms be reviewed by the RBI, taking into account the international norms, and the norms applicable to the commercial banks in India as also the general economic climate in the country. The RBI should prescribe ceilings for exposure to the real estate sector and also investment in capital markets specially unquoted shares. The exposure norms for exposures to connected companies need to be tightened. These measures are essential to prevent deployment of public deposits in high risk and speculative avenues. The RBI may stipulate that the NBFCs should invest at least 25% of their reserves in marketable securities apart from the SLR securities already held by the NBFCs.

7. The need for regulations on the deposit taking activities of NBFCs has basically arisen because of the information asymmetry that exists between an uninformed depositor and the NBFC. Further, deposits raised from the public are more likely to be of short term duration, resulting in maturity mismatches between asset and liability and the attendant risks. Linking of the quantum of public deposits with credit rating, however, presents a different set of issues. Apart from having the effect of conferring regulatory functions on the rating agencies, it also exposes the NBFCs to frequent asset liability mismatches arising out of changes in credit rating. In view of the additional level of comfort provided by a credit rating, it is appropriate for the RBI to stipulate a higher ceiling for public deposit for those companies which have obtained rating for their instruments. However, for reasons mentioned above, it may not be necessary to link the quantum of deposit to the rating per-se provided the rating is above the minimum investment grade. In summary, the proposed ceiling could be as under:

Type of Company	Limit of Public Deposits
NBFC with NOF less than Rs. 25 lacs	No access to public deposits
EL/HP company without credit rating	1.5 times NOF or Rs. 10 crores whichever is lower. (higher CRAR of 15%)
EL/HP company with investment grade credit rating or above	4 time NOF.
Loan/investment companies with investment grade credit rating or above	1.5 times NOF (higher CRAR of 15%)

8. The RBI should consider measures for easing the flow of credit from banks of NBFCs and then consider prescribing a suitable ratio as between secured and unsecured deposits for NBFCs.

9. The liquid asset ratio should be increased to 25% of public deposit from the present level in a phased manner. By a suitable statutory provision, the unsecured depositors may be given a first charge on these liquid assets so that an unsecured depositor is atleast assured of a return of one-out-of-every-four rupees deposited by him.

10. The RBI can be statutorily empowered to appoint depositors' grievance redressal authorities with specified territorial jurisdiction. The office of the Banking Ombudsman, could be a viable option for such appointments. This will also entail amendments in the RBI Act.

11. If the grievance is a one off problem, a fraction of the deposit equivalent to ratio of the liquid assets to the total public deposits may be paid to the depositor directly under the orders of the authority. As regards the balance payment, this authority may pass a suitable order.

12. To provide legal strength to the order of such authority, the order could be transmitted by this authority to the principal civil court of the District in which the registered

office of the company is situated or to such competent principal civil court as desired by the depositor and such an order would be enforceable as a decree of such principal court.

13. Till such time as the amendments for setting up depositors' grievances redressal authorities are carried out, it is essential that the CLB tightens its procedures for dealing with complaints of depositors and puts in place a mechanism for speedy disposal of these complaints. The regional office of the RBI and the regional offices of the CLB should set up a coordination mechanism to ensure that defaulting companies are speedily dealt with for violation of any regulatory/statutory requirements.

14. State Governments may set up cells at the State and district level to help disseminate information relating to procedure for redressal of depositors' grievances.

15. The procedure for the liquidation of NBFCs should be substantially on line with those available for banks, so that these proceedings can quickly be brought to completion and the claims of various depositors and other creditors are settled as early as possible.

16. There is an imperative need for reviewing the particulars given in advertisements. Dues from the group companies, the business ventures in which the directors are interested and the amount of exposure including the non-fund based facilities provided to such entities should also be included in the advertisement.

17. There is a need for the RBI to continue to take more intensive measures for a sustained depositors, awareness campaign. These publicity campaigns should be through print and electronic media, seminars, conferences, etc. Associations of NBFCs and various investors' for a such as Consumers' Education Research Centre, Investors' Grievances Forum, Depositors' Associations, etc. should also be actively involved in these campaigns.

18. It would not be judicious to introduce a deposit insurance scheme for the depositors in NBFCs because of the moral hazard issues, likelihood of asset stripping and the likely negative impact on the growth of a healthy NBFC Sector.

19. A separate instrumentality for regulation and supervision of NBFCs under the aegis of the RBI should be set up. It should have representation of experts and other professionals and should help the overall supervisory policies of the RBI. Rules and regulations for the new instrumentality should provide enough flexibility for induction of specialists and experts with requisite supervisory skills. The RBI should have a separate Executive Director for this purpose, supervised by a Deputy Governor, so that there is greater focus in regulation and supervision of the NBFC sector.

20. RBI could use the services of chartered accountants with suitable experience and capabilities to carry out inspections of the smaller NBFCs.

21. The offsite surveillance mechanism should pick up any significant spurt in NPAs and any bunching of repayment deposits.

22. It is important to have a very sensitive market intelligence system which could trigger onsite inspections followed by appropriate regulatory responses.

23. The RBI should be vested with powers to direct a particular NBFC or a class of NBFCs to seek prior approval of the RBI before appointing its statutory auditors.

24. Wherever the RBI has reasons to believe that the management of an NBFC is likely to indulge in fraudulent activities to the detriment of the company or its depositors, the RBI may notify such company and on notification, the assets of the company shall stand attached and the management of the assets be vested with a custodian to be appointed by the RBI. The assets may then be disposed of under the orders or a special court or of a High Court to be notified as a special court for this purpose. Suitable amendments may be made in the RBI Act to put in place such an arrangement.

25. The amendment to the RBI Act in 1997 is a step in the right direction and allowing access to deposits from individuals to such entities exposes the depositors to grave risks. However, there is a case for allowing them to have access to loans other than public deposits. They could be permitted to access loans from bodies with a corporate identity, including NBFCs.

26. Deposit taking by unregistered NBFCs of NBFCs whose applications for certificate of registration have been rejected or whose registration has been cancelled or who have been prohibited from accepting deposits should be made a cognizable offence. State Governments should set up special investigation wings of enforcing these provisions.

27. The offence of unauthorised deposit taking by unincorporated financial intermediaries should be made cognizable. State Governments should also expeditiously consider enacting legislation on the lines of the legislation enacted by Tamilnadu Legislature on this issue.

28. There should be a ban on issue of advertisement soliciting by all unincorporated bodies.

Production of Rubber

*87. SHRI N. DENINIS :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the States where rubber is being produced;
- (b) the achievements of those States in plantation and growth of rubber during the Eighth Plan period;
- (c) the assistance extended by the Union Government to those States for rubber plantation;
- (d) the schemes proposed, funds earmarked for the purpose during the Ninth Plan; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the external competition in rubber production and to protect the interests of rubber producers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Rubber is traditionally produced in Kerala and Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. Rubber is also being grown in non-traditional areas like in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and the North-Eastern States.

(b) State-wise area under rubber by the end of 1996-97, the terminal year of 8th Five Year Plan, is given below:

Traditional Area

1. Kerala	455,566	ha.
2. Tamil Nadu	18,209	ha.

Non-traditional area

1. Karnataka	17,324	ha.
2. Tripura	21,982	ha.
3. Assam	10,243	ha.
4. Meghalaya	4,345	ha.
5. Nagaland	980	ha.
6. Mizoram	934	ha.
7. Manipur	1,214	ha.
8. Arunachal Pradesh	69	ha.
9. A & N Islands	976	ha.
10. Goa	922	ha.
11. Maharashtra	143	ha.
12. Orissa	277	ha.
13. West Bengal	62	ha.
14. Others	43	ha.
Total	533,289	ha.

Area under rubber in the country has increased by 9.17% during the 8th Five Year Plan period.

(c) The Govt. through Rubber Board has been implementing a number of schemes for rubber plantations and to increase production and productivity of rubber by bridging the technology gap and by expansion of areas and replanting the low yielding trees with high yielding varieties. Various steps undertaken are as under:-

Making available financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting with improved varieties of planting materials under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.

- Production of high yielding planting materials and distribution to rubber growers.
- Rendering advisory, extension and training services.
- Encouraging group processing and marketing among small holders.
- Undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber.
- A World Bank Assisted Project is under implementation from 1993-94, to enhance production and quality of rubber which envisages replanting of old and uneconomic rubber trees, new planting, productivity enhancement of mature area of small holdings through adoption of improved agor-management and exploitation techniques and through institutional development.

The Rubber Board is also providing financial assistance of Rs. 18,000/- per ha. and Rs. 22,000/- per ha. to rubber growers for New Planting/Replanting in traditional and non-traditional areas respectively subject to certain eligibility criteria. In addition to this, small growers are also getting subsidies/assistance for inputs, high yielding planting materials, boundary protection, construction of smoke houses besides free supply of barbed wire to SC/ST category of workers for fencing (in non-traditional areas), free supply of sheeting rollers for community processing etc.

(d) During the 9th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 210 crores has been earmarked for implementation of the following plan schemes.

- Rubber Plantation Development Scheme (New Planting and Replanting)
- Infrastructure Development in non-traditional areas
- Productivity Enhancement
- Processing, marketing and product development
- Research
- Extension, training and supply of plantation inputs
- Special component and Tribal Sub Plan
- Labour Welfare.

(e) Rubber Board is providing training support on various aspects related to rubber production, processing and product development to rubber growers and technical support to rubber goods manufacturers in improving quality of product and for reducing the cost of production. Further, to protect the domestic rubber plantation industry, the import

of natural rubber is restricted and free import is not allowed into the country except from SAARC countries. To discourage indiscriminate import of used/retreaded tyres, the Govt. of India has already prescribed a minimum C.I.F. values ranging from US\$ 25 to US \$ 175 per tyre.

Production of Coal

*88. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal has increased in the coal producing States except West Bengal;

(b) if so, the total production of coal in each State during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date, indicating the name of Coal Companies functioning in these States;

(In million tonnes)

Period	Coal India Limited								SCCL	Gr. Total
	W.B.	Bihar	Orissa	Maharashtra	M.P.	U.P.	Assam	Total	Andhra Pradesh	
	ECL & BCCL	ECL BCCL & CCL	MCL	WCL	WCL SECL NCL	NCL	NEC	CIL		
1996-97	17.66	71.31	37.37	24.86	83.28	15.40	0.75	250.63	28.73	279.36
1997-98	16.46	74.96	42.17	26.17	84.43	15.69	0.69	260.55	28.94	289.49
1998-99 (Apr. Oct.)	8.92	36.15	25.16	13.77	46.34	7.73	0.24	138.31 (Prov.)	12.94 (Prov.)	151.25 (Prov.)

Production in both West Bengal and Assam has decreased gradually in the above said periods.

(c) The reasons for low production in the State of West Bengal includes.

(1) Delayed supply of equipment for longwall faces in Jhanjra and Satgram.

(2) Even after delayed receipt of longwall face equipment for Satgram the same could not be installed due to agitation of local population demanding for jobs in excess of the policy and the same is now being transferred to Jhanjra.

(3) Collapse of longwall support in Kothadiah Underground mine due to unforeseen dynamic weighting leading to stoppage of production from longwall face.

(4) Stoppage of work on account of strikes/Bandhs.

(5) Fund constrain arising from heavy losses being incurred by the company, resulting in inability to provide timely supply of essential equipment and stores.

(c) the reasons for low production of coal in West Bengal during 1997-98;

(d) the present demand of coal in the country;

(e) whether the Government have fixed any target of coal production during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the set target; and

(h) whether private participation in coal sector is being considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of production alongwith names of coal companies (CIL and SCCL) functioning in the States during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and April, 98 to October, 98 are given below:

(6) Decrease in off-take of coal also affected the production programme adversely.

(d) The demand of coal assessed by Planning Commission for the year 1998-99 is 325.38 million tonnes of Raw Coal and 7.50 million tonnes of middlings including the demand projected by power sector to the extent of 220.30 million tonnes of raw coal and 3.70 million tonnes of middlings. However, now power sector has projected its demand at 211.95 million tonnes per annum only upto 2001-02.

(e) and (f) The target of coal production in the country during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under:

(In million tonnes)	
Year	Target of coal production
1998-99	306.50
1999-2000	308.70

(g) Steps taken to achieve the target of production inter-alia include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, upgradation of technology, ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities, better capacity utilisation, improvement in productivity and maintaining good industrial relations.

(h) The Government had accepted the recommendation of the Committee on integrated Coal Policy to increase competition in the coal sector. Accordingly a proposal to permit any Indian company to mine coal without the restriction of captive consumption is under consideration.

Indian Ocean Rim for Tourism

*89. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on "Positioning the Indian Ocean Rim for Tourism" was held on October 6, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions and observations made therein to ensure India its due place on Tourist map amongst the Indian Ocean Rim States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) who organised this conference jointly with Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation (IOTO) have not communicated the suggestions/observations made at the aforesaid conference.

(c) Does not arise.

Patent for Coir-geo-textiles

*90. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US based Sri Lankan company has obtained patent for coir-geo-textiles, a product of coir which has been put to various uses in Kerala for a long time, threatening to affect the export of coir-geo-textiles from our country to already established markets in European countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to take up the matter in the appropriate forum to protect the interest of coir industry in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) A patent has been granted in Sri Lanka in

the name of Lanka Santha entitled "An Erosion Control Blanket/Turf Reinforcement Mat". The patent has been granted under the patent law of Sri Lanka.

Patents are granted by respective Governments under their patent laws and rights thereunder are restricted to the territorial boundary of the country. Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether grant of patent can be challenged.

World Bank Assisted Projects

*91. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terms and conditions at which the loan/assistance is given by the World Bank and the I.M.F. alongwith the details of any changes made in these terms and conditions after the nuclear tests;

(b) whether the work in many World Bank aided projects has come to a stand still due to non-receipt of funds from the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to discuss this problem with the World Bank; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) (i) A statement regarding the terms and conditions at which the loan/assistance is given by the World Bank and the IMF is enclosed.

(ii) No changes have been made to these terms and conditions after Nuclear tests.

(b) No World Bank aided project is affected due to non-receipt of funds from the World Bank.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement

IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) is the normal lending arm of World Bank. The terms and conditions of IBRD lending include a repayment period of 20 years inclusive of a grace period of 5 years. The interest rate is variable and revised semi-annually and at present it is around 5.5% for single currency loan and 6.18% for multi-currency loans. The commitment charge on the undisbursed balance is 0.75% per annum and a rebate of 0.5 % is given for timely repayment. The Government is paying only 0.25% per annum as commitment charge.

IDA (International Development Association) is the concessional lending window of the World Bank. The terms and conditions of IDA assistance, known as credit, include a repayment period of 35 years inclusive of a grace period of

10 years. IDA credits carry no interest charge but a service charge of 0.75% is levied on the disbursed portion of the credit. Commitment charge on undisbursed balance are fixed every year upto a maximum of 0.5% but for last many years no commitment charge has been levied by the World Bank due to timely repayments.

As regards IMF (International Monetary Fund), the Article 1 of the IMF Articles of Agreement describes the purposes of the IMF is to provide international monetary co-operation, exchange stability and to provide members resources under adequate safeguards through specific arrangements so as to correct net adjustments, in their balance of payments. India is not on any IMF programme, so the question of change in terms and conditions of assistance after the nuclear tests does not arise. As on 31.10.98, the estimates of charges prescribed by IMF are as under:-

(1) General resources	3.98% per annum
(2) SDR holdings & allocation	3.60 % per annum
(3) SAF/ESAF loans	0.50 % per annum

Formula for Devolution of Funds

*92. DR. RAVI MALLU :

DR. T. SUBBARAMAI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have asked the Union Government to expedite an alternative formula for devolution of funds;

(b) if so, whether they have demanded 33 per cent of Central gross revenue towards their share against their present entitlement of 26 per cent;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Eleventh Finance Commission to recommend a paradigm shift in Central fiscal transfers to the States in view of the increased burden on the State Governments consequent on implementation of economic reforms; and

(e) if, so, the concrete steps suggested by the Finance Commission in this regard and accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The Tenth Finance Commission had recommended an alternative scheme of sharing of resources between the Centre and the States to be introduced with effect from 1st April, 1996 under which 29% of the gross proceeds of almost all Central taxes is to be assigned to the States.

The scheme envisages that 26% share in the gross proceeds of all Central taxes (excluding Stamp Duty, Excise Duty on medicinal/toilet items, Central Sales Tax, Consignment tax and Surcharge) is to be assigned to the States in

lieu of existing share in Income Tax and Basic/Special Excise Duties and Grants in lieu of Tax on Railway passenger fares. In addition 3% share in the gross proceeds of all Central taxes (excluding Stamp Duty, Excise Duty on medicinal/toilet items, Central Sales Tax, Consignment tax and Surcharge) is to be assigned to the States in lieu of existing share in Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales tax on tobacco, cotton and sugar.

Some States had requested for higher percentage of Devolution. On the basis of a consensus reached in the Third Meeting of the Inter-State Council held on July 17, 1997. It was decided to accept the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission in this regard subject to certain modifications. However, the Lok Sabha was dissolved before the Constitution Amendment Bill could be introduced.

The present Government has ratified the decision taken by the previous Government. This was announced in FM's Budget Speech (vide para 84). The Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 14th July 1998. Hon'ble Speaker has referred the Bill to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Under the provisions of Article 280 of the Constitution, the Finance Commission is an independent Constitutional body. The information required by the Finance Commission is furnished directly by the States to the Commission. The States can also suo moto submit memorandum/information to the Commission.

Leather Industry

*93. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced new drawback rates for various products including leather and leather items;

(b) the impact on the leather industry as a result thereof;

(c) whether Council for Leather Export has urged the Government to consider its recommendations with a view to arrest the decline in exports of leather products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Drawback Scheme provides rebate of Customs and Central Excise duties suffered on the inputs/raw materials used in the manufacture of export product. The revised rates of drawback on leather and leather products made effective from 2.9.98 are expected to provide support to the exports from Leather sector.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Council for Leather Exports has represented to the Government to review the rates.

As per the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 1995, the All Industry Rates of Drawback are determined on the basis of the average incidence of duty as substantiated by supporting data in the prescribed format and duty paid documents furnished by the Export Promotion Councils and the individual exporters. Where, in respect of any goods the amount or rate of drawback is less than 4/5th of the duties paid on the inputs/raw materials, the exporter has option of fixation of appropriate amount or rate of drawback through brand rate route.

The representation of the Council for Leather Exports was examined in the light of the aforesaid provisions and a reply was sent to the Council informing that due weightage has been given to the date furnished by the Council in the revised rates which have been increased by 0.5 % to 1.5 % in respect of most of the leather products. The council was further informed that Drawback Scheme provides only rebate of customs and Central Excise duties and does not have any provision other wise to bear the overall cost of the export as has been made out by the Council. The council was also advised that in case if the exporters wished to get higher rates, they could avail alternate route of Brand Rate which is based on the actual incidence of duties suffered by an individual exporter in respect of products exported by them.

Problems Faced by Exporters

*94. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cost of production of export items in the country is more than that of other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, whether exporters are unable to compete in the International market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The cost of production of items for export varies from country to country and item to item depending upon the economic efficiencies contributed by the factors of production like land, capital, labour and technology. Comparative costs arising out of the above, largely determine the competitiveness for a particular item or a group of commodities among various countries. Taking into account the size of domestic demand, technology levels, labour and capital productivity, India's performance compares well with many developing and developed countries. In sectors like Agricultural products, Gems and Jewellery, Textiles,

Software, etc., the efficiency of Indian exports is clearly borne out by performance.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

The import of contemporary capital goods incorporated with modern technological features has been one of the important elements in India's import basket since 1994-95. The annual growth in the import of capital goods has been about 20% since 1994-95 indicating a clear trend towards modernization of production.

In some sectors like leather, garments, textiles, engineering, toys, etc., there is a scope for improvement in productivity and efficiency. Towards this end, the Government has liberalized import of capital goods for the sectors mentioned above with a special emphasis on the export market.

(e) The remedial steps by Govt. include liberalization and rationalization of financial procedures, incentives for technological upgradation enabling import of raw material at international prices, encouraging efficiencies in production of goods and services by introducing competition, simplification of procedural formalities etc.

In the EXIM Policy announced in April this year, a number of measures were taken with a view to improve export competitiveness and strengthen export incentives. Announcement of DEPB rates for about 2000 items; allowing the setting up of private bonded warehouses are some of the recent initiatives taken by the Government creation of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company; extending Tax Holiday for infrastructure projects; constitution of a Tariff Authority for major ports; setting up of an Export Promotion Board; etc. are some of the other measures taken.

Some general measures that have been introduced to boost export growth further, include easing of availability and lowering of cost of export credit.

Major reason for slow down this year in exports of some major sectors is demand recession in major markets serviced by India. Domestic infrastructural inadequacies; procedural delays; high cost of credit are some of the other factors affecting the competitiveness of Indian exports.

Merger of Nationalised Banks

*95. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATIL :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to merge various nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have taken any decision in that behalf;

(c) the number of nationalised banks which are

running into losses, bank-wise, giving reasons therefore and the period since they have been running in such losses;

(d) whether the Government propose to give full autonomy to the management boards of the banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

(c) For the year ended 31st March, 1998 only two nationalised banks, i.e. UCO Bank and Indian Bank have incurred losses. Whereas UCO Bank has been incurring losses for the last many years, Indian Bank has made losses for the last three years. The Prime reasons for the nationalised banks incurring losses in the past, inter-alia include high administrative cost, low productivity of employees, high level of non performing assets, non-adoption of technological upgradation to the required extent.

(d) and (e) As a part of ongoing reforms in the financial sector, Reserve Bank of India has reduced statutory preemption of funds, substantially deregulated interest rates on deposits and loans, and has withdrawn or modified instructions relating to maximum permissible bank finance and mandatory consortium arrangements, thereby giving banks a wide measure of operational autonomy. Public Sector Banks also enjoy a large measure of autonomy in administrative and organisational issues.

Counterfeit Currency by ISI

*96. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that ISI is pumping in counterfeit currency to destabilise North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the State Bank of India has recently alerted all banks and financial institutions about the circulation of counterfeit currencies in the North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The Government is aware that Pak ISI is patronising smugglers operating in the border areas to smuggle fake currency in order to promote terrorist activities in India.

Government is alive to the situation and is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI

by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by concerned Central and State agencies. The police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice. Government have taken several steps which include border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of Nakas as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

As a measure to check the menace of counterfeit currencies, the Reserves Bank of India has already issued instructions to all the banks in the country to exercise caution while examining the currency notes. These instructions are also invariably reiterated to all the Bank Branches including those in the North Eastern States.

Besides, to make the counterfeiting of Indian currency notes a most difficult job, the Government has not introduced new design of notes with additional security features, which are considered to be the best available ones in the note-printing field. The Reserve Bank of India also issues Press releases, from time to time to enable public to distinguish between genuine and fake notes.

Utilisation of Funds

*97. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been noticed that many Ministries/Departments spend bulk of funds only in the month of March of each financial year against the set procedure for incurring the expenditure; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure strict compliance of the procedure/rules in this regard and to minimise avoidable wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Under the General Financial Rules, the Department of the Central Government administratively concerned or the authority on whose behalf a grant or Appropriation is authorised by Parliament, shall be responsible for the control of expenditure against the sanctioned grants and appropriations placed at its disposal. These rules also prescribe that rush of expenditure particularly in the closing months of the financial year shall be regarded as a breach of financial regularity and should be avoided. Instructions have also been issued by this Ministry in June, 1996 and August, 1998, laying down guidelines on expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity. These guidelines, inter-alia, require Ministries/Departments to work out a monitor monthly cash flow of revenues and expenditure with a view to ensuring that there is no over spending and ensuring execution of various schemes aimed at achieving the end objectives rather

than at merely incurring expenditure to avoid savings/sur-render of funds.

Effect of Obsolete Technology on Export of Garments

*98. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Industry has been facing problems due to obsolete technology;

(b) if so, the extent to which the overall performance of Textile Industry and the export of Garments has been affected on this accounts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for modernisation of Textile Industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir, while the spinning sector has, by and large, taken steps to modernise itself, the weaving and processing sectors lag behind technologically and suffer from lack of modernisation.

(b) While it is difficult to quantify the impact of lack of technological upgradation on the performance of textile industry and export of garments, it is a fact that India has not been able to increase its share in the global market for textile and clothing beyond 3% in recent years. Besides, particularly in respect of garments, the unit value realisation has been remaining virtually stagnant which can be attributable to the quality of inputs, including fabrics, available in the country.

(c) A proposal is under formulation of facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textile industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive. The proposal envisages establishment of a Technology Upgradation Fund to make available loans with interest incentive to units satisfying eligibility criteria and seeking such loans for modernisation in identified sectors of the textile industry from All India Financial Institutions. Details of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme in this regard for the textile and jute industries are under finalisation. A part from this, exporters can access imported machinery and other inputs on concessional duty terms so that quality products can be made for exports.

[Translation]

Constitution of Committee by SEBI

*99. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special group constituted by the

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to formulate the rules pertaining to buy back of shares by the companies has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted;

(d) whether the interests of the small investors have also been taken/would be taken care of so that the concerned companies may not manipulate their share prices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) Following the notification of company's Act amendment ordinance, 1998 dated 30th October, 1998 which allowed companies to buy back their own shares, SEBI held discussion with representatives from related discipline, before finalising the buy back regulations, 1998. These regulations have been notified by SEBI on 14.11.1998.

Some of the major features of the regulation are as follows:

1. Buy back covers only listed Securities of a company.
2. Buy back either through tender or through book building and it would be on a proportionate basis from the existing share holders.
3. Details of buy back would be made available to the stock exchanges on a daily basis.
4. Details of the buy back should be disclosed to the share holders.
5. The bought back shares would be extinguished.
6. Promoters not allowed to buy back through stock exchanges.
7. Payment should be made to the investors within seven days of the date of acceptance of the offer.
8. The Company shall nominate a Compliance Officer and investor Service centres.

Target for Foreign Investment

*100. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target set by the Government for foreign investment during 1997-98;

- (b) whether the Government have achieved the above target;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the total foreign investment made during the current year, so far; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target set?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) Inflows of foreign investment are contingent on various factors which, inter-alia, include domestic economic conditions, policy regime governing foreign investments, world economic trends and the strategies of global investors. While no specific target is fixed for foreign investment, Government is making continuous efforts to provide an environment to attract optimise the inflows of foreign investment into the country. Some of the measures introduced to attract foreign investment are as follows:

- (a) Enlargement of list of high priority industries covered under automatic route from 35 to 69;
- (b) Foreign direct investment upto 100 per cent allowed in most sectors;
- (c) Full repatriability of investment and returns; and
- (d) Simplification of procedures relating to receipt of inward remittances and allotment of shares.

The approvals and inflows during the current year (upto October '98) are as follows:

Amount Rs. in crores		
Approvals Involving Foreign Investment	Total Foreign Investment Approved	Inflow of FDI received
989	24453.85	11820.89

Indian Investment Centre

921. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently decided to close down the Indian Investment Centre;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the manner in which the future of the employees of the above centre will be taken care of due to its closure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Government has taken up a review of the role and relevance of the Indian Investment Centre in the context of a liberalised environment for foreign and non-resident Indian investments.

Tourists in Jammu and Kashmir

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

- (a) the number of tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir, from April to October, 1998 month-wise;
- (b) the details of tourists who visited the State during 1997-98, month-wise; and
- (c) the total number of ITDC hotels in Jammu and Kashmir and the number out of these which are functioning at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) The total number of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir during April to October 1998 are as follows:-

Month	Tourist Arrival
April	424737
May	512135
June	605770
July	514173
August	482081
September	431606
October	488999

(b) Month-wise details of tourists who visited the State during 1997-98 are as follows:-

Month	Tourist Arrival
April '97	474381
May '97	472607
June '97	606379
July '97	447179
August '97	433816
September '97	353312
October '97	440921
November '97	345930
December '97	234557
January '98	160741
February '98	154539
March '98	318230

(c) ITDC has only one hotel at Jammu in J & K State and the same is functioning at present.

[English]

Transfer of Assets of ATDC to ITDC

923. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has offered Central Government any proposal to transfer some assets of Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) to Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC);

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken by ITDC to develop and encourage tourism in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) ITDC and Government of Assam have a Joint Venture Hotel, Brahmaputra Ashok at Guwahati run by Assam Ashok Corporation Ltd. with ratio of share capital ownership between ITDC and Government of Assam 51 : 49.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Chitrakoot in Tourist Spots List

924. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposal to include Chitrakoot in the list of Central tourists spots in view of its natural, cultural and historical importance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments/ U.T. Administration and the availability of funds.

The Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 35.74 lakhs for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Chitrakoot during the year 1991-92.

[English]

Paper Industry

925. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Indonesian papers company, Sinar Mas, manufacturing paper in India proposes to set up a 100% owned subsidiary to take advantage of 4% additional import duty exemption given to trading companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations from the domestic paper industry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : No Such proposal has been received Indonesian Paper Company, Sinar Mas to set up a 100% owned subsidiary for trading activities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An apprehension was expressed in the representation that by setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in the country, Sinar Mas Group will start trading in paper and pulp etc. in the country.

(e) Does not arise.

Bogus Kisan Vikas Patras in Delhi

926. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of frauds in nationalised banks and State Bank of India Group involving the pledging of bogus "Kisan Vikas Patras" have been detected in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of officers, employees and others involved therein and the amount involved in each case, branch-wise and bank-wise; and

(c) the number of cases so far registered and number of cases being investigated by the CBI and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

Per Capita Central Investment in States

927. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the per capita investment by the Union Government in the States during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Information on Central investment in terms of gross block in Central Public Sector Enterprises is available in the Public Enterprises Survey. Taking the population of 1991 Census into account, the per capita gross block by the end of the Seventh Plan (as on 31.3.90) and the Eighth Plan (as on 31.3.97), State/Union Territory-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement			
Sl No.	States & Union Territories	Per Capita Gross Block (in Rs.) (As on 31.3.90)	Per Capita Gross Block (in Rs.) (As on 31.3.97)
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1715.86	2929.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	694.00	17224.99
3.	Assam	2252.95	5553.99
4.	Bihar	1115.81	2313.47
5.	Goa	492.74	1235.86
6.	Gujarat	1370.21	4863.97
7.	Haryana	546.03	2643.55
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2509.73	9129.09
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1750.62	8308.86
10.	Karnataka	575.61	1431.72
11.	Kerala	584.65	1371.81
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1900.92	3249.19
13.	Maharashtra	2525.22	6949.08
14.	Manipur	863.13	807.28
15.	Meghalaya	22.59	301.05
16.	Mizoram	340.70	435.37
17.	Nagaland	942.25	3847.39
18.	Orissa	1884.50	5401.62
19.	Punjab	412.44	1024.48

1	2	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	390.11	1378.44
21.	Sikkim	266.20	5932.48
22.	Tamil Nadu	1056.58	2423.83
23.	Tripura	1280.17	3012.25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	632.18	1492.89
25.	West Bengal	1040.60	2743.52
Union Territories			
1.	A & Nicobar Islands	445.73	965.58
2.	Chandigarh	486.79	4506.13
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00
4.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00
5.	Delhi	4842.00	15938.20
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
7.	Pondicherry	191.88	376.34

French Aid to Karnataka

928. SHRI V. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought French participation in core sectors such as transport water supply and infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussions have been held with the French Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance/cooperation in terms of financial and technical likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) In the water supply sector the Government of Karnataka is going ahead with the water supply and sewerage system for Bangalore city for which FF 50 million has been allocated in the 1995 protocol signed on 19.12.1996. The above assistance is a 50 : 50 mix of soft treasury loan (at an interest rate of 1.33 % per year to be repaid in 30 years, which include a grace period of 10 years) and commercial credit (to be repaid within 10 years with interest rate according to OECD consensus for export credits). No, new proposals for French assistance in the sector of transport, water supply and infrastructure development has been received in this Ministry from the Government of Karnataka.

**Reduction/Waiving off Penal Interest on
Loans to Coffee Farmers**

929. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the coffee growers of Kerala on the loans availed by them;

(b) if so, the total amount of loans availed by the coffee farmers during the last three years and total amount of interest sought to be waived; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on their request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCE, AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The coffee growers in Kerala have been representing to the Government for waiver of loans given to them by the Coffee Board.

(b) During the last three years, the Coffee Board has not given any loan to the coffee growers .

(c) Government have, in 1997, permitted the Coffee Board to waive penal interest due to the Coffee Board from the growers who repay the principal loan amount with normal interest.

Development of Tourism in Kerala

930. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourists visited India during 1997 and 1998 till date, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for promoting tourism in Kerala which has vast potential of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India from the major tourist generating countries for the year 1997 and 1998 (January-July) are as follows:

Sl. No.	Country	Foreign tourist arrivals	
		1997	1998 (upto July)
1	2	3	4
1.	United Kingdom	370567	210315
2.	U.S.A.	244239	141046
3.	Sri Lanka	122080	66600
4.	Germany	105979	54118

1	2	3	4
5.	Japan	99729	46575
6.	France	91423	56555
7.	Canada	78570	47349
8.	Malaysia	60401	25519
9.	Italy	53854	29042
10.	Singapore	52004	29430
11.	Australia	50647	29879
12.	Netherlands	44843	29678
13.	Nepal	43155	21664
14.	Switzerland	31717	18906
15.	Spain	22903	10797
16.	South Africa	22218	9538
17.	Belgium	21532	11772
18.	Israel	20162	10266
19.	U.A.E.	19828	8274
20.	Others	818243	454210
Total		2374094	1311533

(b) Various steps taken by the Government to promote tourism in the State include improvement of infrastructural facilities, strengthening of Marketing efforts, sustained human resources development etc. A sum of Rs. 282.00 lakhs has been sanctioned during 1997-98 for various projects which includes upgradation of Nalukettu Heritage building, tourist complex at Kumarakom, Yatri-Niwas at Nelliampathy, Palakkad, Wayside amenities at Karunagapally, purchase of rice boat etc. and festivals like Elephant March and Kerala Village Festival. Some of the important projects sanctioned during 1996-97 include restoration of Bolghatti Palace, resort at Munnar, renovation of Alwaye Palace, etc.

[Translation]

Recovery of Loans from Industrial Houses

931. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of industrial houses and industrial units did not refund the loans they took from banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details of such industrial houses/units against whom an amount exceeding Rs. 1 lakh is outstanding for the last three years;

(c) the reasons for not making the recovery; and

(d) the action taken against these industrial houses/units for recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data monitoring system does not generate information in the manner asked for. Keeping in view the geographical spread of 44800 branches of 27 public sector banks as on 31.3.98 and the fact that banks have delegated powers at different levels to sanction the loans by the branch managers as well as the extremely large number of accounts in each of which the outstanding would exceed Rs. 1 lakh the collection of this information from the field formations of these banks will not be an effort commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

[English]

Removal of Workers in BCCL

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

(a) the number of workers removed from the roll in BCCL alleging unauthorised absence since 1990 with year-wise break-up;

(b) the percentage of SC/ST and piece rate workers out of them in each year;

(c) the reasons for their absence;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has opined in a Judgement that dismissal is a disproportionately harsh punishment for unauthorised absentee; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in regard to that decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) As reported by Coal India Limited the number of workers removed from the roll of BCCL unauthorised absence since 1990 with year-wise break-up and the percentage of SC, ST and piece rate workers among them is as under:

Year	Total No. of Workers	SC % age	ST % age	Piece Rated %age
1	2	3	4	5
1990-91	176	45	19	48.71
1991-92	277	45.8	25	59.09

1	2	3	4	5
1992-93	882	59.7	19.97	91.09
1993-94	607	50.8	20.5	59.3
1994-95	465	49	18	59.1
1995-96	328	45	16	42.28
1996-97	736	57	19	69.68
1997-98	488	49	17	65.88
1998-99 (Upto Oct' 98)	218	45	16	65.7

(c) The habitual absence by the workers has been mainly on account of various social functions in their families and for attending to cultivation and other such activities.

(d) In a judgement on a related issue in Civil Appeal No. 2982 of 1989 between Union of India and Others Vs. Giriraj Sharma reported in AIR 1994, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held as follows:-

"The incumbent while admitting the fact that he had overstayed the period of leave had explained the circumstances in which it was inevitable for him to continue on leave as he was forced to do so on account of unexpected circumstances. We are of the opinion that the punishment of dismissal for over-staying the period of 12 days in the said circumstances which have not been controverted in the counter in harsh since the circumstances show that it was not his intention to wilfully flout the order, but the circumstances forced him to do so. In that view of the matter the learned counsel for the respondent has fairly conceded that it was open to the authorities to visit him with a minor penalty if they so desired, but a major penalty of dismissal from service was not called for".

(e) Due weightage is given to the above judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in deciding such cases.

[Translation]

Sick PSUs in Bihar

933. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick public sector undertakings in Bihar;

(b) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these undertakings; and

(c) the total number of employees working in these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) As on 30.9.98, 6 Central PSUs having their registered office in the State of Bihar are sick and registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(b) These CPSUs have been referred to the BIFR for formulation of revival/rehabilitation packages. Of these 6 CPSUs, BIFR have sanctioned the revival package for 5 CPSUs viz. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Projects and Development India Ltd., Bharat Refractories Ltd., India Firebricks and Insulation Co. Ltd. and Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. which has since been merged with Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and declared as no longer sick by the BIFR. The other CPSU i.e. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. has since been dropped by the BIFR after its networth became positive.

(c) As on 31.3.97 for the period information is available, the total number of employees working in these undertakings were 1,58,514.

[English]

Refund of Income Tax

934. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL :

SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain cases the refund of Income Tax already paid on account of Transport Allowance granted to Central Government employees in Delhi has been refunded to the assessee on the very day on which the Income Tax Returns for the year 1997-98 were filed;

(b) if so, the reasons for discrepancy and the time by which the refund to the remaining assessee likely to be made;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to adjust the amount of Income Tax paid in excess on account of Transport Allowance during 1998-99 in the next assessment year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Transport Allowance was paid to all Central Government employees with effect from 1.8.97 after deducting tax at source. Subsequently through a retrospective amendment to the relevant rules, such transport allow-

ance was held to be exempt. Accordingly a large number of refunds arose in the case of Central Government Employees for assessment year 1998-99. Where special counters for receipt of return were opened as part of an effort to provide better service, returns were processed under section 143 (1) (a) across the counter and refunds were also issued simultaneously.

(b) All the remaining refunds will be issued at the of time completion of processing of the returns in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Fashion Design Institute

935. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for admission in Fashion Designing Training Institutes;

(b) the total number of such training institutes in the country;

(c) the number of applicants given admission since March to October 1998;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala have made any request to the Union Government to set up Fashion Technology Institute in the State; and

(e) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Admission to the regular programmes of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) is on the basis of merit and preference of the applicants provided they fulfil the eligibility criteria for appearing for the Entrance Examination.

(b) There are seven centres of NIFT which was located at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar and Bangalore.

(c) 591 students were admitted by NIFT in the 1998 Session for the regular courses.

(d) and (e) There have been requests from various States Governments, including the State Government of Kerala, for setting up of centres of NIFT in their State, which are under examination.

Credit to UTI

936. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI promised to provide a line of credit to the Unit Trust of India (UTI) if the redemption commitment of the domestic institution reaches high levels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Cigarettes

937. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of cigarettes is being imported for the purpose of re-export;

(b) if so, the quantity imported and re-exported during each of the last three years alongwith the details of the countries/agencies to which these have been re-exported; and

(c) the norms fixed for re-export of cigarettes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) As per the Import Policy, cigarettes (ITC HS Code 24.02) fall under Restricted List of Items. No. proposal has been received for allowing import of cigarettes for the purpose of re-export. Under the Duty Exemption Scheme, there are no norms where import of cigarettes is allowed for re-export of cigarettes.

[Translation]

Devaluation of Rouble

938. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether devaluation of rouble is likely to have adverse effect on India's export trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The devaluation of the rouble is likely to make imports into Russia from all countries including India costlier than before for the Russian importers, which may result in decline in imports into Russia on account of fall in demand of imported goods, including Indian goods. However, the impact on Indian exports to Russia may be relatively less on account of two factors. One, under the agreement on repayment of State credits, a specified amount of debt is to be repaid every year by way of export of Indian goods denominated in rupees, thereby cushioning the Indian exports under this route to some extent. Second, Indian exports to Russia mainly comprise tea, coffee, rice, pharmaceuticals, tobacco etc., which are relatively demand inelastic. The Govt. of India has requested the Russian

authorities to fully utilize the annual debt repayment amount of for import of Indian goods as per the existing agreement.

[English]

Letters from MPs on Bank Affairs

939. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the Members of Parliament regarding the affairs of the State Bank Groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon and the directions issued by the Government to the banks; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government on violation of the directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Suggestions and complaints are received from Members of Parliament from time to time regarding matters relating to the State Bank of India, its associate banks as well as nationalised banks. Wherever such complaints relate to customer service or a public grievance not relating to credit decisions, the concerned banks are requested to have the complaints examined for appropriate remedial action. In matters relating to credit and related aspects such as compromise proposal no directions are issued by the Government to the public sector banks. Therefore the question of violation of directions in operational matters does not arise.

Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers

940. SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a new insurance scheme for handloom weavers during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new insurance scheme would provide coverage against loss of damage to dwelling unit, loom and/or raw materials due to natural calamity. It would also cover medical expenses and insurance against accidental death.

The annual funding pattern for coverage of a weaver under the new Insurance scheme is as follows:

-	By Central Contribution :	Rs. 60/-
-	By State Contribution :	Rs. 40/-
-	By Weavers Contribution :	Rs. 20/-

Setting up of Zonal Advisory Committee of GIC

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

(a) whether General Insurance Company (GIC) has decided to set up Zonal Advisory Committees for major centres;

(b) if so, the composition of the Advisory Committees and the aims and objects of these Committees; and

(c) the time by which these panels are likely to start working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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. It has been reported by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) that Zonal Advisory Committees (ZACS) are being set up at the four metropolitan cities to interact with customers and get feedback on the insurance services rendered by them. The ZAC shall consist of representatives from trade, commerce and industry; selected prominent policy holders, and eminent nominated representatives. The ZAC will be convened by the Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of the subsidiaries and will be chaired by the Chairman, GIC. The Regional Managers of the subsidiary companies at the metro centres shall be permanent invitees. The committee is expected to commence functioning from 31st March, 1999.

Production of Spices

942. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering for setting up of a Technology Mission with a view to increase the production of spices in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Oriented Units

943. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up per cent export-oriented units in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Loans to Medical and Engineering Students

944. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks have provided loans to medical and engineering students in Gujarat, particularly in backward and rural areas of the State during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of nationalised banks which did not provide loans to these students alongwith reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all branches of nationalised banks provide loans to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

Import of Silk Worm

945. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government import silkworms for the department of sericulture;

(b) if so, the number of countries from which such import was made and the amount incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities in sericulture department of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Conversion of Industrial Finance Corporation of India

946. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Finance Corporation of India was converted into-company by passing IFCI Repeal (Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1993 by Parliament; and

(b) if so, the present status of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited after becoming company?

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

(b) Presently, IFCI is a public Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. As on 31.08.98

more than 51% of the equity of IFCI is held by Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions.

[Translation]

Norms for Export/Import of Foodgrains

947. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foodgrains which can be imported/exported freely; and

(b) the basis on which the decision regarding their export and import have been taken by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) As per Statement enclosed.

(b) Policy decisions regarding free exports/imports are taken in consultation with the Ministries concerned. Decisions regarding specific imports/exports in relation to restricted items are taken on the basis of Government's assessment of the demand/supply situation.

Statement

Import Policy for Foodgrains

Exim Code	Item	Policy	Conditions relating to Policy
1	2	3	4
10011000.20	Durum wheat, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10019002	Wheat for human consumption	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10019003.90	Meslin, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10020000.20	Rye, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10030000.20	Barley, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10040000.20	Oats, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10059000.20	Other Maize	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10061000.30	Other Rice	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10062000	Husked (brown)Rice	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10063001	Rice parboiled	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10063002	Basmati Rice	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10063009	Rice except parboiled (excluding Basmati Rice)	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10064000	Broken Rice	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India

1	2	3	4
1007000.20	Grains Sorghum, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10081000.90	Buckwheat, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10082001.90	Jowar, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10082003.90	Bajra, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10082009.90	Ragi (finger Millet) other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10083000.90	Canary seeds, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India
10089000.90	Other cereals, other than seed quality	Canalised	Import through Food Corporation of India

Export Policy for Foodgrains

Code	Item	Policy	Condition
1006	Paddy (Rice in husk)	Restricted	Export permitted under licence
1001	(a) Wheat and wheat products (b) Grain and flour of Barley, Maize, Bajra, Ragi and Jwar (excluding Hybrid Jwar grown as Kharif Crop).		(a) Quantitative ceilings as may be notified by the DGFT from time to time. (b) Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate issued by Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA)
1006	Rice Basmati	Free	(a) Exports allowed subject to registration of contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi. (b) Exports of empty printed gunny bags with Markings indicating the product being Indian Basmati Rice, in whatever manner, are not permitted except when exported alongwith the consignments of Basmati Rice in which cases also the same shall not exceed 2% of the total number of filled gunny bags of Basmati Rice being exported. (c) In case of unbagged Indian Basmati Rice being exported in bulk or in bags of 50 kgs. Or above, the exports of empty printed gunny bags with Markings indicating the product being Indian Basmati Rice, in whatever manner, shall also be permitted to the extent to actual requirements considering the total quantity of the consignment and the sizes of the empty bags being exported.

1	2	3	4
1006	Rice Non-Basmati	Free	Export allowed subject to registration of contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi.

[English]

Joint Ventures Approved by FIPB

948. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of joint ventures approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during 1995 to 1998;

(b) the total amount of equity participation by the foreign companies in these joint ventures; and

(c) the total equity involved in these joint ventures and the areas in which these ventures have been approved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) During the period of 1st January, 1995 to 30th September, 1998, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved a total number of 4180 foreign collaboration proposals involving foreign equity participation amounting to Rs. 1,33,691.68 crores. A statement showing sector-wise break-up of the investment is enclosed.

Statement

Sector-wise break-up of foreign investment during the period 01.01.1995 to 30.9.1998

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	Total	Total Tech.	Fin	Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total Amount Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES					
	Ferrous	54	2	52	5371.05	4.02
	Non-Ferrous	3	0	3	8.75	0.01
	Special Alloys	6	1	5	118.80	0.09
	Mining Service	11	0	11	1640.29	1.23
	Misc. (Other items) Metallurgy	23	0	23	1096.45	0.82
	Total	97	3	94	8235.34	6.16
2.	FUELS					
	Power	111	7	104	21310.92	15.94
	Oil Refinery	63	7	56	12393.10	9.27
	Power (Other)	18	1	17	766.88	0.57
	Oil Refinery (Other)	17	0	17	3907.02	2.92
	Others (Fuels)	47	1	46	1380.30	1.03
	Total	256	16	240	39758.52	29.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	BOILERS AND STEAM GENERATING PLANTS	6	1	5	45.72	0.03
4.	PRIME MOVERS OTHER THAN ELECTRICAL	2	0	2	25.42	0.02
5.	ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT					
	Electrical Equipment	206	14	192	2203.11	1.65
	Computer Software Industry	386	9	377	2182.87	1.63
	Electronics	130	8	122	1742.96	1.30
	Computer Hardware	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
	Others (S/W)	11	0	11	55.81	0.04
	Total	734	31	703	6184.75	4.63
6.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
	Telecommunications	134	9	125	8454.16	6.32
	Radio Paging	45	3	42	1166.39	0.87
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	108	8	100	20257.29	15.15
	Telecommunication (I & B)	32	0	32	259.91	0.19
	Others (Telecommunications)	15	1	14	707.40	0.53
	Total	334	21	313	30845.16	23.07
7.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY					
	Automobile Industry	119	8	111	2465.15	1.84
	Air/Sea Transport	55	2	53	1166.96	0.87
	Passenger Cars	18	1	17	3808.87	2.85
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	39	3	36	332.08	0.25
	Ports	7	0	7	520.50	0.39
	Others (Transport)	42	2	40	525.97	0.39
	Total	280	16	264	8819.52	6.60
8.	INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	125	7	118	913.89	0.68
9.	MACHINE TOOLS	27	0	27	205.27	0.15
10.	AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY	4	0	4	272.71	0.20
11.	EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY	2	0	2	1.09	0.00
12.	MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING	206	10	196	926.37	0.69
13.	COMMERCIAL, OFFICE & HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	23	0	23	866.66	0.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES	21	1	20	212.51	0.16
15.	INDUSTRIAL INSTRUMENTS	14	1	13	13.08	0.01
16.	SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	3	0	3	14.93	0.01
17.	MATHEMATICAL, SURVEYING AND DRAWING	3	0	3	38.37	0.03
18.	FERTILIZERS	3	1	2	211.20	0.16
19.	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	302	14	288	7002.09	5.24
20.	PHOTOGRAPHIC RAW FILM AND PAPER	4	0	4	196.57	0.15
21.	DYE-STUFFS	8	0	8	95.46	0.07
22.	DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	59	8	51	387.17	0.29
23.	TEXTILES (INCLUD DYED, PRINTED)	245	2	243	1503.80	1.12
24.	PAPER AND PULP INCLUDING PAPER PRODUCT	48	1	47	1711.84	1.28
25.	SUGAR	4	0	4	947.25	0.71
26.	FERMENTATION INDUSTRIES	20	3	17	916.71	0.69
27.	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES					
	Food products	223	9	214	5954.83	4.45
	Marine products	5	0	5	6.52	0.00
	Miscellaneous (Food prod.)	1	0	1	2.12	0.00
	Total	229	9	220	5963.47	4.46
28.	VEGETABLE OILS AND VANASPATI	10	0	10	154.50	0.12
29.	SOAPS, COSMETICS AND TOILET PREPARATIONS	19	1	18	271.97	0.20
30.	RUBBER GOODS	35	1	34	781.12	0.58
31.	LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND PICKERS	63	1	62	198.00	0.15
32.	GLASS	35	1	34	955.91	0.72
33.	CERAMICS	57	1	56	451.72	0.34
34.	CEMENT AND GYPSUM PRODUCTS	23	0	23	284.12	0.21
35.	TIMBER PRODUCTS	6	0	6	12.01	0.01
36.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Designs & Eng. Services	117	5	112	575.94	0.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Management Services	88	3	85	314.34	0.24
	Marketing	25	1	24	47.81	0.04
	Construction	4	0	4	2.59	0.00
	Others (Consultancy Service)	18	0	18	374.81	0.28
	Total	252	9	243	1315.49	0.98
37.	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Financial	170	3	167	6152.02	4.60
	Non-Financial Services	117	4	113	1667.41	1.25
	Banking Services	10	0	10	91.28	0.07
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	29	1	28	346.23	0.26
	Other Services	7	2	5	145.29	0.11
	Total	333	10	323	8402.23	6.28
38.	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Hotel & Restaurants	54	4	50	1342.99	1.00
	Tourism	25	0	25	707.19	0.53
	Total	79	4	75	2050.18	1.53
39.	TRADING	136	15	121	1027.55	0.77
40.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES					
	Horticulture	21	1	20	61.83	0.05
	Agriculture	30	2	28	78.85	0.06
	Floriculture	46	2	44	212.66	0.16
	Diamond	3	0	3	37.56	0.03
	Ornament & Gold	3	0	3	3.00	0.00
	Construction Activities	9	0	9	9.63	0.01
	Cigarettes	1	0	1	7.35	0.01
	Coir	2	0	2	2.43	0.00
	Others (Misc. Industries)	158	7	151	1058.69	0.79
	Total	273	12	261	1472.01	1.10
	Total	4380	200	4180	133691.68	

NIC/ISD

Income Tax Settlement Commission

949. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Income tax Settlement Commission;

(b) If so, the names of the members of the Commission and its terms of reference;

(c) The total number of cases referred to it so far and the amount involved in those cases; and

(d) The total number of cases settled and the amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 names of the present incumbents holding the post of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members are given in the enclosed statement. The Income-tax Settlement Commission is a permanent Commission charged with the responsibility of Settlement of cases under Charter XIX-A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and Chapter V-A of Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

(c) The total number of applications filed before the commission from the date of its inception upto 31.10.1998 is 10,681. The amount collected on admission of applications from financial year 1990 to 31.10.1998 is Rs. 212 crores.

(d) 8591 cases have been decided/settled upto 31.10.1998. In the settled cases an amount of Rs. 217 crores was collected/collectable from financial year 1990-91 to 1996-97.

Statement

List of present incumbents holding the Posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of Income Tax Settlement Commission

1. Shri N.K. Nayak	–	Chairman
2. Shri G.S. Sidhu	–	Vice Chairman
3. Shri S.K. Lal	–	Vice Chairman
4. Shri S. Govindarajan	–	Vice Chairman
5. Shri B.P. Gupta	–	Member
6. Shri A.K. Batabyal	–	Member
7. Shri D. Lakshminarayana	–	Member
8. Shri N.C. Jain	–	Member
9. Shri K.P. Singh	–	Member
10. Shri Amitava Chatterjee	–	Member
11. Shri P. Radhakrishnan	–	Member
12. Shri K. Subramanian	–	Member

Contract for New Power Plant by NLC

950. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for new power plant has been awarded by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC);

(b) if so, the name of the organisation to whom contact has been awarded;

(c) whether the technology offered by that organisation was a proven technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the NLC has awarded the contract to a private company instead of BHEL; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The main plant package for the Thermal Power Station-I Expansion Project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has been awarded to M/s. Ansaldo of Italy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Technology offered by Messrs. Ansaldo has met the specific experience criteria included in the bid qualification requirement stipulated by Neyveli Lignite Corporation in their Bid Document.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. NLC has placed an order for the Main Plant package on the L.1 party M/s. Ansaldo as is commercially prudent. All steps prescribed for awarding a contract both from the engineering angle and the commercial angle have been followed by NLC in awarding contract to M/s. Ansaldo. All Government guidelines have been adhered to by NLC.

Employees of GIC

951. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employees of General Insurance Corporation (GIC) and its subsidiaries who are working on deputation/loan basis in the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) together with the date since when each employee has been working in the IRA;

(b) the details of the provisions which govern the deputation of employees to other organisation and the tenure thereof;

(c) the details of expiry and extension of tenure of each employees on deputation /loan basis in the IRA

(d) the details of recruitment rules etc. of the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA); and

(e) the particulars of its Chairman, members and other officials working at present in the IRA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (e) The existing Interim Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) was set up on 23.1.1996 through a Resolution of the Government for, *inter-alia* examining the powers which are required to be restored/given to the IRA as and when it is set up as Statutory Body. The Chairman, IRA, was designated as 'Controller of Insurance. Therefore, the I.R.A. did not require an elaborate administrative machinery to discharge their day-to-day functions. In view of this, on recruitment rules were framed and the services of officers and staff were taken on loan basis from New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL); Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL); National Insurance Company Limited (NICTL); and United India Insurance Company Limited (UICL). The details of the loanee employees are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Part (a)

Sl. No.	Name of the Employee	Name of the Company	Date of Joining
1.	Prabodh Chander	New India Ass. Co. Ltd.	04.03.96
2.	Kamal Chaudhary	New India Ass. Co. Ltd.	01.01.97
3.	Rakesh Bajaj	New India Ass. Co. Ltd.	09.12.96
4.	Suresh Mathur	New India Ass. Co. Ltd.	01.10.96
5.	Mukesh Kr. Sharma	New India Ass. Co. Ltd.	07.05.96
6.	Arup Chatterjee	Oriental Ins. Co. Ltd.	17.03.97
7.	B. Raghavan	Oriental Ins. Co. Ltd.	06.03.96
8.	Manju Arora	Oriental Ins. Co. Ltd.	10.08.98
9.	P.K. Sharma	Oriental Ins. Co. Ltd.	31.07.96
10.	Shiksha Saha	Oriental Ins. Co. Ltd.	31.07.96
11.	Shailja Ahuja	Oriental Ins. Co. Ltd.	30.09.96
12.	Sarojan Singh	National Ins. Co. Ltd.	28.04.97
13.	Amarpreet Kaur	United India Ins. Co. Ltd.	09.06.97
14.	Ashish Jain	United India Ins. Co. Ltd.	09.06.97
15.	Kanta Luthra	United India Ins. Co. Ltd.	07.04.98
16.	R.S. Jaggpal	National Ins. Co. Ltd.	30.07.98

Part (e)

Name (S/Shri)	Designation	Date of Birth	Date of Joining	Date of Expiry of Tenure
N. Rangachary	Chairman	10.6.38	1.8.96	1.8.2001
D.S. Narain	Member	29.11.38	20.11.96	20.11.99

[Translation]

Loans to Unemployed Youths in Gujarat

952. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed educated youths in Gujarat who applied for loan from nationalised banks to start their own business during the last three years;

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned and disbursed and the number of youths to whom loans granted by these banks during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending so far and the reasons for their pendency

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be disposed of;

(e) whether the Government propose to simplify the process of providing loan to them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Dena Bank, the Governor of State Level Bankers' Committee for the State of Gujarat has reported that number of unemployed educated youths in Gujarat who applied for loan from Nationalised banks to start their own business during the last three years is as under:-

Year	No. of applications
1995-96	18438
1996-97	17132
1997-98	22188

(b) The number of loans and amount of loan sanctioned and disbursed are as under:-

(Amount : Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Sanctioned		Disbursed	
	Number of loans	Amount	Number of loans	Amount
1995-96	10103	4429.24	7668	3318.94
1996-97	9321	3939.96	7847	3246.48
1997-98	10912	4914.10	9936	4337.09

(c) and (d) There were 2955 applications pending as on 31st October, 1998 with various banks. Flow of applications, sanctions and disbursement is a continuous process.

(e) and (f) Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) the following measures have been taken to avoid delay in providing credit under the scheme :-

(i) Banks are now allowed to receive applications directly from eligible borrowers for financing viable projects under the scheme, such applications are forwarded to District Industries Centres (DICs) with the banks' comments. The DICs in turn return them to the same bank branches for sanction after taking the application in their record.

(ii) Banks are allowed to provide training to the borrowers under PMRY wherever they have the necessary training facilities.

Visits of Tourists in Sikkim

953. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists visited Sikkim, during the first six months of 1998-99;

(b) whether the number of tourists have increased as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated to boost tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) According to the Statistics available from the Govt. of Sikkim, total number of tourists who visited Sikkim during first six months of 1997-98 and 1998-99 were 68865 and 76642 respectively. There is an increase of 11.3% in tourist arrivals during 1998-99 as compared to corresponding period of previous year.

(d) Various steps contemplated to boost tourism in the State include financial assistance for the improvement of tourism infrastructure and product development and publicity of tourist attractions of the State. The State Government has also prepared a Master Plan for the development of tourism in the State.

[English]

Revival of Instrumentation Ltd.

954. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revival scheme for the Instrumentation Limited;

(b) whether there is any plan to make its Palghat Unit as a joint venture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the land property of Palghat Unit around 300 acres given by the State Government as contribution; and

(e) if so, the reasons to consider the value of the property as a liability over the head of Palghat Unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (e) The revival scheme of Instrumentation Limited (IL) envisages corporate restructuring for technology upgradation, cost reduction and manpower rationalisation. The corporate restructuring stipulates IL retaining only the mother unit at Kota and other units viz. (i) Palghat unit (ii) DDC Unit of Kota and (iii) UPS Unit of Jaipur to be converted into separate companies as subsidiaries of IL. The revival plan also envisages formation of joint ventures for the mother unit and its subsidiaries including Palghat Unit.

300 acres of land had been made available in early seventies by the Kerala States Government to the company on 99 years lease for establishing Palghat Unit. The land has been considered as fixed asset of the Palghat Unit.

Allocation for Research and Development Activities

955. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocations made by Government for the Research and Development activities of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount spent out of the allocations

during the above period and the details of achievements made; and

(c) the reasons for not utilising the allocated funds for the purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The budgetary provision and utilisation for R & D activities in coal and lignite sector during the last three years, year-wise are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	B.E. Provision	R.E. Provision	Actual Release	Utilisation Actual
1995-96	2020	1000	270	232
1996-97	1460	600	600	1165
1997-98	987	938	850	456

The corresponding physical targets and achievement during the above period are as under:-

	No. of Projects	
	Target	Acheivement
1995-96	05	05
1996-97	15	08
1997-98	07	11

BE and RE is not directly related to the physical target of completion of projects for a particular year. This is because the cost of projects varies widely, ranging between below Rs. 5 lakhs to as much as Rs. 10 crores. For execution of sanctioned S & T projects, funds are paid in advance to the executing agencies against the work programme of the projects. The work programme of earlier year is executed in the following year, and, as such, actual utilisation of funds in the year 1996-97 was more than the fund released by Ministry of Coal.

(c) Main reasons for low utilisation of all allocated funds for the purpose are :-

(i) Submission of limited number of appropriate quality research projects which could be cleared.

(ii) Low progress of approved projects by various project proponents.

(iii) Delay due to multi-institution co-operation in certain projects.

(iv) Some of the R & D activities being taken up in operational units/mines had to wait due to production priorities and other operational reasons.

[Translation]

Amount Paid to Railway by CCL

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

(a) the amount paid by the Central Coalfields Limited to the railways on account of left behind and warpage demurrage in Dhori and B & K areas during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the loss suffered by each mines of CCL during the above period as a result of left behind and non-supply of coal due to substandard quality; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty management for this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Dhori and B & K Area of CCL have paid the following amount to the Railways on account of demurrage during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

	Amt. in Lakh of Rupees	
	1996-97	1997-98
Dhori	30.67	6.23
B & K	7.61	-

(b) The losses incurred by the company during 1996-97 and 1997-98 in respect of left behind/Demurrage/Quality deductions, are given below:

(i) Loss suffered by CCL as a result of left behind during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Amt. in Lakh of Rupees	
1996-97	1997-98
251.25	369.14

(ii) Deductions accepted by CCL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 on account of quality slippage.

Amt. in Lakh of Rupees	
1996-97	1997-98
7386.51*	7769.46*

*Includes prior period adjustment of Rs. 1627.66 lakh made in 1996-97 and Rs. 2962.64 lakh in 1997-98.

(c) Concerted efforts are being made by the Coal Companies to minimise the incidence of demurrages and left behind of wagons. Cases of quality deductions are examined in depth and suitable remedial measures are taken to avoid/minimise losses on this account.

[English]

Hindustan Salts Ltd.

957. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to release surplus portion of land of Hindustan Salts Ltd., Kharaghuda, Gujarat on lease to other salt manufacturers for heaping of salt;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the date by which it is likely to be made effective; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Leasing of land to other salt manufacturers is not considered to be in the interest of the company.

India's Anti-Poverty Programmes

958. SHRI K.S.RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has pointed out in its report that "India's anti-poverty programmes and public spending on health and education are not as per target fixed."

(b) If so, the details of points raised by World Bank about India's overall economic position; and

(c) the reaction of the Government towards the observations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : No, Sir. However, the central finding of the report emphasises the need for greater attention on improved delivery of education and health care to reduce poverty.

(b) The report has mentioned that India has made many notable social and economic achievements in a democratic political setting, *inter-alia* the reduction of famine, the reduction in population growth, and the creation of a large pool of technical and scientific talent. It has managed to reduce poverty. The decline has been steady since about 1975. Incidence of poverty has decreased from 45 to 36 per cent between 1950 to 1993-94. But due to population growth the number of poor has almost doubled in the same period from 164 to 320 million. Of that total, more than three out of four (76 per cent) live in rural areas.

(c) The details of improvement in education and health care sectors are enumerated in Chapter 10 (Paragraph 24 to 42) of Economic Survey 1997-98.

[Translation]

Supply of Chemical by Drug Mafias

959. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the latest report of the United

Nations Narcotics Control Programme, the drug mafias in India are supplying certain chemicals such as acetic, anhydrite, anthelenic, pseudoafidryin which are used to convert opium into heroin to the heroin producing countries and posing a threat to the country's security; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Sir, According to the latest report of the International Narcotics Control Board titled 'PRECURSORS AND CHEMICALS FREQUENTLY USED IN THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES' Acetic Anhydride was diverted/smuggled out of India in the past to Pakistan or to Afghanistan via Pakistan, but following the introduction of strict control over Acetic anhydride in India that country may no longer be a major source of acetic anhydride used in illicit manufacture of heroin in the sub-region. There is no reported use of precursors like pseudoephedrine and anthrenilic acid in the illicit manufacture of heroin.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government of India to prevent diversion of precursor chemicals into illicit channel:-

(i) Acetic anhydride has been declared as a controlled substance under Section 9-A of the NDPS Act, 1985.

(ii) Export of acetic anhydride, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine is permitted only after a 'No Objection Certificate' is issued by the Narcotics Commissioner of India after establishing the genuineness of each transaction.

(iii) The Indo-Pakistan border has been fenced and provided with flood lights to check cross movement of heroin smugglers.

(iv) A bilateral agreement has been made with Pakistan to ensure exchange of useful intelligence in matters relating to narcotics.

[English]

Circulation of Bhutanese Currency in North Bengal

960. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government took a note of press report appeared in the Hindu New Delhi dated September 22, 1998 that Bhutanese currency notes are in circulation in North Bengal following acute crisis of Indian Currency notes of small denominations in the region; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the circulation of foreign currency on Indian soil?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Flow of Narcotics

961. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has sought the help of the Defence Services Headquarters to check the flow of narcotics coming to India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

Export of Agricultural Products

962. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out any policy paper on the export of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of agricultural and processed food products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export Import Policy of the country. The Policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance exports of agricultural and processed food products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, are expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.

2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.

3. Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses).

4. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.

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

6. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables.

7. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

8. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

9. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

10. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

Foreign Visits

963. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed unhappiness at the unwarranted increase in foreign travel by his Cabinet Ministers;

(b) If so, the details of foreign visits conducted by Union Ministers and other senior functionaries of Government during the past eight months and the purpose of their visit;

(c) the total amount spent by the Government on the visit of each of the Union Minister and outcome of their visits;

(d) whether the Government propose to curtail wasteful expenditure on the foreign visits by Union Ministers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The information is not readily available and will have to be collected from all the Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Patent Rights of Veichur Cow

964. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology has alleged that Roslin Institute of Scotland has applied for patent right to genetic material of 'Veichur Cow';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) As per the information available with Patent Office, no application for Patent right to Genetic material of 'Veichur Cow' has been filed in India during the last 5 years.

P. M. R. Y.

965. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending;

(c) the reasons for pendency; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make the scheme more effective?

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

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) a loan amount of Rs. 8607.80 lakh was disbursed between 1st April, 1998 and 30th September, 1998 to the borrowers in the country under the Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). A statement showing State-wise disbursements is enclosed.

(b) to (d) RBI have further reported that sanction and disbursement of loan amount, under the scheme is a continuous process. Sponsoring agencies are required to forward applications to the banks to the extent of 150% of the target. Applications, therefore, be generally pending for scrutiny at the end of the year with the banks even after achievement of target set for them for the year. However, in order to make the scheme more effective banks have even been advised to process and sanction applications pending with them at the end of the earlier year. Quarterly targets for sponsoring of applications, sanction and disbursement of loans amounts have also been fixed to avoid nunching of applications/sanctions in the last quarter of the programmes year and ensure smooth implementation of the Scheme.

Statement

Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the current year 1998-99 (1st April) 1998, to 30th September, 1998

Name of the Bank	All Implementing Banks
State/Union Territory	Amount disbursed
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	877.60
Arunachal Pradesh	0.73
Assam	61.44
Bihar	344.47
Gujarat	1244.32
Goa	19.20
Haryana	100.40
Himachal Pradesh	146.45
Jammu & Kashmir	269.16
Karnataka	357.25
Kerala	282.27
Maharashtra	1685.02
Manipur	2.52
Madhya Pradesh	493.12
Meghalaya	1.18

1	2
Mizoram	-
Nagaland	5.90
Orissa	41.24
Punjab	171.15
Rajasthan	127.99
Sikkim	-
Tripura	3.32
Tamil Nadu	452.74
Uttar Pradesh	1728.69
NCT of Delhi	43.64
Andaman and Nicobar	7.26
Chandigarh	4.19
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.76
Daman and Diu	4.95
Lakshadweep	0.95
Pondicherry	9.61
West Bengal	118.28
All India	3107.80

Committee on Economic Matters

966. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high powered advisory committee has been constituted to advise Prime Minister on macro and micro economic matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any protest for small scale industries and public sector for not giving representation in the committees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) on the 27th August, 1998 the Government constituted an Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister with the following composition;

Chairman : Prime Minister

Members : Dr. I.G. patel

Prof. P.N. Dhar

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Dr. Arjun Sengupta

Dr. Kirti Parikh

Dr. Amaresh Bagchi

Dr. Ashok Desai

Shri G.V. Ramakrishna
Principal Secretary to
Prime Minister

Member-Secretary : Secretary to Prime Minister

The Council, with the permission of the Chairman, can coopt. or invite such person(s) as it deems appropriate, to participate in any of its sessions as special invitee(s).

The Economic Advisory Council will afford an opportunity for a policy dialogue on crucial economic issues between the Prime Minister and Members of the Council.

(c) Representations regarding non-representation in the Councils have been received from various quarters, including one from the Laghu Udyog Bharti relating to small scale industries.

Decline in FDI

967. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the position regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals since 1991, till date;

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

(c) whether there are any regional disparities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether actual inflow of FDI has gone down during the first half of the current year as compared to the corresponding previous year;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to improve and encourage FDI?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total approval and inflow of FDI since, 1.1.91 upto 30.9.98 is an under :

Total Approval	Total Inflows
Rs. 1,74,577 crore	Rs. 51,250 crore

The year-wise position with regard to approval and FDI inflows are given in Statement-I.

The sector-wise and State-wise break up of FDI approvals from 1st August 1991 to 30th September 1998 are given in statement-II and III respectively.

(c) and (d) The location of projects involving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are determined by various factors which *inter-alia* include availability of infrastructure, skilled manpower, domestic market, natural resources and fiscal and other incentives provided by various State Governments. FIPB guidelines do not in any manner determine or direct the location of the projects involving FDI and the same are determined by the investors themselves based on business and commercial considerations as stated above. In respect of the approvals granted so far, it is observed that FDI projects are mainly concentrated in the States or Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There has been no perceptible decline in the inflow of FDI during January to June, 1998 as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. During the first half of 1998 (Jan. to June) inflow of FDI was Rs. 6,233.39 crore against an inflow of Rs. 7,000.90 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year (January to June 1997). Since inflows of FDI are dependent on several factors which *inter alia* include financial closures, it is not amenable to a straight month to month comparison. Although inflow during current year (January to June 1998) are slightly lower compared to that in the previous year (Jan. to June, 1997), in month of June, 1998, we had regis-

tered a peak inflow of Rs. 1594 crores as compared to Rs. 948 crores in the corresponding period in the previous year.

(g) Government has taken various initiatives to make India an attractive destination for foreign investment. Some of the recent initiatives taken in that directions *inter alia* include allowing FDI upto 100 per cent in power sector projects (excluding automatic-reactor power projects) provided the foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crores; allowing Foreign Direct Investment upto 49 per cent in Global Mobile Personal Communication Systems; inclusion off 'credit card business' and 'money changing business' in the list of approved NBFC activities for FDI; allowing foreign investment by multilateral financial institutions upto 40 per cent in private sector banks; and liberalisation of procedures relating to receipt of inward remittances and allotment of shares to foreign investors.

Statement-I

Year-wise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Approval and inflow of FDI are :

Year (Jan-Dec)	Amount in Crores	
	Total amount of FDI Approved in Rupees	Total inflow of FDI amount in Rupees
1991	534	351
1992	3888	675
1993	8859	1787
1994	14187	3269
1995	32072	6820
1996	36147	10389
1997	54891	16425
1998 (Jan-Sept)	23999	11514

Statement-II

Sector-wise Break-up Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration Approved During the Period (01/08/91 to 30/9/98)

Sr. No.	Name of Industry	Total			Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	METALURGICAL INDUSTRIES					
	Ferrous	335	197	138	7274.77	4.17
	Non-Ferrous	60	29	31	770.84	0.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Special Alloys	52	35	17	142.52	0.08
	Mining Service	18	4	14	1642.22	0.94
	Misc. (Other Items)-Metallurgy	60	22	38	1175.00	0.67
	Total	525	287	238	11005.35	6.31
2.	FUELS					
	Power	145	13	132	28363.39	16.26
	Oil Refinery	184	86	98	15501.87	8.88
	Power (Other)	27	3	24	4317.47	2.47
	Oil Refinery (Other)	36	18	18	3907.90	2.24
	Others (Fuels)	113	39	74	2030.41	1.16
	Total	505	159	346	54121.04	31.02
3.	BOILERS AND STEAM GENERATING PLANTS	68	39	29	118.02	0.07
4.	PRIME MOVERS OTHER THAN ELECTRICAL	60	38	22	91.32	0.05
5.	ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT					
	Electrical Equipment	1324	760	564	4009.57	2.30
	Computer Software Industry	706	65	641	2956.86	1.69
	Electronics	339	125	214	2079.54	1.19
	Computer Hardware	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
	Others (S/W)	34	13	21	62.97	0.04
	Total	2404	963	1441	9108.95	5.22
6.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
	Telecommunications	252	91	161	8740.76	5.01
	Radio Paging	46	4	42	1166.39	0.67
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	111	9	102	20734.39	11.88
	Telecommunication (I & B)	36	2	34	262.17	0.15
	Others (Telecommunications)	15	1	14	707.40	0.41
	Total	460	107	353	31611.12	18.12
7.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY					
	Automobile Industry	564	336	228	2965.34	1.70
	Air/Sea Transport	101	11	90	2242.34	1.29
	Passenger Cars	28	3	25	4324.96	2.48
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	82	45	37	336.12	0.19
	Ports	7	0	7	520.50	0.30
	Others (Transport)	75	26	49	552.02	0.32
	Total	857	421	436	10941.28	6.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	1148	730	418	1933.16	1.11
9.	MACHINE TOOLS	157	74	83	278.54	0.16
10.	AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY	34	25	9	434.11	0.25
11.	EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY	50	31	19	83.34	0.05
12.	MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING	558	237	321	1095.41	0.63
13.	COMMERCIAL, OFFICE & HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	69	27	42	971.74	0.56
14.	MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES	63	23	40	239.97	0.14
15.	INDUSTRIAL INSTRUMENTS	156	89	67	116.58	0.07
16.	SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	40	14	26	61.43	0.04
17.	MATHEMATICAL, SURVEYING AND DRAWING	4	1	3	38.37	0.02
18.	FERTILIZERS	57	51	6	246.88	0.14
19.	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	1341	688	653	11097.10	6.36
20.	PHOTOGRAPHIC RAW FILM AND PAPER	18	9	9	221.45	0.13
21.	DYE-STUFFS	17	3	14	104.72	0.06
22.	DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	296	164	132	791.11	0.45
23.	TEXTILES (INCLUD DYED, PRINTED)	535	113	422	2773.26	1.59
24.	PAPER AND PULP INCLUDING PAPER PRODUCT	150	62	88	2286.26	1.30
25.	SUGAR	7	1	6	1000.75	0.57
26.	FERMENTATION INDUSTRIES	58	17	41	1125.51	0.65
27.	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES					
	Food products	596	118	478	8236.06	4.72
	Marine products	87	19	68	85.37	0.05
	Miscellaneous (food prod.)	3	0	3	10.12	0.01
	Total	686	137	549	8331.54	4.78
28.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	34	3	31	193.08	0.11
29.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	46	15	31	318.18	0.18
30.	Rubber Goods	170	89	81	1015.96	0.58
31.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	162	33	129	274.22	0.16
32.	Glass	77	28	49	1341.68	0.77
33.	Ceramics	179	51	128	790.37	0.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	CEMENT AND GYPSUM PROD.	79	33	46	702.63	0.40
35.	TIMBER PRODUCTS	10	2	8	16.32	0.01
36.	DEFENCE INDUSTRIES	4	4	0	0.00	0.00
37.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Design & Eng. Services	213	50	163	599.05	0.34
	Management Services	120	16	104	431.77	0.25
	Marketing	41	7	34	50.42	0.03
	Construction	11	2	9	12.20	0.01
	Others (Consultancy Service)	25	2	23	380.04	0.22
	Total	410	77	333	1473.48	0.84
38.	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Financial	232	4	228	7008.14	4.02
	Non-Financial Services	239	17	222	2533.76	1.45
	Banking Services	15	0	15	171.11	0.10
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	55	7	48	494.13	0.26
	Other Services	25	4	21	806.85	0.46
	Total	566	32	534	11013.99	6.31
39.	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Hotel & Restaurants	262	93	169	2763.65	1.58
	Tourism	48	9	39	708.80	0.41
	Others (Hotel & Tourism)	8	2	6	17.50	0.01
	Total	318	104	214	3489.95	2.00
40.	TRADING	339	16	323	1212.15	0.69
41.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES					
	Horticulture	83	37	46	117.34	0.07
	Agriculture	101	47	54	121.04	0.07
	Floriculture	174	68	106	282.17	0.16
	Diamond	3	0	3	37.56	0.02
	Ornament & Gold	3	0	3	3.00	0.00
	Construction Activities	12	0	12	15.15	0.01
	Tea/Coffee	2	2	0	0.00	0.00
	Cigarettes	2	1	1	7.35	0.00
	COIR	2	0	2	2.43	0.00
	Other (Misc. Industries)	755	449	306	1845.57	1.06
	Total	1137	604	533	2413.62	1.39
	Total	13854	5801	8253	174481.96	

Statement-III

State-wise Break-up of Foreign Collaboration and Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved during (August, 1991 to September, 1998)

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	582	173	409	6117.29	3.51
Assam	10	6	4	1.50	0.00
Bihar	93	54	39	227.47	0.13
Gujarat	729	382	347	9274.40	5.32
Haryana	553	218	335	2182.92	1.25
Himachal Pradesh	78	51	27	344.16	0.20
Jammu and Kashmir	3	2	1	8.01	0.00
Karnataka	973	322	651	13079.79	7.50
Kerala	126	44	82	551.79	0.32
Madhya Pradesh	212	85	127	7464.07	4.28
Maharashtra	1929	730	1199	21782.16	12.48
Manipur	1	0	1	3.19	0.00
Meghalaya	4	0	4	52.96	0.03
Nagaland	2	1	1	3.68	0.00
Orissa	103	34	69	7763.10	4.45
Punjab	132	43	89	1859.28	1.07
Rajasthan	241	79	162	2246.28	1.29
Tamil Nadu	1168	371	797	12038.24	6.90
Tripura	1	0	1	0.68	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	537	226	311	2954.21	1.69
West Bengal	378	133	245	7344.58	4.21
Andaman & Nicobar	6	0	6	13.11	0.01
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	2	11.06	0.01
Chandigarh	18	2	16	73.50	0.04

1	2	3	4	5	6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	61	40	21	88.03	0.05
Delhi	727	106	621	23309.01	13.36
Goa	104	41	63	468.41	0.27
Lakshadweep	1	0	1	0.50	0.00
Pondicherry	68	30	38	351.34	0.20
Daman & Diu	26	12	14	20.06	0.01
Others	4986	2416	2570	54847.17	31.43
Total	13854	5601	8253	174481.94	

Import of Soyabeans and Sunflower

968. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to import soyabeans and sunflower under Open General Licence;

(b) if so, the names of countries from which it is to be imported;

(c) the quantity to be imported and the import price thereof;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study about the likely hazards of such imports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to increase the indigenous production of Soyabeans and Sunflowers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : Sunflower seed oil of edible grade (ITC (HS) Code 15121901.10) is already under Free List of Imports. Import of Sunflower seed oil crude (ITC(HS) Code 151211.01) is either Canalised through State Trading Corporation of India Limited, Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited or is permitted against Special Import Licence. Import of Soyabean in split and cracked form has been allowed in the Free List with effect from 15th October, 1998.

(b) and (c) In respect of items in the Free List of import, there is no stipulation as regards the countries from which these are to be imported and quantities thereof. Hence, it may not be possible to give the details.

(d) and (e) Although no recent study has been made,

the Government is aware of likely hazards of seeds imports. Soyabean in split and cracked form only has been put in the Free List of Imports so that same is unfit for sowing purpose within the country.

(f) Development of oilseed is a part of Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses under the Deptt. of Agriculture. A Centrally sponsored scheme on oilseed production programme is being implemented to augment the production of oilseeds. Financial assistance is given for inputs and other activities like seeds, mini kits and farm implements etc. Frontline, demonstrations on farmers fields are also organised.

Narcotic Drugs Trade

969. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MEHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the narcotic drugs trade is flourishing in coastal area of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether inquiries revealed involvement of higher functionaries relating to this crime by CBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to curb the narcotic drugs trade?

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

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(d) The major portion of the Indo-Pak border, vulnerable to drug smuggling, has been fenced and provided with flood lights. The Bilateral Agreements with Myanmar and Pakistan provide for increasing cooperation in matters relating to demand reduction and prevention of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The BSF and Coast Guards have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs. In addition to the above, all the enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act maintain constant vigil against any illicit drug trafficking within the country.

Export of Soft Drinks

970. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of soft drinks exported during this year, till October 30, 1998 country-wise; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The export figures for the current year are available for the period April to August 1998 only from Directorate General of Commercial intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta. The total value of exports of soft drink concentrates and processed fruits and juices during the period April-August 1998 was Rs. 124.02 crores (Source DGCI & S, Calcutta and APEDA). The exports have been mainly to USA, UK, Japan the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Russia, Jordan, UAE, South Africa, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Srilanka and Singapore. The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India Monthly/annual bulletins published by the DGCI & S, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Library.

Winding up of NTC Mills in Gujarat

971. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to wind up the closed NTC mills in Gujarat including that can be partially restarted, like the spinning section;

(b) the number of NTC mills or a particular section of mills that can be reopened, with some efforts;

(c) whether the Government have finished a scheme of early retirement of its technical staff and officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC (Gujarat) which manages 11 NTC Mills in the State of Gujarat stands referred to BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has declared NTC (Gujarat) alongwith its constituent units as a Sick Company and has issued a showcause notice for winding up of the company.

No NTC Mill in the State of Gujarat has been closed. However, there is cessation of activities in most of the mills due to shortage of working capital. Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth becoming positive within the prescribed period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view while finalising the revised turn around strategy.

(c) and (d) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been in operation in NTC and as on 31.10.1998, 8584 employees have already availed of the benefits of VRS in NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. There is no special retirement scheme separately for technical staff and officers. Under the VRS scheme due compensation at the rate of 45 days wages/salaries for each completed year of service or the wages/salaries for the bal-

ance service, whichever is less, in addition to the normal terminal benefits is paid to the employees.

[Translation]

Raj Rajeshwari and Bhagyashri Schemes for Women

972. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced the Raj-Rajeshwari and Bhagyashri Insurance Schemes for women and girls respectively to provide them financial security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of women and girls benefited therefrom since their inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Raj-Rajeshwari Mahila Kalyan Bima Yojna (New) and Bhagyashree Child Welfare Policy have been introduced by the four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) w.e.f. 18th October, 1998. The salient features of the two Schemes are at Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) Their impact will be assessed after one year.

Statement-I

*Raj-Rajeshwari Mahila Kalyan Bima Yojna
(General Insurance Policy for Economic
Security to Women)*

The Scheme intends to provide economic security to women. All sections of women in the age group of 10 to 75 years irrespective of their income, occupation or vacation can be covered under the policy.

Compensation provided:

BASIC COVER

For Disablement of Insured Women—

Permanent total disablement Rs. 25,000/-

Loss of two limb/both eyes/ ... Rs. 25,000/-
one limb and one eye

Loss of one limb/one eye Rs. 12,500/-

For Death —

For Married women—Policy provide cover for the death compensation of Rs. 25,000/- will be paid to wife.

For unmarried women — Policy provide cover for the death of the insured—Compensation of Rs. 25,000/- will be paid to the nominee/legal heir.

ADDITIONAL COVER

Temporary Total Disablement Rs. 500/- per month subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,500/-

Expenses incurred for legal ... Actuals not
Divorce Proceeding exceedings
Rs. 2,000/-

Loss/damage to Household ... Upto a limit of
Fire, flood, riot, terrorism Rs. 2,000/-

Death/Disablement would mean not only Death/Disablement arising out of accident, but also include death during Child birth at hospital, and surgical operation such as sterilisation, caesarean, hysterectomy and removal of breast due to cancer provided that occurs within 7 days from the date of operation.

Premium : Rs. 15/- per women per annum for the basic cover and Rs. 23/- per women per annum for both basic and additional cover.

Discount : Group discount varies from 5% to 60% based on the group size. Long Term Discount range from 5% to 20% depending upon the period of insurance.

Unique features:

Policy provide cover not only for the disablement of women but also for the death of her husband.

Additional cover provides for Temporary Total Disablement and also for loss/damage to household goods.

Statement-II

*Bhagyashree Child Welfare Policy
(General Insurance Policy for Relief to Orphaned Girl)*

* Cover is applicable to girl children in the age group of 0 to 18 years whose parents' age does not exceed 60 years.

* Cover is to provide relief to insured girl in the case of death of either of the parents or both arising out of accident.

Benefit provided :

Age of the girl child	Amount of Relief	Payable to
1	2	3
1-5 years	Rs. 1,200/- per annum	Surviving parent or guardian
6-11 years	Rs. 1,200/- per annum	Surviving parent or guardian, provided the expenditure is incurred for the child's education.

1	2	3
12-17 years	Rs. 2,400/- per annum	Surviving parent or guardian provided the expenditure is incurred for the child's education
18 years	Balance amount to the child's credit	To the girl on attaining the age of 18 completed years.

In the event of the death of the girl before attaining 18 years, the balance amount standing to the credit of the girl child will be paid to the surviving parent/guardian.

Premium : Rs. 15/- per child per annum.

Discount : Varies from 5 to 45% depending upon the group size.

Unique features :

* Relief to the girl child in the event of death of any of the parents

* Relief to orphaned girl for maintenance and education

* Lumpsum payment on attaining the age of 18 completed years.

[English]

Relaxation in Export and Import Remittances

973. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to relax export, import remittances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to improve imports and exports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) These relaxation would help the exporters increase exports. However, it may not be possible to quantify the magnitude of growth of exports and imports.

Statement

Reserve Bank have made considerable relaxations in all type of remittances relating to exports, without any

monetary ceiling, subject to certain conditions. The exporters are allowed to offer credit to overseas buyers for longer periods on case-to-case basis, besides the facilities of warehouses/trading offices abroad. Counter trade arrangements with Myanmar and Romania have been finalised recently. RBI have constituted a body to interact with exporters trade bodies.

As regards imports, detailed guidelines and specific operating instructions have been issued to ADs for taking precautions while handling import documents. Restriction regarding receipt of import documents only through bank were relaxed in the following categories:

- (i) Super Star Trading Houses
- (ii) Star Trading Houses
- (iii) Trading Houses
- (iv) Export Houses
- (v) 100% EOUs/ Unit in the Free Trade Zone
- (vi) PSUs
- (vii) Public Limited Companies
- (viii) Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries in respect of goods supplied to them by their foreign principals.

Apart from this in respect of import of books and magazines by book sellers the individual limit has been raised from US \$ 10,000/- to US \$ 25,000/- for accepting import document directly by the importer from overseas seller.

[Translation]

Loans to Unemployed Educated Youths

974. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the check points followed by the Union Government to ensure proper utilisation of loans provided to the unemployed educated youths under the Self Employment Scheme; and;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for timely realisation of these loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member seeks to know about the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under this scheme banks are entrusted with the responsibility of verification of assets created by the borrowers out of the loan amount and also call for utilisation certificates from them.

Banks also carry out periodical visits to the place of activity of the borrower and call for financial statements relating to their activities from borrowers to ensure proper utilisation of loan and working capital assistance provided to them. District PMRY Committees with the District Collector/Dy. Commissioner as Chairman are also entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the scheme to ensure its effective implementation. Banks take measures for recovery and timely realisation of these loans.

Loan Raised by PSUs

975. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of public sector undertakings accepting the loan at present from the public as fixed deposit;
- (b) whether the forms in this regard are printed in Hindi-English i.e. in bilingual form or only in English;
- (c) whether there is an option to fill up the form in Hindi;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which these forms are likely to be got printed in bilingual and the time by which permission is likely to be given to fill them in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) As per available information 7 public sector undertakings namely National Thermal Power Corpn., Steel Authority of India Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corpn., Hindustan Petroleum Corpn., Indian Petrochemicals corpn., ITI Ltd. and Madras Refineries Ltd. are accepting the loan at present from the public as fixed deposit.

(b) Application forms are published in English only except Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. which publish terms and conditions both in Hindi-English i.e. in bilingual.

(c) to (e) All the PSUs are accepting application forms filled up in Hindi.

[English]

Auditors Appointed to NBFC

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India empanelled Auditors are being appointed to non-banking and other financial companies registered with the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether there is any move to bring these financial institutions under the control of Reserve Bank of India to make them accountable to the shareholders;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a meeting of Reserve Bank of India was held with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to review the part played by the auditors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had as a one-time measure, appointed Chartered Accountants from the list of audit firms approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the purpose of conducting special audit of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC which had applied for registration Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 contains provision's for engaging the services of outside Auditors.

(b) and (c) The regulatory and supervisory control of Reserve Bank of India over the NBFCs is in the interest of financial system and for protecting the interest of depositors of such companies.

(d) and (e) Meetings between Reserve Bank of India and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) are held from time-to-time. A study group has been constituted by the Reserve Bank of India with representatives of RBI and ICAI to design a separate form of balance-sheet and profit and loss account of NBFCs with a view to making these financial statements more transparent.

Further in terms of Non-Banking Financial Companies Auditor Report (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1998, auditors are required to report to the Board of Directors of the companies on following matters :-

A. Whether the company has applied for grant of Certificate of Registration under Section 45 IA of Reserve Bank of India Act and the status of the applications.

B. Whether the deposit accepted by the Company are within the limits whether the Company has defaulted in repayment of deposits.

C. Whether the company has complied with prudential norms applicable to it.

D. Whether the Company has complied with the prescribed liquidity requirements and kept the approved securities with a designated bank. Whether the Company submits to the Reserve Bank of India returns on prudential norms and the Annual Returns.

It is also obligatory for the auditors to report to the Reserve Bank of India if in the opinion of Auditors the Company has not complied with the provisions of Banks, Directions applicable to it and relevant provisions of Reserve Bank of India Act.

[Translation]

Bonds Issued by Local Bodies

977. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken the decision to allow the local bodies to issue bonds;
- (b) if so, the main points thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said bonds are likely to be issued by those local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Government has since taken a decision to allow issue of Tax Free Bonds by Municipalities upto an amount of Rs. 200 crore during the current financial year. Necessary guidelines for facilitating the issue of Bonds by Municipalities are being formulated.

Export of Plastic

978. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of plastic exported during each of the last two years;
- (b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period;
- (c) the percentage increase/decrease in the exports made during the years 1996 and 1997 in comparison to the years 1994 and 1995 separately;
- (d) whether there is a decline in the exports during the above period;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of plastic?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Quantity-wise plastic products export data is not maintained.

(b) the foreign exchange earned from the export of plastic products during the last two years is as follows:-

(US \$ in Million)

1996-97	539.43
1997-98 (Provisional)	512.35
(Sources : DGCI & S)	

(c) the percentage increase in value terms in the export made during 1996-97 is 12.80 in comparison to the year 1994-95. However, during 1997-98, the export has de-

creased by 12.50% in value terms in comparison to the year 1995-96.

(d) and (e) Decline in the export during the above period is mainly on account of recession in the international market and also due to currency crises in South-east Asian countries.

(f) Continuing interaction with trade and industry to identify and solve problems related to exports, and Market Development Assistance to the exporting community through the respective Export Promotion Council for participation in specialised trade fairs, exhibition and buyer-seller meet and other promotional activities are part of ongoing efforts by the Government to boost exports.

[English]

Loan for Small Industries

979. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications for loan received by the nationalised bank from small scale industry in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise, during the last three years and the amount of loan provided to them;
- (b) whether the loans have not been provided to applicants by the bank and due to which some industries have turned sick;
- (c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether any compliments have been received by the Government from the entrepreneurs during the last three years in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action of taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

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

Loans to States

980. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the loans are provided by the Government to State Governments out of small savings;
- (b) if so, the amount of loans provided to State Governments during last three years;

(c) whether 100% of the collections are granted to State Governments;

(d) If not, the reasons for not providing 100% of the collections; and

(e) the reasons for not converting the loan into loan in perpetuity?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the loan provided to State Governments during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 75% of the net collections are loaned to States/UTs, since the GOI incurs certain costs like interest payment to subscribers, payment to the Department of Posts and Banks as agency payment, payment of commission to agents etc.

(e) The moneys are disbursed as loans since they are not revenue receipts of the Government of India but are borrowings which are to be repaid to the subscribers.

Statement

Small Savings Loans Sanctioned to States/UT Govt. from 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	621.38	212.11	435.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.56	2.75	6.67
3.	Assam	183.86	321.45	210.77
4.	Bihar	428.49	510.06	841.74
5.	Goa	21.83	27.74	36.33
6.	Gujarat	1004.87	911.48	1418.14
7.	Haryana	287.13	256.45	484.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	134.20	276.09	648.88
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	63.34	161.91	154.16
10.	Karnataka	434.43	479.30	491.88
11.	Kerala	338.41	180.25	182.65

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	295.18	363.37	562.70
13.	Maharashtra	990.11	1518.00	2521.69
14.	Manipur	1.44	9.48	12.60
15.	Meghalaya	2.28	2.94	15.16
16.	Mizoram	1.54	1.45	3.27
17.	Nagaland	0.45	4.78	4.68
18.	Orissa	209.91	111.92	263.53
19.	Punjab	560.00	573.01	990.26
20.	Rajasthan	499.96	563.82	782.64
21.	Sikkim	0.00	4.01	4.74
22.	Tamil Nadu	291.40	396.61	396.99
23.	Tripura	2.28	17.32	43.30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1462.98	1329.67	1991.47
25.	West Bengal	1541.86	1744.79	2550.54
Total		9377.89	9994.76	15054.69

UTs with legislature

1.	Delhi	607.38	666.61	668.32
2.	Pondicherry	4.82	9.68	9.18
Total		612.20	676.29	677.50
Grand Total		9990.09	10671.05	15732.19

Computerisation of Banks

981. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to computerise all nationalised banks to check corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of branches computerised so far, bank-wise; and

(d) the details of the future plan to computerise all the banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a), (b) and (d) Computerisation in the banking industry is not only for the purpose of reducing the possibilities of corruption but also for the purposes of enhancing the efficiency of banks and providing better customer service. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) have issued instructions in exercise of the powers conferred on the CVC by Section 8(1) (h) of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance 1998 that all banks must ensure that 70% of their business is captured through computerisation before 1-1-2001.

(c) 3383 branches are fully computerised where as 6506 branches and 204 offices of public sector banks have been partially computerised as on 31st March, 1998.

[Translation]

Bilateral Agreements

982. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries with whom the Government of India have signed bilateral agreements on Import and Export and other matters after the Pokhran test;

(b) whether the number of foreign countries having trade exchange with India in the International market is gradually decreasing;

(c) if so, whether the Government have tried to find out the reasons therefor; and

(d) the foreign exchange by the Government as on October 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) After the Pokhran test, a formal Trade Agreement between India and Seychelles has been signed on 18/9/98 in an endeavour to boost bilateral trade between the two countries.

India and Russia have negotiated a "Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation."

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) Exports during April-September 1998 are estimated at US \$ 16269.74 million.

[English]

Khadi Industry

983. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Khadi industry is facing serious financial crises after withdrawal of some of the concessions//rebates and also because of not disbursing the due share of Khadi Units in time;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard to save and promote the said industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : No concession/rebate has been withdrawn by the Government in respect of Khadi industry. In case of disbursement, as far as working capital is concerned, due to paucity of budgetary funds KVIC has advised Khadi units to avail working capital from banks, under KVICs Comprehensive Interest Subsidy Scheme.

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

Training Programme for Unemployed Textile Workers

984. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile workers who have become unemployed due to closure of the textile mills, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them are given training to get self employment or alternative employment, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any time-bound programme to help the remaining workers for providing employment to them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) to (d) A statement giving number of workers in closed cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non-SSI) in various States as on 31.8.1998 is attached.

The Textiles Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme of Ministry of Textiles provides a package of assistance to workers of closed textile mills. Under the Scheme which was operationalised w.e.f. September 15, 1986, relief to worker is provided only for 3 years on a tapering basis i.e. 75% of wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year. The Ministry have no specific scheme for training of such workers. The Gandhi Nagar Centre of National Institute of Fashion Technology is, however, considering providing training to some such workers in the following three areas to enable them to get employment.

1. Sewing Machine Operators.
2. Quality Control Supervisor.
3. Line Supervisors.

The training period for each course will be 70 hours.

Statement

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7023
2.	Assam	572
3.	Bihar	501
4.	Gujarat	109574
5.	Haryana	3985
6.	Karnataka	8815
7.	Kerala	2178
8.	Madhya Pradesh	21091
9.	Maharashtra	35446
10.	Orissa	2375
11.	Punjab	5516
12.	Rajasthan	8393
13.	Tamil Nadu	20216
14.	Uttar Pradesh	32510
15.	West Bengal	24619
16.	Delhi	6117
17.	Manipur	475
Total		289406

Closure of Purchasing Centres of JCI

985. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
 SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
 (JHANJHARPUR) :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given direction to Jute Corporation of India (JCI) to close down some purchasing Centres in the Country;

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

(c) whether Bihar and West Bengal are the major Jute Growing States;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) whether JCI has declined the support price of jute;

(f) if so, the average decline in purchase of jute during each of last three years in Bihar and West Bengal;

(g) whether the Government have any plan to reopen these jute procurement centres;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the alternative arrangements made by the Government to purchase the raw jute from the jute growing States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) In order to make Jute Corporation of India more cost effective it has been decided to restructure its purchase outfit and to close its 43 uneconomic Centres. The Centres selected for closure were found to be uneconomic on the following considerations :-

1. Centres not purposeful for commercial operation.
2. Centres where operations are uneconomical.
3. Centres which do not have baling press facility.

The State-wise details of the Centres proposed to be close down may please be seen in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Bihar accounts for on an average 10 per cent of the Country's total production of jute and mest in comparison to 60 per cent in West Bengal.

(e) and (f) There was no procurement operation by JCI during the period from 1993-94 to 1996-97. During 1997-98 JCI procured a total quantity to 17.73 lakh qtls. (9.85 lakh bales) out of which the quantity procured in West Bengal was 10.80 lakh qtls (6 lakh bales) and 2.40 lakh qtls in Bihar (1.3 lakh bales).

(g) to (i) Situation is regularly reviewed by the Board of JCI and necessary action is taken.

Statement

The Jute Corporation of India Ltd.,
 1, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta-71

State Centre	Sl. No.	Region	Number of Purchases	
			1996-97	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal				
	1.	Barasat	17	16
	2.	Sheoraphully	15	11
	3.	Krishnagore	16	15
	4.	Bethuadahari	13	11
	5.	Berhampore	16	12
	6.	Malda	11	10
	7.	Siliguri	13	10
	8.	Coochbehar	15	12
			116	97

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar				
1.	Purnea		12	11
2.	Saharsa		18	9
			30	20
Assam/ Meghalaya				
1.	Nagaon		13	12
2.	Guwahati		6	6
3.	Dhubri		11	8
			30	26
Tripura	1.	Agartala	8	3
Orissa	1.	Cuttack	10	6
Andhra Pradesh				
	1.	Vizianagram	14	13
			208	165

[Translation]

Subsidy Paid to Retired Employees

986. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have tried to lure the employees of NTC to opt for voluntary retirement by providing them 33 per cent subsidy in case they set up their own project; and

(b) if so, the number of employees who have been provided this subsidy so far and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Government have formulated a scheme for rehabilitation of workers rationalised under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Under the scheme, the workers can start their own project by purchasing old looms from NTC at a nominal price or can purchase new powerlooms/reeling machines from machinery manufactures. The requisite finance is available from the banks. The company would also provide production incentive in such ventures after successful operation for six months from the date of commissioning.

As on 30.9.98, 431 workers have been provided with looms under this scheme. However, the release of production incentive is under consideration.

[English]

Budgetary Allocation for Coal Sector

987. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation made by the Government to coal sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any external assistance was also sought during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) During the last three years the following budgetary allocation was made by the Govt. to the Coal Sector:

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate
1997-98	Rs. 485.63 cr.	Rs. 413.16 cr.
1996-97	Rs. 530.88 cr.	Rs. 390.46 cr.
1995-96	Rs. 606.43 cr.	Rs. 539.69 cr.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The budget allocation indicated in part (a) of the question includes external funding routed through budget. The external funding was sought for utilisation of bilateral and multilateral external credit, technical assistance and technological improvements etc. The details of the provisions for external funding made through the budget during the last three years are as follows :

		(Rs. crore)			
		CIL	SCCL	NLC	Total
1997-98	BE	0.00	18.50	0.35	18.85
	RE	0.00	41.77	10.25	52.02
1996-97	BE	0.00	42.78	21.10	63.88
	RE	0.00	37.10	21.10	58.20
1995-96	BE	41.00	22.00	38.57	101.57
	RE	41.00	58.36	39.12	138.48

CIL: Coal India Limited SCCL : Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. NLC : Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

High Powered Committee for Exim Policy

988. SHRI MAGANTI BABU :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up two high powered committees for the smooth functioning of Exim Policy ;

(b) if so, the time by which these committees are likely to be set up;

(c) the other aims and objectives of these committees; and

(d) the time by which these committees are likely to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) The Government had set up a High-Powered Committee on Advance Licensing Scheme in June, 1998, based on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in its 24th Report (1997-98) primarily to enquire into the manner of operation of Advance Licence (Duty Exemption Scheme), to find out the factors responsible for the abuse of the Advance Licensing Scheme, specially value Based Advance Licensing Scheme, as also to recommend the measures required to prevent recurrence of such abuses, and the remedial steps necessary to speed up recovery of Government dues from the export defaulters. The Committee has submitted its Report to the Government on the 3rd December 1998.

Procurement made by JCI

989. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procurement of Jute made by Jute Corporation of India during the last year;

(b) whether JCI has been failing to have timely action for procurement of jute from the growers;

(c) whether such delay is causing reduction of procurement price to the growers by the hoarders; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the interest of Jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) JCI procured a total quantity of 9.85 lakh bales (9.4% of total production) under price support operation in 1997-98.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Lal-Matia Colliery

990. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lal-Matia Colliery of Rajmahal project is earning profit; and

(b) if so, the reasons for declaring it as sick colliery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Lalmatia Underground mine was closed in May, 1989 and Lalmatia Opencast (Pilot Quarry) was closed in March, 1986 and merged with Rajmahal Opencast Project which is earning profit. The Rajmahal Project has not been declared as sick.

Expenditure on Closed Textile Mills

991. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV :
(JAHANABAD)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of N.T.C. mills which are lying closed but the worker employed therein are still getting salaries without work;

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

(c) the details of expenditure made on salaries of workers in these mills during the last three years; and

(d) the efforts made/being made by the Government for their revival and modernisation of sick textile mills to boost the production and to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Out of the 120 mills under NTC, no mill has been closed except Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi which has been closed as per the orders of the Supreme Court on polluting industries. In the remaining 119 mills, presently there are no production activities in 35 mills while 84 mills are either partially or fully operational. However, the workers of all the 119 mills are paid their wages. A statement-I showing the State-wise break up of these 119 mills is enclosed.

(c) The details of funds released to the NTC Subsidiaries towards payment of salaries and wages during the last three years, are given in Statement-II.

(d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in the view in the revival plan.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Karnataka	4
3.	Kerala	5
4.	Punjab	4

1	2	3
5.	Rajasthan	4
6.	Gujarat	11
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7
8.	Maharashtra	35
9.	Tamil Nadu	13
10.	Pondicherry (UT)	3
11.	Uttar Pradesh	11
12.	West Bengal	12
13.	Assam	1
14.	Bihar	2
15.	Orissa	1
Total		119

Statement-II

Subsidiary	Funds released in Rs. in Lacs		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
NTC(DP & R)	1313.54	2033.00	1624.00
NTC (MP)	2814.81	3140.00	3070.77
NTC (UP)	4072.37	4471.00	4902.62
NTC (SM)	2430.55	3221.00	2976.58
NTC (MN)	2617.25	3810.00	3954.02
NTC (Guj.)	3317.08	4130.00	4211.41
NTC (APKK & M)	1017.62	2210.00	2238.22
NTC (TN & P)	0.00	835.00	772.55
NTC (WBAB & O)	3267.50	3732.00	4074.99
13 Taken over Mills, Mumbai (since nationalised)	3468.87	4414.00	4940.50
Total	24319.59	31996.00	32765.66

Royalty of Coal

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

(a) whether the royalty rate of coal has not been revised since long;

(b) whether the coal bearing States are facing a lot of hardships on account of this;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the rate of royalty;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the study group set up for revision of rates of royalty of coal;

(e) if so, the details of such recommendations and the details of recommendations accepted; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to

revise the rate of royalty on the basis of said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (f) The rates of royalty on coal were last revised on 11.10.94. In terms of the proviso to section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government is empowered to enhance royalty rates on coal not more than once during any period of three years. There is no compulsion to revise royalty rates every three years. The Central Government has the option to keep the royalty rates unchanged as was done during 1981-91.

The Study Group classified the various grades of coal into two groups for purpose of fixation of royalty rates. The Group recommended that royalty for Group I coal consisting of coking coal and A, B and C grades of non-coking coal should be 25% of the base prices and for Group II coals consisting of D,E,F and G grades of non-coking coal 20% of the base prices.

Promotion of Handicrafts in Gujarat

993. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:

SHRI TEJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Governments for promotion of handicrafts during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of these pending or under consideration, as on date;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for promotion of handicrafts in Mutch, Jamnagar and Ahmedabad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent on the promotion of handicrafts during the last three years and in the current year, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Some proposals have been received from various State Corporations in the last 3 years for promotion of handicrafts. The number of proposals received from them and pending out of them during each of the last three years, State-wise, is as per Statement attached.

(c) and (d) No special scheme has been prepared for promotion of handicrafts in Kutch, Jamnagar and Ahmedabad. However the existing schemes of the Government which include : training; design development; setting up of crafts development centres ; opening of new emporia and renovation/expansion of new existing emporia; exhibition and publicity etc. for promotion of handicrafts take care of needs of above mentioned districts.

(e) The amount sanctioned on the promotion of handicrafts during the last three years and in the current year till November, 1998, State-wise, is as per Statement-II attached.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		No. of proposal received	Pending	No. of proposal received	Pending	No. of proposal received	Pending
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	-	3	-	9	4
2.	Assam	12	-	10	-	12	7
3.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	5	2
4.	Delhi	6	-	3	-	5	-
5.	Goa	1	-	1	-	6	-
6.	Gujarat	9	-	5	-	35	4
7.	Haryana	10	-	8	-	7	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-	1	-	9	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	-	2	-	4	2
10.	Karnataka	3	-	5	-	12	1
11.	Kerala	1	-	5	-	3	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	65	-	8	-	21	3
13.	Manipur	2	-	1	-	2	-
14.	Mizoram	2	-	1	-	2	-
15.	Nagaland	1	-	2	-	6	-
16.	Orissa	8	-	4	-	12	-
17.	Punjab	1	-	1	-	10	-
18.	Rajasthan	5	-	4	-	4	1
19.	Tamil Nadu	8	-	3	-	7	-
20.	Tripura	2	-	2	-	9	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	12	-	17	-	12	2
22.	West Bengal	6	-	3	-	11	-
23.	Meghalaya	1	-	1	-	2	-
24.	Pondicherry	1	-	1	-	1	-
	Total	170	-	91	-	184	33

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (upto November, 1998)	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.18	36.61	49.56	37.43	15	Maharashtra	40.79	37.86	53.27	35.53
2.	A & N Is lands	1.50	1.38	2.26	2.91	16.	Manipur	15.43	9.30	27.76	19.42
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.71	1.34	6.18	3.13	17.	Meghalaya	6.41	2.73	1.02	9.91
4.	Assam	130.74	106.83	142.87	44.23	18.	Mizoram	1.70	3.01	7.05	8.77
5.	Bihar	26.44	28.43	19.13	19.76	19.	Nagaland	11.90	6.18	22.27	11.07
6.	Delhi	202.31	69.47	105.53	49.85	20.	Orissa	110.50	85.22	109.01	52.37
7.	Goa	5.08	8.64	47.65	8.58	21.	Punjab	23.75	16.41	20.77	13.72
8.	Gujarat	80.42	45.65	79.65	40.13	22.	Pondicherry	3.86	3.00	2.80	8.76
9.	Haryana	33.47	62.80	54.52	24.31	23.	Rajasthan	50.52	18.19	31.31	18.12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	99.55	64.32	66.93	31.25	24.	Sikkim	2.14	1.17	2.01	1.10
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	40.61	21.49	38.92	43.41	25.	Tamil Nadu	82.33	84.15	36.45	43.43
12.	Karnataka	21.89	71.12	46.29	22.02	26.	Tripura	12.94	16.27	54.53	31.42
13.	Kerala	70.02	67.55	32.57	9.98	27.	Uttar Pradesh	606.20	297.78	206.44	124.72
14.	Madhya Pra.	127.51	70.27	58.89	25.25	28.	West Bengal	64.03	83.10	83.24	48.90
							Total	1938.93	1320.27	1404.57	789.08

Note : Figures do not include grants sanctioned for multi-State activities. This does not also include plan funds sanctioned directly by the department on promotional and development.

[Translation]

Pending Central Assistance to Bihar

994. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRAJAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 223.36 crore rupees of Bihar Government for the year 1998-99 under Central Assistance based on formula has been outstanding with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which this amount is likely to be paid to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Formula based Central assistance allocated to the State Governments is released in monthly instalments. For the State's Annual Plan 1998-99, the formula based Central assistance allocated to Bihar is Rs. 1191.76 crore. Against, this allocation, Rs. 786.10 crore has already been released to the State Government upto 1st December 1998 and the balance of Rs. 405.66 crore will be released in the remaining three months, based on the anticipated Plan expenditure figures furnished by the State Government.

[English]

Central Assistances for Developing Hotels in Karnataka

995. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has released Rs. 4.50 crores for developing hotels being run by the Karnataka State Tourism Development;

(b) if so, the details of hotels selected for development in the State with the above Central assistance, location-wise; and

(c) the amount released proposed to be released for the development of these hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Ministry of Tourism has prioritised 14 projects amounting to Rs. 455.30 lakhs for providing Central assistance to the State Government during 1998-99. Out of Rs. 455.30 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 240.30 lakhs is for upgradation of existing hotel projects maintained by Karnataka State Tourism Development. The funds are released on the basis of complete and detailed proposals submitted by the State Government for each project.

(b) and (c) Details of hotel projects prioritised for upgradation and the amount earmarked for each project is given below :-

Project	Amount proposed (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Bijapur	25.00
2. Mysore	60.00
3. Gulberga	67.50
4. Jog	24.80
5. T.B. Dam	50.00
6. Mangalore	13.00
Total	240.30

Loan by IDBI and SBI to NTPC

996. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 470 on 29-5-1998 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

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

(b) Both IDBI and SBI have reported that they released the financial facilities based on the progress of the project and in compliance of the various terms and conditions of the sanction as per the usual practice. The Government had approved the foreign borrowing for the company. Spectrum Technologies, USA based NRIs, have subscribed to the equity of the company in Foreign Currency and subscription from NTPC has become sub-judice in view of the petition before Delhi High Court regarding *inter-alia*, breach of promoters agreement. This is, however, not going to affect future investment in Power Sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Special Category States

997. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for declaring special category State status by the Union Government;

(b) the names of the States and Union Territories which have been categorised as special category States so far with the dates, year-wise;

(c) whether there was any proposals received by the Union Government from any other States in recent years for inclusion of their State in the list of special category States; and

(d) if so, the name of the States and the reactions of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The special category States are generally those with hilly terrain, low population density and overall economic backwardness. They are also situated alongwith the border of the country and have weak resource base.

(b) The special category States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. As decided in the NDC 1988, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland were to be classified as special category States. In the course of years, the States of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram attained statehood and since these States were also financially weak and happened to be on the border areas, they were also treated as special category States from date of statehood. Union Territories are not classified in Special and non-special categories.

(c) and (d) State Governments of Bihar, Goa, Orissa and Rajasthan have demanded special category status in the past. These demands were not acceded to because none of these States fulfill the criteria for special category States.

Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber

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

(a) whether the Government have recently declared the benchmark price for natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost of production of Rubber during 1995 and 1996;

(d) whether the Government have procured natural rubber at the declared benchmark price; and

(e) if so, the market price since declaration in each week thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the study conducted by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance from February-April, 1998, the Govt. of India has, on 28.9.98 revised the Bench Mark Price of Natural Rubber at Rs. 3405/- per quintal and Rs. 3355/- per quintal for RSS 4 and RSS 5 grades respectively.

(c) Cost study on rubber production has not been conducted during 1995 and 1996.

(d) No, Sir. The Benchmark Price was announced in September, 1998. The Benchmark price is only an indicative price and not a support Price for natural rubber. STC has been directed to procure 20,000 MT of Natural Rubber in May 1998, on Govt. account at the prevailing market price, but not exceeding Rs. 34/- per kg.

(e) Weekly average price of various grades of Natural Rubber is given below :-

Week ending	RSS-1	RSS-2	RSS-3	RSS-4	RSS-5
03.10.98	3650	3450	3150	3055	2995
10.10.98	3700	3600	3425	3367	3150
17.10.98	3850	3700	3600	3368	3150
24.10.98	3925	NT	3400	3315	3110
31.10.98	3950	NT	3350	3300	3075
07.11.98	3850	3600	3450	3300	3075
14.11.98	3800	3600	3400	3308	3080

(NT : No transaction)

[Translation]

Reduction in Growth Rate

999. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reduced the target of growth rate during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposed steps/plan of the Government to increase the target of growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Planning Commission, in its last meeting in November, 1998 decided to recommend to the National Development Council a reduction in the target rate of growth of GDP from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent per annum average over the five years of the Ninth Plan (1997-2000). The target has been revised downward in view of the slow economic growth in 1997-98. Government is monitoring the growth rate. A number of steps have been announced recently by the Government to boost the rate of growth.

Disbursement of Loan by Banks

1000. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank managers have misutilised the public funds by giving loan worth crores of rupees to the computer industries and other influential/defaulting people and due to which the loan amount is on the verge of going into bad debts;

(b) if so, the number of branches of State Bank of India in Delhi which have disbursed the loan during the current year alongwith the amount of loan disbursed and the number of cases of bungling came to light, bank-wise and branch-wise;

(c) the amount and the number of high officers/managers found involved therein;

(d) whether a high level enquiry into these cases have been conducted;

(e) If so, the details thereof and the action taken against guilty officers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Government has not received such report of bank managers having resorted to widespread misutilisation of the public funds giving loans worth crores of rupees to the computer industries.

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

Yoga for Foreign Tourists

1001. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign tourists visiting the country on tourist visa will no more be allowed to attend yoga meditation and teaching classes; and

(b) if so, the justification for taking the aforesaid decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Specific yoga and student visa is granted to the foreigners desirous of coming to India for attending long term yoga and meditation courses undertaken by the recognised Institute. However, there may be no objection to the foreigners coming on tourist visa and attending yoga classes as a casual visitor.

[English]

Import of Silk

1002. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received demand from Indian Silk Export Promotion Council to re-examine new silk import policy and place silk under open general licence;

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

(c) the quantity of raw silk imported and exported during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council has been requesting the Government of India for removal of Mulberry raw silk from the negative list of imports. The exporters have been representing that indigenous availability of high grade raw silk is not adequate to cater to their demand. In this direction Government of India have recently permitted import of mulberry raw silk conforming to Grade-2A and above against Special Import Licence (SIL) with the condition that the CIF (cost Insurance and freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the CIF value of the imported goods.

(c) The details of raw silk imported, and silk goods, silk yarn and silk waste certified for export through the certification centres under Central Silk Board during the last three years are as indicated statement below.

Statement

Import of Raw Silk during the last three years

Year	Imported Quantity (In Tons)
1995-96	4149
1996-97	2911
1997-98 (Prov.)	2760
1998-99 (Prov.) (April-Aug. 98)	712

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta

Export of Silk Goods, Silk Yarn, and Silk waste during the last three years:-

Unit : Qty: Silk goods in lakh Sq. Mtrs.
Silk yarn in lakh kgs.
Silkwaste in lakh kgs.

Year	Silk goods	Silk yarn	Silk waste
1995-96	492.56	0.05	0.31
1996-97	480.83	0.06	2.47
1997-98	402.23	0.25	10.38
1998-99 (Apr-Sep.)	188.72	negligible	5.67

Source : Central Silk Board, Bangalore.

[Translation]

Economic Crisis in Maharashtra

1003. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra is facing an economic crunch at present;

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

(c) whether the State Government has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to overcome the economic crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As per reports of RBI, Government of Maharashtra has been maintaining and comfortable cash balance in its account with RBI. The State has never been in overdraft in the last year as well as in the current year so far.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

[English]

National Tourism Policy

1004. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Tourism Ministers of States held in the Capital during the first week of August to give inputs for finalising the National Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the names of the States represented by the Chief Ministers along with their suggestions for a better infrastructure linkages and smoother flow of tourists from the world; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government along with the proposals to enact a legislation to curb the menace of touts, beggars, cheating and misguiding tourists due to which their holidays are ruined in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Tourism Minister's Conference was attended by Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Administration alongwith Tourism Ministers from 16 States. Some of the suggestions given by the State Tourism, Ministers for better infrastructure linkages for smoother

flow of tourist include upgradation and development of airports at Bodhgaya, Amritsar, Bhubaneshwar, Baghdogra, better air linkages to the State Capitals of North East Region, Sikkim, and important tourist centres in the country, removal of RAP/PAP in the North Eastern States development of National Highway between Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Darjeeling, necessary support and incentives for private sector investment in Tourism and use of information technology.

(c) The Conference adopted these suggestions in the form of resolutions. The State Governments were also asked to formulate suitable regulatory measures in the form of Tourism Trade Act, Tourism Assistance Police to ensure the safety and security of tourists.

Plantation Companies

1005. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plantation companies registered by the Registrar of Companies and SEBI, respectively;

(b) the details of the companies which have procured an investment grade;

(c) the details of companies which have not procured an investment grade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clamp curbs on these firms?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) As on date, 643 entities operating Collective Investment Schemes have filed information with SEBI.

(b) and (c) SEBI, has stated that so far, no company has obtained an investment grade. A list of companies which have been rated below investment grade ratings is given in the attached statement.

(d) Government issued a press release in November, 1997 bringing plantation scheme in the nature of collective investment schemes under the regulatory jurisdiction of SEBI. Following this SEBI has constituted a committee headed by Dr. S.A. Dave to frame regulation for these schemes. SEBI has also directed the existing Companies to obtain a credit rating before mobilising further funds.

Statement

List of Collective Investment Schemes below Investment Grade

1. Swarnbhoomi Forests (India) Ltd.,
2. Rose Valley Resorts & Plantations Ltd.
3. Timber World Resorts and Plantations India Ltd.
4. Hariyali Plantations (India) Ltd.
5. La Mark Farms Ltd.
6. Shivaji Estate & Livestock Farms Ltd. (SELF)

7. Rajamu dra Agrotech Ltd.
8. Sparrow Agro Forests Ltd.
9. Mahakaushal Plantations Ltd.
10. Goldenland Development (I) Ltd.
11. Enbee Plantations Ltd.
12. Maruti Krishi Udyog (India) Ltd.
13. Southern Horticulture & Rubber Plantations Ltd.
14. U.P. Forest Plantations Ltd.
15. Supreme Forests India Ltd.
16. Assured Agro Park Ltd.
17. Mehna Plantations Pvt. Ltd.
18. Sonali Agro Industries & Resorts Ltd.
19. Nisarga Forests (India) Ltd.
20. Agriotek India Ltd.
21. Kalp Varksha Plantations Ltd.
22. Anubhav Plantations Ltd.
23. Naturoworth & Medico Plant Ltd.
24. Endowment Agro Projects (India) Ltd.
25. United Agrogrowth & Resort Ltd.
26. Twinkle Plantations Ltd.
27. Araya Plantations and Farm Developers Ltd.
28. Sumarpan Agro and Livestock Ltd.
29. Paragon Finlease Agro Forest Ltd.
30. Shalimar Forests (India) Ltd.
31. Bhawna Agro Ltd.
32. Surbhi Agro Tech. Ltd.
33. Arrow Biotech International Ltd.
34. Parasrampur Plantations Ltd.
35. Plonner Forests India Ltd.
36. Jhelum Agro Forests India Ltd.
37. Himgiri Plantations Ltd.
38. Simbuk Agro Plantation (I) Ltd.
39. Green Estates (India) Ltd.
40. Arrow Bintech International Ltd.
41. Auroshree Agro Industries Ltd.
42. Golden Forests (India) Ltd.

Foreign Exchange

1006. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange allowed to people of various sections of the society at the time of their going abroad;

(b) the maximum limit prescribed for higher officers and political leaders in this regard;

(c) whether with a view to save foreign exchange, the Government propose to reduce these limits; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As per the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement

The details of amount of foreign exchange allowed to residents for various types of visits abroad are as under:-

Purpose	Quantum of foreign exchange towards maintenance expenses		Other expenses
	Special Scale (for chief/senior executives like Chairman, Managing Executive Director etc.	General Scale (for others)	
1	2	3	4
(i) Business visits sponsored by firms /cos. organisations in India self employed professionals, delegations sponsored by Trade Bodies, Officials of Public and Private Sector banks, branches of foreign banks in India, State/Urban Co-op. banks which are authorised dealers, financial institutions like IDBI/ UTI/NABARD/NHB/EXIM Bank/ ICICI etc.	US \$ 500 per day for a period not exceeding 45 days	US \$ 350 per day for a period not exceeding 45 days	

	1	2	3	4
(ii) Participation in International conferences/seminars of scientific, technical or educational nature		US\$ 500 per day for duration of the conference/seminar plus 2 days	US\$ 350 per day for duration of the conference/seminar plus 2 days	Registration fee as per brochure
(iii) Specialised training /study tour sponsored by institutions or by professionals		—	Upto US\$ 300 per day for a period not exceeding 30 days	Course fee upto US\$ 5000 (for training only)
(iv) Employment abroad			Upto US\$ 2500 per person	
(v) Emigration			Upto US\$ 3000 per person/ per member of the family or the amount required by the country emigration.	
(vi) Medical treatment abroad			@ US\$ 150 per day for a maximum period of 2 months	Hospitalisation expenses as per the estimate of the overseas doctor/ hospital
(vii) Studies abroad			Upto US\$ 30,000 per annum towards tuition fees, maintenance, books etc.	
(viii) Basic Travel Quota			US\$ 3000 per person per calendar year	

Exchange in excess of the prescribed scales and/or duration of the visit abroad as indicated above and be released by authorised dealer on merits. (except Basic Travel Quota)

As regards visits abroad by member of parliament/State legislatures (except when travelling abroad on account of their private business or for medical treatment), officials of Central/State Governments (except when travelling at their own expenses) members of official non-official delegations financed out of funds from Central/any State Government, foreign exchange is released as per the Government's prescribed scales.

In addition, MPs and MLAs/MLCs are entitled to a Study Tour Quota of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 50,000/- respectively, during their tenure as a MP/MLA/MLC.

[Translation]

Opening of Bank Accounts of Pensioners

1007. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHURY :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government that various banks operating in Delhi are avoiding to opening the bank accounts of old age pensioners and are thus being denied of services;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such incidents in future; and

(d) the guidelines/procedures framed by the RBI to enable the sick, aged and incapable account holders to operate their accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Based on the information collected from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the public sector banks operating in Delhi they do not seem to have received complaints of non-operating of bank accounts of old age pensioners.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have recently reiterated the instructions to all scheduled commercial banks regarding procedure to be followed by the banks for opening of accounts by old, sick and incapacitated non-pension account holders. The guidelines/procedure of the RBI in this regard are as under :-

An account holder who is too ill to sign a cheque/cannot be physically present in the bank to withdraw money from his bank account but can put thumb impression in on the cheque/withdrawal form; and

An account holder who is not only unable to be physically present in the bank but is also not even able to put thumb impression on the cheque/withdrawal form due to certain physical defect incapacity.

With a view to enabling the old and sick or incapacitated account holder to operate their bank account, the banks may follow the procedure as under.

Wherever thumb or toe impression of the sick, old and incapacitated account holder is obtained, it should be identified by two independent witnesses known to the bank, one of whom should be a responsible bank official; and

Where the customer cannot even put thumb impression and also would not be able to be physically present in the bank, a mark can be obtained on the cheque/withdrawal form which should be identified by two independent witnesses, one of whom should be a responsible bank official.

Besides the above, the customer may also be asked to indicate to the bank as to who would withdraw the amount from the bank on the basis of cheque/withdrawal form as obtained above and that person should be identified by two independent witnesses. The person who would be actually drawing the money from the bank should be asked to furnish his signatures to the bank.

[English]

Tax Exemption for Research and Development

1008. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have extended the cut off period to avail five year tax exemption for Research and Development (R & D) of the companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of companies which have their own R & D and

(d) the budget allocation during the last three years, year-wise, company-wise?

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

(b) Under Section 80 IA, a company registered in India carrying on scientific and industrial research and development, is allowed hundred per cent deductions from the profits and gains derived from such business for a period of five years. The deduction is allowed, if the company has the main object of scientific and industrial research and development and is approved by the Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology before 1.4.99 (prior to the extension the cut-off date was 1.4.98).

(c) The names of companies having their own R & D i.e. in house R & D is not maintained. However, the particulars of companies approved for benefits under section 80-I (4B) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research are M/s. Spectrum Infotech Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore, M/s. Varun Herbals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, M/s. Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd., Mumbai, M/s. Synergy Research Centre Ltd., Chennai and M/s. Adimans Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad.

(d) No budgetary support is provided to the category of companies under reference.

[Translation]

Loans to Farmers

1009. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given by nationalised banks to the big middle and small farmers/agricultural entrepreneurs during the last three years and the rate of interest charged from them on such loans, State-wise;

(b) the details of amount written off as bad debt due to non-recovery of loans given by these banks to such entrepreneurs and the amount which could not be collected;

(c) the criteria adopted to write off the loans as bad debt;

(d) whether the Government propose to write off the amount as bad debt given to farmers and unemployed youths to start their own enterprises under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Outstanding dues of Coal Company

1010. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal mines from which coal was supplied for power generation during the last six months;

(b) whether the Coal India Limited has received full payment of the coal supplied;

(c) whether any dues of Coal India Limited are outstanding with the State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The names of Coal from where the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited had supplied coal to thermal power stations during the last six months are enclosed in the attached Statement-I.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The SEB-wise/Power Utility-wise dues to Coal India Limited as on 31.10.1998 is given in attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

Name of Coal Mines from which Coal was Supplied for Power Generation

Central Coalfields Limited

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
1.	Piparwar	15.	Relgara	30.	A.K.
2.	Bachara	16.	Gidi Wasery	31.	Bokaro Karo
3.	Ashoka	17.	Ara	32.	Khasmahal
4.	K.D.H.	18.	Sarubera	33.	Kargali Washery
5.	K.D.	19.	Kuju	34.	Kedla Washery
6.	Dakra	20.	Imdo	35.	Sel. Dhori
7.	Churi	21.	Topa	36.	Dhroi Khas
8.	Karketta	22.	Sayal-D	37.	NSD
9.	Rohini	23.	Urimari	38.	Amlo
10.	Rajahara	24.	U. Urimari	39.	Jasrangdih
11.	Titeriyakhar	25.	Hindgir	40.	Givindpur
12.	Sirka	26.	K.K.	41.	Kathara Washery
13.	Argada	27.	C-Saunda	42.	Swang Washery
14.	Gidi-C	28.	Saunda-D	43.	Giridih
		29.	Bhurkunda	44.	Rajrapa

Middling were supplied from washeries.

From Gidi (W) washed non-coking coal and midlings were supplied.

Name of Coal Mines from which Coal was supplied for Power Generation

Eastern Coalfields Limited

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
1.	Chinakuri-II	6.	Sodepur 3A	12.	Bonjemahari
2.	Methani	7.	Parbella	13.	Chalkballavpur
3.	Bejdih	8.	Bankola	14.	Damra OCP
4.	Chinakuri-III	9.	Sonepur Bazari Proj	15.	Paresea OCP
5.	Sodepur 9 & 10	10.	Kottadih U/G	16.	Madhusudanpur
		11.	Mohanpur	17.	Madhujore

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
18.	Khas Kajora	45.	Bansra OCP	73.	Chitra
19.	Jhanjra	46.	Adjal lind	74.	Nimcha
20.	Dalura	47.	Dalurband	75.	Kuwardih
21.	Khoirabad	48.	Pandaveswar	76.	Sindull
22.	Kumardhubi	49.	Bahule	77.	Belbad
23.	Rajpura	50.	Bhanora W. Block	78.	Parasea 6 & 7
24.	Barmuri Project	51.	Amritnagar	79.	Sripur
25.	Dabor	52.	Kalldasapur Proj	80.	Girmint
26.	Gourandih	53.	Ardgagran OCP	81.	Shankarpur
27.	Kumardihi A/B	54.	Chapapur-II	82.	Barmuri
28.	Tilaboni	55.	Lakhmata	83.	Sangramgarh
29.	Jambad OCP	56.	Kaapasara	84.	Naba Kajora
30.	Hariajam	57.	Nirsha	85.	Madhabpur
31.	Parascole	58.	Khoodih	86.	Toposi
32.	Modhaipur	59.	Badjna	87.	Mithapur
33.	Manderboni	60.	Monoharbahal	88.	Nageswar Satgram
34.	Satgram	61.	North-Searsole	89.	Narsumda
35.	Shankarpur OCP	62.	Satgram (R)	90.	Pure Searsole
36.	Moira	63.	Dubeswari	91.	Tirat
37.	New Kenda	64.	Chepuikhas	92.	Ghusick
38.	Chinakuri-I	65.	Ratibaty	93.	Mouthdih
39.	J K Nagar	66.	Satgram (P)	94.	Bengunia
40.	Modern Satgram	67.	Kumardihi 'B'	95.	Sitaldasji OCP
41.	Dhemomain	68.	Kunustoria	96.	Dubeswari
42.	Kushadanga	69.	Bansra	97.	Lochipur
43.	Ningah	70.	Barasea	98.	Rajmahal
44.	S.S. Incline	71.	Mandm-an		
		72.	S.P. Mines		

Name of the Collieries from which Coal was Supplied to the Power Houses

Bharat Coking Coal Limited

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
1.	Muraidih	5.	Govindpur	10.	Ramkanali
2.	Damoda	6.	Akashkinari	11.	East Katras
3.	Phularitand	7.	Angrapathara	12.	Salanpur
4.	Block-IV	8.	West Muddih	13.	Sendra Bansjora
		9.	Keshalpur	14.	Tetulmari

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
15.	Nichitpur	26.	Bastacolla	36.	Sudamdih Washery
16.	Dhansar	27.	Bera	37.	JOCP
17.	Kusunda	28.	Dobari	38.	Benedih
18.	Godhar	29.	Jeenagora	39.	Nudkurkhee
19.	K. Ksunda	30.	S. Tisra	40.	NLOCP
20.	Bassuriya	31.	N. Tisra	41.	Damagoria
21.	Kustore	32.	Lodna Washery	42.	Bhojudih Washery
22.	S. Jharia	33.	Joyrampur	43.	Barora Washery
23.	ROCP	34.	Lodna	44.	Dudga Washery
24.	Ganhoodih	35.	Bhowra OCP	45.	Patherdih
25.	GOCP			46.	Lohapati

NB: Middlings were supplied from washeries

Name of the Coal Mines from which Coal was Supplied for Power Generation

Western Coalfields Limited, Nagpur

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
1.	Nandgaon	21.	Niljai - I & II	39.	Shobapur
2.	Hindustan Lalpeth O/C	22.	Mungoli O/C	40.	Sarani
3.	Hindustan Lalpeth extn. O/C	23.	Rajpur U/G	41.	Tawa
4.	Durgapur O/C	24.	Ukni O/C	42.	Chattarpur I-II
5.	Padmapur O/C	25.	Kolar Pimpari O/C	43.	Eklehra
6.	Bhatadih O/C	26.	Pimpalgaon O/C	44.	Chandmetta
7.	Chanda Rayatwari U/G	27.	Silewara	45.	E.D.C.
8.	Durgapur Rayatwari U/G	28.	Walni	46.	Mahadeopuri
9.	Mahakali U/G	29.	Pipla	47.	Ganpati
10.	Sasti	30.	Patanswangi	48.	Rawanwara
11.	Ballaurpur U/G	31.	Kamptee U/G	49.	Rawanwara Khas
12.	Sasti O/C	32.	Kamptee	50.	New Setia O/C
13.	Gouri O/C No. 1	33.	Inder	51.	Vishnupuri I - II
14.	Majri U/G No. 2 & 3	34.	Gondegaon O/C	52.	Thesgora
15.	Majri O/C	35.	Saoner I-II-III	53.	Mathani
16.	Kawadi O/C	36.	Umred O/C	54.	Haranbhatta
17.	Chargaon O/C	37.	PKD I-II	55.	Mohan U/G
18.	Nakoda U/G	38.	Satpura I-II	56.	Ambara U/G
19.	Ghugus O/C			57.	Ghorawari U/G
20.	Naigaon O/C				

*Name of the Coal Mines from which Coal was Supplied for Power Generation***South Eastern Coalfields Limited**

S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
1.	Manickpur	20.	Dhanpuri O/C	38.	Meera Incl.
2.	Kusmunda O/C	21.	Amlai O/C	39.	Kotna O/C
3.	Laxman O/C	22.	Balga O/C	40.	Bartara Proj
4.	Gevra O/C	23.	Sarad O/C	41.	Birsinghpur
5.	Dipka O/C	24.	Dhanpur U/G	42.	Nowrajabad
6.	Chirimiri O/C	25.	Bangwar	43.	Umaria
7.	Duman Hill	26.	Rajendra U/G	44.	Pali
8.	Korea	27.	Subhas U/G	45.	Pindura U/G
9.	Kurasia	28.	Navgaon U/G	46.	Piparia
10.	NCPH	29.	New Amlai	47.	Vindhya
11.	Churcha	30.	Bhadra Old	48.	Bisharmipur
12.	Kathkona	31.	Jamuna U/G	49.	Kumda
13.	Churcha West	32.	Jamuna O/C	50.	Kumda 1 & 2
14.	Pandavpara West	33.	Kotma U/G	51.	Bijuri
15.	Bhatgaon	34.	Govinda	52.	Rajnagar U/G
16.	Mahamaya U/G	35.	Kotma West 3 and 4	53.	Rajnagar O/C
17.	Dugga O/C	36.	Jamuna Incl. 3 & 4	54.	West Jhagrakhand
18.	Amlai U/G	37.	Harrad Incl.		
19.	Chachai				

Name of the Coal Mines from which Coal was Supplied for Power Houses during the period from April '98 to September '98

NCL		MCL		NEC	
S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery	S.No.	Name of Colliery
1.	Jhingurdah	1.	Lajkura O/C	1.	Tirap
2.	Gorbi-B	2.	Lilari OCP	2.	Tikak
3.	Bina	3.	Samleshwari OCP		
4.	Jayant	4.	Lakhanpur OCP		
5.	Kakri	5.	Belpahar OCP		
6.	Dudhichua	6.	Jagannath OCP		
7.	Amlohri	7.	Anata OCP		
8.	Nigahi	8.	Balanda OCP		
9.	Khadia	9.	Lingaraj OCP		

Statement-II*SEB's/PU's wise Outstanding dues as on 31.10.98*

SEB's/PCs	Disputed	Undisputed	Total
BSEB	61.53	268.93	330.46
UPSEB	48.25	458.37	506.82
PSEB	202.76	64.75	267.51
TNEB	93.21	176.73	269.94
HSEB	23.54	102.68	126.22
RSEB	7.32	80.38	87.70
MSEB	437.62	248.26	685.88
MPEB	41.89	425.43	467.32
GEB	27.94	470.52	498.46
WBSEB WBPDC DPL	198.93	216.69	415.62
APEB	4.44	2.32	6.76
ASEB	—	0.29	0.29
KPCL	6.41	39.44	45.85
DVC	96.84	(-)12.21	84.63
DVB	19.05	11.99	31.04
BTPS	273.29	274.29	547.58
NTPC	89.58	106.81	196.39
CESC	1.19	30.53	31.72
AEC	18.22	18.57	36.79
BSES	0.03	1.14	1.17
OTHERS	0.22	19.12	19.34
GRAND TOTAL	1652.26	3005.03	4657.29

*[English]***Relaxation in Sanctions**

1011. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the reported release of IMF-aid of Pakistan only

despite imposition of sanctions against India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the serial nuclear Tests by the two countries in May this year;

(b) if so, whether US has supported the Pakistan in this matter;

(c) if so, whether such IMF aid has been resumed in respect of India also, and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to persuade IMF, World Bank and other international financial organisations to correspondingly relax the sanctions against India as well?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : While discussions are going on between Government of Pakistan and the IMF for resumption of IMF assistance, no formal decision has yet been made.

(b) the question of US support will arise only when the item is brought to the Executive Board for a decision; and

(c) and (d) Since India is not on any IMF programme, the question of resumption of IMF aid to India does not arise.

Economic Problems of Developing Countries

1012. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN Secretary General in his address to the annual ministerial meeting of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China stressed the need for evolving global solutions of economic problems of developing countries;

(b) if so, India's response thereto;

(c) the decision taken thereon for revitalising the economy of the G-77, developing countries; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) India has put forward the following strategy to ensure a more benign and equitable international economic order for developing countries:

(i) Bring back the focus on Inter-Governmental action and the concept of international public good into global economic policy making an attempt to make sound national governance and the role of multinational corporations complementary to it.

- (ii) Persuade our developed country partners to factor our specific developmental dilemmas and special requirements into global economic policy-making not only for our sakes but as their investment in reaping our potential as big and growing markets as well as locomotive economies.
- (iii) Revive the traditional development cooperation agenda consisting of fundamental issues of concessional resource transfers, favourable technology transfers and special and differential treatment in trade to developing countries, blending this with the new agenda and demands of liberalisation.
- (iv) Continuously evaluate globalisation and its processes and identify ways of effective and just governance of globalisation, seeking wide-ranging overhaul of systems and institutions and ensure involvement of developing countries in decision-making and benchmark-setting.
- (v) Put in place necessary safeguards to help developing countries protect their food, energy and social security and their access to international markets and finance at all times without being held hostage to globalisation or whims of developed countries.
- (vi) Make our intervention for reinvigoration of development cooperation and sound international global governance, issue and event-specific, present it in a positive spirit of engagement, mutual benefit and practicality.

The G-77 meeting underscored the need to revive and promote a more meaningful North-South dialogue on economic cooperation and development. It called for full and effective participation of the developing countries in the process of decision making, standard setting and in the resolution of world economic problems through strengthening multilateralism aimed at promoting equitable growth in the world economy. The meeting also underlined the importance of addressing the various issues of financing for development more squarely with the aim of devising a comprehensive approach that revitalizes international development cooperation.

Fiscal Deficit

1013. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to lower the rate of inflation;
- (b) the specific plan formulated by the Government to reduce the fiscal deficit; and
- (c) the short term measures proposed to be adopted by the Government to achieve 6% growth of GDP?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) A number of policy initiatives have been taken by the Government to check the prices. State Governments were requested to take action against hoarders, black

marketees, anti-social elements. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oils from 25% to 15% to moderate further the prices of edible oils. Govt. itself is importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil for supply through PDS. Import of pulses are allowed under OGL and export has now been banned and import duty of 10% on pulses has been abolished. Export of Onions has been banned and it's imports has been allowed under OGL duty free to increase domestic availability. Some States, especially Delhi arranged the supply of onions through the retail outlets such as Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Dairy etc.

(b) Measures taken by the Government to reduce fiscal deficit includes augmentation of revenue receipts by widening the tax base, rationalisation of tax structure and controlling expenditure.

(c) The Government is constantly monitoring the growth rate of GDP. A number of steps have recently been announced for boosting the economic growth.

Economic Sanctions

1014. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since made an assessment of the impact of sanctions (in the Post Pokharan context) on the financial and economic scenario of the country;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) the extent to which the economy has slow-down due to these sanctions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the sanctions/suspensions of official loans were mostly applicable to new loans, the disbursements of loans already agreed upon were by and large unaffected. The impact on the economy and on on-going projects was quite limited.

(d) The general approach of the Government in countering the effect of 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 substitute for whatever reduction takes place in official flows. To this end the Government is pursuing its stated policies of encouraging inflows of foreign direct investment or NRI flows and

ensuring that our economic situation is strong and such as to create confidence in financial markets. It is also expediting various programmes and changes which will improve the general climate for investment, growth and equity.

Assistance to Handloom Weavers

1015. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :

SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2749 on July 3, 1998 and state :

(a) whether a High Power Committee on handlooms has made recommendations for giving assistance to handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Bihar for providing assistance to handloom weavers in the State; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central assistance for Rs. 233760 under New Insurance Scheme during 1998-99 covering 3896 weavers and Rs. 8,50,000 under project Package Scheme have been released to State Government of Bihar. However, proposals for Rs. 22.58 lakhs under Market Development Assistance/Rebate claims were returned to Government of Bihar for State Share release order and Utilisation Certificates for earlier releases.

Statement

Details of Main Recommendations of High Powered Committee on Handloom Sector and Action thereof.

1. All major handloom concentrated States may set up a separate Department of Handlooms, State Handloom Corporations and Apex Societies should be revitalised by providing suitable rehabilitation package.

The State Governments have been requested to set up separate department wherever these have not been formed yet.

2. A National Handloom Credit Fund with a Corpus of atleast of Rs. 500 crores may be set up for providing credit to the weavers outside the co-operative fold.

A study has been entrusted to Agriculture Finance Corporation to go into various aspects of problems of weavers.

3. NABARD may consider waiving the provisions with regard to the guarantee cover in respect of limits sanctioned. Loss Guarantee Scheme may be introduced to protect the interest of the Banks. The Credit for trading in yarn may also be re-financed at 9½% interest rate.

NABARD has provided refinance facility for banks for working Capital requirement of handloom weavers and for providing additional credit limit. NABARD has made a major shift in policy for sanction of credit limit to certain categories of scheduled State Cooperative Banks without the requirements of State Government guarantees in respect of good working banks and societies. Refinance to commercial banks for working capital requirements of handloom weavers has also been provided for. The rate of interest has been reduced on refinance. Reduction in interest rates have been made for marketing activities and trading in yarn.

4. All State Governments may exempt Hank Yarn and Handloom products from any tax, including sales tax and octroi.

The State Governments have been requested to consider exemption of hank yarn and handloom products from any Tax etc.

5. Marketing complexes including handloom haats and permanent exhibition sites at Village, sub-division, district and town level in large numbers may be set up by the Central/State Governments or their agencies.

Marketing Complexes have been set up in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Mumbai, Indore, Cochin, Calcutta and Kollam.

6. A comprehensive project package for development of exportable products should be developed.

A budget provision of Rs. 500 lakhs was made during 1998-99 under the scheme for Handloom Export.

7. Calamity Relief Scheme may be introduced to provide support for purchase of handlooms and other accessories, subsidy on purchase of Hank Yarn under Yarn Subsidy Scheme, enhanced availability of credit, ensured buy-back of production and to provide immediate relief under various ongoing schemes of the State Governments.

The New Insurance Scheme has been introduced wherein calamity relief together with accidental death, loss and damage of dwelling units due to flood, fire and earth quake has been included.

8. Welfare schemes may include all handloom workers and not just weavers. Coverage of Handloom workers under the Welfare Schemes of the Handlooms should be substantially stepped

up both in cooperative and outside the cooperative fold.

Under the Category of Welfare Scheme, all types of handloom weavers can be covered under the New Insurance Scheme. It would include weavers in both cooperative fold and outside.

9. Special thrust under ongoing schemes of handlooms sector may be given for overall development of North-Eastern States, by providing additional financial input, where required.

North Eastern States are being given special attention. More than 10% of the total funds had been released to N.E. States. Special dispensation is being given under different existing schemes to N.E. States.

Coal Reserves in North-Eastern Region

1016. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the total reserves of coal in the North-Eastern region;
- (b) whether the Government are aware of the unique nature and various properties of the North East Coal; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government have taken to develop and utilize the coal for setting up coal based industries in the North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) As per Geological Survey of India's Report as on 1.1.1998, the total reserves of coal in North Eastern region are 889.81 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. N.E. coals are low in ash but have high sulphur content. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited has prepared a techno-economic feasibility report for setting up Bee-Hive Coke Oven utilising low ash coking Meghalaya coal for Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation. Project reports for production of coal based domestic fuels like pellets/briquettes from Assam coal were prepared but none has been implemented as an entrepreneur has come forward for investment.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

1017. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount and quantity of fruits and vegetables exported during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government have announced certain incentives to promote export of fruits and vegetables during the current year; and
- (c) if so, the details of such incentives?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The amount and quantity of fruits and vegetables exported during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Fresh Vegetables		Fresh Fruits	
	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. crores)	Quantity (Mts)	Value (Rs. crores)
1995-96	434401	301.19	109704	229.96
1996-97	498863	341.16	217753	241.17
1997-98*	NA	319.45	NA	268.98

*Provisional

(Source - DGCI & S, Calcutta/APEDA)

(b) and (c) Some of the steps taken/measures proposed to be continued during the current year to promote export of horticulture products such as fruits and vegetables are :-

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;
- (ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handlings systems (pack houses);
- (iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;
- (v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits;
- (vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;
- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-

seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

- (viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production quality control packaging, transport etc.

Post Shipment Export Credit Policy

1018. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to make some changes in the post shipment export credit policy;
- (b) if so, the details of the Feedback received by the Government from exporters;
- (c) the details of sector specific post shipment export credit policy formulated under consideration as on date; and
- (d) the details of system reforms in delivery of export credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

(c) and (d) The instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India on export credit are applicable uniformly to all exporters. No sector specific post shipment credit policy has been formulated or is under consideration as on date. Further, A working group has been set up by RBI on October 31, 1998 to examine existing credit delivery system and to recommend improvement therein to simplify procedures for credit delivery and to review facilities available to exporters. The working group is expected to submit its recommendations to Reserve Bank of India by December, 31, 1998.

Foreign Technology in SSIs

1019. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for the use of foreign technology in the small scale industries (SSIs) in the country, particularly in Gujarat; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal for the use of foreign technology in Small Scale Industries. However, as per the New Industrial Policy, 1991, use of foreign technology is freely permitted in all sectors of industry and there is no discrimination for its use in Small Scale Industries vis-a-vis other industries. Automatic approval is given by RBI for all industries for foreign technology agreements within the following monetary limits a lumpsum payment not exceeding US \$ 2 Million, and for royalty upto 5% for domestic sale and 8% on for exports, subject to a total payment of 8% sales over a period of 10 years. All other proposals for foreign technology agreements are considered by the Government for approval on merits.

The industrial units which take advantage of technical collaboration cover all sectors, including the Small Scale Sector. With the access of the foreign technology, the Small Scale sector is expected to improve the quality of its products and be competitive.

Japan Aid to Sericulture Industry

1020. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bilaspur, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh and some other areas of Madhya Pradesh have been identified as important silk producing areas with high potential for sericulture industry;
- (b) if so, whether a massive Rs. 749 crore Japanese-aid 'soil to silk' project has been launched for promotion of the traditional cottage industry of silk in Bilaspur and other silk producing areas of Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the terms of the Japanese aid and other details of the project, indicating the technical or other contribution of the Union Government in the project?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project envisaged two phases. The first phase is for development of tasar culture on 4000 hectare of forest/revenue land and the second phase for development of Mulberry sericulture on 3000 hectare. The project cost of first phase is Rs. 117.10 crores and the second phase estimate is Rs. 631.45 crores. The OECF, Japan has now agreed to fund only first phase i.e. for development of tasar sector and only base line survey of mulberry plantation. Detailed design of development plan is to take place in the first phase. OECF has stated that financing of the remaining portion of overall project (second phase) will be considered upon receipt of fresh loan request by the Government of India and

successful completion of detailed study on the overall developmental plan and detailed design of the project by the consultant employed under the phase-I of the project as well as satisfactory progress and performance of the phase I. The loan agreement of the first phase of the project was signed on December 12, 1997 for 2212 million Japanese Yen. The agreement became effective from 5th Feb. 1998. The process of the implementation has started from 1st April, 1998 as indicated by the Commissioner Directorate of Sericulture, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) The important terms of the Japanese aid is that it will fund the project of the extent of Japanese Yen 2212 million against the total project cost of Yen 3995 million. The proceeds of the loan are available for following items:-

- (i) To construct and expand the necessary infrastructure related to the sericulture of tasar sector.
- (ii) To develop the plantation of tasar food plant.
- (iii) To construct and/or provide the reeling, twisting and spinning facilities.
- (iv) To provide the technical assistance for the rearer, reeler and spinner.
- (v) Consultancy services for tasar and mulberry sector.

The disbursement of the proceeds of the loan shall be made with the limit of the Japanese Government annual budgetary appropriation for the fund. The financing of the loan will not cover general administration expenses, taxes and duties, purchase of land and other real property, compensation and other indirect items. These costs shall be met by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

The borrower (Government of Madhya Pradesh) shall repay the principal amount of the loan in accordance with the amortization schedule as indicated below:-

Due date	Amount (in Japanese Yen)
On December 20, 2007	53,960,000
On each June, 20 and December, 20 Beginning June 20, 2008 Through December 20, 2027	53,951,000

Ministry of Textiles through Central Silk Board (CSB) will be involved in the training technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation of the project. These funds will be provided from the on going schemes of the CSB.

Import of Textile Products

1021. SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import of textile products in the country are rising;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the measures proposed to safeguard the domestic textile products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the DGCIS data, the import of textile products during 1997-98 amounted to Rs. 3116.25 crores (Provisional) showing a growth of 12.1% over 1996-97.

(c) In the various WTO agreements, there are certain provisions for taking safeguard measures against cheap imports to any member country, including India. Government has been closely watching the import trends of textile products and if the need arises Government would initiate steps for necessary safeguard action like imposition of countervailing duty, anti-dumping duty etc. to prevent the low cost import of textile products and to safeguard the domestic products.

Demand and Production of Salt

1022. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT :

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of salt required and its production in the country;
- (b) the percentage share of Maharashtra and Gujarat in the total salt production of the country;
- (c) the details of salt production in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the last three years, particularly by the salt industry of Kutch region;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase salt production in these States;
- (e) the details of assistance provided in this regard by the Government during the last three years; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The average annual requirement of salt in the country is about 110 lakh tonnes. The average annual production of the salt in the country is 135 lakh tonnes.

(b) Out of the average annual production of about 135 lakh tonnes of common salt produced in the country, the share of Maharashtra and Gujarat is follows:

Maharashtra	-	2%
Gujarat	-	72%

(c) The performance of salt industry in Gujarat and Maharashtra in terms of their salt production was as under in the last three years:

Sl.No.	State	Salt Production in '000 tonnes		
		1995	1996	1997
1.	Gujarat	8824.4	10403.5	10096.2
2.	Maharashtra	224.3	245.9	200.6

The Kutch region of Gujarat contributes over 45 lakhs tonnes in the total production of salt in Gujarat. Details of production of salt in Kutch region for last three years are as under:

	Salt production in'000 tonnes		
	1995	1996	1997
Kutch Region	4,524.4	4,995.5	4,586.1

(d) The following steps have been taken to further boost the production of salt:-

- No objection certificates are being issued by Salt Department for allotment of fresh lands for salt manufacture by the State Governments.
- Technical guidelines have been provided for laying out salt works on scientific lines with latest know-how.
- For increasing demand of quality salt for edible purpose, salt refineries are being permitted in the States.
- In order to ensure that salt works restart their production after being affected by floods, rehabilitation measures are taken by way of financial assistance to affected salt works.

(e) and (f) Assistance out of salt cess proceeds is given for various labour welfare and development works. These include provision of medical facilities, drinking water facilities, educational facilities, rest sheds and creches at work places and recreational facilities for labourers and their families. Details of assistance provided for labour welfare and development works in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	94.4
1996-97	72.7
1997-98	69.0

Ex-gratia assistance is also granted to salt manufacturers whose salt works are affected by natural calamities such as floods, rains etc. Details of such assistance granted in the last three years are as follows :

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	27.0
1996-97	39.5
1997-98	38.0

An amount of Rs. 3.65 crore has been granted during the current financial year 1998-99 as ex-gratia assistance to salt manufacturers whose works were affected by cyclone in June, 1998 in Gujarat.

Justice Dhanuka Committee

1023. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- the salient features of Justice Dhanuka Committee's recommendations;
- whether the SEBI has accepted in principle the recommendations of Justice Dhanuka Committee;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether all efforts are being made by SEBI to over-rule the UTI Act and to render a large number of domestic investors into the ordeals of stock markets; and
- if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The main recommendations of Justice Dhanuka Committee appointed by SEBI include consolidation of securities laws, expansion of scope of law in the securities market cover hitherto unregulated activities, precedence of securities laws over certain other Laws, sole regulatory agency for securities market, enhancement of powers and jurisdiction of SEBI, etc.

(b) and (c) SEBI has agreed with the recommendations of the committee with some reservations.

(d) and (e) As UTI is governed under the UTI Act, 1963, SEBI has worked out a separate regulatory framework for UTI under which all schemes of UTI introduced after 1st July, 1994 would be regulated by SEBI. The Mutual Fund Regulations of SEBI would also apply mutatis mutandis to these schemes.

Patent Based on Research and Technology

1024. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of patent applicants based on research and technology in Indian laboratories and universities preferred by Indian scientists and technologists during the last two years; and

(b) the number and the details/break up of patents granted in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) During last 2 years, 1225 applications for Patents have been filed by Indian laboratories and universities. At present these applications are at different stages of examination as per the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

Amendment in Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act

1025. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are moving for amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, in the direction of privatisation of coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the Government held any discussion with the trade unions which are against the Government's move;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The Government had accepted a recommendation of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy that any Indian company should be permitted to mine coal. This will require an amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow coal mining by Indian companies without existing restriction of captive consumption. Such amendment will not involve privatisation of any of the existing coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) or of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

(b) and (c) The proposal was discussed with the Trade Unions on several occasions. While the unions recognised that a demand supply gap will remain at the end of the IX Plan, they insisted that increased production by the nationalised coal companies should be made possible by increasing budgetary support to them. It was explained to them that provision of budgetary support to CIL has been stopped since 1995-96 and it is not possible to restore the support.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer given to paras (b) and (c) of the Question.

Agro Export from Andhra Pradesh

1026. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some thrust areas have been identified in Andhra Pradesh for exports during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to concentrate on agro-exports from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce has not specifically identified any thrust areas for exports from Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97; 1997-98 and 1998-99. The Ministry evolves plans and policies to boost exports of various commodities including agri products.

(c) The major agri products exported from Andhra Pradesh are Fresh mangoes and grapes, Processed fruits and vegetables. Poultry products, Fresh eggs and egg powder. Rice and meat. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have taken following steps for promoting exports of agri products from Andhra Pradesh.

(i) Organising integrated training programme for mangoes and grapes for the benefit of farmers in the major growing centres.

(ii) A study is being conducted to explore the potential for export of poultry products from the State and to suggest infrastructure requirement for development of export.

(iii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has granted financial assistance for modernisation and upgradation of one of the sophisticated abattoir in private sector in the State.

(iv) Individual exporters have received Rs. 34.67 lakhs under the various developmental schemes of APEDA for promotion of product in the export market.

(v) A dedicated facility for handling perishable cargo is being set up at Hyderabad Airport.

(vi) Tobacco Board has taken several measures for export of tobacco because of which 32% growth in tobacco exports in value terms was noticed in 1997-98. Exports in 1997-98 were of the order of Rs. 972.83 crores.

(vii) Spices Board has regional offices in Hyderabad and Guntur which implement and monitor programmes in the areas of post harvest handling and quality management of spices.

[Translation]

Toy Industry

1027. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Toy City in the country shortly with a view to strengthen the position of domestic industry in the international toy market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States where Toy Cities are likely to be set up and the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) There is no scheme of the Central Government to set up Toy City to strengthen the position of domestic industry. However, State Government of UP is setting up a Toy City in Greater NOIDA District Gautambudh Nagar.

(b) and (c) Toy city is being set up in 125 acres. 118 Industrial Plots have been allotted to Toy manufactures covering 31.05 acre of industrial land. An investment of Rs. 400 crores (approx) is expected in this area. Rs. 6 crore is likely to be spent to be spent on developing this "Toy City".

[English]

Recovery of Loans

1028. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks in the private and public sector have given loans without collateral security and that money is not being recovered;

(b) if so, the amount involved in these loans, bank-wise;

(c) the action taken by the banks to recover the non-performing assets; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the bank authorities who sanctioned/proposed the loans without collateral securities and in violation of the laid down norms. bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Banks have their own loan policy norms and laid down procedures for sanctioning of loans/credit limits to borrowers. The policy of each bank is approved by its Board of Directors. The sanctioning authority has to ensure the safety of bank's funds whether by acceptance of collateral security or otherwise and in case advances turn into non performing assets (NPA), the staff accountability aspect is required to be looked into. Banks also have their own internal procedures and mechanisms for recovery of loan/reduction in NPAs. However, the NPA levels are under constant watch of RBI under off-site monitoring system and financial inspections. Banks are required to examine staff accountability in the normal course at the time of writing off at NPAs. Wherever staff accountability is established the bank takes appropriate action under the conduct rules.

Import of Paper

1029. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import of news print and other paper related materials during the last two years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the burden on Environment regarding the usage of raw material from the Paper Industry; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in developing recycled paper bags in lieu of plastic bags?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The details of import of news print and other paper related materials during the last two years are as under :-

	Quantity in tonnes Value in Rs. Lakhs	
	Quantity	Value
1996-97		
Newsprint	494038	109611.43
Paper board & manufactures	106553	67420.76
1997-98		
Newsprint	497611	99962.32
Paper Board & manufactures	304888	84461.24
1998-99 (Up to August, 1998)		
Newsprint	181986	43303.15
Paper board & manufactures	90762	38850.94

Source : DGC & S, Calcutta (Figures are provisional)

(b) The Government has been taking necessary steps to act in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4.9 of the National Forest Policy, 1988 which emphasizes our forest based industries to raise the raw material needed for their requirement by establishment of a direct relationship between the industry and the users. The said provisions outline the main considerations governing the policy of the Government for the establishment of forest based industries and supply of raw material to them.

(c) For the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a Notification on 20.11.1998 framing the Recycled Plastics usage Rules 1998. The said Rules, inter-alia, provide the prohibition of usage of carry bags made of recycled plastics.

[Translation]

Shortage of Coins in M. P.

1030. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is acute shortage of coins of small denominations viz. Re. 1, 2 and 5 in Madhya Pradesh despite the same being provided at the counters of the RBI, Bhopal and soiled and mutilated notes are in circulation as a result thereof; and

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the shortage of coins in the country and has already taken steps to augment production and supply of coins. The Mints at Calcutta/Hyderabad/Mumbai are being modernised to upgrade their capacity. As a short-term measure Government imported 700 million pieces of Rupee 1 and 300 million pieces of Rupees 2 last year. The same quantity is being imported during the current year and supply position will improve further. Notes in the denomination of Re. 1, 2 and 5 have been coinised. The old notes will get replaced by coins in due course.

Writing off the Loan by Banks

1031. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount written off as bad debts by the nationalised banks during the last two years and the details of amount written off by each bank;

(b) whether the Government are aware that these banks again provided loans to the defaulters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The amount of bad debts written off by nationalised banks during the year 1995-96 and 96-97 (latest available) as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) In order to alert the banks and FIs and put them on guard against the defaulters to other lending institutions, RBI has put in place a scheme to collect details about borrowers of banks and FIs with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above which are classified as 'Doubtful' or 'Loss' or where suits are filed, as on 31st March and 30th September each year. List of borrowers (with outstandings aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits are filed as on 31 March every year are published. Information of such suit filed accounts as well as confidential information on other doubtful and loss assets of Rs. 1 crore is disseminated to banks and FIs in the form of floppies.

The banks and financial institutions are advised to make use of the aforesaid details while considering, on merits, the requests for fresh or additional limits by the defaulting borrowing units, their proprietors/partners/directors etc. The banks, at times, grant on merits, loans/additional facilities to defaulting units, etc. for revival/rehabilitation. Reserve

Bank of India has not issued any instructions prohibiting them to grant fresh/additional limit to the defaulters and banks and financial institutions are free to take their own credit decisions based on commercial judgement.

Statement

Bad debts written off by the nationalised banks during the last two years

(Amount in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Allahabad Bank	6.71	21.39
2.	Andhra Bank	1.95	37.42
3.	Bank of Baroda	46.42	70.17
4.	Bank of India	307.08	217.15
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	56.52	47.30
6.	Canara Bank	169.49	18.20
7.	Central Bank of India	138.44	156.83
8.	Corporation Bank	19.13	0.94
9.	Dena Bank	51.92	58.76
10.	Indian Bank	115.94	10.28
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	75.01	375.73
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.82	45.22
13.	Punjab National Bank	53.14	150.34
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2.86	9.93
15.	Syndicate Bank	8.03	58.79
16.	Union Bank of India	38.81	30.57
17.	UCO Bank	110.98	220.57
18.	United Bank of India	36.51	65.48
19.	Vijaya Bank	13.26	12.72
Total		1253.02	1608.79

Assistance to Essar Group of Companies

1032. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3581 on 10.7.98 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the information is likely to be furnished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 requisite information is furnished in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details Regarding Loans to Essar Group of Companies

The public financial institutions have advanced loans to ESSAR Group of companies. As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) the institution-wise loans sanctioned and disbursed as on 30.8.1998 to ESSAR Group of Companies are as under :

	(Rs. Crores)	
Institution	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
IDBI	2141.99	1558.54
IFCI Ltd.	748.32	690.93
ICICI Ltd.	3370.39	2257.44
IIBI Ltd.	42.00	7.00
Exim Bank	208.15	183.86
UTI	764.02	729.20
LIC	264.80	235.70
GIC	147.02	144.92

It is not permissible to disclose the names of the companies in view of the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983.

IDBI has further reported that there have been delays in receipt of dues from some of the Essar Group of Companies due to temporary liquidity problems and that the Institutions regularly follow-up with the companies for clearance of overdue.

Economic Sanctions Against India

1033. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries which have imposed economic sanctions against India after the Pokhran tests and how the same is being countered by the Government;

(b) the impact of the sanctions so far and the manner in which the Government propose to tackle it;

(c) whether leading nations of the world found these sanctions useless and they are in favour of lifting of those sanctions;

(d) if so, the impact of these sanctions, if any, on the trade and commerce; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) The United States has imposed certain restrictive economic measures under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994. Measures announced by Canada, Japan, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland relate mostly to developmental assistance or concessional loans. However, most countries have exempted loans and financial aid, which is meant for meeting basic human needs. The Government is fully alive to the challenges posed by coercive economic measures and is taking necessary steps to safeguard the economic and national interests of the country.

The Government has been closely monitoring the economic measures announced against India and continuously assessing their likely impact, including impact to trade and commerce. Though any precise quantification of the impact of the economic measures may be difficult, so far the impact has been minimal. The fundamentals of Indian economy are strong enough to be able to withstand any pressure arising out of the economic sanctions.

India has all along maintained that unilateral coercive measures are unjustified, counter productive and impede free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. Major countries have themselves refrained from imposing bilateral sanctions and within the US itself there has been a substantial rethink on the efficacy of unilateral measures. This is reflected in the recent authorisation by the US Congress to the US President to waive a bulk of the sanctions against India and in exercising that authority the US Administration has recently decided to partially lift some of the financial sanctions.

[English]

Setting up of Steel Plant by MMTC in Orissa

1034. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MMTC Ltd. has entered with an agreement with the IPICOL (Infrastructural Production and Investment Corporation Ltd.) of Orissa Government for establishment of a steel plant at Sukinda area of the State;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement entered/ signed;

(c) whether the progress of works at the site is satisfactory as per schedule; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement between IPICOL and MMTC was signed in December, 1997 in which contribution of equity of MMTC and IPICOL is Rs. 100/- crores and Rs. 73/- crores respectively in the project cost of Rs. 1510/- crores.

(c) and (d) Progress of the work at the site is presently behind schedule by nearly four months. Efforts are being made to catch up the schedule of implementation. Brief details of the progress made at site in regard to fabrication, erection and construction work is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Site Activities (Fabrication/Construction Works)

Sl. No.	Main Plant Units	Activities	Unit	Cum. upto Oct' 98	Plan for Nov' 98
A. TECHNOLOGICAL UNITS					
1. BLAST FURNACE					
1.	BLAST FURNACE	Reurb.	MT	774	345
B. SERVICE FACILITIES					
I. CIVIL WORKS					
1.	Sinter Plant	RCC	m ³	1533	1200
2.	Blast Furnace	RCC	m ³	19561	3200
3.	RMHS	RCC	m ³	4961	2500
4.	Common Facilities	RCC	m ³	40	
5.	Infrastructure Water Supply	RCC	m ³	345	
II STRUCTURAL WORKS					
1.	Blast Furnace	Fabrication	MT	1668	814
		Reurb	MT	3418	250
		Erection	MT	2509	734
2.	Common Facilities	Fabrication	MT	345	203
		Erection	MT	271	131

Reurb : Reurbishing

R.C.C. : Reinforced Cement Concrete

Buy Back of Shares by Companies

1035. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has been clearing mode for buy back of shares and stocks without obtaining the prior approval of the Government;

(b) whether such regulation would be decisive in the matter of jurisdiction between SEBI and Department of Company Affairs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Companies Amendment Ordinance of 31st October, 1998 has permitted buy back of shares by companies. The Ordinance also provides that the necessary regulations in this regard would be made by SEBI.

(b) and (c) The SEBI (Buy back of Securities) Regulation, 1998 shall be applicable to buy back of equity shares of a company listed on a stock exchange.

[Translation]

Infrastructure Critical Balance Scheme

1036. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about a dozen industrial areas of Uttar Pradesh have been selected under "Infrastructure Critical Balance Scheme" being implemented with the assistance of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the Scheme;

(c) the effect of this Scheme on the industries in areas where the scheme has been implemented;

(d) whether the Government propose to implement this Scheme in all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, industry-wise, State-wise and the date by which and the manner in which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) In Uttar Pradesh 5 projects have been sanctioned so far under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIBS), details of which are given as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Project	Total Project Cost	Amount approved under CIBS	Amount Released so far
1. Power System Improvement Scheme, Moradabad	21.00	8.00	6.50
2. Road Connecting Babatpur Airport and Bhadohi	6.29	3.15	1.57
3. Infrastructure Development at Jajmau	5.42	1.75	1.25
4. Power System Improvement Schemes Aligarh	7.00	3.50	2.00
5. Power Improvement Component, Bhadohi	2.99	2.99	-

(c) The primary objective of CIBS is removal of impediments, particularly infrastructural bottlenecks to exports.

(d) and (e) As per CIBS Guidelines, the Scheme covers all States and Union Territories for its implementation. Projects Works for sanction under the Scheme are selected on the basis of proposals received from State Governments or their agencies and or Central Government Ministries and their agencies. The salient features of the Scheme are given as under :-

- (i) The Scheme covers any investment required for quicker and strategic removal of bottlenecks and for general export facilitation. The investment must reflect its linkage with export promotion.
- (ii) Under the Scheme, funds can be given to Central State Government Departments Public Sector Undertakings Other Central State Government Agencies. The fund would not be available for individual product units.
- (iii) The proposed investment should not be included in the Annual Plan of the Department/ Agency concerned.
- (iv) Proposed investment should clearly indicate the type of infrastructural facility that needs to be upgraded provided or strengthened. It should be viable and be completed in a specific time-frame.
- (v) The balancing investment or the funds sanctioned under the scheme should not normally be in the nature of a total project by itself but an additive to an existing or proposed facility.
- (vi) The proposals are considered by an Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary and having members from Planning Commission, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Surface Transport and Ministry of Finance. Representatives from other organisations may also be co-opted invited in appropriate cases.
- (vii) A Committee is to be duly constituted by the concerned State or Union Territory Government Agency, Public Sector Undertaking to implement and monitor each of the approved proposals. A representative of Ministry of Commerce is usually included in the Committee.

[English]

Development of Nagaland

1037. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Eleventh Point of the Sixteen Point Agreement between the Union Government and the Naga people, all developmental charges in respect of the State of Nagaland shall be borne by the Union Government out of the Consolidated Fund of India;

(b) if so, the reasons for deviation from the original commitment;

(c) the reasons for referring the plan demands of the State of Nagaland to various Finance Commissions in contradiction of Sixteen Point Agreement; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for the development of this most backward State?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Plan demands of the State of Nagaland have not been referred to the Finance Commission.

(d) The development needs of the State of Nagaland are taken into account by the Planning Commission while approving the Annual Plans and Five Year Plan of the State of Nagaland.

[Translation]

Loans to STs/Backward Classes by Banks in Haryana

1038. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks are not giving loans to those poor persons or people belonging to backward classes and the scheduled tribes in the rural areas of Haryana, particularly in Ambala region whose mud houses have collapsed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of persons given loan indicating the amount of loan given to each person, by the banks in Haryana during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Banks provide loans under various Government sponsored schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna (PMRY), Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY) and Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, which are administered by different administrative Ministries of the Central Government. The details of outstanding credit of banks in Haryana under different schemes during the last three years are given below:

IRDP

Year	Total families of which		% of Coverage
	assisted	to SC families	
1995/96	29771	14560	48.91
1996/97	17202	8424	48.97
1997/98	10853	5243	48.31

SLRS

Year	No. of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Of which to SCs/STs (Rs. lakhs)
1995/96	1300	121.28	114.96
1996/97	986	108.21	63.02
1997/98	758	74.98	10.19

PMIUPEP (Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme)

Year	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Amount (Rs. lakh) disbursed	Of which to SCs/STs
1996/97	SES SUS#	194	52.94	4.55
1997/98	SES SUS	211 169	55.38 55.73	11.50 1.78

PMRY

Year	Total Loan disbursed		of which to SCs/STs	
	No.	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No.	Amount (Rs. Lakhs)
1995/96	7199	3649.16	581	299.37
1996/97	6370	3348.74	491	240.36
1997/98	905	474.44	66	31.92

DRI

Year	Total Amount of loan disbursed		Of which to SCs/STs	
	Accounts (Actuals)	Amount (Rs. lakhs)	Accounts (Actuals)	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1994	3600	146.94	1104	53.58
1995	2198	79.57	544	24.25
1996	2158	76.82		(Not available)

(latest available)

: Separate data is not available.

SES : Self Employment Scheme

SUS : Shelter Upgradation Scheme

Delicensing of Sugar Industry

1039. SHRI S.S. OWAI SI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have deleted sugar industry from the list of industries requiring compulsory

licence under provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulations) Act, 1951;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no incentives have been notified that occur to the industry under the prevailing free licence scheme; and

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor and time by which the Government is likely to notify incentives to the sugar industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sugar industry has been removed from the list of industries requiring compulsory licence under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 subject to the condition that a minimum distance of 15 kms. would continue to be observed between an existing sugar mill and a new sugar mill by exercise of powers under the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.

(c) and (d) Government have not formulated any incentive scheme for setting up sugar mills under the de-licensed regime.

*[English]***Voluntary Retirement Scheme**

1040. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal which offer higher compensation for voluntary retirement for employees to speed up the closure of consistency loss making Central Public Sector Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) Government have approved a Voluntary Retirement Scheme package in respect of 10 Public Sector Enterprises considered unviable, under the administrative control of the Department of Heavy Industry. The salient features of the package are:

(i) Apart from terminal benefits like gratuity, provident fund, etc. and employee would also be entitled to an ex-gratia payment equivalent to one and a half months emoluments (pay+DA) for each completed year of service or the monthly emoluments at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

(ii) All those who have completed not less than 30 years of service, will be eligible for a maximum of 60 months of salary/wage as compensation. This will be subject

to the amount not exceeding the salary/wage for the balance period of service left (at the rate of monthly salary/wage at the time of voluntary retirement).

Amendment of Service Rules in PSUs

1041. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the service rules of public sector undertakings for taking disciplinary action against the retired PSU Officers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) As per the Articles of Association of PSUs, matter relating to Service Rules including Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules fall within the purview of managements of Public Sector Undertakings. However, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances have conducted a study on Vigilance Set-up in Public Sector undertakings which, inter-alia, provides for the PSUs to amend the CDA Rules for enabling disciplinary action being taken against retired officers in PSUs. The details are being worked out in this regard.

Outstanding Income Tax

1042. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of income tax outstanding against individuals and companies as on March, 31, 1998;

(b) the names of the individuals and companies against whom amount of income tax worth more than Rs. 50 lakhs is outstanding, till date, indicating the amount outstanding against each of them;

(c) the reasons for which such a huge amount is outstanding against them; and

(d) the measures taken to recover the outstanding dues from them with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The total amount of income tax outstanding as on 31st March, 98 is Rs. 21,168 crores against individuals, HUFs, firms and other non-corporate assesses and Rs. 20,062 crores against companies.

(b) As the list of names of individuals and companies against whom outstanding income-tax is Rs. 50 lakhs will be quite voluminous, the time and efforts involved in its presentation may not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(c) The reasons for accumulation of arrears mainly include:

i) the tax demands are disputed in appeal,

ii) demands are stayed under the orders of Courts, Tribunals and departmental authorities.

(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.

[Translation]

Setting up of SSI based on Silica Sand

1043. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Silica Sand is available abundantly in Dabhora region of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the scheme of the Government for the industrial exploitation of the above ore;

(c) whether, the Government propose to set up a small scale industry based on Silica Sand or any other industry in the above area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Deposits of Silica Sand are available in Dabhora, Uchiraya, Majhhaar and Pokargram areas of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Infrastructure facilities and incentives available for setting up small scale industries are also extended to the entrepreneurs desirous for setting up Silica based industries like silicates. However, no specific scheme has been drawn by the Government for setting up industries based on Silica Sand.

[English]

Tourism Circuit in Orissa

1044. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have presented a proposal to Government of Japan for creation of new tourism circuit at Kendrapara in the areas of Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri, Kendrapara, Hukitola, Bhitarkanika, Chandbali, Bhadrak and Jajpur in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 348 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, A project proposal for Infrastructure Development for ECO Tourism and Cultural Exchange, Orissa was posed to the OECF of Japan through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for assistance under OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) 1998-99 loan package. The total investment involved in the project was about Rs. 348 crores. The project had specific schemes for the improvement of tourist facilities and attractions in various locations such as Dhauli, Nandankanan Complex, Udaygiri, Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Pathrajpur, Langudi, Kendraparha, Hukitola, Gupti, Bhitarkanika, Chandbali and Aradi.

A fact finding mission from Japan visited India on 10th Feb, 1998 to discuss the project. Later the Department of Economic Affairs communicated to Ministry of Tourism in April, 1998 that the Govt. of Japan have identified Orissa Project as "not suitable to be financed"

Tax to GDP Ratio

1045. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'tax-to-GDP ratio' has come down in India in comparison with higher tax-to-GDP ratio' in many least developed countries;

(b) whether the record of tax compliance of the Indian Industry is not commensurate with the incentives and concessions announced in the current budget; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the industry reciprocates the Government's gestures in terms of tax compliance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The ratios of current tax revenue to GDP in India and selected low income countries in 1980 and 1996 are indicated below:

Tax/GDP ratio (percent)

Country	1980	1996
1. Burundi	13.2	11.2
2. Cameroon	15.0	9.4
3. India	9.8	10.3
4. Kenya	19.1	20.2
5. Madagascar	12.9	8.4
6. Nepal	6.6	8.8
7. Pakistan	13.3	15.3
8. Sri Lanka	19.1	16.9
9. Zambia	23.1	16.7

(b) and (c) The tax compliance is affected not only by incentives and concessions given to several sectors but

also by a number of factors such as tax structure, tax base and rules and procedures. Over the last few years Government has simplified and rationalised the complex and opaque tax structure in a calibrated way with the objective of moderating rates, reducing number of exemptions, simplifying procedural rules and regulations, achieving better compliance and widening the tax base. The budget for 1998-99 continued the emphasis on simplification, lower rates and greater buoyancy.

Subsidy to State Government

1046. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study was made with regard to giving subsidies to State Governments for procurement of food products recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy has been released to the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard so far;

(d) whether any suggestions were given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs in this regard;

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

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

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) No subsidy has been given to Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard.

(d) and (e) Government of West Bengal has been procuring rice under decentralised scheme from Kharif Marketing season 1997-98. Proposals from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have been received by the Deptt. of Food and Civil Supplies. The responsibility of the Govt. of India is limited to reimbursement of the differential between the economic cost of foodgrains of FCI and the Central Issue Price.

[Translation]

Offices of Tourism Department in Foreign Countries

1047. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the offices of the Department of Tourism functioning in the foreign countries;

(b) the achievements made by these offices during the last three years;

(c) whether their performance has been found satisfactory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have decided to open some more such offices abroad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries alongwith their location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Statement is attached.

(b) to (d) The performance of the offices located in foreign countries has been satisfactory. There has been an increase in the tourist arrivals by 3.8% in the year 1997 vis-a-vis 1996 and 1% in 1998 vis-a-vis 1997. There has been an increase in the foreign exchange earning by 13.9% in the year 1997 vis-a-vis 1996 and 8.1% in 1998 vis-a-vis 1997.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Location of Office	Country
1.	New York	USA
2.	Los Angeles	USA
3.	Toronto	Canada
4.	London	U.K.
5.	Madrid	Spain
6.	Paris	France
7.	Frankfurt	Germany
8.	Moscow	Russia
9.	Stockholm	Sweden
10.	Amsterdam	Netherland
11.	Milan	Italy
12.	Dubai	U.A.E.
13.	Tel Aviv	Israel
14.	Sydney	Australia
15.	Tokyo	Japan
16.	Singapore	Singapore
17.	Johannesburg	South Africa
18.	Buenos Aires	Argentina

Demand and Supply of Cement

1048. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present demand and supply of cement;

(b) the quantity of cement exported and imported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether production of cement is not enough to meet the demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Against the demand of 79 million tonnes for 1997-98 projected by the Task Force on Cement Industry, the industry achieved production of 83.16 million tonnes during 1997-98.

(b) The quantum of cement and clinker exported and imported during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Export (In Million tonnes)	Import (In tonnes)
1995-96	2.4	2521
1996-97	2.7	2944
1997-98	4.4	3855

(c) No, Sir. The production of cement is more than sufficient to meet the demand at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Income Tax on Newspapers

1049. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: Income tax collected from National Newspapers during the last three years, year-wise and newspaper-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : Up-to-date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Tourism in A.P.

1050. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified three centres for development of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has approved these centres for development; and

(d) if so, the total amount the Union Government

propose to provide to the State Government for developing these three centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has commissioned the services of Consultancy firms for preparing macro and micro plans for development of tourism in the State including Tirupati, Hyderabad and the Micro and Macro plans on Coastal Tourism.

(c) and (d) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Union Ministry of Tourism, on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Government, extends financial assistance for development of tourist centres. During 1998-99, the Ministry has prioritised 14 centres in Andhra Pradesh for central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 367.08 lakhs. The places are:

S.No.	Name of the Project/ schemes	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Wayside Amenities at Eluru, W.G. Dist.	19.44
2.	Wayside Amenities at Dindi, Nalgonda District	19.44
3.	Yatrika at Srisailam, Kurnool District	54.00
4.	Pulicat, Nellore	34.00
5.	Tourist Information centre at Baddhapurnima, Hyderabad	28.00
6.	Refurbishment of Monument at Kondapali, Krishna district	20.00
7.	Refurbishment of Monument at Chandragiri Fort, Chittoor District.	30.00
8.	Yatrinivas at Vijayawada, Krishna district	50.00
9.	Wayside Amenities at Puttur, Chittoor District	19.44
10.	Wayside Amenities at Jadcherla Mahaboobnagar district	19.44
11.	Wayside Amenities at Sangareddy, Medak district	19.44
12.	Wayside Amenities at Kamareddy, Nizamabad district	19.44
13.	Wayside Amenities at Ongole, Prakasam district	19.44
14.	Illumination of Qutab Shahi Tomb's Hyderabad	15.00
		367.08

On receipt of detailed and complete proposals on each project funds are released by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Security of Banks

1051. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Connaught Place Mein Canara Bank Ki Shakha Ka Tala Khua Mila" appearing in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated August 31, 1998;

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

(c) the officers found responsible for this and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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) An incident of burglary took place at Canara Bank's Overseas Branch at Delhi between the evening of 29th August, 1998 and the evening of 30th August, 1998. It is reported that some burglars entered the branch premises by cutting open the locks of the main door and decamped with hard discs and memory chips after tampering with seven computers. However, these PC Units/hard discs did not contain any data as the PCs were being used as terminals only. A few of the floppy drives and some of the locks of table drawers were also damaged. The estimated loss on account of theft of computer components is around Rs. 1 lakh. A complaint has been lodged by the bank with the police on 30th August, 1998. Police have registered the case under section 457/380 IPC but no arrest has so far been made.

[English]

Gold Deposits in Banks

1052. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks in India authorised to deposit gold alongwith names and location thereof;

(b) whether the State Bank of India is set to launch gold accounts;

(c) if so, to what extent this scheme is likely to save foreign exchange;

(d) the branches where such gold accounts can be opened, State-wise; and

(e) the main benefits depositors got therefrom?

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

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (d) Presumably the reference is to banks which are permitted to import gold. As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 12 banks have been authorised to import gold. The names and location of the designated branches are given in the Statement.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (e) The major features of Gold Deposit Scheme are :
- (i) The depositor gets a yield on the gold deposited by him with the Bank which will be closely linked to international rates.
- (ii) The physical holding in Gold gets converted into a financial asset in gold with concomitant facility of easy liquidity.
- (iii) Physical holding of gold has attendant problems of storage and security.

Statement

Name of Banks authorised to Import Gold and Locations of their designated branches upto 31.10.98

Name of the Bank	Location with no. of branches
1	2
Allahabad Bank	Mumbai (3), Ahmedabad (1), New Delhi (2), Calcutta (1), Bangalore (1), Chennai (1).
Bank of India	Mumbai (4), Ahmedabad (1).
Bank of Baroda	Import not yet commenced
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Import not yet commenced
Canara Bank	Mumbai (1), New Delhi (1), Chennai (1), Cochin (1), Ahmedabad (1), Bangalore (1)
Corporation Bank	New Delhi (1), Ahmedabad (1), Mumbai (1), Bangalore (1), Mangalore (1), Hyderabad (1), Erankulam (1), Calcutta (1)
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai (1), Mumbai (5), Coimbatore (1), New Delhi (3), Ahmedabad (1), Bangalore (5), Calcutta (3), Ernakulam (1), Hyderabad (1), Jaipur (1), Madurai (1), Pondicherry (1), Mathura (1), Meerut (1), Thrisur (1), Agra (1).
State Bank of India	Ahmedabad (1), Bangalore (2), Chennai (2), Calcutta (1), Mumbai (2), New Delhi (6), Jaipur (1), Cochin (1), Ahmedabad (1), Hyderabad (1), Tirupathi (1),

1	2
	Krishna (1), Visakhapatnam (1), Secunderabad (1), Nagpur (1), Amritsar (1), Chandigarh (1), Jalandhar (1), Agra (1), Delhi (3), Meerut (1), Pondicherry (1), Jaipur (1), Gurgaon (1), Faridabad (1), Bangalore (1).
Punjab & Sind Bank	Import not yet commenced.
ABN Amro Bank	Mumbai (1), New Delhi (1)
The Bank of Nova Scotia	New Delhi (1), Mumbai (1), Bangalore (1).
Standard Chartered Bank	Mumbai (1), New Delhi (1)

[Translation]

Waiving off Loans of Farmers and Unemployed Youth

1053. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to waive off the loans provided to the farmers and unemployed youths of Bihar amounting to the tune of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also propose such scheme for other States also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) It has been the stand of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India that loan waiver schemes tend to vitiate the recovery climate and credit environment. It has been observed that such schemes frustrate the efforts of banks in realising normal recoveries and defeat the initiatives for promoting rural banking.

[English]

Import of Rubber

1054. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of raw rubber imported this year;

(b) whether the rubber growers from Kerala have made representation to stop the import of raw rubber;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative price to the rubber producers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) During 1998-99 (April-August), a quantity of 11020 MT of Natural Rubber has been imported.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Import of rubber is already in the Restricted List and free import is not permitted. However, import of rubber is allowed against Advance Licence/Special Import Licence only, for re-export purposes. Import and Natural rubber from SAARC countries has been permitted w.e.f. August 1998.

(d) To improve the domestic price of Natural Rubber, the Government has ordered procurement of Rubber by the STC.

Scam in Indian Bank

1055. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 9, 1998 captioned "4 crore scam detected in the Indian Bank."

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such incidents in future?

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

(b) The Indian Bank has reported to RBI a fraud of Rs. 3.10 crore at its Jamshedpur branch. The fraud was detected by the bank on 17th July, 1998. The bank has reported that following a fire at the branch premises on 5th July 1998, an investigation was conducted which revealed that Demand Drafts (DDs) were issued without consideration and without proper entries in the books of the branch. It was also noticed that some DD leaves were missing and relevant pages of the DD issued register were either torn or not traceable. Enquiries with Service Branches of the bank and verification of unreconciled entries have so far revealed that DDs to the tune of Rs. 3.10 crore were encashed through the bank's New Delhi and Calcutta Service branches. An amount of Rs. 2.60 crore was found to have been collected in the accounts of two business concerns in New Delhi by

HDFC Bank Ltd. and Canara Bank. The balances in these accounts (Rs. 90.44 lakhs at HDFC Bank Ltd. and Rs. 1.43 lakhs with Canara Bank) have been frozen. The bank filed a complaint with the Police on 22.7.98. CBI was also requested to investigate on 4th August, 98. The police arrested the Assistant Manager of the branch and he has been placed under suspension by the bank. Police have seized 23,600 shares of one Company and a few shares of other two companies from one of the business concerns involved. Police have also reportedly frozen the bank accounts of a financial consultant and a broker at Jamshedpur. The Bank has also lodged claim with insurance company and alerted its branches regarding the missing blank DDs.

(c) With a view to prevent such incidents, RBI has instructed banks that blank demand drafts and mail transfer forms should be treated as security items and adequate safeguards should be taken against their pilferage and these should be held in the joint custody and balanced daily. Draft/mail transfers for amounts of Rs. 10,000/- and above should be signed by two officials jointly. Deviation from observation of this safeguard should be allowed only in exceptional circumstances such as one-man-branches or small branches where two officers may not be available at all the time.

In August 1998 banks have been further advised that all transactions in DDs/TTs/MTs should be segregated from inter-branch items. These should be reconciled at weekly intervals and large value transactions should be closely monitored.

Development of Handloom Varieties

1056. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for development of handloom varieties pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Receipt of proposals is a continuous process. However, utmost priority is given to considering valid and viable proposals, as per the guidelines of schemes supported with State/Cooperative Society/Implementing Agency financial contributions.

[Translation]

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Bihar

1057. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Bihar Government for construction of Yatri Niwas in the State;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon and the amount released for the purpose during 1997-98; and

(c) the places in Bihar where Yatri Niwas are located at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No proposal was received from the State Government during 1997-98 for the construction of Yatri Niwas. However, proposals were received for construction of tourist complexes.

(b) During 1997-98, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 233.07 lakhs for various Tourism projects.

(c) In Bihar, Yatri Niwas are located at the following places:-

1. Yatrika at Gaya.
2. Yatrika at Patna Sahib.
3. Yatrika at Deoghar.

[English]

Loan to Karnataka by NABARD

1058. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has announced 50 crore rupees loan to Karnataka recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the interest rate and terms of repayment and area of its utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not announced any loan of Rs. 50 crore in respect of Karnataka State. NABARD, however, provides refinance assistance to State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) on behalf of affiliated Central Co-operative Banks (CCBs) for providing short-term and medium-term agricultural loans. NABARD have recently sanctioned short term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) credit limits to the Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd. On behalf of the Karnataka District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Dharwad.

[Translation]

Identification of Coal Mines

1059. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted by the Government for locating new coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of coal mines located during the last five years in each State;

(d) the reasons for the poor condition of coal mines found in Sonebhadra district of U.P.;

(e) whether the Government propose to make available funds for this mine under the Special Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(d) Northern Coalfields Ltd. is working four mines in the district Sonebhadra and all these mines are working properly and also earning profit.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds in New India Ass. Co. Ltd.

1060. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employees of New India Assurance Company Limited died during 1997 and 1998 ;

(b) the details of the deceased whose dependants have not been provided with employment on compassionate grounds together with the reasons in each case; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to get employment in the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) As per Statement-I enclosed.

(b) As per Statement-II enclosed.

(c) New India has reported that these cases are likely to be cleared shortly in accordance with the rules and procedures of the company.

Statement-I

Details of employees died during 1997 and 1998

	1997	1998
Class I	9	7
Class II	6	5
Class III and IV	45	35

Statement-II

Details of the deceased whose dependants have not been provided with employment on compassionate grounds are reported as under:

		Reason for non-approval
Class I		Nil
Class II	1. Mr. Rajaram Dev. Officer	No Vacancy
	2. Mr. R.N. Dhagat	No Vacancy
Class III & IV	1. Mr. U.G. Rane	No Vacancy
	2. R.R. Saini	Consent letter awaited
	3. Mr. D.V. Thakkar	Papers awaited
	4. Mr.R.A. Mayekar	Under Process
	5. Mr. C.G. Mohanty	Under Process
	6. Mr. A.R. Kanwale	Under Process
	7. Mr. E. Dhanasekaran	Papers awaited
	8. Mr. A.B. Goregaonkar	Medical Opinion awaited.

People Involved in COFEPOSA

1061. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases have been registered against the people involved in the activities of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act (COFEPOSA), in the metropolitan city of Mumbai during the period from 1992-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people from Rajasthan involved in those cases;

(d) whether any action has been taken/is being against such persons under the Customs Act as well; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Shortage of Salt

1062. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was scarcity of salt in the market resulting in panic buying and steep rise in prices almost all over the country recently;

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

(c) whether hoarding of salt was done in certain parts of the country;

(d) if so, the number of businessmen arrested; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was no scarcity of salt in the market. As on 1st November, 98, the availability of salt in the country was 68 lakh tonnes. Out of 68 lakh tonnes, 40 lakh tonnes of salt was for edible purpose and 28 lakh tonnes of salt was available with the captive salt works for their industrial requirement. The monthly requirement of edible salt in the country is about 5 lakh tonnes. Thus the available salt stock could meet the edible salt requirement for the next 6 months and more. Further, new salt crop is expected to become available right from the beginning of January, 1999.

It was reported in the first week of November, 98 that apprehension of salt scarcity had triggered panic buying in some parts of the country and retail prices of salt were reported to have been shot up abnormally in some areas. However, due to timely intervention of central and concerned State Governments, the crisis was defused and normalcy restored.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has not received any report of hoardings of salt from the State Governments.

(e) With a view to ensuring adequate availability of iodised salt to the population at reasonable prices, the Government has initiated the following measures:

- Stock and wholesale prices at production centres are being monitored by the Salt Department on a weekly basis;
- The registration of rail indents and supply by the railways are monitored by the salt department.
- The Railways are ensuring clearance of the indents for movement of iodised salt on priority basis.
- The State Governments have been advised to regularly monitor the availability and prices of iodised salt and take corrective action in consultation with salt department.

Quantitative Restrictions

1063. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) for import of some items from South Asian Countries;

(b) if so, whether the United Planters Association of Southern India urged the Government to retain the quantitative restrictions for sometime keeping in view that the plantations have facing a glut and prices of Tea, Rubber, etc. have crashed to lowest level; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the domestic plantation industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) With effect from 1st August, 1998 India have removed Quantitative Restrictions imposed on BOP considerations, on 2307 items for import from SAARC countries only. This has been done to give fillip to intra-regional trade.

(b) and (c) Tea industry including UPASI have expressed apprehension about entry of sub standard tea into the Indian market and Indian tea being out priced by tea from SAARC countries. However, Orders and regulations under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992 and the Safeguards built into the SAPTA Agreement including Rules of Origin are considered sufficient to prevent surge of imports as also to ensure that only quality products are brought into the country.

Agricultural Export

1064. SHRI R.S. GAVALI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have developed crop specific strategy and customer markets abroad for boosting export of agricultural produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some foreign countries have shown interest and have offered to cultivate some vegetables for exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof and location chosen by them in this regard;

(e) whether some countries have also asked India to give help in growing pulses;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to lift some restrictions on agriculture produces; and

(g) if so, the likely benefits by lifting restriction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Strategy for export of agricultural products is determined by international demand and supply position, domestic surpluses, domestic and international prices, consumer preferences etc. The purpose of the strategy is primarily designed for enhancing productivity and production thereby generating exportable surpluses, producing goods meeting the international quality standards, technology upgradation, improvement in packaging, quality upgradation and product promotion in overseas markets through participation in fair/festivals and encouraging visits of business delegations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) The Policy of the Govt. of 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 updated 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, onions and sugar except for sugar, under preferential quota to European Union/USA.

Technical Committees

1065. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Technical Committees (TCs) in every district of the country to work out the crop loans and their uniform adoption by banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure easy flow of loans to farmers from the banks, particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) In terms of the standing instructions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/ National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), credit institutions are required to adopt a production oriented system of lending in regard to disbursement, supervision and recovery of crop loans. According to these guidelines, Technical Committees consisting the representatives of State Government, banks and progressive farmers have been constituted in every district for, *inter-alia*, fixing the scale of finance for each crop grown in the district. Cost of opera-

tions including imputed cost of family labour, agro-climatic factors, specific requirements of hi-tech and plantation crops, methods of operation, etc. are taken into account while fixing the crop-wise scales of finance. These scales of finance are being adopted by all banks in every district of the country to ensure uniformity as well as availability of adequate credit to the farmers. In so far as Gujarat State is concerned, the Technical Group meetings for fixing the scale of finance for different crops for the year 1999-2000 are being convened by various District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and so far 9 such meetings have already been convened.

RBI/NABARD have taken several measures to refine the various components of the production oriented system of lending to ensure easy flow of loans to farmers. These include preparation of credit limit applications by cooperatives once in three years and updating annually, fixing adequate scales of finance for each crop grown in the district by the District Level Technical Committee, allowing banks freedom to disburse the loan in cash to enable the farmer to have access to appropriate inputs of his choice, liberal security norms whereunder no collateral is insisted for short term loans upto Rs. 25,000/- fixing realistic due date for recovery of loans coinciding with marketing season, etc. Further, a loan of Rs. 11.19 crore has been sanctioned by NABARD during 1997-98 towards share capital contribution of the Co-operative Credit Institutions in the State of Gujarat.

Ban on Import of Silk

1066. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand from the silk weavers, reelers and mulberry growers of the country particularly from Karnataka to put a complete ban on import of Silk Yarn; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) To protect the domestic sericulture sector the import of mulberry raw silk is in the negative list. However, to provide quality silk to the exporters the facility of importing mulberry raw silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) is available. The exporters have been representing that indigenous availability of high grade raw silk is not adequate to cater to their demand. To meet this demand the Government had permitted import of raw silk through canalisation without an import licence vide public notice dated 8th October, 1998. On account of various representations received from different quarters against this policy decision for permitting canalisation since it was stated that such a step would adversely affect the domestic sector, the Government have rescinded the above Public Notice, and have permitted import of only Grade 2A and above mulberry raw silk under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the

condition that the CIF (Cost Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the CIF value of the imported goods.

Performance of UTI

1067. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several audit reports on the Unit Trust of India (UTI) had criticised the performance of the UTI and suggested overhaul of the UTI's working;

(b) if so, the details of the audit findings and suggestions;

(c) the reasons for the low performance of various schemes of UTI; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of UTI ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) UTI has stated that in the Audit reports relating to the previous years, the Statutory Auditors have commented upon areas relating mainly to reconciliation of items regarding Unit Capital, Inter-office accounts, Investment holdings and Income distribution-bank accounts. However, these areas were specific to schemes and not related to UTI functioning as a whole.

(c) and (d) Under all Income Schemes that have matured, UTI has given more than or equal to the indicative return. Of the 21 equity schemes launched by the Trust, 18 schemes have outperformed the Sensex (i.e. 86%). Other major schemes of the Trust like Unit Scheme 1964 (US 64), Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP), Unit scheme for Charitable and Religious Trusts and registered Societies (CRTS 81) etc. have paid consistent dividends to the unitholders.

Incentives to NRIs

1068. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear tests in India have affected the investment of Non-Resident Indians in India;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken to meet this situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage N.R.I. investment in India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no perceptible change in the investment scenario by the NRIs after the Nuclear Tests. During the period from May, 1998 to October, 1998, 46 approvals envisaging NRI investment of Rs. 441.85 crores have been granted as against 47 approvals envisaging NRI investment of Rs. 495.52 crores during the corresponding period in 1997. The country has also received investment of US \$ 4.16 billion from NRIs through Resurgent India Bond issued by the State Bank of India.

(c) The general policy and facilities for foreign direct investment as available to foreign companies are fully applicable to NRIs as well. In addition, Govt. have extended some concessions specially for NRIs and OCBs (Overseas Corporate Bodies), predominantly owned by the NRIs. These include (i) while no foreign investment is permitted in the real estate sector, NRIs/OCBs are permitted in the real estate and housing sectors upto 100%, (ii) NRI/OCB investment in domestic airlines sector is permitted upto 100%, while foreign investment is limited upto only 40%, (iii) NRI/OCB are permitted to invest upto 40% in the banking sector whereas foreign equity other than investment by multilateral financial institutions is permitted only upto 20%, (iv) while foreign equity and OCB equity is limited upto 24% in the case of SSI units, NRIs can invest beyond 24% in such units in the first instance provided they do not have a stake in any other industrial undertaking; and (v) NRI/OCB can invest upto 100% in industries/items included in Annexure-III of the Manual on Industrial Policy and Procedures.

Loans to State Governments

1069. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of World Bank Loan sanctioned to the States during the Seventh and Eighth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted to sanction World Bank loan to the States;

(c) the total internal/external credit taken by different States from the Centre, financial institutions, World Bank and other international financial institutions, as on date;

(d) the annual interest paid by each State towards the loan taken by them;

(e) whether some State Governments are not able to repay the loan; and

(f) if so, the details of relaxation provided to them for the refund of loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT

SINHA) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dearness Allowance

1070. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to arrest the rise in the price of the essential commodities;

(b) how far the prices of various consumer items have since come down as a result thereof;

(c) how it has reflected on the cost of living index;

(d) whether any additional instalments of D.A. have fallen due to Central Government employees in the light thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) A number of policy initiatives, such as (1) reduction of the duty on imports of edible oils from 25% to 15% (ii) import of edible oil for supply through the Public Distribution System; (iii) imposition of a ban on export of pulses and onions; (iv) abolition of the 10% duty applicable on import of pulses and grant of permission to import pulses and onions, free of duty, under Open General Licence (OGL) to increase domestic availability, etc., have been taken by the Central Government to arrest the rise in prices of essential commodities.

(b) Some downward movement in vegetable prices is being observed from November, 1998.

(c) The high relative weight of food items in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has caused the inflation rate based on CPI to escalate to about twice the rate of the wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation.

(d) and (e) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year and such revised rates are applicable with effect from 1st January and 1st July. The next instalment of Dearness Allowance is, therefore, due only from 1st January 1999.

Assistance sought by Kerala

1071. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of textile mills in the public and private sector, respectively in Kerala;
- (b) the number of persons employed in these mills, sector-wise;
- (c) the number of mills which have been closed down in the State due to financial crunch;
- (d) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government for assistance and relief measures;
- (e) if so, the details of assistance and relief sought; and
- (f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The number of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills in the public and private sector in Kerala and number of persons employed, sector-wise (as on 31.3.1998) is as under :-

Sector	Number of mills	Number of persons employed
Public (Central)	4	2,950
Public(State)	9	4,183
Private	19	9,860
Co-op.	4	2,385
Total	36	19,378

- (c) No mill has been closed due to financial crunch in Kerala.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) and (f) A statement is attached.

Statement

Minister for Industries and Social Welfare, State Government of Kerala has requested assistance in respect of following items for rejuvenating the textile industry in Kerala:-

- (i) Reintroduction of granting interest free excise loan to sick units.
- (ii) Availability of credit at lower rate of interest at peak season.
- (iii) Rephasement of dues against long term loan:- To allow moratorium against repayment of term loans to deserving mills.

- (iv) Ensuring availability of quality cotton at fair prices.
- (v) Reduction in Hank Yarn Obligation.
- (vi) Extension of Technology Upgradation Fund to Spinning Mills.
- (vii) Extension of NRF to State Public Sector Units.

Items (i), (ii) and (iii) have been taken up with Ministry of Finance which are concerned with them. In addition, Ministry of Textiles has convened a series of meetings (including one chaired by Textile Minister) with representatives of banks and financial institutions and those of industry for discussing the problem of adequate availability of credit to textile sector. Banks and financial institutions have indicated extension of a helpful hand to the industry. Minister of State (Revenue, Banking and Insurance) also met the representatives of textile associations and representatives of banks and financial institutions to consider the working capital requirements of textile industry.

As regards (iv), Government does not intervene in cotton market unless the prices of raw cotton fall below the minimum support price.

As regards (v), Government have discontinued the linkage of cotton yarn exports and fulfilment of Hank Yarn Obligation for yarn sold in the domestic tariff area.

A formal decision to the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is yet to be received, although beneficiary sectors have been identified and the guidelines for implementing the scheme would be worked out immediately after receipt of the decision.

As regards (vii), the matter has been taken up with Ministry of Industry as they are concerned with it.

Development of Tourism in U.P.

1072. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for further expansion and development of tourism industry in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) Development of

tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments and the availability of funds. The Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned financial assistance for various projects to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years as under :-

Year	Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	31.10
1996-97	237.78
1997-98	221.10

Subsidies on Export Credit

1073. DR. RAVI MALLU :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for sanctioning subsidies on export credit announced by the Union Government on June 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) the date from which this scheme is proposed to be operative; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India had decided, to extend to exporters credit under a special facility from 12.6.98 to 31.12.99. Under this scheme, the banks were to provide exporters Rupee Credit at 6.5% per annum for their exports over and above the level achieved in exports by them during the financial year April 1997 to March 1998. The interest rate of 6.5% per annum was to be applicable for Pre-shipment Rupee Credit upto a period of 180 days and Post-shipment Rupee Credit upto a period of 90 days. This scheme was subsequently withdrawn by the Reserve Bank of India, after discussions with Banks and exporters, because it was felt that it might be operationally difficult to calculate incremental exports, on which this scheme was based.

Infrastructure Status for Coal Industry

1074. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give infrastructure status for coal industry;

(b) whether the Government have announced any package of financial incentives and concessions to boost investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. However there is a proposal to extend to coal industry some of the financial incentives and concessions, which are being allowed to the infrastructure sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Frauds in Banks in Rajasthan

1075. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of frauds, embezzlement and misappropriation cases found in nationalised and private banks in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether such cases were probed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of persons involved in such cases and the action taken against the officials found guilty; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that State-wise data on frauds in public sector banks is not complied by them. However, the number of frauds reported by public sector banks to the RBI for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 and the action taken during these years against employees for their involvement in frauds are given below :-

	1995	1996	1997
1. No. of frauds	1890	1954	1796
2. Amount involved (in crores)	115.51	319.38	290.03
3. No. of employees convicted	33	46	57
4. No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1160	1207	1486

RBI has further reported that frauds involving more than Rs. 1 crore and above are specifically monitored by the central office of the RBI. RBI have advised that in January, 1996 a case of fraud involving Rs. 1.38 crores was reported to have occurred in the Jaipur (M.I. Road) branch of the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur in one of the accounts. It was reported that the borrower in collusion with the branch Manager fabricated the financial statements on the basis of which credit facilities were obtained from the bank and huge cash withdrawals were allowed in the account. The matter was reported to the CBI who after investigations have filed a case for prosecution of the Manager in Court. The bank has since recovered the principal amount of Rs. 1.38 crores.

Target for Recovery/Reduction of NPA

1076. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPA) in banks have been increasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Year ended	Gross NPAs	% to gross advances	Net NPAs	% age to net advances
31.3.1996	1474.34	7.99	747.42	4.61
31.3.1997	2542.31	9.03	1650.06	6.12
31.3.1998	4067.67	12.14	1848.48	5.60

It may be seen from the above data that the gross NPAs have increased both in absolute as well as percentage terms.

(c) and (d) The RBI does not fix any specific targets for reduction of NPAs of the individual banks. Reduction of NPAs to certain levels committed by banks themselves is an important component of the performance obligations, commitments of the 19 Nationalised Banks. Statement-I showing the reduction of NPAs of PSBs as on 31st March 1998 on account of upgradation, compromise/write off and recoveries of NPAs is enclosed.

(e) As reported by the RBI all commercial banks have been advised to lay down loan policy as well as loan recovery policy etc. prepared and duly vetted by their boards of Directors. Thus each bank is now required to have a loan recovery policy which sets down the manner of recovery of

(c) whether any target for recovery/reduction of NPAs has been fixed by RBI for individual nationalised banks and whether the same is monitored periodically;

(d) If so, the details thereof and the achievements made, bank-wise and month-wise;

(e) the procedure followed in the case of private sector banks to recovery, reduce NPAs and the amount recovered, bank-wise and month-wise;

(f) whether any action has been taken against the authorities in public and private sector banks who are responsible;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the amount written off during the last five years both in the private and public sector banks, bank-wise and year-wise and the level to which such a decision was taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the gross and net NPAs of public sector banks stood at Rs. 41660.94 crores and Rs. 18297 forming 18.01% and 8.90% to gross and net advances recovered respectively as on 31st March, 1996 and at Rs. 456.53 crores and Rs. 21176.18 crores forming 16.02% and 8.13% of gross and net advances respectively as on 31st March, 1998.

The details relating to NPAs of private sector banks are furnished below :-

dues targeted level of reduction (period wise), norms for permitted sacrifice/waiver factors to be taken into account before considering waivers decision levels reporting to higher authorities and monitoring of write offs/waiver cases. However, these policies may differ from bank to bank in some respects depending upon factors such as composition of the individual bank's credit portfolio, credit mix etc.

(f) and (g) Banks look into the aspect of staff accountability in NPAs at the time of the slippage of a credit facility further into NPA and also while examining compromise/negotiated settlement proposal, as a part of the loan recovery policy approved by the Board, and where considered necessary banks initiate required action.

(h) The amount written off by public sector banks during 95-96, 96-97 is given in the attached Statement-II.

Statement-I
Public Sector Banks - Reductions in NPAs as on 31.03.1998 (Provisional)

(Rs. crores)											
Name of the Bank	NPAs at the beginning of the year	Upgradation	% to total Reduction/rec. in NPA	Compromise write off	% to total Reduction/rec. in NPA	Recovery	% to total Reduction/rec. in NPA	Total of Reduction/rec. in NPA	Reduction/rec. as % to NPAs	Additions during the Year	NPAs at the end of the Year
State Bank of India	10961.54	716.00	28.23	667.00	26.30	1153.00	45.47	2536.00	22.12	3039.82	11465.36
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	454.99	17.51	12.53	59.66	42.70	62.55	44.77	139.72	30.17	147.77	463.04
State Bank of Hyderabad	849.42	75.65	21.73	117.52	33.75	155.00	44.52	348.17	36.09	463.42	964.67
State Bank of Indore	266.76	7.32	9.89	24.52	33.12	42.20	57.00	74.04	24.69	107.11	299.83
State Bank of Mysore	467.06	45.49	40.88	26.15	23.50	39.63	35.62	111.27	20.65	183.04	538.83
State Bank of Patiala	454.80	29.85	22.02	91.78	67.72	13.90	10.26	135.53	26.33	195.48	514.75
State Bank of Saurashtra	326.40	15.45	22.33	18.69	27.01	35.06	50.66	69.20	18.97	107.58	364.78
State Bank of Travancore	586.85	48.90	32.06	39.13	26.74	60.28	41.20	146.31	16.06	1470.46	911.00
Total of SBI Group	14367.82	954.17	26.80	1044.45	29.34	1561.62	43.86	3560.24	22.94	4714.68	15522.26
Allahabad Bank	1302.89	64.09	26.45	115.78	47.77	62.48	25.78	242.35	16.61	398.39	1458.93
Andhra Bank	365.68	4.46	3.91	81.44	71.38	28.20	24.72	114.10	33.43	89.72	341.30
Bank of Baroda	3116.00	77.00	8.44	419.00	45.94	416.00	45.61	912.00	29.14	925.28	3129.28
Bank of India	2275.00	231.00	24.87	310.00	33.37	388.00	41.77	929.00	34.81	1323.00	2669.00
Bank of Maharashtra	749.43	15.42	7.26	128.37	60.41	68.70	32.33	212.49	29.97	172.15	709.09
Canara Bank	3323.72	226.00	27.97	156.00	19.31	426.00	52.72	808.00	22.56	1065.09	3580.81
Central Bank of India	2520.00	76.00	19.74	147.00	38.18	162.00	42.08	385.00	15.95	279.53	2414.53
Corporation Bank	316.78	5.59	8.49	21.56	32.75	38.69	58.76	65.84	19.26	90.92	341.86
Dena Bank	674.21	160.00	51.28	67.00	21.47	85.00	27.24	312.00	40.27	412.58	774.79
Indian Bank	3303.00	165.00	47.49	23.37	6.73	159.04	45.78	347.41	10.13	472.80	3428.39
Indian Overseas Bank	1317.00	38.00	8.15	268.00	57.51	160.00	34.33	466.00	37.13	404.00	1255.00
Oriental Bank of Commerce	367.56	0.00	0.00	61.08	48.48	64.90	51.52	125.98	31.71	155.65	397.23
Punjab & Sind Bank	1089.90	34.58	17.66	97.28	49.69	63.90	32.64	195.76	18.84	144.76	1038.90
Punjab National Bank	2426.14	67.00	9.87	386.00	56.85	226.00	33.28	679.00	27.75	699.86	2447.00
Syndicate Bank	1291.78	9.98	3.65	102.24	37.36	161.44	58.99	273.66	23.09	167.17	1185.29
UCO Bank	1872.62	13.92	3.75	176.33	47.54	180.66	48.71	370.91	20.83	278.59	1780.30
Union Bank of India	987.80	26.41	12.55	16.47	7.83	167.49	79.62	210.37	17.61	417.30	1194.73
United Bank of India	1398.00	10.00	10.31	12.00	12.37	75.00	77.32	97.00	6.69	150.00	1451.00
Vijaya Bank	511.96	10.23	10.35	28.17	28.50	60.45	61.15	98.85	18.55	119.84	532.95
Total for Nati. Banks	29209.47	1234.68	18.04	2617.09	38.23	2993.95	43.73	6845.72	22.72	7766.63	39130.38
Total for PSBs	43577.29	2188.85	21.03	3661.54	35.19	4555.57	43.78	10405.96	22.79	12481.31	45652.64

Statement-II

Bad debts written off by the Nationalised Banks during the last two years

(Amount in crores)

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Allahabad Bank	6.71	21.39
2.	Andhra Bank	1.95	37.42
3.	Bank of Baroda	46.42	70.17
4.	Bank of India	307.08	217.15
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	56.52	47.30
6.	Canara Bank	169.49	18.20
7.	Central Bank of India	138.44	156.83
8.	Corporation Bank	19.13	0.94
9.	Dena Bank	51.92	58.76
10.	Indian Bank	115.94	10.28
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	75.01	375.73
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.82	46.22
13.	Punjab National Bank	53.14	150.34
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2.86	9.93
15.	Syndicate Bank	8.03	58.79
16.	Union Bank of India	38.81	30.57
17.	UCO Bank	110.98	220.57
18.	United Bank of India	36.51	65.48
19.	Vijaya Bank	13.26	12.72
Total		1253.02	1608.79

Bad Debts written off by the State Bank of and its associate banks during the last two years

(Amount in crores of rupees)

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	1995-96	1996-97
1.	State Bank of India	398.69	293.67
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	24.98	26.45
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	15.85	138.69
4.	State Bank of Indore	6.04	26.02
5.	State Bank of Mysore	5.72	12.09
6.	State Bank of Patiala	4.93	19.62
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	4.02	2.38
8.	State Bank of Travancore	28.96	36.29
Total		489.19	553.21

Yatri Niwas in Assam

1077. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Assam for the construction of Yatri Niwas in the State;

(b) if so, the funds allocated to the State during 1997-98 for the purpose; and

(c) the number of Yatri Niwas in the State at present, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) During 1997-98, the Ministry of Tourism provided funds for the construction of three Yatri Niwas amounting to Rs. 76 lakhs at Barpeta, Bhuban-Silchar and Betadrava.

One more Yatri Niwas was sanctioned at Guwahati in the year 1991-92.

In addition a number of tourist complexes, lodges and cottages have been sanctioned to the State Government.

Industries in Kashmir Valley

1078. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey/research for setting up of industries suitable for Kashmir Valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir have reported that they have carried out the following surveys/studies for the entire Jammu & Kashmir State including Kashmir valley:

i) Study of small industries development in J & K through Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad.

ii) Techno Economic Survey of Leather and Leather based industries in J & K through central Leather Research Chennai.

iii) Rehabilitation of sick units through Entrepreneur Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Losses of Banks

1079. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the losses in banks have increased due to negligence and malpractices of bank employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the remedial and punitive measures taken/being taken during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Public sector banks as a group have reported net profits for 1996-97 and 1997-98. Total losses reported by loss making public sector banks (PSB) in the last three years is as under :-

Year ended on	No. of loss/ reporting PSBs	Total loss reported
31.3.96	8	Rs. 2590.41 Crores
31.3.97	3	Rs. 678.96 Crores
31.3.98	2	Rs. 397.72 Crores

The principal reasons for some of the public sector banks incurring losses in the past included, *inter alia*, high administrative cost, low productivity of employees, high level of non performing assets and non adoption of technological upgradation to the required extent.

Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances, take effective steps for improving recovery of non performing assets as also reducing their overhead expenses. Wherever staff accountability is established, the banks take appropriate action in accordance with the conduct rules applicable to them.

I.T. Exemption to Cooperative Banks and Societies

1080. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Income Tax authorities in Gujarat are insisting that the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and Cooperative Banks should file income tax returns; and

(b) if so, the whether the Government propose to favourably consider the demand that these institutions which do not come within the purview of the Banking Regulation Act and which are not undertaking any business other than those specified in Section 80 (p) (2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 are exempted from the obligation to submit such returns?

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

(b) At present, there is no proposal to exempt such institutions from the obligation to submit income-tax returns.

Survey of Offices of Japanese Airlines by I.T. Department

1081. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Income tax sleuths survey Japanese Airlines offices" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated November 6, 1998;

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

(c) whether the income tax department have noticed some irregularities in the declaration of Income by the officials of Japanese Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 (e) A survey operation u/s 133A of the Income Tax Act was conducted at the premises of M/s. Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. Regional Office New Delhi on 8.10.98. The survey revealed that the Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. had not included the part of the salaries paid out-side India to its expatriate employees serving in India in its TDS Returns. Following the survey, a show cause notice for levy of interest u/s 201 (1A), penalty notice u/s 271 C and show cause notice for prosecution u/s 276B were issued to the company. Subsequent to this action, The Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. has paid tax and interest amounting to Rs. 1,76,51,821/- (Tax Rs. 1,10,77,808/-, interest 65,74,013/-).

[Translation]

Revival of Sick Units

1082. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any

scheme to revive the sick units like the Vidarbha Development Corporation, Marathwada Development Corporation and the Konkan Development Corporation and their subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought any assistance from the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Government; and

(e) if no assistance has been provided, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Ban on Export of Potatoes

1083. SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

SHRI S. S. OWASI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to ban the export of Potatoes, Onion and some cereals with a view to curb price rise of these items and decided to import pulses under Open General Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) the impact of this decision on the domestic market;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the loss of foreign exchange due to non export of these items;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the ban on export of these items will be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The export of potatoes has been restricted since 27th October, 1998. Onions have also

been restricted for export till 31st January, 1999. Pulses are already freely allowed for import under the Open General License. As regards cereals, exports are allowed with certain conditions/restrictions.

(c) to (e) It is considered too early to assess impact of this decision on the prices in the open market and loss of foreign exchange due to non-export.

(f) Decision to restrict export of these items will be reviewed keeping in view the domestic availability and prices of these items.

Collection of Indirect Taxes

1084. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lower collection of indirect taxes during the first quarter of 1998-99 has resulted in deterioration of the Government's finances pushing it to resort excessively to the Ways and Means Advances;

(b) the total excise duty grown up in the first quarter ending June 30, 1998;

(c) whether the customs duty collections which have been budgeted to raise 17.4% during 1998-99 have shown a decline of 0.7% against the last years first quarter collection; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The receipts of the Government have a seasonal pattern. Generally tax collections in the first quarter of the financial year do not match the expenditure of the Government resulting in higher ways and Means, Advances being resorted. However, the position gradually improves towards the end of the financial year.

(b) Total Excise Duty during first quarter ending June, 1998 was Rs. 9782.61 crore (provisional) as against 9297.09 crore (provisional) of the corresponding period of 1997-98 showing a growth of 5.2%.

(c) Customs revenue budgeted for 1998-99 is 19.7% higher than the actual collection in 1997-98. The collection in the quarter ending June, 1998 was about 0.7% less as compared to collection during the corresponding period of financial year 1997-98.

(d) All administrative steps are being taken to improve the revenue collection.

[Translation]

Taking over of the sick textile by NRI

1085. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in accordance with the policy of the Government to attract the investment of the Non-Resident Indians, some firms of the Non-Resident Indians have shown their interest in taking over the sick textile units in India for their revival;

(b) if so, the details of such sick textile units which have been taken over by the Non-Resident Indians firms alongwith the details of the proposals on which talks are going on ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) No concrete proposal is reported to have been received from Non-Resident Indians for taking over sick textile units in India.

Items Reserved for Handloom Weavers

1086. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items reserved for production by handloom weavers;

(b) whether reserved items are being manufactured by non-handloom sector also;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the non handloom sector from manufacturing these items;

(d) whether the Government are providing any marketing facilities to the handloom weavers and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government for selling the goods manufactured by the weavers in the market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Eleven textile article have been reserved for exclusive production on handloom namely; 1. saree, 2. dhoti, 3. Towel, Gamcha and Angavastram, 4. Lungi, 5. Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing, (including tapestry, upholstery), 6. Jamakkalam Durry or Durret, 7. Dress Material, 8. Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kambles, 9. Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc. 10. Woollen Tweed, 11. Chaddar, Mekhala/Phanek.

(b) Yes, instances of violations have come to notice from time to time.

(c) i) For effective and strict enforcement of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles

for Production) Act, 1985 and the Handloom Reservation Order directions to the implementing agencies i.e. States/UTs were issued as it is their primary responsibility to implement this Act in letter and spirit.

ii) Central Enforcement Machinery with its Head Quarter at Delhi and three Regional Enforcement Offices at Calcutta, Chennai and Ahmedabad has been set up.

iii) Powers were delegated to the Authorised Officers of the States/UTs Govts., Central Govt. and the Weavers Service Centres for effective implementation of the said Act/Orders.

iv) Targets are fixed to all the implementing agencies every year for inspection of powerlooms so that the strict implementation of the aforesaid Act/Orders is ensured.

v) In case of the Authorised Officers with their respective inspection team detect violation of aforesaid Act/orders by a power-loom unit/mill, cases are booked against such units as per the provisions of the Act.

vi) Financial assistance under the scheme for central assistance to the States/UTs for setting up of Enforcement Machinery in the States/UTs is in operation for effective implementation of the said Act/orders.

vii) As a result of above efforts, so far 3,76,726 powerloom inspections were carried out, 718 cases booked where violations were noticed and conviction took place in 5 cases.

(d) The Government is providing marketing support to the handloom agencies/weavers by way of organising National Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Product specific exhibitions, Crafts Melas and Setting up of Marketing complexes.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds to Orissa

1087. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make special allocation of funds for the undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the allocation of funds made for these districts during the last three years; and

(c) the allocation of funds made or proposed to be made during 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount released to the State Government of Orissa on the Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts (KBK) by the Department of Rural and Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources taken together for 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 stood at Rs. 164.03 crores, Rs. 181.82 crores and Rs. 193.28 crores respectively.

(c) The State Government has proposed an allocation of Rs. 606.51 crores in the revised LTAP for 1998-99. However, as some of these schemes are demand driven and others involve relaxation of norms, the actual flow of funds would depend on progress of work, etc. However, in order to ensure a certain level of funds to these districts, various steps have been taken including doubling of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and provision of an additionality of Rs. 37 crores in the Annual Plan, 1998-99 of Orissa for KBK districts. Further, Rs. 7 crores have been provided for emergency feeding programme and Rs. 2 crores for Mobile health Units under Basic Minimum Services (BMS).

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1088. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes offered by the Government to the Voluntary organisations, Co-operatives and Non-Government organisations and their eligibility criteria for availing of such schemes;

(b) the amount spent by the Government on all such schemes during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are considering to revise some old centrally sponsored schemes and introducing some new schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being offered by Government: -

1. Project Package Scheme
2. Development of Exportable products and their Marketing

3. Thrift Fund Scheme

4. Group Insurance Scheme.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AVAILING OF SUCH SCHEMES:

1. Project Package Scheme :

Under the Scheme National/State Handloom Corporations/Agencies/Federations etc. Apex/Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, Non Governmental/Voluntary Organisations fulfilling the criteria for assistance from CAPART having clean track record, record of good performance, elected management are eligible for availing assistance on the specific recommendation of the State Government.

2. Development of Exportable products and their Marketing :

National Level Corporations/Apex Cooperatives and Primaries etc. having capability for export and their marketing are eligible for assistance under the scheme.

3. Thrift Fund Scheme:

Weavers which are regular member of Society are eligible for assistance under the scheme. However, weavers outside the society may avail assistance if they organise themselves into satisfactory groups subject to specific approval of concerned State Government and D.C. Handlooms. Weavers affiliated to State Handloom Development Corporations will also be eligible.

4. Group Insurance Scheme :

All weavers whether male or female covered under Thrift Fund Scheme are automatically covered by the Group Insurance Scheme. Under special circumstance, subject to approval of D.C. Handlooms, weavers not covered under Thrift Fund Scheme may be covered under Group Insurance Scheme. The weavers Associations whose weavers are also covered under Thrift Fund Scheme will also be eligible to take up Insurance Policies for the weavers under the scheme.

(b) Statements showing amount spent by the Government on Project Package Scheme is attached Statement-I, Thrift Fund and Group Insurance Schemes is attached at Statement-II and on Development of Exportable products and their Marketing scheme is attached in Statement-III.

(c) and (d) The revision and introduction of new schemes is a continuous process and takes place as and when required in consultation with the State Governments.

Statement-I

*Statement Referred to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1088 to be answered on
4.12.98 Raised by Shri Dinsha Patel regarding Centrally Sponsored Scheme*

Project Package Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of State	(Rs. in Lakhs)			Total Released
		1995-96 Amt. Released	1996-97 Amt. Released	1997-98 Amt. Released	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	138.9100	402.5900	610.6400	1152.1400
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	246.2150	394.6700	765.8500	1406.7350
4.	Bihar	64.6800	6.2500	36.7500	107.6800
5.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	6.2000	10.5600	3.6000	20.3600
7.	Haryana	7.5000	24.5710	10.8900	42.9610
8.	Himachal Pradesh	51.3300	58.1850	79.1150	188.6300
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	47.0500	—	159.7450	206.7950
10.	Karnataka	12.1450	48.7100	51.1400	111.9950
11.	Kerala	225.2000	147.8100	518.9500	891.9600
12.	Madhya Pradesh	80.1600	39.9800	84.4765	204.6165
13.	Maharashtra	94.2800	6.9300	54.3500	155.5600
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	10.0000	—	20.0000	30.0000
17.	Nagaland	37.8400	372.8250	572.0600	982.7250
18.	Orissa	114.7300	87.4100	69.0825	271.2225
19.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
20.	Punjab	—	—	—	—
21.	Rajasthan	312.1975	17.7500	2.5000	332.4475
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	176.4350	103.4200	419.0315	698.8865
24.	Tripura	33.6000	4.7500	9.5000	47.8500
25.	Uttar Pradesh	42.3500	34.1000	419.2750	495.7250
26.	West Bengal	51.1800	18.6500	55.8000	125.6300
Total		1752.0025	1779.1610	3942.7555	7473.9190

Statement-II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Group Insurance Scheme			Thrft Fund Scheme		
		95-96	96-97	97-98	95-96	96-97	97-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14.01	16.00	-	81.50	90.60	135.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	4.04	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	-	4.13	-	-	1.00	-
8.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Karnataka	10.00	10.00	-	5.00	14.00	10.00
12.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	2.92	-	11.49	7.10
14.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Manipur	-	0.60	-	11.19	-	-
16.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Orissa	10.00	10.00	-	30.00	-	30.00
20.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	1.00	2.00	-
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	26.06	27.28	33.69	192.14	140.05	180.00
25.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	0.23
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10.00	-	-	22.50	-	1.14
27.	West Bengal	3.00	2.00	3.00	12.00	-	27.00
Total		77.11	70.01	39.61	355.33	259.14	390.47

Statement-III*Development of exportable products and their marketing*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Amount Released	
		1996-97	1997-98
1.	Assam	17.50	—
2.	Gujarat	—	12.50
3.	Haryana	14.00	—
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.60	8.75
5.	Kerala	6.50	11.00
6.	M.P.	7.00	27.75
7.	Tamil Nadu	—	13.50
8.	Tripura	17.50	—
9.	Uttar Pradesh	10.02	58.78
10.	West Bengal	—	33.50
Total		75.12	165.78

Note : The Scheme was introduced in 1996-97.

Internal Debt

1089. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is moving fast closer to internal debt tap with a back-breaking burden of internal debt shooting up from Rs. 48,000 crore in 1981 to Rs. 2,80,000 crore in case of the Union Government and all the State Governments;

(b) if so, the detail of internal burden, Union and State Government-wise as on September 30, 1998;

(c) the per annum growth over the past five years and projections of debt burden and debt servicing for the current year and the next five years, Union Government and State-wise; and

(d) the details of multipronged steps/comprehensive measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid internal debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The internal debt burden of the State Governments, its servicing and steps taken to contain the same is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The details with regard to the internal debt and other liabilities of the Central Government are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 RE	1998-99 BE
Outstanding internal debt and other liabilities at the end of the financial year	487683	554984	621437	718299	810911
Debt servicing					
(a) *Repayment of Principal	57562	66888	65444	74885	92595
(b) Payment of interest	40034	45631	55255	61550	70808
Total debt servicing	97596	112519	120699	136435	163403

* Excludes discharge of 91 day/14 day/28 day Treasury Bills, Ways and Means Advances, Reserve Funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions.

The data for the next five years will depend upon the additional borrowings in future and the maturities thereof.

The growth in the outstanding debt of the Central Government is due to recurring fiscal deficits which represent the gap between total expenditure (net of repayments) and non-debt receipts. Government would endeavour to contain the fiscal deficit during the current year at the budgeted level by maximising non-debt receipts and controlling expenditure, as also keeping in view its sustainability.

[Translation]

Export Industry Status to Tourism

1090. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAM DAS PATEL :

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to accord the status of export industry to tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the tourism sector is likely to be developed as a result thereof and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned;

(d) whether the Government have constituted any Committee in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as export house/trading house/star trading house/super star trading house vide Govt. of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 dated 26.11.98. Consequently they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I).

(c) The granting of Export House status and the consequential benefits thereof would help in the development of tourism which would ultimately result in higher foreign exchange earnings.

(d) and (e) The Ministers of Tourism, Finance and Commerce during their first deliberations had decided to constitute a Committee of Secretaries of the Ministries of Tourism, Finance and Commerce on whose recommendations the three Ministers decided to accord Export House status to various segments of the Tourism Industry.

Increasing the Limit of Loan for Agricultural Sector

1091. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to increase the limit of loans given by the banks to the agricultural sector is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s stipulation, the commercial banks are expected to lend to agriculture a minimum 18 per cent of their net bank credit. RBI has reported that there has been substantial increase in the flow of credit to agriculture from public sector banks which has gone up from a level of Rs. 18265 crores in March 1992 to Rs. 34304 crores in March 1998. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the limit of loans given by the banks to the agriculture sector.

[English]

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

1092. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial units sponsored/administered by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of works done by these industries during each of the last three years, till date; and

(c) the number of Khadi and Village Industries/Institutions functioning under KVIC were provided assistance by KVI Boards during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission generally provides financial assistance to institutions directly registered with it. These registered institutions in turn set up industrial units in their area of operation. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, there are 2060 registered institutions functioning in the KVI sector against 4869 in whole of India.

(b) The cumulative performance of all implementing agencies of KVIC for the last three years in terms of production, employment, sales and earnings are as given below :-

	(Rs. in crores)		
	(Employment in lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Production	4026.45	4880.00	5043.85(P)
Sales	4429.12	4814.00	5065.28
Employment	56.72	60.22	60.15(P)
Earning	1363.89	1532.55	1546.34

(c) The total number of registered institutions/cooperative societies and individuals functioning under various State KVI Boards which were financed from KVIC sources is as under :-

Registered institutions	—	4,869
Cooperatives	—	30,112
Individuals	—	7.80 lakhs

Gadgil-Mukerjee Formula

1093. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a formula called 'Gadgil-Mukerjee Formula' for distribution of plan assistance to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the formula takes into account factors like desert area, index of infrastructure, pattern of population etc.;

(d) whether there has been a demand for review of the formula;

(e) if so, the ground for the demand;

(f) whether the formula is being reviewed and likely to be revised; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The normal central assistance for State plans has been allocated among the States on the basis of a formula known as Gadgil-Mukerjee Formula, as adopted by NDC in December, 1991. This formula gives weightage to factors like populations, per capita income, tax effort, fiscal management and progress in respect of national objectives like population control, elimination of illiteracy, on-time completion of externally aided projects (EAPs) and land reforms.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have given their views on the revision of the formula and these views have been consolidated for placing before the NDC.

[Translation]

New Tourism Policy to attract more Foreigner

1094. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE :

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given its approval to a new tourism policy for increasing the foreign exchange earnings by attracting more and more foreign tourists and increasing their number each year;

(b) the details of points on which special emphasis has been laid in this regard;

(c) whether any special provision has been made in the above policy for making available all basic facilities in the States which are being neglected in the field of tourism industry; and

(d) if so, the details of such States which are likely to be covered under this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The draft National Tourism Policy prepared by the Ministry of Tourism gives special emphasis on (i) creation of awareness about the benefits of tourism, (ii) involvement of the private sector and the people in the development of tourism, and (iii) ensuring sustainability of development activities.

(c) and (d) The draft policy has identified North Eastern States, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Jammu & Kashmir, etc. as regions of special interest.

[English]

Export of Antibiotics

1095. SHRI K.S. RAO :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union has imposed five year countervailing duties against Indian exports of some broad-spectrum antibiotics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which these duties is likely to affect the exports;

(d) whether such duties were imposed in the past also; and

(e) if so, when imposed and how it affected the exports;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. European Commission imposed definitive countervailing duties against Indian exports of three broad-spectrum antibiotics w.e.f. 6th October, 1998. These range from 4.6% to 12% in respect cooperating companies and a flat rate of 14.6% for non-cooperating companies.

(c) The export of the targeted broad-spectrum antibiotics by the concerned companies will be affected. The export of the three antibiotics in the year 1997 is of the order

of Rs. 41 crores out of a total approximate value of Rs. 1200 crores of export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals to EU in the same period.

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

Industrial Licence

1096. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after the liberalisation of Indian economy, entrepreneurs in India are still facing numerous travails, in getting permits, licences and because of the red-tape and that excessive Government control is killing initiative of entrepreneurship, particularly technology entrepreneurship;

(b) if so, the whether any steps are being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to completely do away with licence raj and to promote technology entrepreneurship; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) After the statement on Industrial Policy was tabled in July, 1991, ushering in an era of economic reforms and liberalisation, Government has been continuously reviewing the list of items requiring compulsory licensing. Industrial licensing has been abolished for all industries except for a short list of six industries, related to security and strategic concerns, social reasons, hazardous chemicals and overriding environmental reasons. Even in these sectors, time limits have been prescribed and adhered to in clearing applications for grant of industrial licences.

In respect of new projects for manufacture of articles not covered by compulsory licensing or their substantial expansions, the only requirement is that the industrial undertakings shall file a memorandum in prescribed form to the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA) in the Ministry of Industry.

Automatic permission is being accorded for foreign technology agreements in high priority industries. No permission is necessary for hiring of foreign technicians, foreign testing of indigenously developed technologies.

Simplification of policies, procedures and practices is an ongoing process with the Government. Requirement of compulsory licensing has to continue for security and strategic concerns, social reasons and overriding environmental reasons etc.

[Translation]

Dereservation of SSI Items

1097. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to dereserve some of the items reserved for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has proposed while presenting the Union Budget for the year 1998-99 to dereserve farm implements and tools reserved for manufacture in the small scale sector so that the farmers can benefit from a wide range of implements and tools at competitive price and with requisite after sales service. Suitable action to this effect has been initiated for early implementation.

Arrests Under FERA

1098. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons arrested under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, (FERA) have since been released; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof for the last three years alongwith the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, data regarding persons arrested under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) are not maintained State-wise. Zone-wise figures of persons arrested during the last three years are as under :

	1996	1997	1998 (upto Oct.)
Ahmedabad	*	04	13
Bangalore	**	03	07
Calcutta	29	11	06
Chennai	47	31	15
Delhi	19	32	08
Jalandhar	28	23	06
Mumbai	100	55	22
	223	159	77

*Included in the data of Mumbai Zone.

** Included in the data of Chennai Zone.

Most of the persons arrested, are released on bail because FERA cases normally involve detailed, lengthy and time-consuming investigations, which do not get completed within the statutory period of 60 days' remand granted by the Courts.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1099. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have collected any data/conducted any survey to know the number of persons who took Voluntary Retirement have been able to generate self employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any concrete scheme to rehabilitate such persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) A scheme for Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment or rationalised workers is being implemented under National Renewal Fund for welfare of workers affected by industrial restructuring, technology upgradation and modernisation of Indian industry. This optional scheme envisages psychological and financial counselling, vocational training and follow-up service to facilitate wage/self-employment. As on 31.10.1998, 91,288 persons have been surveyed, 46,994 counselled, 33,242 retrained and 10,215 redeployed under the scheme.

[English]

Agitation by LIC Employees

1100. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation employees called for nation wide agitation against the proposed opening of Insurance Sector to both domestic and foreign participants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that a few employee's Associations representing Class-III and Class-IV employees have called for agitation against opening of insurance sector. The agitation programme, includes, *inter-alia*, observing a Dharna on 3.12.1998; a march to Parliament on 8.12.1998; and a one day strike on 11.12.1998 to protest against privatisation of the insurance sector and opening it to foreign and Indian private companies.

(c) A number of measures have been taken in the recent past to improve the performance of LIC to meet the challenges of competition. These include - enlarging the Board of the Corporation to its full strength, delegation of powers by the Government to LIC in the matter of investments, widening the scope of socially oriented sector to include more areas of infrastructure; delegation of enhanced financial powers to the Zonal, Divisional and Branch Offices to enable expeditious settlement of claims; upgradation of information technology including introduction of Metro Area Network system and Inter-Active Voice Response System in Mumbai, Chennai, and Bangalore with a further provision to extend them to other metro and big cities; adoption of a Citizens' Charter by the Corporation to improve customer services; strengthening the Zonal Claims Review Committees by inducting Ex-Members of judiciary etc.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Silk Yarn

1101. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that silk yarn from China and Korea is finding its way in Bhagalpur district of Bihar in large quantity and as a result, a drastic fall in the production of indigenous silk have come;

(b) whether the Government are taking any action through the Central Excise Department and the Central Customs Department to check the flow of foreign silk into Bhagalpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) There is no specific information to indicate that Silk Yarn from China and Korea is finding its way in Bhagalpur district of Bihar in large quantity, and that as a result there is drastic fall in the production of indigenous silk. However, the reports/intelligence available to indicate sporadic cases of smuggling of Silk Yarn from across Indo-Nepal border into Bihar.

(b) and (c) The field formations of Customs and Central Excise including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, are on alert to silk yarn into Bhagalpur. A Custom Preventive circle headed by a Superintendent of Customs, at Bhagalpur Town of Bihar is functioning from last two years in order to strengthen the anti-smuggling efforts on this sector. In addition, preventive parties of Customs (Preventive Commissionerate, Patna, are actively engaged in surveillance and surprise checks in the jurisdiction of Bhagalpur

district to detect any smuggling. The details of seizures of silk yarn effected during last 3 years by the field formations, of the Customs Deptt., within the jurisdiction of Bhagalpur District of Bihar, are as follows :-

	No. of cases	Qty of Silk Yarn seized (in Kgs.)	Value of goods seized Rs. (in lakhs)
1996-97	07	304.400	4.70
1997-98	13	931.900	21.74
1998-99 (upto Oct.; 98)	21	682.850	17.33

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Assistance to Bihar by NABARD

1102. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance extended by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Koderma, Giridih and Hazaribagh in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the areas in which investment has been made by the NABARD and the quantum thereof; and

(c) the policies being formulated by the NABARD to boost their investment in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 it has extended financial assistance in Koderma, Giridih and Hazaribagh districts in Bihar during the years 1995-96 to 1997-98, as indicated below :-

	(Rs. lakhs)		
Districts	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Koderma	12.552	44.572	72.957
Giridih	196.073	420.866	377.176
Hazaribagh	258.907	410.311	398.495

NABARD has provided financial assistance by way of refinance to various programmes, which include, inter-alia, minor irrigation, farm mechanisation, poultry/horticulture, dairy development, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Non-farm sector, Self-help Groups, and short-term loans etc. In addition, NABARD has sanctioned Rs. 30.24 lakhs to Giridih and Rs. 18.26 lakhs to Hazaribagh Districts under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-III for the year 1998-99 for

Minor Irrigation purpose. NABARD has reported that it has not received any project for sanction under RIDF in Koderma district.

(c) NABARD has reported that fresh credit flow has been affected because the recovery performance of the co-operatives in Bihar has been extremely poor (14%) resulting in locking up of resources in overdues. To overcome these difficulties NABARD has relaxed its policy and operational norms governing extension of short term refinance to cooperatives for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) like waiving of minimum recovery norms (40% of demand), waiving of 'No Demand Certificates', condoning seasonality discipline and shortfall in involvement of own resources by District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) etc. Further, NABARD has also started sanctioning suitable short-term credit limits of Bihar State Co-operative Bank against pledge of approved securities. In addition the State Govt. of Bihar has also been advised to submit technically feasible and economically viable projects to NABARD under the identified priority sectors eligible for financial assistance under RIDF.

[English]

Performance of Automobile Units

1103. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of various automobile units in the production of commercial vehicle;

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

(c) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production and sale of commercial vehicles during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Review of performance of specific industries with which this Ministry is concerned is an on-going are continuous exercise. Interactions with the industry are held from time to time at different levels and at various fora, particularly before and after the budget.

Details of some of the important meetings held during the last three years are as follows :-

- i) Meeting of the Development Council for Automobile and Allied Industries was held in September 1996.
- ii) Industry Minister reviewed the performance of the automotive sector in June 1997.
- iii) The performance of the automotive sector was also reviewed at the Prime Minister's level in October, 1997.

- (iv) A detailed interaction was held with the automotive industry by the Joint Secretary in July 1998.
- (v) Meeting of the Development Council for Automobile and Allied Industries was held on 6.11.1998 chaired by Secretary (IPP).

A Working Group set up by the Ministry of Finance recently also reviewed in detail the performance of the commercial vehicles sector of the automotive industry with a view to identifying measures required to boost the industry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for a sharp decline in the production and sale of commercial vehicles during 1997-98 were sluggish demand due to a slump in the economy and also the industry as a whole, inadequate spending on infrastructure projects, as also the international recessionary trend.

I.T. Raids on Multinational Companies

1104. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities in Delhi have conducted raids at Multinational Companies in the month of September this year and found Income tax irregularities worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the facts of the details thereof;

(c) whether the involved MNCs would be black-listed and they would not be linked with Government on business issues;

(d) If so, whether any further action would be initiated against them as per law; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No raids have been conducted by the Directorate of Income Tax (Investigation), Delhi on Multinational Companies in the month of September, 1998.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Joint Sampling of Coal

1105. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of joint sampling of coal at power station end was in the vogue in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the practice has been abandoned unilaterally by the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Gujarat Government has requested for the revival of the practice;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(g) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the system; and

(h) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (h) Upto 1982 coal sampling was done by the coal company at the loading end. In August, 1982, the then Ministry of Energy decided that on a trial basis sampling and quality checking should be undertaken jointly at the unloading end. Later in December, 1986 the Ministry of Energy decided that sampling and quality checking should be undertaken by an independent organisation under Central Electricity Authority (CEA) at the loading end. As the CEA could not implement this decision, in October, 1991, the Committee of Secretaries decided that sampling and quality will be determined by the Coal controller at the loading end. This decision was reiterated in June, 1995 by the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure with a modification that legally enforceable contracts are to be entered into between the supplier and consumer and sampling and quality should be determined jointly at the loading end.

Since most of the SEBs were not co-operating with coal companies in this regard a meeting was convened by Secretary (Coal) with the Council of Power Utilities and an arrangement has been evolved in principle according to which coal would be sampled by the same sampling agency at the loading end and at the unloading end. The concerned SEBs and coal companies would decide the agency which could be entrusted with the work of sampling of coal. The agencies for carrying out sampling of coal both loading and unloading end have since been identified. It is now for the individual power house including that of Gujarat Electricity Board and the coal companies to work out the ground details.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Bank Examination

1106. SHRI RAM/ AND SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of nationalised banks and financial institutions in which no option is given in the direct recruitment as well as departmental examinations to write the

answers in Hindi and the question papers are not printed bilingually i.e. English as well as Hindi; and

(b) the time by which an option for writing the answers in Hindi is likely to be given and the question is proposed to be prepared bilingually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

[English]

Facilities to the Exporters

1107. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incentives/facilities being given by the Government to the exporters of SAARC Countries, especially Pakistan under South Asian Preferential Trade arrangement (SAFTA);

(b) the details of incentives/facilities being provided by the Pakistan to Indian exporters under SAFTA;

(c) whether the incentives given by Pakistan are at par with the incentives given by India; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government for removing imbalances, if any, in the incentives/facilities being given by India and Pakistan to each other?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Negotiations for tariff concessions within the SAARC region are being conducted under the provisions of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) in successive rounds. Three Rounds of negotiations have been completed so far, with the Third Round being concluded on November 23, 1998. In these negotiations, the concessions offered by various countries are multilateralised except for those offered to LDC members only. The total concessions exchanged between the member States in the First and Second Rounds were 226 tariff lines and 1975 tariff lines respectively. Out of these, India had offered concessions on 106 tariff lines and 911 tariff lines during the First and Second Rounds respectively. In the Third Round, the member States exchanged concessions on more than 3000 tariff lines out of which India offered concessions on about 2000 tariff lines. Out of the concessions offered by India, only 43 tariff lines were available for non LDC member countries (Pakistan and Sri Lanka).

Investment in Industrial Sector

1108. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in industrial sector has been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the investment in this sector in Kerala is low;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith central investment in industrial sector of the State during each of the last three years; and

(e) the details of per capita investment in industry during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investment in industrial sector has increased in the post liberalisation period in comparison to the pre liberalised period as can be seen from the available figures of invested capital in industries as follows:

1990-91 Rs. 194913 crores

1994-95 Rs. 387535 crores

The total percentage increase over this period is 49.70%.

(c) and (d) Investment in industrial sector in Kerala was Rs. 6329 crores in 1994-95 which is 1.63% of the total invested capital in industry. Central investment in the industrial sector in three years from 1994-95 to 1996-97, in Kerala is as follows :

1994-95 Rs. 174.52 crores

1995-96 Rs. 195.10 crores

1996-97 Rs. 271.55 crores

(e) The information available in this regard is only upto 1994-95.

[Translation]

Value of Rupee

1109. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of rupee against the American Dollar has fallen drastically during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with the devaluation of the rouble, the rupee value against dollar has also gone down;

(d) if so, the extent to which the rupee value has gone down against the dollar as on the eve of rouble devaluation and immediately after it and month to month thereafter;

(e) whether the Reserve Bank of India had also announced a package of measures to boost the value of rupee and strengthen the money market and the economy; and

(f) if so, the details of the package?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar has depreciated by about 9.5 per cent to Rs. 42.53 per US dollar on November 27, 1998 as compared to the rate of Rs. 38.47 per US dollar a year ago i.e., on November 27, 1997. Since end August 1998, however, the exchange rate of the rupee has shown marginal appreciation against the US dollar.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In the month of September 1998, the Russian rouble depreciated by about 52.8 per cent against the US dollar. On the other hand, during the months of September 1998 and October 1998, the value of the Indian rupee against the US dollar appreciated by 0.55 per cent and 0.45 per cent respectively.

(e) and (f) The exchange rate of the rupee is market determined. The exchange rate developments are closely monitored both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). While allowing market developments to be reflected in the exchange rate considerations, such as preservation of improvement of external competitiveness, the RBI, as and when necessary, intervenes in the foreign exchange markets and deploys suitable monetary and other measures. The latest such measures were undertaken by the RBI on August 20, 1998 to prevent speculative sentiments from building up in the domestic foreign exchange market. These include: temporary increase in CRR from 10.0 per cent to 11.0 per cent in order to absorb excess liquidity; hike in Repo rate from 5 per cent to 8 per cent, with the provision to review the rate periodically keeping in view the liquidity conditions; withdrawal of the facility of rebooking cancelled forward contracts for imports; withdrawal of the facility for splitting forward and spot legs for a commitment, extension of time limit for repatriation of export proceeds to be allowed only in exceptional circumstances; and close monitoring of peak interaday positions of the Authorised Dealers (ADs). Besides, ADs were allowed to offer forward cover facilities to Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) to the extent of 15 per cent of their investment and flexibility was allowed in the use of Exchange Earner Foreign Currency (EEFC) accounts.

PAN

1110. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has made 'PAN' essential for opening a new account;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that as a result of this decision, common masses depending on small savings would be put to hardship;

(c) whether there is difference of opinion between this RBI and the Government over this issue;

(d) whether blackmarketeers would desist from opening accounts in the banks because of the PAN and thereby try to hide money; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 vide circular DBOD. NO. BP. BC. 110/21.02.051/98 dated 18.11.1998 has drawn the attention of all commercial banks to the notification dated 9.10.98 issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance relating to quoting of permanent account number (PAN) or General Index Register No. (GIR No.) in all documents in relation to time deposits exceeding Rs. 50,000/- with the banking company, contract of a value exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for sale and purchase of securities and opening an account with the banking company. The circular has also pointed out that those persons who do not have either PAN or GIR No. can make a declaration in Form No. 60 and persons having agricultural income and not in receipt of any income chargeable to tax can make a declaration in Form No. 61. The banks have been advised to get the Form No. 60 and 61 printed and stocked adequately in branches for the convenience of customers.

(b) There need not be any hardship regarding provision to quote PAN or GIR No. as a person not having either of these can open a bank account by filing a simple declaration to establish his residential address. The notification also makes it clear that requirement to file a declaration is necessary only when the specified transaction is in cash or otherwise than by a crossed cheque or a crossed bank draft.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The provisions are expected to be a deterrent against benami accounts entering into banking system and providing safe haven to unaccounted money which will now be vulnerable to search and survey operations.

[English]

Revival of ECL

1111. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ICICI has suggested steps to revive Eastn Coalfields Limited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of mines of ECL are non-productive;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether some blocks are to be carved out from ECL to form a joint venture; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to revive the ECL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In their Part-I report the ICICI has made the following recommendations to revive ECL;

- i) Phasing out of unviable mines.
 - ii) Rationalisation of manpower.
 - iii) Enhancing production and productivity from both underground and open cast mines.
 - iv) Increase of sales revenue by higher sales realisation.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The reasons are :
- i) There are 11 areas producing 38.94% of the total production of ECL but engaging 68.83% of the company's manpower. About 80% of the average annual loss of ECL is caused by these 11 areas.
 - ii) The capacity utilisation and per capita productivity (Output per manshift) in ECL are very low as compared to the other subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.
 - iii) Underground mines of the country in general, have much lower productivity than the open-cast mines. Proportion of underground production to the total production in ECL is high. The requirement of sand stowing in the underground mines of ECL adds to the cost of production. Majority of the underground mines are very old and a large number of them are being worked manually.

(iv) Many underground mines of ECL are having geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurrence of fire and water-logged old workings.

(v) The size of the mine determines the economics of production. By and large, due to the presence of various geo-mining problems, even after reorganisation of some of the mines, the average size of the mines in ECL is small.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (e) of the question.

Financial Assistance from Banks to Textile Industry

1112. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the banks treat textiles as not lending area;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to instruct banks and financial institutions to meet the financial demands of textiles mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Lending to any sector is made as per the norms evolved by the Financial Institutions under the general supervision of the Reserve Bank of India. Representations were received from certain textile industry associations about problems of credit faced by the industry. The Ministry took the initiative of convening a series of meetings including one chaired by the Textile Minister and participated by representatives of the Industry and the financial institutions concerned. During discussions, some representatives of industry stated that textile was considered as a high risk sector by Banks and Financial Institutions, which was, however, not admitted by the Financial Institutions. At the meeting, the representatives of Banks and Financial Institutions were urged to relax the norms for lending, wherever possible, to accommodate the present needs to textile industry. Minister of State (Revenue, Banking and Insurance) also met the representatives of Textile Associations and representatives of Banks and Financial institutions to consider the working capital requirements of textile industry.

Dumping of Steel

1113. SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some countries are dumping certain varieties of steel in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to impose anti-dumping duty on steel;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to save the domestic steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder has conducted anti-dumping investigations into dumping of hot rolled coils, sheets plates and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The Designated Authority has notified final findings wherein the Authority has concluded that :-

- (i) Hot rolled coils, plates, sheets and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have been exported to India below their normal value except for hot rolled coils originating in Kazakhstan, resulting in dumping;
- (ii) The domestic industry has suffered material injury;
- (iii) The injury has been caused to the domestic industry by the exports of the subject goods originating in or exported from the subject countries.

(c) to (e) The Central Government, based on the recommendations of the Designated Authority has imposed antidumping duty on imports of the said products.

[Translation]

Indigenous Industry

1114. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to give a boost to the indigenous industries in the field of raw material;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the facilities being provided in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Industrial raw material includes semi-finished and finished products such as steel, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, coal, etc. Government have announced various measures for infrastructure sectors such as roads, telecommunication, power, construction activities, etc. Implementation of these measures is expected to boost the demand of raw materials. Reduction in duty structure and tariff rationalisation are some of the fiscal measures intended to boost indigenous industries in the field of raw material. The Ministry has created steering groups related to sectors like paper, automobile, electrical products, etc. which are consulting with industry to suggest appropriate measures in this regard.

(c) The requirement of different semi-finished and finished products as indigenous raw materials by various industries are not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Industry. The demand of various end-users of raw materials depend upon their utilization in different sectors. Various schemes of the Government are intended to provide the necessary boost. It is expected that during the current year, the schemes will have a positive impact.

Appointment of Lokpal in Insurance Sector

1115. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to appoint Lok pal in the insurance sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the appointment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to appoint 'Lokpal' in the insurance sector. However, Govt. has recently notified the scheme of Ombudsman to resolve all complaints relating to settlement of claims on the part of insurance companies in cost effective, efficient and impartial manner. The basic features of the scheme are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Basic Features of Ombudsman Scheme:

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (i) of

Section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938, the Central Government has framed the 'Redressal of Public Grievances Rules, 1998', under which Ombudsman will be appointed for speedy and expeditious settlement of personal line of claims. The Ombudsman will have power to receive and consider any partial or total repudiation of claims by an insurer, any dispute in regard to premium paid or payable in terms of the policy, in dispute on any legal construction of policies, delay in settlement of claims and non-issue of any insurance document to customers after receipt of premium.

No complaint to the Ombudsman shall lie unless the complainants had before making a complaint to the Ombudsman made written representation to the insurer named in the complaint and either insurer had rejected the complaint or the complainant had not received any reply within a period of one month after the insurer concerned received his representations or the complainant is not satisfied with the reply given to him by the insurer.

The Ombudsman has been empowered to make a recommendation or pass an award in respect of claims on personal lines which are binding on the insurer but the complainant may or may not agree with the recommendations or award made by the Ombudsman.

However, the Ombudsman shall not award any compensation in excess of which is necessary to cover the loss suffered by the complainant as a direct consequence of the insured peril or for an amount not exceeding Rs. 20 lacs (including ex-gratia and other expenses), whichever is lower.

[English]

Entrance of LIC in Commercial Banking

1116. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India proposes to enter into the field of commercial banking;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it has set up an Internal Committee of three senior officers to examine the feasibility of LIC entering into the field of commercial banking. The LIC will take a view in the matter after the recommendations of the Committee are submitted to the Corporation.

Industrial Sickness

1117. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising level of industrial sickness in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Karnataka is causing concern in banking and financial circles;

(b) if so, whether according to a Report of Centre for monitoring Indian Economy, most of the Industrial Units of these States have to return a huge amount of outstanding dues to banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for sickness of industrial units of these States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Data of sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the latest available report as at the end of March, 1997, the position of industrial sickness in Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Karnataka and the outstanding bank credit is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) According to the RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, etc. The RBI report mentions change in Govt. policies as one of the external factors.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of Industrial Sickness which, *inter-alia*, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

Statement

Statement showing the details of SSI and non SSI sick industrial units in Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Karnataka and outstanding bank credit as on March, 1997

S. No. of the States	Name of the States	Category	No. of Units	Outstanding Bank credit (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	(a) SSI-sick	19360	764.53
		(b) Non-SSI-sick	340	1614.89
2.	Gujarat	(a) SSI-sick	6510	196.80
		(b) Non SSI-sick	174	583.67
3.	West Bengal	(a) SSI-sick	53451	371.67
		(b) Non SSI-sick	216	1033.43
4.	Karnataka	(a) SSI-sick	6937	203.26
		(b) Non SSI-sick	110	556.06

Expansion of Trade with Foreign Countries

1118. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign countries which have shown keen interest to expand their trade relations with India during the last six months;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposals in this regard from those countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Countries who have shown keen interest in expanding trade relations with India during the last six months.	Proposals received and Details
1	2	3
1.	Myanmar, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand Vietnam and Singapore	These countries have generally been keen to expand trade relations with India. Specific proposals discussed include proposal for Bilateral and border trade with Myanmar, establishment of a Joint Working Group on Energy with Australia, finalisation of a Bilateral Quarantine Agreement with New Zealand and entering into a trade agreement with Malaysia.
2.	Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of China (Taiwan), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea and Mongolia.	Trade exchanges with these countries have taken place through visits of trade delegations, meetings of JBC's etc.
3.	Russia	The Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission met in Moscow on 26-28 Nov., 98 and inter-alia, discussed several issues relating to expansion of trade relations between the two countries.
4.	Belarus	The Joint Commission meeting was held on 26-27 Oct., 98 at Minsk and wide ranging issues on enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation were discussed.
5.	Central Asia	Discussions in progress with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan for a meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission in the next few weeks. This is expected to give a boost to trade relations with these Countries.

1	2	3
6.	Zimbabwe Kenya	The Joint Trade Committees have been held at Harare and New Delhi respectively.
	Seychelles	A formal trade agreement between India and Seychelles has been signed on 18.9.98 to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries.
7.	Argentina	Meeting of The Indo-Argentina Joint Commission is proposed to be held in the first half of 1999.
	Cuba	(i) Discussions regarding joint venture Projects, Mining processing and marketing of Nickel were held.
		(ii) On Cuba's request, the Govt. of India has decided to export one lakh MT of non-basmati rice to Cuba in eight tranches of 12,500 MT each.
8.	European Union	Bilateral exchanges as well as discussions held recently at New Delhi on 18-19 Nov. ,98 with an DC delegation on a range of trade issues.
9.	Belgium, Cyprus, France	Bilateral meetings were held for Trade and investment which are identified and indicated in the agreed minutes.
10.	West Asia and North Africa	Practically all countries in this region, have shown interest in expanding their trade relations with India.
11.	South Asia	Trade talks with Pakistan held on 10th Nov., at New Delhi.
		Discussions with Sri Lankan delegation held on 16-17 Nov., 98 at New Delhi regarding the proposed bilateral free trade agreement.
		Talks held with Nepal on 17-20 Nov., 1998 at New Delhi regarding transit agreement.
		Third meeting of the IGG under SAPTA held in Kathmandu on 21-23 Nov., 98 to conclude the third round of SAPTA negotiations.
12.	Poland	Working consultations on Trade and Economic issues held on 22-23 June 1998 at Warsaw.
	Bulgaria	Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission meeting held on 22-25 Sept., 98 at Sofia.
	Czech Republic	Indo-Czech Joint Committee meeting held in Prague on Oct. 5-6, 98.
	Slovak Republic	Indo-Slovak Joint Committee meeting held in Bratislava on Oct. 7-8, 98.
	Croatia	Indo-Croatian Joint Committee meeting held on Nov. 16-17, 98 at New Delhi.

Industries in J & K

1119. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of different types of Registered Government, Semi-Government and Private industrial units operating in Jammu and Kashmir upto the end of October, 1998;

(b) the number of sick units out of them;

(c) the reasons for their sickness;

(d) the details of the expenditure incurred during the last three years for the industrial growth in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for revival of these sick units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) There are 40,098 industrial units duly registered with the Directorate of Industries, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) As per the report of the Reserve Bank of India, 5273 industrial units have been identified as sick, as on September, 1997 in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) According to RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often working in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, etc. As per survey conducted by Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the denial of working capital by the financial institutions has been found to be a major reason for sickness.

(d) The expenditure incurred during last 3 years for industrial growth in Jammu & Kashmir is as under :-

Year	Expenditure
1995-96	Rs. 1524.71 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 2345.27 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 2041.82 lakhs

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of Industrial Sickness which, inter-alia, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

[Translation]

Customs Duty Structure

1120. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the excise and customs duty structure;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether any task forces have been constituted to take steps in this direction; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress made by these task forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Streamlining of excise and customs duty structure is an ongoing process and is undertaken by the Government as part of the annual budget exercise. The broad features include, inter alia, rationalisation of duty rates, reduction in multiplicity of rates, rectification of anomalies, review of various tax exemptions/concessions and simplification of procedures for tax collection.

(c) and (d) The Government have constituted expert groups on six sectors of the industry, namely, textile fibre, yarn and fabrics; capital goods; ferrous and non-ferrous metals; building blocks and polymers; service tax, and excise structure rationalisation. Two expert group have already submitted their reports and the others are in the stage of finalisation of their reports.

[English]

Assistance to Handloom Sector for Quality Design

1121. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing assistance to handloom sector to improve the quality design for export potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are planning to provide assistance to weavers who have their own weaving tools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government of India provides assistance under Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme to State/Implementing Agencies for engagement of Foreign as well as Indian designers. These designers are attached to identified agencies, to work on improvement of designs in areas of handloom concentration. They are required to work towards diversification of traditional designs, with a view to meeting the demands of the export market.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is providing assistance to the weavers in a Co-ordinated and integrated manner under various schemes for their Socio-economic upliftment. The schemes under which such assistance is provided, are: Project Package Scheme, Setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme, Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme, Welfare Schemes like; Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers etc.

[Translation]

Disposal of Cases relating to Displaced Persons

1122. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases relating to displaced people were disposed of recently by organising camps at various places in Central Coalfields Ltd;

(b) if so, the names of places where such camps were organised; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of during 1998, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, during 1998, for disposal of cases of displaced people, camps were held at Urimari, Fusri, Ichakdih, Chalkari, Nagra, Amlo, Bahera, Kalyanpur and Jhujhko.

(c) Till date in the year 1998, 133 cases have been disposed of.

Trade Deficit

1123. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase or decrease in export registered during August, 1998 vis-a-vis August, 1997 and the extent of increase that was made in the trade deficit during that month;

(b) the extent of balance of payment of India likely to be affected due to increase in trade deficit; and

(c) the details of ambitious schemes launched by the Government to boost export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), exports registered growth of 24.35%

in Rupee terms and 4.47% in dollar terms during August, 1998 vis-a-vis August 1997. The trade deficit increased to US\$ 456.51 million during August, 1998 from US \$ 319.02 million in August 1997.

(b) Trade deficit is measured as excess of imports over exports. This results in foreign exchange outgo, affecting the balance of payment position. In addition to the trade deficit, Balance of Payment is also affected by other factors such as outflows on account of invisibles and capital flows.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. A Cabinet Committee on Foreign Trade has also been set up to review the export performance.

[English]

Pending Industrial Licence

1124. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for Industrial Licence pending with the Government for clearance, Industry-wise and State-wise as on October 31, 1998;

(b) the reasons for each of the above pending applications;

(c) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps contemplated for speedy disposal of pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) As on 31st October, 1998, a total of 63 Industrial Licence applications for grant of Letter of Intent are pending with the Government for clearance. An Industry-wise and State-wise details of these proposals is given in the Statement.

(b) to (d) All steps are taken for speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of the applications depends on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministry,

their recommendations in specific cases and also furnishing of relevant information by the applicants.

Statement

State-wise/Industry-wise Industrial Licence applications pending for clearance as on 31.10.1998.

S. No.	Name of the States/ Union Territories	Textile	Explosives	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	6	4	10
2.	Assam	0	2	0	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	1	0	0	1
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	1	1
8.	Haryana	0	0	2	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	1	2
11.	Karnataka	1	1	1	3
12.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	4	2	6
14.	Maharashtra	0	2	6	8
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	0	4	0	4
20.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	2	2
22.	Rajasthan	0	1	1	2
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	2	4	11

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	1	3	4
27.	West Bengal	0	0	1	1
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
29.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
30.	Dadra & N Havell	0	0	1	1
31.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
32.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
33.	More than 1 State	2	1	0	3
Total		9	25	*29	*63

*Excludes the applications for potable alcohol and beer, which are not being processed after Supreme Court Judgement.

[Translation]

Corruption in Banks

1125. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and high officials of banks who were apprehended on corruption charges alongwith the details of those who were allegedly involved, but have already retired during the last six months; and

(b) the amount involved in the corruption is to be recovered from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that during the period from 1.1.98 to 30.11.98 in 10 corruption cases 17 bank employees were apprehended during the course of investigation. The total amount involved in these cases is Rs. 66.41 crores approximately. As regards retirement of officials under the relevant provisions of Officers Service Regulations, disciplinary proceedings already initiated before superannuation continue as if the concerned officer was in service till the proceedings are concluded. Further, criminal proceedings do not abate on retirement of officials. Recoveries in such cases are normally effected by banks by filing suits and making claims from insurance companies wherever insurance cover is available.

[English]

Financial Crisis in Public Sector Banks

1126. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of public sector banks which are facing financial crisis;
- (b) the details of performance of those public sector banks, state-wise;
- (c) the year since when these banks are facing resources crunch;
- (d) the loss sustained by these banks during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, as on date; and
- (e) the action plan proposed to be formulated. If any, to rescue these banks from the losses and to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No public sector bank is facing a financial crisis.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Target and Achievements for Exports of Cotton Products

1127. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed and the achievements made in the export of cotton products during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the reasons for sharp decline in the export of cotton products during the last year and the first half of 1998-99; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to cover the short-fall?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The target fixed for exports of cotton textiles during the last three years and the reported achievement thereto is as follows :-

(In million US dollars)		
Year	Target	Achievement
1995-96	2800	3124.99
1996-97	3570	3835.38
1997-98	4320	4075.92(Provisional)

No separate targets are fixed exclusively for exports of cotton garments. The exports of cotton garments during the last three years were reported as follows :-

Year	Value (In million US dollars)
1995-96	3150.20
1996-97	3418.40
1997-98	3411.40 (Provisional)

(b) and (c) There was a slight decline in respect of export of cotton garments during 1997-98. However in the first half of the current financial year the cotton garment exports have reportedly shown an increase of about 6.5%. In the case of exports of cotton textiles, there was no decline during the last year. However, a decline of about 7% in exports of the cotton textiles has been reported during the first half of the current year (1998-99). Demand recession in the West Europe and the South East Asian currency crisis have been the major reasons for the declining growth rate in our exports. In order to boost the export of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibition; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production etc.

Economic Reforms

1128. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are planning to impart a fresh thrust to economic reforms by series of specific sector packages;
- (b) if so, the details of the specific sector reforms package under consideration/finalised to ensure that the proposed changes in procedural framework and legal system contribute to smooth functioning of labour, capital and product markets;
- (c) the details of specific sector thrust areas and bottle-necks identified in the legal and procedural framework; and
- (d) the details of components of the package for financial sector and equity market and structural reforms proposed in corporate sector?

THE MINISTER FINANCE OF (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) While addressing the 71st annual session

of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on the 24th October, 1998 the Prime Minister announced a number of initiatives to boost the economy. The initiatives concern development of the capital market, disinvestment, opening up of the insurance sector to the Indian private sector, investors protection and measures to restore investor confidence.

Other measures announced for the development of infrastructure include building up of 7,000 KM road corridor connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silichar to Saurashtra, construction of five world class international airports, a new Internet policy and formulation of new telecom policy to provide state-of-the-art nation-wide telecommunication network and speed up rural telephone services.

Government has also announced certain fiscal and other measures to boost the production of steel and commercial vehicles.

[Translation]

Rubber Industry

1129. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Rubber Industry is concerned due to possible shortage of supply of rubber as the International Natural Rubber Organisation is on the verge of collapse; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the crisis?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Downgradation of Foreign Currency Rating of India

1130. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Duff and Phellps Credit Rating Company (DCR) has downgraded the foreign currency rating of India;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) the extent of fiscal slippage forming the basis of the downgrading of foreign currency rating; and

(d) the extent to which it has affected the imports and exports of India during the intervening period and the steps taken to assert the drift?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Duffs and Phelps Credit Rating Company (DCR) has down graded India's long term foreign currency rating from BBB-(Triple-B minus) to BB + (Double-B plus).

(c) The factors taken into account for revising India's sovereign rating outlook by DCR includes inter-alia fiscal parameters.

(d) Imports and exports are not directly related to credit rating.

Assets of Closed PSU

1131. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector units proposed to be closed down or liquidated soon;

(b) whether the affected public sector undertakings have had immovable assets which are likely to be affected by the action of mafias;

(c) if so, whether the Government have not taken action to evaluate the proper value of those assets and have been going ahead for disposal of the units without any scientific evaluation of the immovable assets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Govt. has taken a decision to extend benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to employees of following unviable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Deptt. of Heavy Industry (DHI) which are facing the prospect of winding up. The final winding up or otherwise of these units will be as per decision of BIFR/Courts.

S.No.	Name of the PSU	No. of Employees	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	National Instruments Ltd. (NIL)	863	Prima-facie conclusion by BIFR for winding up.
2.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)	472	Prima-facie conclusion by BIFR for winding up.

1	2	3	4
3.	Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL)	183	Final decision by BIFR for winding up.
4.	National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd.	676	Final decision by BIFR for winding up. Under stay by Court.
5.	Cycle Corpn. of India Ltd. (CCIL)	1718	Prima-facie conclusion by BIFR for winding up.
6.	Mining and Allied Machinery Corpn.	4217	Prima-facie conclusion for winding up. Under stay by Court.
7.	Tannery and Foot wear Corpn. Ltd. (TAFCO)	1400	Final decision by BIFR for winding up.
8.	Rehabilitation Ind. Corpn. Ltd. (RIC)	1272	Discontinuance of operations recommended by Disinvestment Commission.

Besides, Govt. have also decided to extend the period of VRS for another 3 months to the remaining employees of Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL) for which a decision to give VRS was taken by the Govt. in Sept. 1997. BIFR has given its final recommendation for winding up this company.

*BIFR - Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

[English]

(b) to (d) No decision has been taken by the Govt. for disposal of these Units.

I.T. Evasion in J and K

[Translation]

Printing of UTI Forms in Hindi

1132. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forms of the Unit Trust of India which are still printed only or mostly in English;

(b) the number of forms which are required to be filled in English only;

(c) the reasons for not giving the option of filling the forms of various schemes in Hindi; and

(d) the time by which such an arrangement is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Unit Trust of India has informed that all its applications are printed in English as well as in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Investors have the option to fill in the form either in English or Hindi as per their choice.

1133. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed against income tax evaders in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any plan is proposed to be formulated to bring these evaders into direct Income Tax; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Prosecution proceedings have been initiated in respect of thirteen tax payers from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. These cases are pending in the Courts and are to be taken up in the regular course.

Revenue earned from Re-Export of Cigarettes

1134. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value and revenue earned out of cigarettes imported for re-exports through bonded warehouses during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the agencies involved in such re-exports; and

(c) the share of each agency therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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.

Decrease in Bank Credit

1135. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the percentage of total credit of Banks has declined in 1997 as compared to 1969 in West Bengal and rather the percentage in other States either increased or maintained the same as it was in 1969; and

(b) if so, the reasons for reduction in West Bengal only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The State-wise distribution of bank credit of scheduled commercial banks and percentage to All India total bank credit as on December 31, 1969 and 1997 are given in the Statement. The share of bank credit has declined not only in West Bengal but also in Gujarat and Maharashtra and marginally in Tamil Nadu and Goa during the above period.

(b) The four major States (viz. Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu) whose share in total bank credit declined in December 1997 over December 1969 accounted for as much as 67 per cent of the total bank credit in 1969 mainly due to the concentration of bank credit in urban/metropolitan areas having large industrial units and greater trading activity. However, during the post-nationalisation period, due to the expansion of branch banking facilities and increased dispensation of bank credit in rural and semi-urban areas, the share of other States in the total bank credit has increased over the period and consequently, the share of the above mentioned 4 States (including West Bengal) has declined over the period.

Statement

State-wise distribution of Bank credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on December, 31, 1969 and 1997

Name of the State/Union Territories		Credit (Rs. in lakh)		Percentage to total bank credit (All India)	
		1969	1997	1969	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	163,82	21505,97	4.4	7.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	51,59	—	..
3.	Assam\$	28,65	1925,83	8.6	8.6
4.	Bihar	58,57	6612,85	1.4	2.2
5.	Goa %	23,51	1826,86	8.6	8.3
6.	Gujarat	232,31	15236,47	6.2	5.8
7.	Haryana	38,28	4724,89	8.9	1.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,98	878,61	8.1	8.3
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4,28	1899,74	0.4	8.6
10.	Karnataka	185,56	19656,48	5.8	6.4
11.	Kerala	113,71	11281,86	3.8	3.7

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	78,52	18293,19	1.9	3.4
13.	Maharashtra	1132,61	77871,14	30.4	25.2
14.	Manipur	—	163,52	—	8.1
15.	Meghalaya \$	—	141,98	—	
16.	Mizoram	—	44,42	—	
17.	Nagaland	18	183,13	—	
18.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	288,31	48181,43	5.4	13.1
19.	Orissa	17,79	3668,80	8.5	1.3
20.	Punjab	76,78	9786,99	2.8	3.2
21.	Rajasthan	46,64	7822,33	1.3	2.3
22.	Sikkim	—	47,65	—	
23.	Tamil Nadu	418,28	33796,88	11.2	11.8
24.	Tripura	27	273,76	—	8.1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	198,52	15737,47	5.1	5.1
26.	West Bengal	716,54	18524,46	19.2	6.1
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	31,76	—	
28.	Chandigarh	26,88	3282,53	8.7	1.8
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	18,52	—	
30.	Daman & Diu %	—	45,39	—	
31.	Lakshadweep	—	2,82	—	
32.	Pondicherry	4,80	314,37	8.1	8.1
All India *		3729,82	38588,486	100.0	100.0

(.) Negligible

(-) Not available

(\$) Figures for Meghalaya are included in Assam for 1969

(*) All India figures for 1969 includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

(%) Figures for Daman & Diu are included in Goa for 1968.

Accident in Mahanadi Coalfield Limited

(b) the cause of each accident; and

1136. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(c) the number of persons found guilty in this regard and the punishment meted out to them?

(a) the number of persons killed in the accidents under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited during the last two years;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The number of

persons killed in accidents in the coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited during the last two years and the cause of the accident is as under :

Clause	No. of Persons Killed	
	1996	1997
Roof/Side fall	—	2
Dumper	2	1
Truck	2	3
Fall of object/person	2	—
Misc.	1	—
Total	7	6

(c) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that other than the victim, seven persons were held responsible for the accidents in 1996 and 3 in 1997. In 1996, recordable warnings were issued to one Agent, one Manager and one Under Manager. The promotion of a Dumper Operator was withheld and the services of two Drivers have been terminated. On 1997, a Dumper Operator was suspended and reverted to a lower grade, two Truck Drivers have been terminated from service.

Remote Sensing Technology for Shrimp Culture

1137. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority had introduced remote sensing technology for shrimp culture during 1994; and

(b) if so, the present position of the said project?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Constitution of NHDC

1138. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) for development of handloom industry;

(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 TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has already set up a National Handloom Development Corporation Limited for development of Handloom Industry, which is in operation since 1983. The Head-quarter of the Corporation is at Lucknow.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Accounts of Bogus Firms in Banks

1139. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases have taken place in the private and public sector banks where fake importers have managed to open accounts in the names of bogus firms and cheated the banking industry;

(b) if so, the number of such cases have come to light during the last three years;

(c) whether RBI prescribed any operating procedure to check such frauds;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those banks which have failed to exercise due vigilance and ignored the RBI procedure;

(e) whether RBI was investigating some cases in regard to above like State Bank of Indore, Vysya Bank Ltd. and

(f) if so, the results of such investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (f) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has come across some instances of fraudulent import transactions in some bank branches. The fraudulent accounts were opened as prescribed precautions were not observed by the banks. The RBI has advised the concerned banks to investigate the matters and look into the aspects of staff accountability. The RBI has also issued detailed guidelines of precautionary nature to the banks in order to check the incidence of such frauds. Such cases have also been reported to the Enforcement Directorate for carrying out investigation and necessary action.

Raw Material for Paper Mills

1140. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the condition of paper mills in the country;

(b) the details of forest produce consumed by the paper industry; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop alternate sources as the raw material for the said industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The paper industry covering pulp, paper and paper board is a de-licensed industry. There are 380 paper mills with a total capacity of around 40.00 lakh MTs per annum. Production of paper in the year 1997-98 was 29.22 lakh MTs. 145 mills are registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction as sick units. Capacity utilisation in the paper industry including sick units is about 75%.

(b) Paper industry in India is largely based on agricultural residues and waste paper as raw material. Only 38% of paper being manufactured is dependent on wood as the raw material. Some of these mills consume forest products like bamboo.

(c) A concessional excise duty of 5% is levied on paper and paperboard using 75% and more of non-conventional raw material for first clearance of 15000 tonnes and 8% for production of more than 15000 tonnes. The Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute has done extensive research work on use of alternate raw material like jute, wheat straw and rice straw for manufacture of paper.

[Translation]

Impact of Kandla Port Cyclone Import/Export

1141. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imports/exports of the country were badly affected due to damage caused to Kandla Port and Port Trust due to cyclone in Kutch, Gujarat during June 1998;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the loss of revenue and foreign exchange earning suffered by the country on this account; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make up the said losses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) According to the studies made by the Kandla Port Trust, the disruption caused by the cyclone in June, 1998, affected the foreign trade and caused losses to the extent given below :

(i)	Kandla Port Exports	Imports (in lakhs)
June, 1997	26,641.49	12,761.58
June, 1998	8,357.63	9,999.69
July, 1997	32,752.09	24,144.76
July, 1998	23,617.06	56,169.37

(ii) The Kandla Port Trust suffered a total loss to the tune of Rs. 133.25 crores towards damages caused to its equipment, plant and machinery etc.

(d) All measures on war-footing were made for earliest resumption of Port Operations, with the assistance of the Indian Navy, BSF, Coast Guard, local police force and the officers and employees of the Port Trust. The Port operations were fully resumed within a month.

Other measures included expediting assessment of damages and settlements of claims by insurance to companies and advising financial institutions of favourably consider the requests of exporters/importers for cash credit limits, packing limits, export credit and working capital.

A part from restoring facilities at Kandla Port, arrangements were also made at other ports to handle cargo diverted from the Kandla Port.

[English]

Funds from VDIS

1142. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the devolutions of funds have been made to the States/U.Ts under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) during the year, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of funds released to each State/U.T.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement indicating the share in Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997 paid to each State Government in March, 1998 is enclosed.

Statement

States' share in Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997

(In crores of Rupees)

States	Amount paid in March, 1998
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	642.83
2. Arunachal Pradesh	12.91
3. Assam	211.42

1	2
4. Bihar	976.66
5. Goa	13.67
6. Gujarat	307.25
7. Haryana	94.01
8. Himachal Pradesh	53.46
9. Jammu & Kashmir	83.31
10. Karnataka	405.44
11. Kerala	294.27
12. Madhya Pradesh	629.54
13. Maharashtra	465.21
14. Manipur	21.41
15. Meghalaya	21.49
16. Mizoram	11.32
17. Nagaland	13.75
18. Orissa	341.35
19. Punjab	110.95
20. Rajasthan	421.54
21. Sikkim	9.57
22. Tamil Nadu	504.01
23. Tripura	28.71
24. Uttar Pradesh	1352.57
25. West Bengal	567.35
Total	7594.00

[Translation]

Closure of Tanneries

1143. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Court has ordered to seal those tanneries which have not installed the primary treatment plants in the country particularly in Kanpur;

(b) if so, the number of tanneries have been sealed so far; and

(c) the action likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Honourable High Court, Allahabad has ordered vide their order dated 20.5.1998 and 11.8.1998 to ensure the closure of all such tanneries which have not set up Primary Effluent Treatment Plant at Kanpur. In the Order of dated 11.8.1998, it was also mentioned to make a thorough survey of all the tanneries situated in Kanpur and shall not permit any tannery to operate until the Primary Treatment Plant has been set up by all such factories.

(b) and (c) In compliance with the Order of the Honourable Court, a total of 118 tanneries were closed. 74 of these tanneries have since installed their Primary Effluent Treatment Plants and permitted to operate, so that the efficiency of their Primary Effluent Treatment Plant can be checked. 44 are still lying closed as they have not installed Primary Effluent Treatment Plants.

Import of Gold

1144. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold so far imported in the country during the current year;

(b) the quantity of gold likely to be imported during the remaining period of the current year;

(c) the names of countries and the rate at which gold was imported;

(d) the banks and agencies authorised by the Government to import gold;

(e) the criteria adopted for authorising them;

(f) whether banks/agencies so authorised fulfilled the said criteria; and

(g) if not, the action taken against the officials who granted authority to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The quantity of gold imported in the current year upto 31/10/98 on payment of duty by passengers, trade or nominated Bank/Agencies under the three different schemes in operation is placed at 508.264 mt.

(b) No definite estimate of such likely imports is available.

(c) The importers source the gold themselves from various countries which include United States of America, United Arab Emirates, Sharjah, South Africa, United Kingdom, Australia and Switzerland. The rate at which the gold is imported changes on a day to day basis.

(d) The banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to import gold are : (1) ABN Amro Bank, (2) Allahabad Bank at (3) Bank of India, (4) Bank of Nova Scotia, (5) Canara Bank, (6) Corporation Bank, (7) Standard Chartered Bank, (8) Indian Overseas Bank, (9) State Bank of India, (10) Oriental Bank of Commerce, (11) Bank of Baroda.

The other agencies authorised are Minerals and Metal Trading Corporations, Handlooms and Handicraft Export Corporation, the Project and Equipment of India Ltd.

(e) The criteria adopted by RBI for authorising banks for import of gold are that the applicants should be a scheduled commercial bank, it should have on unimpaired total capital of Rs. 300 crores, its risk of total capital to risk weighted assets should be 9% or more, it should have advanced risk management system, excellent track record and previous experience or familiarity with gold related business.

(f) Yes, Sir, the banks nominated to import gold continue to comply with the prescribed criteria.

(g) In view of reply to (f) above, does not arise.

[English]

Funds to Nagaland

1145. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 3451 dated July 10, 1998 regarding allocation of funds to the State of Nagaland and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Information for answering assurance in respect of Unstarred Question No. 3451, dated July 10, 1998 regarding allocation of funds to the State of Nagaland is being collected and analysed.

(d) Information will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as it is finalised.

[Translation]

Loans Under JRY

1146. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans are provided by the banks under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to the educated unemployed

youths of backward classes and Scheduled Tribe without any security;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether loans are not provided for want of two securities in Haryana;

(d) if not, whether the Union Government propose to conduct an enquiry by an intelligence department into the applications received for loan in all the public sector banks of Haryana particularly in Ambala during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (e) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in April, 1989 by merging the ongoing National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) into a single rural employment programme for provision of wage employment to the unemployed and under-employed rural poor. The scheme provides source of income through wage employment and through creation of community and social assets. The scheme is targeted to benefit the people below poverty line in rural areas. No loans are provided by banks under JRY.

Cheating of Share Holders By ACC. Ltd., Kanpur

1147. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of cheating of share holders by the ACC Ltd., Kanpur has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry into the matter relating to State and Central tax evasion amounting to more than one thousand crores of rupees by the said Company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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.

[English]

Setting up of Cotton Yarn Bank in Assam

1148. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Cotton Yarn Bank in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also received a proposal from the Government of Assam for setting up of Handloom Training Centre in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Cotton Yarn Bank can be set up by any approved State Handloom Agency under Mill Gate Price Scheme implemented by Government of India through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Anti-Subsidy and Anti-Dumping Cell

1149. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted anti-subsidy and anti-dumping investigation cell; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Government have constituted a Directorate General of Anti Dumping and Allied Duties under the Ministry of Commerce. The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder is in-charge of the Directorate General of Anti Dumping and Allied Duties and investigates cases for anti-dumping and anti-subsidy action. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has been provided with sufficient infrastructure commensurate with the present workload.

[Translation]

Loans to Defaulters

1150. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of bad-debt written off by the nationalised banks during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that these banks again granted loans to the defaulting parties; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The amount of bad debts written off by nationalised banks during the year 1995-96 and 96-97 (latest available) as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) In order to alert the banks and FIs and put them on guard against the defaulters to other lending institutions, RBI has put in place a scheme to collect details about borrowers of banks and FIs with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above which are classified as 'Doubtful' or 'Loss' or where suits are filed, as on 31st March and 30th September each year. List of borrowers (with outstandings aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits are filed and on 31 March every year are published. Information of such suit filed accounts as well as confidential information on other doubtful and loss assets of Rs. 1 crore is disseminated to banks and FIs in the form of floppies.

The banks and financial institutions are advised to make use of the aforesaid details while considering, on merits, the requests for fresh or additional limits by the defaulting borrowing units, their proprietors/partners/directors etc. The banks, at times, grant on merits, loans/additional facilities to defaulting units etc. for revival/rehabilitation. Reserve Bank of India has not issued any instructions prohibiting them to grant fresh /additional limit to the defaulters and banks and financial institutions are free to take their own credit decisions based on commercial judgement.

Statement

Bad debts written off by the nationalised banks during the last two years

(Amount in crores)

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	6.71	21.39
2.	Andhra Bank	1.95	37.42
3.	Bank of Baroda	46.42	70.17
4.	Bank of India	307.08	217.15
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	56.52	47.30
6.	Canara Bank	169.49	18.20
7.	Central Bank of India	138.44	156.83
8.	Corporation Bank	19.13	0.94
9.	Dena Bank	51.92	58.76
10.	Indian Bank	115.94	10.28
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	75.01	375.73
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.82	46.22

1	2	3	4
13.	Punjab National Bank	53.14	150.34
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2.86	9.93
15.	Syndicate Bank	8.03	58.79
16.	Union Bank of India	38.81	30.57
17.	UCO Bank	110.98	220.57
18.	United Bank of India	36.51	65.48
19.	Vijaya Bank	13.26	12.72
	Total	1253.02	1608.79

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Reports of electronics service and training centre etc. alongwith Audited Accounts and review by the Govt. at their working etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sikander Bakht, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 1998.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1587/98]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1588/98]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1589/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Calcutta for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1590/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1591/98]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1592/98]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1593/98]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1598/98]
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1594/98]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1599/98]
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1595/98]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1596/98]
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1596/98]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1597/98]
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1597/98]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1603/98]
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the
- (13) A copy of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks for the year 1997-98, under section 155 of the Patents Act, 1970.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1599/98]
- (14) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 874(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 1998 notifying the M/s. Kasat Paper and Pulp Limited, Pune, as a mill producing newsprint, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1600/98]
- (15) A copy of the Gas Cylinder (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 487(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 1998, under sub-section (8) of section 18 of the Explosives Act, 1884.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1601/98]
- (16) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, for the year 1997-98, under section 126 of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1602/98]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1603/98]
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1603/98]

Annual Report of Indian Diamond Institute, Surat for 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts, review of its working etc.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Indian Diamond Institute, Surat for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1604/98]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Trade Promotion Organisation and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1605/98]

Notifications under Central Excise Act, 1994, Customs Act, 1962, Income Tax Act, 1961 etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-
 - (i) The Central Excise (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 501 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) The Central Excise (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 515(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iii) The Central Excise (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 551 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iv) The Central Excise (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 552 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (v) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 68/6/98-CX dated the 7th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memo-

randum exempting from whole of the duty of excise on the paper to be used for Greeting Cards, Calendars, telephone/address books etc. by the Child Relief and You, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi.

- (vi) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 70/98-CX dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Kinetic Honda (DX Model) Scooters specially designed for handicapped/disabled persons to be supplied by M/s. Kinetic Honda Motor Limited, Pune to Vikalng Vikas Mitra Mandal, Mumbai, from so much of excise leviable thereon as in excess of 8 percent *ad-valorem*.

- (vii) Adhoc Exemption Order No. 71/98-CX dated the 17th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Mobile Hospital of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 to be supplied by M/s. Siemens Limited, Mumbai from so much of the duty of excise leviable thereon as in excess of the amount calculated at the rate of 8 percent *ad-valorem*.

- (viii) Adhoc Exemption Order No. 69/7/98-CX dated the 17th September, 1998, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to 18 number of hand operated automatic transmission Maruti Zen Cars to be supplied by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited, Gurgaon, to Army Head quarters from so much of the duty of excise leviable thereon as is in excess of the amount calculated at the rate of 8 percent *ad-valorem*.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1606/98]

- (2) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R. 393 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 34/98-Cus., dated the 13th June, 1998.

- (ii) G.S.R. 415 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30 July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum mak-

- ing certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/98-Cus., dated the 2nd June, 1998.
- (iii) G.S.R. 469 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two Notifications mentioned therein of 22nd June, 1994 and 3rd June, 1997 respectively.
- (iv) G.S.R. 470 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (v) G.S.R. 492 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (vi) G.S.R. 522 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum extending facility for export and imports of goods under Duty Exemption Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme from inland Container Depot at Jodhpur.
- (vii) G.S.R. 609 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (viii) G.S.R. 610 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the existing four Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ix) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 662 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) The Customs (Fees for Rendering Services by Customs Officers) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 558 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1998, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1607/98]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax, Act, 1961:-
- (i) The Income-tax (Nineteenth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 902 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1998.
- (ii) The Income-tax (Twenty Second Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 923 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1998.
- (iii) The Income-tax (Twenty Third Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 924 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1998.
- (iv) The Income-tax (Twenty Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 925 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1998.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1608/98]
- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1609/98]
- (5) A copy of the Depositories (Appeal to the Central Government Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1998, under section 27 of the Depositories Act, 1996.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1610/98]
- (6) The Securities and Exchange Board, of India (Appeal to the Central Government) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 557 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1998, under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1611/98]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics at the Delhi

School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics at the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1612/98]

- (8) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Madras School of Economics, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1613/98]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economics Research, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1614/98]

- (11) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economics Research, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1615/98]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 19 and sub-section (5) of section 24 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1616/98]

Copies of the Notifications under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 :-

- (i) The Central Sales Tax (Registration and Turnover) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 483 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1998, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Central Sales Tax (Registration and Turnover) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 695 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1617/98]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Development Authority (Validation of Disciplinary Powers) Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1998."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Delhi Development Authority (Validation of Disciplinary Powers) Bill, 1998, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December 1998.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ACTION TAKEN
REPORTS AND REPORTS ON RESERVATION

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (KHUNTI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto :-

- (1) Action taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in the Third Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division)—Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Allahabad Bank and Credit Facilities provided by the Bank to them.
- (2) Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Food Processing Industries—Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.
- (3) Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.
- (4) Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Canara Bank and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them.
- (5) Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Institutes of Technology including reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in admission therein.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Thirty Fifth and Thirty Sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (MADRAS CENTRAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Commerce :

- (1) Thirti Fifth Report on India and the WTO; and
- (2) Thirti Sixth Report on Development Potential of Commerce in North Eastern Region.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
AND TOURISM

Thirty Fourth Report

[Translation]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Thirty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions)

of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on the Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998.

12.03¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
AND TOURISM EVIDENCE

[Translation]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on the Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to inform that following Government Business will be transacted in this House during the week commencing on Monday, the 7th December 1998 :-

1. Discussion on 30th Report of the erstwhile Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for 1989-91.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 and the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1998 and Consideration and passing of the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998.
3. Consideration and passing of the Delhi Development Authority (Validation of Disciplinary powers) Bill, 1998 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-
 1. The High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation Amendment) Bill, 1998.
 2. The Railway Claims Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1998
 3. The Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998
 4. The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998
 5. The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1998

5. Discussion and voting on the supplementary Demands (General) for Grants for the year 1998-99.
6. Consideration and passing of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1998.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Submissions by the Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After the Submissions, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : You had said that Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi will make a statement...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is going to make the statement.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the national highway passing through the newly created districts Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh often remain jam due to the day to day increasing traffic, resulting in frequent serious accidents. Several local residents have also been killed in the accident. This situation often leads a tension there. To avoid any future incidents of accidents, it is very essential in the public interest to construct a by-pass there. Perhaps, a proposal for the construction of a by-pass submitted by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is pending with the Union Government for clearance but no concrete action has been taken so far thereon.

In view of the importance of this matter I would like that it should be included in the next weeks list of business.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request for inclusion of the following proposals in the next weeks order paper:-

1. A bill regarding creation of a new State by including 16 new districts of Chhatisgarh under the Indian Union be presented immediately.
2. Proposal with regard to famine affected areas particularly inclusion of Devbhog, Maipur, Bagbahasa, Mahasamund, Beawa, Pithoura blocks under the D.P.A.P.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (KOTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next weeks order-paper:-

1. A halt of train No. 2019 and 2020 Dehradun Express be provided at Kaprain station in the public interest.
2. The demand of the common public by introducing a fast train from the historical place Chittorgarh to Bhopal via major cities like Bundi, Kota, Baran, Beena be fulfilled.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow to include the following items in the next weeks business:

1. Formulation of a scheme for setting up basic infrastructure and for providing economic assistance by the Union Government to save the industrial set up of Kanpur which is the most populated district of Uttar Pradesh and a main industrial town of North India.
2. Providing basic civic amenities like potable water, sewage, drainage, electricity and construction of roads etc. in Kanpur, the main industrial town of North India having a population of 40 lakh by making available resources by the Union Govt. from the world bank or any other source in the event of lack of resources with the State Govt.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to leave the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for inclusion the following suggestion in the next weeks list of Business:

1. Consideration by the Union Government to provide necessary technical guidance and adequate resources to the Government of Bihar to check land erosion by the water of the Gagna on southern side of Samastipur district (Bihar).
2. To consider over the construction and allotment of a market complex by the Railway Department or any other suitable agency on the surplus land of railways near the Hal Singh Sarai Railway Station in Samastipur district of Bihar.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : I would like to make the following submissions for the next week's business:

1. To discuss the issue of women being sold off for Rs. 5000/- in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Immediate steps to be taken to bring Asansol-Durgapur under local call dialling facilities instead of STD.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : I request that the following may be included in next week's business :-

"Extensive searches of houses and arrests of innocent Muslims are going on in different parts of the country and there is an attempt at intimidation of the Muslim minority. There is a need for government statement and action to save the Muslim minority from harassment."

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : I request that the following may be included in next week's business:-

- (1) Regarding approval of various projects for the last three years by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.
- (2) Request to reconsider the closure of eight PSUs of specially having units in West Bengal.

12.12 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

[English]

(i) Marine Products Export Development Authority

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(3) (c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972 and Rule 4(1) of Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972, the members of the House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(3) (c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972 and Rule 4(1) of Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Central Coordination Committee for Equal Opportunities for Disabled Persons

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 3(2) (h) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members on the Central Co-ordination Committee for the period till they cease to be the Members of the House subject to other provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 3 (2) (h) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members on the Central Co-ordination Committee for the period till they cease to be the Members of the House subject to other provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.14 hrs.

MOTION RE : REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL-EXTENSION OF TIME

[English]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR) : I beg to move :

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the last week of the Winter Session, 1998 the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1998".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the last week of the Winter Session, 1998 the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1998".

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the 'Ayes' have it

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : 'Noes' have it. We want Division. Sir, we live with black-marketeers and profiteers. (Interruptions) When we ask for the Division, you should allow it.

MR. SPEAKER : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is on his leg.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : On what? (Interruptions) There is no question of extension of time.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Let me submit to the hon. Minister. Let me submit to the House that, that day

when Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala brought this amendment, there was a resentment from the entire House that this amendment cannot carry forward. We had rejected that that day. I think the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs referred it to the Select Committee on his own. We did not approve the reference to the Select Committee. We rejected the amendment but now you are bringing it through the Select Committee again.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : It is not a Select Committee, but it is a Joint Committee.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am sorry. I was there. Shri Indrajit Gupta was there. We had rejected the amendment. So, this was referred to the Standing Committee by you, not by the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Hon'ble Speaker has constituted this Committee. It has not been constituted by me.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : At the time of passing of the Bill, we all opposed it.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply, please, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They want to dilute the Bill. What is he going to reply? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : We do not want the Minister to reply.*(Interruptions)* The Government can say anything. We do not want reply from the Minister. You please see the rule.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand they have asked for the extension of time only. You please go through the List of Business.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is disputed here. Yes, for that Division is there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand they have asked for the extension of time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They are diluting the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have personally written a letter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There was enough time. It is before the House. The House may accept or reject it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please understand. This is for seeking time for presentation of the Report. "That this House do extend up to the last day of the last week of the Winter Session, 1998..."

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must tell you that this Committee has been constituted by you and not by me...*(Interruptions)*. I have personally written a letter to the Chairman that this bill should not be extended, rather it should be brought in this Session itself. You have given the extension and not me. I have urged for submission of report in this Session itself.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : Sir, when this Amendment Bill was brought, all of us opposed this on this side. We said at that time that we would not mind if it was sent to the Select Committee but we are finding it difficult with all the amended provisions. What we are now saying is that you should have withdrawn it. On the contrary, you are asking for the extension. Instead of asking for the extension, you withdraw the amendment. This is what they are saying. Please agree for that. You withdraw the whole Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Let us have discussion in this regard by sitting in the Speaker's Chamber. I have already told that we are not in favour of its extension. We want to bring this bill in the current session itself. Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)* I have no objection...*(Interruptions)* You please sit in the Speaker's Chamber. Whatever you will say, it is acceptable to us. We have nothing to say in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when the Amendment was brought, we all opposed it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, my suggestion is, you call a meeting in your Chamber.

[Translation]

Whether it is to be withdrawn after hearing both the parties, as your goodself have constituted this committee and not me...*(Interruptions)*. If you want to withdraw it, you can. You have this privilege.

[English]

This is within your powers.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* This is within your powers not

mine....(Interruptions) You may please withdraw it.
(Interruptions) If you want to bring any new rule, you can, I
have no objection....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Yes, withdraw it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Please speak one by
one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when the amend-
ment was brought, we all opposed it. What we wanted was
that more stringent measures should be there in the Bill.
They wanted to dilute it. They wanted to reduce the quantum
of punishment....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : We do not at all want
it. As we want to make it more strict, so we had sent
it....(Interruptions) It was already diluted....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How it would be ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The bill which was
submitted earlier(Interruptions). The Standing Commit-
tee which is....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We objected to that. The
Joint Select Committee was constituted in the month of
July....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can I hear like this? Please try to
understand. Please speak one by one. Let us hear Shri P.
Shiv Shanker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This Joint Select Com-
mittee did nothing for three months. Now they are again
coming forth for extension of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Shri Acharia. I have called
Shri P. Shiv Shanker.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what we want is that
the amendment should be withdrawn....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, I have called Shri P. Shiv
Shanker.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have told
you the truth.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, the House may recall
that the Amendment Bill was an amendment to the 1981

measure which was brought and the Essential Commodities
Act was sought to be diluted by amendments. Therefore, all
of us opposed it at that time. When we opposed it, my
friends came forth with the proposal and we agreed that
all right, it could be referred to the Select Committee. He is
now agreeing for the withdrawal. Though the Bill is the
property of the House, my submission is, if the policy deci-
sion is taken by the Government to withdraw this Bill, then
the entire House will agree. They can withdraw it and then
the question of seeking the extension does not arise. There-
fore, let him say that he withdraws it. He can then come
forth with the proposal on Monday, it can be withdrawn and
then the extension itself goes. The matter ends there. Why
should he create a problem?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is being said that this
Government has diluted it. Here is the Standing Committee
Report with me. Your signatures also appears in
it....(Interruptions) This Standing Committee is pertaining to
the Ministry of Food and Consumers Affairs(Interrup-
tions) Essential Commodities and Amendment
Bill....(Interruptions) In this report....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You have brought this Bill.
What has it got to do with the Standing Committee? What
are you talking about?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA) :
This bill cannot be passed.(Interruptions) Get the amend-
ments passed and bring the bill later on(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, my suggestion is,
you postpone it for Monday and you call a meeting in the
evening....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please tell us, what else can be taken up instead of
it....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You cannot place the
Speaker in an embarrassing situation....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, I am a
member of this Committee. I shall try to bring two things to
the notice of the House and then let the House take a
decision in any manner it may like.

Sir, it is a fact that this Committee has been consti-
tuted by the hon. Speaker. It has 30 Members and Members
are from different political parties. Shri K.D. Sultānpuri is a
Member. Shri Mohan Singh is also a Member. There is a
Member from the CPI (M) also. Sir, we have....(Interruptions).
I am replying....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, we are not going into the merits.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Traders are active .

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, this Committee has already gone into everything. I want to bring to the notice of the House that the hon. Speaker has already sent in writing to the Committee that its term has been extended. Now if we decide otherwise, that will be a reflection on the Speaker also. Kindly do not do that. The Speaker has already allowed the extension...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, hoarders are being helped.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : The Speaker has only reflected the will of the House in referring it to the Select Committee...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I am on a point of order. In rule 367, the procedure regarding division is mentioned...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I shall read Rule number 367. Second part of the rule is regarding division. I will read the whole rule. It says :

- "(1) On the conclusion of a debate, the Speaker shall put the question and invite those who are in favour of the motion to say 'Aye' and those against the motion to say 'No'.
- (2) The Speaker shall then say: 'I think the Ayes (or the Noes, as the case may be) have it'. If the opinion of the Speaker as to the decision of a question is not challenged, he shall, say twice: 'The ayes (or the Noes, as the case may be) have it', and the question before the House shall be determined accordingly."

Sir the next part of the rule is more important. This is the relevant part.

- (3) (a) If the opinion of the Speaker as to the decision of a question is challenged, he shall order that the Lobby be cleared."

Sir, there is no escape route here because the motion is already moved and the opinion of the Speaker challenged not by one Member but by many Members. According to the rules, there is no escape route other than putting the question for the vote of the House by division, if this rule has any sanctity.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, please understand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, let me submit honestly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It was passed in your times...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should be given opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Chacko please.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI) : Sir, at this point of them, no discussion about the merit of the Bill or, otherwise is relevant. The motion is put for the vote of the House and the only alternative is to take a division and decide the matter as per the result of division. No other discussion is relevant at this point of time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, let me submit very honestly to the House. Looking at the mood of the House, I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention to my plea. The day discussion took place, we all and also their Members were against the amendment of 1951 Act amended in 1981. Everyone had the feeling that the Act was being diluted. Shri Indrajit Gupta and myself were sitting. Shri Shiv Shanker was also sitting there. They both got up and he assured them. When Shri Barnala asked me, I said that I felt that the Act was being diluted. He kept quite. After that, the decision had been taken to refer it to the Select Committee. In the debate yesterday, many Members have pointed out and I have pointed out clause by clause as to how they are trying to dilute the amending Bill. Why do they not withdraw this Bill if they have no intention to dilute it? But they want to dilute it and go ahead...*(Interruptions)* Now, the motion is before the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Sir, we cannot discuss the merit of the Bill. The motion is before the House. It should be put to the vote...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me hear what he is saying. Shri Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, rules are absolutely clear...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the House is not in order. Prof. Kurien is a very senior Member...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I want to say something. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the issue of price rise in this House very seriously...*(Interruptions)* I want to convey my Party's feelings ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : He was on a point of order. Let it be cleared.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, there is a consensus because every party is in favour of withdrawal of this Act or this Amendment Bill. There is no necessity for this extension and they should withdraw it. You should call the Food and Civil Supplies Minister, who is the competent authority, to announce this. Then, we will discuss it later on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, you have raised a point of order, but we are not discussing about the procedure in regard to division under Rule 367.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Whatever it may be, the question is before the House. This Rule Book has some value. The question has been put before the House. Sir, you, in your wisdom...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member, please listen to me.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, you may also sit here. Rules are sacrosanct. Within the rules, you have put the question before the House. What I am saying is that you should go by the rules or you should say that the rules can be violated. I cannot agree with this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that we are not discussing about the procedure under Rule 367 now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The question has been put before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is for extension of time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : We do not agree with it. We are asking for a division. We are for that. Khuranaji, the merit of the question does not arise here. The question has been put before the House.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is not our Motion: this is your Motion.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The merit of the question does not arise at all. The question has been put before the House.

The House has to decide it. The merit of the question does not arise here. The question has been put before the House and the House has to decide it. The rules, with all respect to you, Sir....

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, Prof. Kurien, that we are not discussing about the procedure. It is for extension of time of the Joint Committee.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Let me explain my point...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker Sir, they are not allowing us to speak.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker Sir, people are speaking only from that side. Let them complete first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every thing is happening in support of the hoarders. We have got full doubt that hoarders are being supported here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You have already put your signature...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You are supporting the hoarders.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why do you not want to go by the rules? Sir, you should go by the rules. How is it that you do not want to go by the rules? I am only pointing out the rules. Please give your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that we are not discussing about the procedure in regard to division. Please understand that it is for extension of time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Whatever it may be, the question has been put before the House. The House has to decide it. If somebody is challenging, the division has to be there.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, please understand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have a very valid point. Please allow me to speak.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST) : Sir, you should allow me to speak. One Member has spoken thrice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Having regard to the fact that tempers are raised, the best course for the Government will be to say that they withdraw the Bill. Otherwise, there will be a division and in the division, they have to face the music. If they do not want to withdraw the Bill, let there be a division.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shiv Shanker, we are not discussing about the procedure on division now. We are only on the point of extension of time of the Joint Committee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : We are against the extension and that is the point. We are against the extension and, that is why, we are asking for a division...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, please allow us also to speak.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA) : I would take only two minutes. I do not take much time.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : We should also be heard...(Interruptions)

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Sir, the question before the House is whether time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee for Essential Commodities Amendment Bill should be extended or not. A motion has been moved that time should be extended. What is left now is a decision that has to be taken by the House as to whether the time should be extended or not. How would the decision of the House be taken?

Sir, as far as the decision of the House is concerned, it is governed by rules 364, 365, 366 and 367 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. The rule is very clear as to how the decision of the House would have to be taken. Now that a motion has been put for the decision of the House, only rule 367, which has already been read by Prof. Kurien, remains operative.

I think, the hon. Speaker now has to decide whether the decision of the House would be taken by a voice vote or not. Since it has been challenged, it has to be decided whether it should be done by a voice vote or by a division. That is the only question. We do not have to decide about the merits and demerits of the Bill. It is a question of procedure and the procedure is very clear that the decision of the House has to be taken in accordance with rules 364, 365, 366, and 367. Now, of all these rules, rule 367 is the operative part. I agree with Prof. Kurien that a division has to be there on this.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of extending the period by a motion.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA) : The motion either has to be passed or defeated.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Whatever has been said by Shri Sangma is correct. I do not deny it...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) : The issue is very specific. The motion has already been put before the House...(Interruptions) Now, you take the vote of the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, now the matter has a very restricted and a limited scope. But by taking advantage of this particular opportunity, unnecessary aspersions have been cast. I can understand the technical point and the legal aspect of the issue. But why should one make some allegations that some section of the people are in favour of the traders? This thing should not happen. It is a highly technical matter...(Interruptions) If you shout like this, I can also shout...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sirpotdar, please.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, my contention is that procedure that has been laid down under rule 367 is absolutely correct. My humble request to the House is that only extension of the time for submission of the Report has been sought for and it should be allowed...(Interruptions) If the Bill is to be defeated, the entire House is welcome to do it...(Interruptions) The decision of the House on the motion has already been taken through a voice vote and let the business of the House now continue. Could we come back to a subject on which a decision has already been given? (Interruptions) That is my submission...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Essential Commodities Act is pending with the Joint Committee. The Chairman, Joint Select Committee has sent a proposal to extend its time. We are still in the process to consider it. It has become a technical subject. The ordinance related to it has lapsed. The aforesaid law against the hoarders is not in force now. That strict legislation has been lapsed.

If that ordinance would have prevailed. The House had not object to it. That could have been extended for a period of six months, one year or two years, but since it has no provision to take stern action against the hoarders and the earlier legislation has also been lapsed as such the extension of time is to help the hoarders on behalf of the Committee which means letting the country to be looted. Therefore, if the Government desire That action should be taken against the hoarders and price-rise be checked the special provisions contained in the Act of 1981, in force since sixteen years, be implemented otherwise we would go for Division and nothing else. That is why there should be division. We all agree that we would not allow the hoarders to be helped in any case...(Interruptions)

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Sir, we want division.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I called Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR) : Sir, in today's Revised List of Business, there are no Motions up to item 12, and from item 13 onwards there are Motions. The Minister had the option of not tabling the Motion. But, he has already moved the Motion. Therefore, there is nothing else for the House to do except to vote. No further discussion is necessary. Please go in for voting.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have already told you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is no need for further discussion. Please take the vote of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have already told you that a couple of days back I myself wrote a letter to the committee that they should not ask for further extension and bring it in the House. I am not in favour of granting extension. The other thing that I want to explain before you is...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, why are you allowing a debate?...*(Interruptions)* We have heard enough on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : There is no need for a debate...*(Interruptions)* The motion is already moved.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, you have already given the time. This motion is from your side, not from outside...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Khurana says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I would like to request you again. We have got the time till evening...*(Interruptions)*. Shiv Shanker Ji, now the position is that honourable Speaker has already given the time this and motion is for and on behalf of him. You may sit with him later on and find out some way. If you will suggest for a withdrawal. I am ready to

withdraw it. I have no objection...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, you may please call a meeting and decide it therein.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are all senior Members. Is this the way to behave in the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, is this the way the House should function? Now, it is for the Speaker to decide on the issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : He should decide. Does he want to withdraw the motion? Does he agree for withdrawal of the motion or not? If he does not want to agree for withdrawal, we are against this motion and we want division. This is the simple point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there are two alternatives. Either the Bill has to be withdrawn...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when the motion is before the House there is no question of any debate on it. Now, you have to take the vote of the House. You allow division now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is diluted. But we have not diluted it. You people have done it. We want to set it in right form...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What you want to do?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Joint Select Committee included with members from Congress party also. There the decision was taken unanimously...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It was unanimous decision they had taken ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing anything now. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on this very question you should give your ruling for division. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing about the procedure under Rule 367 with regard to division. I have understood the feelings of the hon. Members. I am appealing to all the hon. Members that before I give my ruling, I think, it will be proper to discuss it with the leaders of all the parties in my Chamber. Then I will give my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir... (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is violation of Rule 367. ... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing about the division now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : We want division now.

12.48 hrs.

At this stage, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table:

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

12.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-four minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[English]

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

MOTION RE : REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL- EXTENSION OF TIME-Contd.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up the next item on the agenda.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : We cannot go to the next issue unless this item is disposed of.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI) : Sir, we have to dispose of the Motion... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Motion is before the House. It has to be disposed of... (Interruptions) I am on a point of order... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All of you may sit down first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALIA : Sir, you may give us the ruling. What is your ruling? Please give us your ruling... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down first. I am going to tell you something. Please sit down first. You are not giving scope for the Chair to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, I will tell you. Please sit down. What is the necessity for it now?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, you may dispose of this issue first and then go to the next item... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to tell you something. You can ask anything later on, Please sit down first. Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH) : Sir, as the motion is before the House, I, as a Member of this House, have a right to ask for voting on this issue. Sir, I demand a division on this issue... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. On this issue only, the House has adjourned. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharya, please sit down. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance later. Just wait for a minute. I want to tell you something. Why are you doing this unnecessarily? There is no subject before the House. Why are you raising it unnecessarily?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I will give you a chance later on. You will speak on what item? The House has adjourned on this issue only.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Please wait for a minute. On this issue the House has adjourned. The hon. Speaker is discussing this issue with the floor leaders. Hence, we will go to the next item.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, you cannot do like this. The Rules cannot be taken for granted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker is discussing this issue with all the party leaders, So, the House is adjourned till 2.15 p.m.

13.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifteen minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

MOTION RE : REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL-EXTENSION OF TIME

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Let me speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The issue would be resolved shortly. That is why the House is adjourned till 2.45 p.m.

14.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty seven minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MOTION RE : REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL-EXTENSION OF TIME

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, please listen to me for one minute. Mr. Speaker Sir, The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was a soft law. This is what the Minister of the Government has stated. The Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act, 1981 contains strict provisions, and that strict provision has been softened repeatedly and turned into an ordinance and the same was lapsed resulting in heavy price-rise. That is why the Government should have re-promulgated the ordinance that lapsed on 8th July and then it was sent to the Select Committee. If the ordinance would have been in force then there is no harm in causing delay in sending it to Joint Select Committee, that is why we urge upon the Government for the immediate enforcement of the strict Act of 1981 having special provisions. We promise in this house that if the strict Act of 1981 is implemented, we will support it. The ordinance does not contain the strict provisions.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, a couple of days back the Prime Minister had called a Conference of the Chief Ministers wherein they had taken several decisions. One of the decisions was that:

[English]

"The Essential Commodities Act would be immediately reviewed with a view to examine as to how the State Governments, Union Territory administrations can be empowered for effective action against those who hoard and cause artificial storage shortage and engage in trade malpractices, not only in respect of foodgrains but also in items of mass consumption, like vegetable, edible oil, etc. A Group of officials, under the Cabinet Secretary, would be constituted to make suitable recommendations both on the amendment of the Act and the steps that should be taken to improve the

enforcement mechanism. Representatives of some of the States would also be included in this Group."

[Translation]

This decision was taken. Besides, I would like to say that the Bill, we want to bring in, will be brought in this House and we will adopt stringent measures in that Bill. This is the opinion of the whole House that in view of the situation prevailing in the country we need stringent measures to adopt. We also have got the same opinion that the Prime Minister had decided a few days back. As such whatever Bill is being brought would contain stringent measures so that none of the blackmarketeers and hoarders is spared. If any person gets involved in such practice, he or she should be given stringent punishment. We will try that the Bill is introduced in this very session.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, in view of what the hon. Minister has said, I would expect the House to give time to the Joint Committee till Wednesday, the 9th December 1998 to submit its Report. I hope that the House agrees to adopt the Motion subject to this modification.

Now, I would like to know whether the hon. Member Prof. P.J. Kurien still presses his point of order.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, in view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister that a Bill with stringent measures is being introduced in the House, and also in deference to the ruling given by the hon. Speaker, I do not press my point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : So, I put the modified motion.

The question is :

"That this House do extend upto Wednesday, the 9th December, 1998, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1998."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up item No. 16.

14.52 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE : SIXTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd December 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd December, 1998"

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. Shiv Shanker to speak now.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to draw your kind attention towards a very important point. There is a Gurudwara in Dehradun.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri P. Shiv Shanker to speak.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with distress, a little bit of frustration and unhappiness to bring to the notice of this House the neglect that is taking place in respect of the relief that should be given to those who have been affected by the floods in coastal Andhra.

My constituency has been very badly affected. It is evident that even the last cyclone affected your constituency, Amalapuram, which had been very badly affected. What has happened that the life of the cultivators, the wage-earners and the poor people, particularly those who live in the Lankas, has become highly miserable. Now, so far as the Government is concerned, with reference to the compensation for crops, they are giving Rs. 1250 per hectare which means that only Rs. 500 per acre is given which is highly insufficient. They are suffering from loan burden. They did not have proper seeds. Now, they donot even have the fertilizers. The roads are out of order. The authorities have not been able to put up the roads properly. The situation is that in the case of the poor people, the Scheduled Caste people, the Scheduled Tribe people, the Backward Class people and even the poor in the upper castes, who have lost their houses, what has been suggested is giving only rupees one thousand for such houses which have been completely lost. In respect of the damaged house, only Rs. 500 is given. If they have lost their whole utensils, Rs. 500 is given. If they have lost their entire clothes, Rs. 500 is given. This is the help that has been given and the resultant effect is that the people are still suffering. The relief measures are not properly worked out and people are not in a position to return to normal life.

Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice that I have written a letter and personally delivered it to the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and also to the hon. Prime Minis-

ter. I made a request to the hon. Prime Minister very seriously that under the Indira Awas Yojana the entire amount is given by the Centre for the purpose of constructing the houses for the poor people and I request that 150 houses in each Lanka may be constructed so that the poor people may have at least the residential facility. Sir, nothing is being done. So far as the poor people are concerned, relief measures are not reaching them.

I would also like to bring to your kind notice that the wage-earners had been going without any work for a long time. For two to three months, they are without any work. They earn, they spend, and they live. They are not earning and the resultant effect is that there had been debts and people are suffering. In the present circumstances, when there is no relief for weeks and people are suffering like that, my only concern is to bring this fact to the notice of this hon. House so that the House realises this issues.

The Government of India has given a grant of Rs. 200 crore. So far as the people of Andhra Pradesh are concerned, we are still feeling that this is a grant and it is not an advance. I requested the hon. Prime Minister to clarify whether this is a grant. Nothing has been said so far. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there is already a great burden on us. This Rs. 200 crore is not much for the Government of India. They could have just declared that it is a grant, which they are not doing it till date. So far as the Government of India is concerned, they have sent the officers for the purposes of finding out and to assess as to what is the extent of damage that has taken place and they have submitted a report. What had happened to that report? So far, nothing is known. My submission is that there should a proper monitoring of the relief work to the poor people. Relief is not reaching them.

I am constrained to submit, Sir, that even in respect of the relief that's being granted, it is regretful to say that—I have gone myself there—on more than one occasion I have found that those who are supposed to be the voters of the Congress, they are not being helped. This is unfortunate. We cannot thrive on calamities... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : You take the information of the whole country, you will find that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is doing the best. They are paying Rs. 1250 per hectare. Nowhere in the whole country, this much amount is being paid. You collect the particulars. *(Interruptions)* This is not correct.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Shri Naidu, I have not made an allegation against you or your Government. What I am saying is that the officers who are expected to help out the people, who are expected to extend their hands for the purpose of giving relief to the people, they are not providing relief to the people who are supporters of Congress party. Or where there are likely to be Congress voters, they are not providing relief. I am saying this with all the responsibility. I take the responsibility because my constituency is a vastly affected constituency... *(Interruptions)* I have gone and met the people. *(Interruptions)* Sir, no body can thrive on calamities.

Therefore, my submission is that the Government of India may take interest and provide necessary succour to the Lankas especially because they are affected every time. Therefore, my request would be from Rs. 200 crore which I consider it to be a grant—a major portion must go to these areas because every time they are suffering. Coastal Andhra is a very sensitive area where we are getting cyclones every time and the area is getting affected. Unless the Government of India comes to the rescue of the State Government, nothing can be done. I thought that I should bring it to the notice of the House.

15.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Vaiko.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given to me.....*(Interruptions)* Dr. Subbarmal Reddy, kindly allow me to make my statement, Mr. Speaker has allowed me...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : You have accepted the Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government a matter about which millions of people are terribly agitated and concerned in the State of Tamil Nadu and about which all the Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu, cutting across party lines, have submitted a memorandum to the Government of India and to the hon. Prime Minister of India. That is the problem afflicting the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited.

Sir, in the year 1921, the people of backward Nadar community have started a bank named 'Nadar Bank' which was later renamed as Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited. Due to the efforts of the promoters of the community, the Bank has grown up and now it has 143 branches with a deposit base of about Rs. 1,600 crore. When such is the case, M/s. Essar Group started acquiring the shares of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank.

A total of 67.29 per cent shares were brought by them. Alarmed that the bank is going out of their hands, the Nadar community in Tamil Nadu came together and formed a forum called Nadar Mahajan Bank Share Investors Forum to retrieve the shares from the Essar Group.

Sir, in the meantime, the shares of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank which were acquired by Essar Group were not transferred in their name due to the intervention of the Reserve Bank of India. Instead of these disputed shares being given back to the original promoter community, the Essar Group have reportedly sold them in favour of one, Mr. Sivasankaran, an NRI, who is now making all out efforts to transfer those shares.

MR. SPEAKER : You need not read the entire matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, it is a very serious matter. The whole State is concerned. You do not know the problem there. All the political parties in my State are concerned about this. This is a major issue over which many agitations have taken place. I am bringing it to the notice of the Government because the Government should not allow that particular NRI, who has committed certain irregularities and whose credibility is under shadow to purchase the shares which has been objected by the Reserve Bank of India previously.

This NRI has declared to various financial institutions in his application for crediting limits, that he has purchased the disputed Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank shares from Essar Group for Rs. 135 crore. At the same time, Mr. Sasi Rula of Essar Group in his letter to the Governor of Reserve Bank of India dated 22nd August, 1997 has stated that the Essar Group has received a consideration of Rs. 90 crore only for the sale of the said shares. This clearly shows that Mr. Sivasankaran has made false statements to various statutory/constitutional authorities...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot read this statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : I will take one minute only and conclude.

I would appeal to the Government of India to take cognizance of this matter and direct the concerned authorities for an amicable settlement so that the management over the Bank is restored to the original promoter community.

The Government and the Reserve Bank of India should direct either formally or informally Mr. Sivasankaran to settle with the Forum which represent the Nadar Mahajan Bank Share Investors Forum failing which Government/Reserve Bank of India should take a firm stand that at no time the transfer of the shares will be effected in the name of companies owned by Shri Sivasankaran...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, you are again doing the same thing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : With these words, I conclude.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA) : Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House a serious concern of millions of farmers, particularly, in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

A multinational corporation called Monsanto Company through its subsidiary, in collaboration with Mahico Seeds of India has started a very dangerous experiment called terminator seeds. Sir, it is shocking to know that the MNCs are taking Indian farmers as guinea pigs to make experiments in India. According to the agricultural scientists, these terminator seeds are a very dangerous thing and will have

poisonous effect on the seeds, crops and the people who consume food and other things...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudhakar Reddy, we do not have much time. Please conclude in one or two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : I am just trying to raise an importance issue. Already farmers in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are in agitation. Unfortunately, the Government of India is saying that no licence is given to Monsanto Company or to its subsidiary to carry out experiment with terminator seeds.

But whatever is the undertaking, if an MOU is signed with it, we demand that it should be terminated immediately in the interest of the nation and in the interest of the farmers of our country. Even the other type of experiment, Bascillas Thorangensis is said to be a toxic bacteria. It is also very dangerous because it will have a poisonous effect. So, millions of farmers in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country are agitated over this issue. Our agricultural scientists are quite capable to make this type of experiments. Therefore, multinational corporations should not be allowed to make such experiments.

Sir, I would request this august House to remember the fate of Chile where democracy was murdered in order to save the profits of multinational corporations. Therefore, this multinational corporation should not be allowed to conduct this experiment here. Our scientists are in no way inferior to Yankee scientists who are trying to conduct this experiment in India.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yesterday some miscreants damaged Guru Ram Dass Academy in Rajpur near Dehradun. Seven to Eight hundred people gathered in the Academy. The people belonging to Garhwal Shikshak Sangh erected a banner there and said as you are not allowing Udhham Singh Nagar to be amalgamated in Uttaranchal, we will not allow the Academy to run. The management of the Academy locked the students from Punjab inside the rooms to keep them safe. Parents are not allowed to go there. It is a matter of shame that nobody had lodged the F.I.R. there and the miscreants were not arrested. It has reported in the Statesman that holy Guru Grantha Sahib, that is regarded as Guru by sikh community, was also damaged.

Sir, I want to say through you that the persons responsible for it should be arrested and Parliamentary Committee be constituted and sent there and those found guilty be punished. We are the citizen of this country and if we are given such treatment, that we will not tolerate. Some people having involved in mischievous deeds want to distract the peace in the country, they want to disintegrate the country. Earlier such people had also spoiled the atmosphere in the country. The Government should take it seriously. Those miscreants be arrested and imprisoned. The Government

should come out with a statement today itself as to how they view it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Raja Singh ji who is owner of this school met me this morning in regard to this case, the matter is very serious ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I want to say that he met at 9.30 a.m. In view of the seriousness of the case I myself met the Home Minister at 11.30 a.m. and explained the whole position to him. For the delegation of affected persons I arranged an appointment with the Home Minister at one o'clock. They might have talked to the Home Minister. He has assured me to take strict action in this matter....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great shame that several atrocities on the minorities are taking place now...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please hear me. Yourself, Prof. P.J. Kurien and Shri P.C. Chacko have all given notice to raise the matter regarding atrocities on the minorities. But we are going to discuss the matter on Monday.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, this is a very serious issue on which a 'Protest Day' is being observed today, at the national level. There were rallies all through. There was a rally here also. They have met the Prime Minister and also the Speaker. The issue is very serious. We are going to discuss it on that day.

I may also be permitted to make a submission regarding the action which has been taken by the Government of Gujarat today. A democratic protest was expressed today. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has said that all the Christian institutions, including educational institutions, will not be given any further aid if the protest is expressed...(Interruptions) It is a matter of great shame...(Interruptions) We express protests...(Interruptions) This is a democratic country...(Interruptions) This is a secular country....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri T.R. Baalu.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The Government should make a statement on this...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, he should take the responsibility about the Statement of the Chief Minister...(Interruptions) Is he taking the responsibility about what he is saying?

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, Is he taking the responsibility of what Chief Minister has said?...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR THAKKAR (VADODARA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I object to his statement. He is misleading the House and the whole country ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DAR-BHANGA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this type of atrocities are being committed not only on one minority community but on all minorities. So long as this Government continues to be in power, atrocities would go on rising on minorities, be it the Muslims, the Christians or the Sikhs. It is happening with all minorities. All the religions are being attacked ...(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, Dalits, the Christians, the Sikhs the Muslims, atrocities are being committed on all the minorities...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the whole thing is being misquoted in the House. Things are being misquoted about Gujarat. Here is a Member of Parliament from Gujarat and she should be given an opportunity to speak and we should be given a chance to speak on this subject...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : The minorities are being harassed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, this is not a proper way.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri Khurana, it has been widely reported by the Press....(Interruptions) If he can deny it, he should deny it....(Interruptions) Please deny it ...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : We support the submission.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla supports it. Shri Akbar Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and Prof. Kurien also support it. Now Shri Baalu.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker Sir, Kurien Sahib is giving wrong statement. Here is a member of Parliament from Gujarat and she wants to speak. Please give her a chance...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Let him make a statement...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given you the permission to speak.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Since the hon. Speaker has announced that there will be discussion on Monday. I am not going to explain it any further. But I have a request to the

Government through you...*(Interruptions)* Since it has already been reported in the Press that those institutions which are closed as a protest and which have expressed their democratic protest, will be denied Government aid, I am requesting you to ascertain whether that report is correct or not. Has such a statement been issued by the Chief Minister of Gujarat? If so, I would request you to take up the matter with the Prime Minister and get a denial from the Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, he is prefixing if with his every statement and he is giving wrong statement and misleading the House*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is all I want to say.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : There would be a debate on this subject on Monday. You may express your views at that time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARAT KUMAR THAKKAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever statement is being given about Gujarat, that is all wrong. They are misleading the House and the whole country. Nothing of this sort has happened in Gujarat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (OUTER DELHI) : You do not cast any wild allegations. If you have got any fact, reveal it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with great anguish, I would like to draw the attention of the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARAT KUMAR THAKKAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever honourable Members has said about Gujarat there is nothing like that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given chance to her.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARAT KUMAR THAKKAR : He has mislead the whole nation and this House. We object to it. I demand that he should apologize for it....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Speaker Sir, with great anguish, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister for Human Resource Development about the sad plight of ten thousand employees of Indian Institute of Technology who are agitating for the past one month in South Chennai, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Delhi and Mumbai.

Their demand is to continue the recruitment and career development scheme with effect from 13.9.1986. The scales of pay hitherto enjoyed by them should not be lower under any circumstances with respect to the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. The retirement age of the supporting staff, that is, in categories 'B', 'C' and 'D' should be increased to 62 years.

Sir, all these years, whatever they have enjoyed, they are being deprived of now because of the recommendations of the Fourth and Fifth Pay Commissions.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, this is not a discussion on any topic. We have so many other items of Business.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is the most important subject. People have been starving for the past one month. The Indian Institute of Technology is an educational institution. But in spite of that, people are being deprived of their scale of pay...*(Interruptions)* They are deprived of their promotional opportunities ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a notice also from the hon. Minister.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, at what time is the hon. Minister going to make a statement?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Statement was to come at one o'clock. What happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will make the statement.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the supporting staff is demoralised. That is why I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development to immediately look into this aspect and I would also request you to kindly direct the Government to go for a negotiating settlement at least, so that the things would be properly settled.

SHRI MANDELA BHASKARA RAO (KHAMMAM) : Sir there is a very serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling the names from the list only.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Mr. Speaker Sir, women are sold for Rs. 5000 to Rs. 30,000 in Eluru town in Andhra Pradesh, West Godavari District. They are even leased out on a contract of six months or one year or two years. These women are between the age group of 16 to 30 years.

Sir, Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act and other necessary Acts to prevent these kinds of things are there in Andhra Pradesh, but the Government has not taken any steps to prevent this. So many girls have been sold to other States. It has come in today's newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : It is there in today's newspapers that the Government is taking necessary steps ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Sir, some of the women come from Tenali, Nidadavolu, Velpuru, Tanuku and Tadepalligudem. About ten women have been sold recently and the highest bid is Rs. 30,000...*(Interruptions)* The obvious reason for which they have been engaged and sold is known, I need not express it here. So, there must be a curb to it and Government should take immediate steps to prevent this. It is a failure on the part of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, my submission is that there should be a direction from the Chair to the State Government to take immediate action to stop this. Thank you.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI) : Sir, I would also like to raise a issue which is a serious offence against women. It is published today in *The Indian Express*. I would like to draw your kind attention that the women are sold...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, he has already given the details. You can support him.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Sir, this is a very important matter...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Sir, what about my notice on Floods in Bihar?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI : NATI SEN : Sir, we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Fifty Years of our Independence and women are being sold off today in our country. Sir, we want a discussion on this serious matter.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rural Health workers go from village to village and provide health services for and on behalf of the Government. They also give information about the spread of epidemic. There are five lakh such health workers in the country. It is a matter of pity that these health workers are being paid a salary of Rupees sixty per month for the last twenty years. Their condition has gone very bad. Many of these people have since died. There is more to look after them. The Government are also not fully utilizing the services of these health workers.

Therefore, I demand that these workers be declared as government servants for all purposes and paid like government servants. These people can provide all the more help to the government in its family welfare programme. So they should be utilised and nicely paid.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, sharing my views with Shri Chetan Chauhan ji I would like to say that it is a very serious matter. A number of such people are engaged in health care activities and they are not getting even a salary of sixty rupees a month for the last several

years. I would like to submit to the Government through you, that the then health minister in the of Janta Party Government Late Shri Raj Narain had launched this scheme and there after the scheme is being neglected constantly. I request that the Government should take it seriously and help those poor people positively.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, every year North-Bihar faces the problem of heavy flood from the rivers of Nepal which renders lakhs of people homeless and thousands acres of land is submerged, crops worth hundreds of crores of rupees is damaged. We talk of providing fodder for the cattle, providing relief to the affected people but when the problem of flood is over the government officers sit calm and quite.

I believe that until the Government of India talk to the Government of Nepal and make suitable arrangements to construct dam on the concerned rivers and embankment on both sides of the rivers it is impossible to check the flood in North Bihar. It is not only a matter of the two States. It is a fact that some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar face the problem of flood caused by rivers of Nepal but Uttar Pradesh and Bihar States are not in a position to tackle it because it is a matter that involves the two countries. So, until the Government of India talk to the Government of Nepal, find a suitable solution, the problem of flood would continue and crops worth thousands of crores of rupees would be damaged every year. Crores of people would be rendered homeless, casualties of animals and lives would go on. So I request that the Government of India should pay attention to it and talk to the Government of Nepal as soon as possible so that the entire Northern Bihar and some parts of Uttar Pradesh could be saved from the flood. Actually what happens is that the people of Nepal withhold the water to flow and when the water accumulates in abundance, they discharge it which results in flood all of a sudden, causing the damage. So until the Government of India go for an agreement with the Government of Nepal and comes out with a suitable plan, it is impossible to check the flood. As such the Government of India should talk to the Government of Nepal in this matter and find out a concrete solution ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have got a very good support from other members.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (BAHRAICH) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I also support the honourable Member ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammed Khan also supports you. Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi also supports you.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (FAIZABAD) : Mr. Speaker Sir, Ayodhya and Faizabad is a famous place in the country. It is a religious place.

Babri Masjid was demolished on 6 December, 1992. Some of the Communal organisations, who demolished the Babri Masjid, celebrate this day as Shourya Diwas. To Celebrate the Shourya Diwas on December 6, large scale preparations are going on. The office bearer of the organisation Shri Ashok Singhal and all other office bearers are making preparations for the same...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Nothing of this sort is happening. All these people are speaking to strengthen their vote bank....*(Interruptions)* Only two days back they had raised the issue of Karnataka and today they are raising this issue. They are showing the newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR) : Newspaper does not gather any stand for Lok Sabha ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I call Konijeti Rosaiah to raise his issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have already called Shri Konijeti Rosaiah to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET) : Sir, as you are aware, in the month of October...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Sir, I just want to correct the record....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already instructed that this will not go on record.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, thank you very much for permitting me to mention about the heavy rains which culminated into floods in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, you are also from Andhra Pradesh and you know it pretty well.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rosaiah, this matter was already raised by Shri Shiv Shanker. It is a State subject. You have also given a notice on the same subject.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Not one, ten of us have given a notice. This is a very serious matter. This so-called

* Not Recorded.

relief is not properly reaching to the actual sufferers. The Government of India's share is up to 75 per cent in National Calamity Fund. So, the Government of India also has got a responsibility to look into what is happening in Andhra Pradesh. It is the State Government's job to give assistance. I admit it. But, at the same time, the Government of India cannot shirk from its responsibility and say that the State is looking after all these things and we have no business. It is not like that.

Sir, as you are aware, in East Godavari at the time of blow-up, so many coconut trees were affected. An amount of Rs. 6,000 was paid as compensation. You are also aware what is the compensation paid to the growers of coconut this time. It is only Rs. 155...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (JAMSHEDPUR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this Government towards the fact that Indian Copper Complex and Hindustan Copper Limited situated in Ghatshila/Musavani in my constituency is on the verge of closure ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Not only that some people belonging to the Ruling Party do not have any heart ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : The speech of the lady Member will only go on record and nothing else.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO : I have come to know that the management have given a notice to discontinue the supply of concentrate being made from Malajkhand in Madhya Pradesh to I.C.C./H.C.L. from 10.12.98. If the supply of concentrate is stopped, then about eight thousand workers of I.C.C./H.C.L. Ghatshila/Musabani would be rendered jobless...*(Interruptions)* In such a condition the workers and their families solely dependent on it will have to face starvation and the business in the area will come to stand still. Earlier two thousand workers were relieved under V.R.S. scheme.

Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate measures to save the eight thousand workers of this factory...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Private Member's Business. Zero Hour is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice, why this injustice being done to me...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : I have given a privilege notice....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am appealing to you to please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : You are calling other Members why not me.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, on Monday.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you. Please take your seat. Already it 3.30 p.m.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice, please tell me, what I have to do...(Interruptions) allow me to speak for a couple of minutes...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is making a statement. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : The Minister has gone out. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will make a statement today or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Hon. Member, this is too much. Every time you are doing the same thing.

(Interruptions)

15.35 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. You are wasting the time of the House. The Minister will come and give the statement. What is this? Please go to your seat.

* Not Recorded.

15.36 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq went back to his seat.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Private Member's Business.

15.37 hrs.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (FOR CHILDREN OF PARENTS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE) BILL*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to the children of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is .

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to the children of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I Introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

ELECTRICITY (PRIORITY SUPPLY TO RURAL AREAS AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR) BILL*

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory supply of electricity to the agricultural sector and rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory supply of electricity to the agricultural sector and rural areas."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 324)

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR) : I beg to move

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 4-12-98.

for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.38½ hrs.

[English]

PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL
HONOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new section 4)

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHR R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

[English]

PROHIBITION OF EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE
ON MARRIAGES BILL*

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit extravagant and wasteful expenditure on marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit extravagant and wasteful expenditure on marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.39½ hrs.

[English]

FOREIGN AID FUND OF INDIA BILL*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the utilisation of foreign aid and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the utilisation of foreign aid and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

[English]

SLUMS AND JHUGGI-JHOPRI
AREAS CLEARANCE BILL*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for clearance of jhuggi-jhopri clusters and slum areas and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill provide for clearance of jhuggi-jhopri clusters and slum areas and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

[English]

SMALL FAMILY (MOTIVATION BILL)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for promotion of small family norms and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for promotion of small family norms and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

[English]

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Long Title, etc.)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : I beg to move

for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce the Bill.

15.41½ hrs.

[English]

ERADICATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BILL*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for eradication of unemployment from the country.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill to provide for a scheme for eradication of unemployment from the 'country'."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

[English]

CONTRACT LABOUR (REGULATION AND ABOLITION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of section 1, etc.)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.42½ hrs.

BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra ordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 4-12-98.

all-sided development of economically backward areas of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for all-sided development of economically backward areas of the country."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

URBAN LAND (CEILING AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of section 10)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.43½ hrs.

USE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES IN COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND ON PACKAGES OF CONSUMER GOODS BILL*

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory use of Hindi Language and one of the other Indian Languages Specified in the advertisements and on packages of consumer goods and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduced a Bill to provide

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra ordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 4-12-98.

for the compulsory use of Hindi language and one of the other Indian languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution in all commercial advertisements and on packages of consumer goods and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44½ hrs.

HIGH COURT AT ALLAHABAD (ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PERMANENT BENCH AT MEERUT) Bill*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (KAIRANA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44½ hrs.

STATE OF VIDARBHA BILL*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : I beg to move

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra ordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 4-12-98.

for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the formation of the State of Vidarbha by reorganisation of the existing State of Maharashtra and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the formation of the State of Vidarbha by reorganisation of the existing State of Maharashtra and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Insertion of new article 330A, etc.)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI MADHAV RAJBANSHI (MANGALDAI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MADHAV RAJBANSHI : Sir, I introduce the Bill

15.45¾ hrs.

NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC
SUBSTANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Section 2 etc.)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : Sir, I

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra ordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 4-12-98.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Long Title, etc.)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group, Act 1988".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46½ hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Articles 84 and 173)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAUND) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46½ hrs.

COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council at the Centre and in each State and Union Territory for the protection of environment and ecology.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council at the Centre and in each State and Union Territory for the protection of environment and ecology".

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : SIR, I introduce the Bill.

15.47 hrs.

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriages in India and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriages in India and for matters connected therewith.

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47½ hrs.

EDUCATION BANK OF INDIA BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for

the setting up of a Bank for the purpose of advancing loans to the students for pursuing higher studies.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill provide for the setting up of a Bank for the purpose of advancing loans to the students for pursuing higher studies."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47½ hrs.

PREVENTION OF BOGUS ADVERTISEMENTS
AND PUBLICITY BILL*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent bogus advertisements and publicity of goods or services offered and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent bogus advertisements and publicity of goods or services offered and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of section 167, etc.)

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973".

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48½ hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute a National Commission for Children and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to constitute a National Commission for Children and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48½ hrs.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT BANK BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a bank exclusively for development of women and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill provide for setting up of a bank exclusively for development of women and for matters connected therewith?"

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49 hrs.

ALTERNATE FUEL RESOURCES BOARD BILL*

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (ERANDOL) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reserach and use of alcohol as alternate fuel in the country, and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for research and use of alcohol as alternate fuel in the country, and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49½ hrs.

SPECIAL COURTS FOR WOMEN BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of special courts to deal exclusively with atrocities committed against women and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEKAER : The question is:

"That leave be granged to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of special courts to deal exclusively with atrocities committed against women and for matters connected therewith.

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

FARMERS (REMOVAL OF INDEBTEDNESS) BILL*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting of farmers loans taken from banks and other financial institutions and to lay guidelines for regulating loans to farmers by such banks and institutions and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEKAER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting of farmers loans taken from banks and other financial institutions and to lay guidelines for regulating loans to farmers by such banks and institutions and for matters connected therewith".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50½ hrs.

COMMUNICATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Post Office Act, 1898".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of section 2, etc.)*[English]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL-*contd.*

(Amendment of article 15, etc.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla. Shri N.K. Premchandran was on his legs earlier. He is not present today; then, Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan is also not present. Are there any hon. Members who want to speak on this?

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today it is Private Member's day*(Interruptions)* Please tell us whether the Honourable Minister would give a statement or not?

[English]

SHRI . E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, the Minister has assured that he would make a statement. It is such a sensitive issue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Please send the Marshall and get the Minister here. It is a sensitive issue. He should make a statement here.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any hon. Member who wants to speak on this motion moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla for further consideration?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : We want to hear the statement of the hon. Minister, but the Minister has shown scant and utter disregard to the House. He should have been present. He should make a statement because he has assured us. If that Minister is not here, then he must have authorised some other Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling the Minister.

PROF. RITA VERMA (DHANBAD) : The Minister for Social Welfare is here. You want the Welfare Minister, is it not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : I have been waiting here for the last half-an-hour. I am going to make a statement on Shri G.M. Banatwalla's Bill.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DAR-BHANGA) : We are talking about Aligrah Muslim University.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : But this is in response to the Private Members' Bill.

Sir, I have heard with attention the points made, in the last Session, by the hon. Member and I appreciate the concern and the constructive ideas of the hon. Member of Parliament. There is no doubt that earnest efforts are required to be made for the welfare of the backward classes as there is disparity between them and the non-backward sections of the population at every level. The Government is very much aware that a level playing field is to be provided to them in comparison to the non-backward sections of the population.

The Government of India is making efforts to review the existing criteria laid down for the identification of the creamy layer and this is sought to be suitably modified. The Supreme Court in its judgment in the case of Indira Sawhney & versus the Unions of India and others, and Mandal case delivered on 16.12.92 has held that the reservations contemplated in clause 4 of article 16 should not exceed 50 per cent of the appointments in the grade, cadre or service in any given year.

The Court has further observed that while 50 per cent shall be the rule, it is necessary not to put out of consideration certain extraordinary situation inherent to the great diversity of this country and the people, but in doing so, extreme caution is to be exercised and special case made out. Reservations can be made in service or category only when the State is satisfied that the representation of backward classes of citizens therein is not adequate.

The Supreme Court in its judgment in the case of Indira Sawhney and others versus the Union of India and others, delivered on 16th November, 1992 directed the Central Government as well as the State Governments to specify the basis for applying the relevant and requisite socio-economic criteria to exclude the socially advanced persons and sections, that is the creamy layer, from the purview of reserva-

tions. Accordingly, an amended Government Order dated 8th September, 1993 was issued indicating the category of persons sections to whom the rule of exclusion will apply. In the above judgment, the Supreme Court has also stated that the reservation in appointment of posts under article 16 (4) is to be confined to initial appointments only and cannot be extended to provide reservations in the matter of promotion.

In view of the above, there is no justification for such a legislation. It is therefore, requested that the hon. Member may withdraw his Private Member's Bill.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know if the hon. Minister for Health, who is sitting by her side, would agree to whatever has been said by the Minister. It is because regarding providing adequate representations, Shri Banatwalla and other Members have already pointed out that there is no proportionate reservation for many of the backward classes in the country. We have pointed out one by one, the present situation. There is no adequate representation..(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill that has been moved by me is of great importance and I thank all the hon. Members who have made their observations on the Bill and also the hon. Minister for her reply on the debate. The provisions of the Bill had never been controversial. Even the Government is committed to the provisions of the Bill by virtue of its National Agenda for Governance.

16.00 hrs.

The first point that the Bill makes is to protect the quota of reservations made by several States. For example, the State of Tamil Nadu, where the quota of reservation is well above 50 per cent, has come in for criticism by the Court. If an attempt is made to slash down the quota today, it will not only be unjust, it will not only be against a genuine policy of social justice, but it would also cause great unrest.

Sir, there are parties, the allied parties with the major party in the Government who have been agitating for the protection of their quota laid down by them in their States. The Government's own National Agenda for Governance says that this quota will be protected. I must, therefore, appeal to the Government to re-consider this matter. Several times, even the Prime Minister has assured that the quota, as is in existence in the several States, will be duly protected. Legislative protection is necessary in view of the Court's verdict. Today I am sure that the attitude of indifference that is being shown by the Government is going to cause great unrest in certain States in the South where the quota is in jeopardy. It is shocking to know that the Government has forgotten its own National Agenda for Governance.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they have an hidden agenda by which they do not want to subscribe to their declared National Agenda for Governance, then that is a different matter. But then statements are very much disappointing and not in tune with the assurances hitherto given to the entire

naton and to which assurances, I have already drawn attention to at the time when I was commending the Bill for the consideration of the House.

Sir, another point that is important here is that the Court has said that reservations cannot touch certain fields. Certain fields of national activity have been removed from the pale of reservation. This is again another set back to any genuine policy of reservation and my Bill had sought to draw the attention of the Government to this particular matter.

The third point is with respect to the so called creamy layer. I have already made my submission in detail pointing out that this concept of the creamy layer, as thought of by the Court, is extra-constitutional. It does not agree with the Constitution and thus does a great injustice to the backward classes and destroys the concept of reservation for the backward classes. Even when there is no concept of the creamy layer, even then also the quota for the backward classes does not get filled up and I had given elaborate statistics before the House showing the various fields in which the quota could not be filled up even with the concept of the creamy layer. It is, therefore, wrong to say that in the so called creamy layer, the figment of imagination, does any injustice to those who are very much below in the particular backward classes.

As I said that even if you take the so-called fictitious concept of creamy layer, even then the quota reserved for the particular backward class does not get filled up. Now, with the import of the concept of creamy layer, the very plank of reservation, the very objective of the reservation, and the very policy of the reservation will get destroyed.

Sir, it is also necessary in the interest of social justice that reservations should exist in promotions. These were the various factors which were being incorporated in the Bill. With respect to the protection of reservations in several States, there has been no controversy. Every party cutting across its own party line has always been saying that the quota will be protected, and today, we find an absence of constructive attitude from the Government which seems to have jettisoned its assurances and jettisoned even its own Agenda for National Governance.

Sir, I do not want to precipitate this matter which concerns social justice to the people.

16.07 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

I still appeal to the Government to have a re-look and not to brush it aside in such a callous manner. Sir, I look forward to the day, which may not be far off when the Government will realise its own commitment made to the nation through its own Agenda for National Governance, and I look forward to the day not far off when wisdom may dawn upon the Government....(Interruptions) If not this Government, the next Government...(Interruptions)

Therefore, with my renewed appeal for a reconsideration of the attitude on such an important question of social

justice, Sir, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my Bill....(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, the item is still before the House and the hon. Minister is leaving. The item is not disposed of yet....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI) : What is this, Sir? The matter is still before the House. This item is not still disposed of and the hon. Minister is leaving....(Interruptions) ..What kind of indifference she is showing? She should understand. She has shown this indifference to this House on many occasions. Sir, this Bill is still before the House even now. It is still not disposed of ... (Interruptions) What kind of attitude is shown by the hon. Minister? This is too much.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, the consent will have to be given by the House. Then only it can be disposed of. But the hon. Minister is leaving before that....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, he should say sorry.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : He has said sorry ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Looking forward to better days, Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, a little while ago, the hon. Speaker had sent for the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to make a statement. He has not yet made the statement but he has left the House(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DARBHANGA) : It is now ten minutes past four o'clock. When is the statement going to be made?

[Translation]

Sir, Kindly ask him to give a statement on Aligarh. Many of the Members are waiting for it.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Mr. Chairman Sir, What is the need of a statement in this regard....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Dr. Joshi came here to give a statement but it was already half past three then and as non-official business was started he left the house....(Interruptions) if he is asking for the statement now we can call him back, otherwise we would give the statement on Monday...(Interruptions) It is not proper what he is saying today....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Why should the statement be made on Monday?

SHRI E. AHAMED : How can the Minister go away ? He should be here to make the statement...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman Sir, a boy is sitting on strike till death on this issue.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD) : If the boy sitting on strike dies would Mr. Khurana take the responsibility.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Mr. Chairman Sir, when an announcement has been made from the Chair, may it be Private Members Business or any thing else neither the Member nor the Minister is empowered to intervene but only the Chair is empowered to stop any business and give a direction, direct the proceedings. Since, have told many times that today it is Private Member's day, all the Members are sitting here for the statement of the Minister.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Where are all the Members sitting were ?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : When we have some official matter to present before the House, then you say that it is Non-official day. Today when the Minister was sitting here till half past three 'O' clock why did you not raise this matters then. But even now if you want we can call him back...(Interruptions)

[English]

SRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAZIPUR) : This is not proper.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since you have raised the matter kindly listen him.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : What I want submit is, Shri Madan Lal Khurana said that Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi came here, he

had the intention to make a statement but since the time for Private Members' Business had started he went back. Did he express that intention?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Did he inform the Chair?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Did he express that intention here, in the House?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : He came to the House and informed the hon. Speaker.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is the duty of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. At least, he had to inform the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had to inform the Chair. Did the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs inform the Chair? I cannot say that. (Interruptions). The hon. Speaker said that a statement would be made today. The hon. Speaker assured the House that a statement will be made today. You may please go through the record.

SHRI E. AHAMED : This shows the attitude of the Government.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Speaker has stated that a statement will be made today itself. Kindly direct the Government to call the Minister of Human Resource Development to make a statement. It is within your right, it is your prerogative to direct the Government to call the Minister and make the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman Sir, at that time Mr. Speaker was in the Chair. I had told him everything.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is right. Well, the Minister may present himself before the House as early as possible and give a statement. Now the House may take up the Business.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : But Kindly inform us whether the Minister would give a statement today or not.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : If he is present there will be a statement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, honourable Minister has told that if the Minister would be present here then he would make a statement. In case no statement is given today what would happen. As I have also told that a boy is already on hunger strike.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In view of the gravity of the issue the Government had assured for the Statement. Honourable Members had raised the issue. Therefore, keeping in view of the seriousness of the matter the Chair has directed the Minister to give a statement at the earliest possible.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It would take some time for him to reach here.

16.14 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of New Article 51B)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill for further amendment to the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to further amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.15 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Substitution of new section for section 16 etc.)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agree, two hours' time could be allotted for this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : We all agree.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That a Bill to further amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 may be taken for consideration."

Sir, I raise this issue through this Land acquisition Bill. Farmer's Problems is related to the land acquisition. Therefore, I would like to raise this issue before the House.

Sir, the farmer's role in the development of the country is always appreciated but the farmer is the most loser. If you want to sell an item you can sell it the way you like, you can demand the desired price for it but for the land of the farmers, if the Government, local bodies or any company, want to acquire it, it is invariably acquired and nobody is concerned about their families.

Sir, the land acquisition law came into force in 1894. This law, being a remnant of slavery and a symbol of socialism, has become a curse for the free India. It deprives the farmers from all benefits. The cultivable land of the farmers is the only means of their livelihood. The farmer, through this land, not only feeds his family but also provides foodgrains for the entire nation. But through this law the farmer's land is acquired in a overnight. The Government machinery has empowered the bodies to evacuate the farmers from their land forcing the dependents and family members to starve to death. Therefore I have brought this Amendment.

Today socialism is always being advocated but in this system—may it be through Urban Land Ceiling Act or Land Acquisition Act—the farmer is the most sufferer. In the changing scenario of the economic policies, the aspect of social justice is talked about some people are misinterpreting the things to serve their vested interests. Today there is a need to provide social justice to the farmers. But in the name of development the land of farmers are acquired in a overnight. They are deprived of their land. They are forced to starve to death. Therefore, through this amendment I place before the House 2-4 points, there are many people who represent the whole country and discuss about the problems of the farmers but they do not try to realise the anguish of the farmers. It is said that the particular land is being acquired for the particular scheme and ultimately the land is acquired. Claiming the project to be an important one, many things, including the purpose for which the land has been acquired, are popularised. It has also come to the notice that even after the acquisition of land by the local bodies, registered companies or for government projects the land remains unused and vacant for over 10 years. After that, on our side there is a problem of foodgrains production where as on the other the encroachment on land takes place. Therefore, this amendment of mine, in this regard, seeks for the early completion of the project for which the land is acquired and serving the purpose of its acquisition. In the case of a mega project if its work cannot be completed, it would be better to start at least some work on such acquired land. It may also be certified that the work of project for which the land was acquired has been started. In case the work on the land so acquired could not be started even after a lapse of 10 years such land should be returned back to the farmers. For this, they should not be asked to return the registration fee but they should be asked to return the amount of compensation and take their land back.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other thing which I would like to submit is about the process of disbursing compensation which is very peculiar and complex in nature. As a result the farmer is always at the receiving end. A case of land acquisition may be a paradise for the lawyer, it may be a business for some cunning, clever or intelligent people but a poor farmer do not get Justice this law. Under the law, it is provided that in

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

the case of acquisition of land any objection in this regard can be made to the district Magistrate within 90 days and if the amount of the compensation is stated to be for less, only then such objection would be forwarded by the District Magistrate to the Judicial tribunal and not otherwise. The poor farmer does not have the knowledge of law and therefore he is always a sufferer. Thereafter he gets another blow and he does not get the full amount of compensation and also that he is unable to present his view before the Judicial tribunal. Therefore, I have a suggestion that the farmers should be given the right to register their objection even after the 90 days on valid grounds.

My third suggestion through this amendment is about the binding on the farmer to register his objection, on the acquired land or the amount of compensation within 90 days and if he fails to do so he loses the opportunity for ever but when the District Magistrate holds that application in his office and does not forward the same to the Judicial tribunal, no action is taken against him. In spite of all these things, the poor farmer has to run from pillar to post to pursue his case. Therefore, I intend to say that it should be mandatory for the District Magistrate to forward the application received in this connection, within 90 days. If the District Magistrate fails to forward the application to the Judicial tribunal, the farmer should have the right to submit his objection and application straightaway to Judicial tribunal.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to mention about one or two points more. Firstly that the procedure has been made so complex that for the payment of compensation three rules have been formulated. On the one hand it is said that they are being given the market value. Secondly it is said that they are being paid the consolation price and thirdly, they will be given the amount with 12% said interest thereon from the date of formation of the award after the date of issue of notification. Interest at market rate is paid, even if it is paid after 10 years the interest is given on it but interest of consolation price, which is called 'Solatium' is not paid. Interest on the rental amount in between the date of notification and constitution of award is also not paid. It is claimed that the Govt. is giving compensation to the farmers but the fact is that he is at a loss. The litigation takes 10-20 years and even after that he gets only a part thereof as interest and the balance amount remains unpaid. The price rise and the fall in purchasing power of rupees makes his money devalued. Therefore it is my submission that he should get interest on all sorts of payments. There is more strange story which is that when a land is acquired for a local body, or for a Govt. project, whether it is for State Govt. or Central Govt. or for any local body or for a development authorities or for municipal corporations or for a company, the district collector is responsible for making payment and ought to be, but alongwith the District Collector the party who is benefited be a local body or other authority, who is utilising that land, has no responsi-

bility to pay the amount of solatium. As a result, when High Court or Tribunal decides the case, the increased amount and the amount decided by land acquisition officer is challenged that the amount is less and when decision of Tribunal or High Court or Supreme Court comes and if it goes in favour of the farmer, he does not get the increased amount. Because in the land the authority who utilises the land has no responsibility under the law to pay the solatium. Collector says that he has deposited all the amount in the land acquisition office which he has got. As a result the decrees of High Court and Supreme Court becomes a mere piece of paper which has significance and the farmer has to run pillar to post. Sometimes he approaches to leaders and sometimes to the officers and if that officer is corrupt, then he takes advantage of his helplessness and harass him. If someone is more clever lucky and is bent upon to get the Solatium, then he obtains attachment form from the high court or Supreme court but the officer who is to implement that attachment order remains reluctant in approaching the District Collector because they do not want to annoy the Collector that is why the officer does not go to the Collector. The State Govt. has given so much powers to Collector that no officer can work after annoying the Collector, but if attachment is done then you will know about P.L.A. The Salaries of the teachers of basic education is deposited in P.L.A. and it is attached or deposited amount meant for development work is attached. As a result of which the deposited amount meant for development work is attached and the development work is stopped. Sometimes the salary of the employees is also attached. With this a new problem is created and when the district collector demands the State Govt. for money, he does not get. Why the money is not given? Because the State Govt. or any other Govt. with whose order acquisition took place, says that it is not in our personal interest. Hence, it is my submission that the beneficiaries, in whose favour the land is being acquired, should equally be responsible to pay the additional amount of compensation. This is natural justice.

I want to say one more thing that the Supreme Court has given one more strange decision, but it is an apex court of people and there is a provision in the constitution. It is said that Supreme Court gives natural justice. If there is a delay then there is provision of condonation of delay in section 5 of General Clauses Act, but the principle of natural justice is not applied on these poor farmers. This is the decision given by the Supreme Court. Hence, I want to say that if there is a delay in any work, the benefit of the provision of condonation of delay, which is applied in most of the cases in India, should also be given to the farmers one more strange provision is that if by virtue of judicial process, a judicial authority, whose status is of a judge, has increased the value of compensation of acquired land of a farmer, the farmer can take its benefit, but if a decision is given in High Court and more amount is increased there and though decision is in the favour of farmers, they hardly get the benefits, where as the

decision of High Court becomes an example in all cases and if a person has murdered somebody in open and has been set free in any case then the basis of plea and passage of time he is freed. The farmers do not get the benefit of the same cases which are held in Supreme Court and High Court. They are asked to fight a case in the Supreme Court with the help of an advocate. It is my request that this provision should also be made in this bill also.

Sir, the law of 1894 is the symbol of feudalistic tendency and through you, it is my request to end this stigma of slavery. When we talk about the interest of the farmers, we will have to think about them with a broad outlook and open mind. The agricultural land in and around of cities, have been acquired on whatever basis whether through a urban land ceiling act or land acquisition act but due to these legal provisions, the production were stopped on these lands. The farmers find neither does he plough nor sow their field. He is compelled to starve and if he becomes the victim of acquisition there is a provision in the law for his children that if one's land is acquired, one's family member will be provided with a job. I talked to the President of the Uttar Pradesh Avas Vikas Parishad. He told that though it is written in the law but we have not so much job. We can't give job to their family members and dependents. Whether it is Uttar Pradesh Avas Vikas Parishad or Delhi Development Authority, the family members of farmers remains unemployed, though there is a provision in the law to provide them job, but it is not enforced compulsorily. They are ridiculed and told that the non availability of the jobs. They can seize the morsel from the mouth of poor people but can't provide them with water. Hence there is a need for radical changes in the law and therefore I have tried through you and through the Honourable Members of the House that this should be considered seriously by rising above the politics. There should be brought uniformity in whole of the country regarding the system of acquisition and various laws made for this purpose and the provision should be in such a way that they do not become anti-people. It is my endeavour through this amendment bill and I am sure that all of my colleagues would take an integrated look of this humane, economic and social problem and will pass this bill unanimously. I also want to say to the Govt. that it should not be made a prestige issue and it should realise that the storm of change which is continuing, will not stop. Hence, change your outlook, and play a role of forerunner to get rid of such black-laws which are anti-people. With these words, I conclude. Thank you, very much!

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD) : Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Parliamentary affairs has not come yet, it's already half an hour.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : It's half an hour, and hon'ble Minister is not present. First, Minister of Education has gone and now Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also gone.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has gone to call Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Now Hon'ble Minister of Railways will give a statement regarding the rail accident happened recently.

16.36 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Derailement of Kurla-Howrah in Manmad-Jalgaon section on Bhusaval Division of Central Railway

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : As informed yesterday by Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, I visited the site of accident near Jalgaon along with Member Engineering and Member Electrical, Railway Board also visited the civil hospital at Jalgaon.

As a result of the above accident, 9 persons (including 3 Railway employees) have lost their lives, 11 persons suffered with serious injuries and 23 passengers suffered minor injuries. Injured persons have been admitted in Civil Hospital, Jalgaon and sufficient care is being given to provide them with best possible medical treatment. However, a few injured passengers have been discharged from the hospital on their own request.

An ex-gratia payments of Rs. 25000/- for deceased, Rs. 5000/- for seriously injured and Rs. 500/- for minor injured passengers was announced. Directions have also been given to the railway officials to help the injured persons in filling up claims forms so that they could get compensation from Railway Claims Tribunal soon. In this accident, besides the district administration i.e. police personnel and doctors of Civil hospital, some voluntary organisations rendered prompt help to injured persons.

Traffic on the Down line has been restored at 8.35 hrs. today. Commissioner Railway Safety (CRS), Central Circle, has already started the enquiry and he has been asked to complete the same expeditiously. As already informed yesterday, the prima facie, cause of accident appears to be the failure of welding of rail track. On receipt of inquiry report from Commissioner, Railway Safety, regarding the cause of accident, prompt action would be taken against the responsible persons and remedial steps would be taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents.

On behalf of Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and express sincere sympathies to the injured. I am confident that the House is with me in expressing sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

16.39 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENTS) BILL – contd.

(Substitution of new section for section-16 etc.)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sh. Mohan Singh will now speak on the ongoing debate regarding the Bill of Sh. Rawatji.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Chairman, first I thank Hon'ble Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawatji for bringing forward a publicity welfare and good bill in the House. It is my belief that the ruling Govt. have brought a Bill to abolish Urban Ceiling Act by understanding the interest and future of the farmers but the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 is worse than this act. This act is the remain of tyranny of Britishers and instrument of looting the poor people of India, the Govt. should think about it. A Govt. was formed in U.P. in 1993 and it postponed the implementation of this act in the State and said that we postponed the right of Govt. to acquire the land for any public purpose in our State.

When the Govt. requires a land for public purpose, the Govt. can buy that land on the market rate or at the rate at which the farmer wishes to sell his land. The U.P. Govt. had started this tradition in 1993. It would have been better, because usually we see that the District Magistrate gives the land for public purpose to whom he likes on easy instalments it is a complaint, pretention. It is provided in the law and it has been changed that land can be acquired at the market rate but that market rate will be determined by the local District Magistrate. The District Magistrate of the area determines the compensation of land of that area or the type of that land or the cost of land on the basis of type of land according to his interest, will requirement of land and the intention of the Govt. As a result he determines very low rates for the poor farmers. But the influential farmers who have the approach to high officers and leaders want to acquire the ownership of their land from the District Magistrates. If the land is in any litigation, then the District Magistrate determines the value of area arbitrarily and gets a good amount for it. We generally see this type of double standard. I want to give an example that Lucknow Development Authority wanted to acquire some areas for extension of their housing plans. All the officers who knew this system, have

got the information about it. They bought the land of that area from farmers at very low prices. After a few days they sold their land to Lucknow Development Authority at the rate of their will. They had bought that land at Rs. 10,000/- Rs. 12,000/- or Rs. 20,000/- per bigha and after one year they got it acquired to the Lucknow Development Authority at the rate of Rs. 1,50,000/- per bigha. Hence, the land mafia, as we can call them, use it as a profession of sell-purchase of land and they have become efficient in this profession become successful in getting a good amount by determining the cost of land at their own wishes.

Another example is that the Govt. had to construct a court at a place. The land of farmer was acquired but later on the Govt. dropped that idea or they did not need more than 10 acres of land. If they acquired 20 acre land then they gave the remaining 10 acre land to another person or any other institution for another purpose. The other institution acquired it and sold it to Govt. At double or tripple rate. The farmer from whom originally the land was acquired got a little amount of it. It's an irony. Hence, I understand that the idea and intention of Rawatji to provide benefits to the farmer and landlords is quite proper but he demanded only amendments. I want that the Land Acquisition Act should be repealed as the Govt. proposes to repeal the Land ceiling Act. It is my submission that the Govt. should consider seriously to abolish this Act. I have some other points beyond this bill. Therefore only supporting the bill and bringing minor amendments in the act is not going to benefit the farmers. The poor farmers are not going to be benefited by this. If you want to benefit the farmers, the whole Act should be abolished and the Govt. should have the only right that if the Govt. want to acquire the land for public use they should buy it at the rate demanded by the farmers. This system should prevail. With these words I strongly support the theme of the Bill.

SHRI K.D SULTANPURI (SHIMLA) : Mr. Chairman, I support the motion moved by Sh. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. I think this is a good proposal because the farmers are being exploited in the whole country. Renowned industrialists and capitalists buy the land of the farmers at very cheap rates and show that the land has been bought at a higher rate. They affix less stamp duty and earn money from it. They take loan from the Govt., show higher rate of land but pay less amount to the farmers. The industrialists have done this type of act in every province as well as estate.

Here is DDA but we have Housing Board. The State Government construct the house and Housing Board sell it at the cost of on 4-5 lakhs of rupee. In this way the farmers do not get the right price of their land reach below the poverty line. Big farmers and Zamindars purchase the lands of poor people at cheap rates and sell it at higher rates. This also annoys them. As it has been said here, that this Act is going to be 100 years of old but every estate has have a

separate system. There is no land ceiling in the estate which may make clear as to which land belongs to whom. The scheduled caste people have suffered most by this system. They were gentle enough to become the Zamindars they become subordinate by the use of stick. Similarly the minority community are also suffered. They were illiterate and have been exploited till now. The Britisher's formulated the law in such a way that enabled them to construct big houses for them in the cities.

Mohan Singh Ji has said rightly. If you see, the big industrialists all over the country have established industry by taking loan but today they are closed. This has caused thousand of workers jobless. The industrialists have taken grant, and got subsidy but it is lying unused. If all the Chief Ministers and Ministers of Industry look into this by organising a conference, they will find that they have to pay crores of rupees to the Govt. of India. The industrialists have earned the profit whatever they wanted to earn. Housing Board allot plots for the industry. The Govt. are asked to give notice to acquire the plots. Hence they do not get any compensation. You should find out that how much amount of compensation should be given to the farmers. At present the National Highways and State Highways have been constructed on the land of farmers be it of any estate or province. I would like to say that the farmers never got the compensation they deserved for. The persons who do not need land and big industrialists construct their houses in Connaught place and at any other but the poor man who gave this land have no right. They have no land and keep on moving in search of their own house but they have no house. Neither have shop nor house but keep on saying 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

This kind of atmosphere is prevailing in the country that this Govt. is helping the big industrialists. They establish industries, grab the land of farmers and exploit the labour and people of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backward class and minorities. If you want to prepare such an atmosphere in the country then I would like to say that you should at least ask the State Governments as to what amount has been given as loan by the banks in their States and to whom these were given. You will find the same person in Delhi, U.P., M.P., and Himachal but with changed name. They will change the name of one industry into another and the farmers would always continue to be exploited. If you want to help the farmers, have mercy upon us have mercy upon people belonging to backward class, poor and scheduled caste. This country also belongs to them. If you have any common programme to save them from exploitation, please tell us. If your common programme is to buy onion at the rate of Rs. 5/- per kg. from us and sell it to Rs. 60/- per kg., then we are bound to be exploited, because we would not eat onion and potatoes. We can only produce them Mr. Khuranji, but we can't eat them.

So far the farmers of the country are concerned, I would like to request, that the farmers are engaged in producing

food grains and thus making it available to the nation. Shri Barnalaji is sitting here. You have also increased the prices by Rs. 95/-, the prices of other commodities have also been increased. Have you ever thought that the farmers who have lost their land, big cities like Chandigarh have been built thereon. Today Shimla has become in same way. Whether it is Delhi or Simla or any other city, all the land of farmers were bought by property dealers on cheap rates and sold by them on higher rates. They enjoy full liberty, they have their own signboards and even then they are saved from paying income tax, as they manipulate the money they can do everything. Minister of Finance is also sitting here. I would like to say to him that you should consider on this that our huge amount is engaged in those industries which are closed and they have bought the land of farmers almost free. The Govt. have given money to them. Five years to ten years of time have passed but all the industries are still closed.

I would like to request you that you should look into this aspect. I think that Mr. Rawat has brought a good proposal and I support it. I hope that he would not withdraw it because you are a member of ruling party, if you withdrew it, the farmers would be exploited. Hence I support the Bill. I request Mr. Rawat that the name of lord Shanker is with your name. You should remain as strong as Shankarji, do not retreat and get it passed from this Govt. of 18 parties. We will co-operate you in passing the Bill.

16.56 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Raid on the ancestral house of eminent writer Shri Ali Mian

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Statement of hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs regarding raid on the ancestral house of eminent writer Shri Ali Mian.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, a debate regarding the atrocities over minorities has been going on in the house for the last two three days. Everytime an example is given regarding the raid conducted on the house of Ali Mian. It has passed a wrong message. Therefore, I talked to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He sent me a copy of the letter addressed to Advanji. I would like to read the letter before the house.

"An incident has been published in the newspaper that few persons entered in the ancestral house of Maulana Hasan Ali Nadvi alias Ali Mian situated in madarsa of village Takia

-Kalan district- Raebareli at the night of 2-11-1998 and made a search. Regarding the incident the district administration have informed the Govt. that no inquiry agency have conducted any search. Keeping in view the sensitiveness of the matter, it was decided immediately that a high level enquiry may be conducted of the whole of the case to make it clear that who were the persons who entered in the ancestral house of Maulana Ali Mian and what was their purpose. Accordingly, a highlevel committee was constituted on 25-11-1998. The chairman of the committee is Sh.A.K. Saran Additional Director General of Police, Crime Investigation Deptt. Shri Ajay Raj Sharma Additional Director General of Police, law and order, and Sh. Himanshu Kumar, Additional Director General of Police are members of the committee. The committee will conduct enquiry immediately and present its report to the Govt. within ten days. The committee have already inspected the spot and have taken the evidence of Maulana Hasan Naqvi after having a meeting with him. The committee have been redirected to present its report latest by 8-12-1998.

Our Government is committed to provide security and prestige to the people of all communities. Hence, this action has been ensured by taking a decision for constituting a committee immediately.

Sd/-
Yours,
Kalyan Singh
Chief Minister, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh."

Mr. Chairman, I have read this letter so that the House and nation could be aware of it...(Interruptions) It was discussed that the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh have raided the house. The other aspect of Govt. of Uttar Pradesh may also come. So, I have read this letter.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : I had raised this issue yesterday and made an allegation also. The report of the enquiry committee would come after enquiry, it was also happened in 1994. An enquiry was also conducted at that time but its report was not presented here. What happened to that, we have not come to know. Will you lay the reports of the committee of 1994 and this committee on the table of the House and whether hon'ble Minister will give a statement on this report. We want your assurance in this regard.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I will present the report which is available...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Thirty days have passed from Bareilly to Lucknow, you think

yourself...(Interruptions) the incident took place on 2nd(Interruptions) It's a matter of shame...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I will tell you after having a talk with Chief Minister...(Interruptions) I will talk to the Chief Minister...(Interruptions). As I have just said, similarly I would request him after the submission of the report that the members of Parliament would like to know about the report.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : 23 days have passed from Bareilly to Lucknow, you think yourself. Whether it takes 30 days to constitute a committee? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Shri Ali Mian is a man of international eminence. Such a person's house has been raided. How could happen in this country?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The committee has been constituted to present the report.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Is that not the indolence of the Government? The Govt. have taken 23 days in constituting a committee...(Interruptions). The incident took place in Bareilly and they are constituting a committee by sitting in Lucknow...(Interruptions). You have accepted that there cannot be any other proof of the indolence of Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and they have done this with malafide intention ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister of Human Resource Development Mr. Joshi will give a statement regarding incidents relating to Aligarh Muslim University.

17.02 hrs.

[Translation]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Incidents relating to the Aligarh Muslim University

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : As the hon'ble Members would be knowing that there has been unrest in the campus of Aligarh Muslim University for some time in the past. The Junior Doctors of the Medical College attached

to the University had been demanding for some time the immediate implementation of the revised pay scales as approved by the Central Government for their College and University Teachers. Since this issue was drawing the attention of the University Grant Commission, it was not possible for the Vice-Chancellor to take any action at his level at that point of time. Unfortunately, around the same time a Junior Doctor of the Medical College had to be suspended on the allegation of molesting a woman patient. Thereafter, the Junior Doctors went on strike for implementation of revised pay scales and for the revocation of suspension of the Junior Doctor. This incident happened on 28th Sept. 1998.

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DAR-BHANGA) : This is not correct Sir.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am putting the information before the House which I have.

The strike was called off on 5 October, 1998 on the assurance that their grievances would be looked into but they resumed strike again on 14 October, 1998. In view of their agitation the Faculty of Medicine was closed *sine die*. The reafter the striking Doctors began a dharna at the residence of provost of Hadi Hasan Hall.

There was an ugly group clash amongst the junior Doctors in their mess on 4 November, 1998, in which 13 junior Doctors were injured. Junior Doctors alleged that they were attacked by a group of miscreants at the instance of the President, Allgarh Muslim University Students Union. Following this incident the junior doctors went on a rampage, and damaged the car of the Rector, gheraoed the residence of Pro-Vice Chancellor and set it on fire. The situation was brought under control with the help of police. The University has been closed *sine die* since then.

Government shares the views expressed by the Members of the House that normalcy should be speedily restored and has accordingly, advised the vice-chancellor to take suitable and urgent steps to reopen the University. Vice-Chancellor has also been advised to institute an enquiry into the whole series of unsavoury incidents with the help of a retired High Court Judge. Government is also in touch with the district administration and the State Government to ensure that the necessary environment for restoration of normalcy through confidence building measures among the students is created. I take this opportunity to appeal to all the hon'ble Members of the House to lend their helping hands to this process.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, I will take only one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no provision for classification after the statement of the Govt.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : The right which is there now...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no provision under the rule to ask a question after the statement of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All are speaking at a time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Fair enquiry may be conducted by removing the vice-chancellor...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If all will speak together, what I will hear.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, may I make a submission?...(Interruptions) The hon. Minister has made certain facts. He has only placed the facts given to him by the Vice Chancellor. I was elected by this House to the Aligarh Muslim University Court last time, after 1996 election. Not even a single meeting of that Court has taken place. There was no democracy and no accountability...(Interruptions) The Minister did not tell the fact. The Government did not say what steps they are going to take to improve the situation, to open the University...(Interruptions) The Government has a moral authority and legal responsibility. Nothing has been done.

Sir, I am very much dissatisfied with the statement...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no provision under the rule to discuss after the statement of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Whole democratic institution has been spoiled...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Sir, Judicial Com-

mission may also hold an enquiry about the conduct of vice-chancellor...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to say that the conduct of Vice chancellor may also be conducted by the Judge. Why the Govt. is objecting adding this conduct of Vice-chancellor may also be enquired into...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Mr. Chairman, the amendment Bill, 1998, which has been presented, should be discussed seriously and sincerely. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no provision under the rule.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I seek your indulgence regarding the statement made by the Minister. The statement shows very callous and indifferent attitude of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : I am raising a point of order...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Under what rule? ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Sir, I am raising a point of order. When such a discussion is going on and you have called the Minister by special leave...*(Interruptions)* He has also given statement...*(Interruptions)*. There is no provision under the rule for clarification or discussion after the statement. I want your ruling on this issue. This sort of discussion should be stopped and the discussion regarding the Bill should be continued...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Whether the conduct of Vice-Chancellor would be included in it or not...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am only submitting that the statement made by the hon. Minister...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no provision under the rule for discussion on it.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You please sit down.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Why should I sit? Are you the Chairman? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why are you taking so much of time?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You are taking so much time.

[Translation]

I am talking to hon'ble Chairman. Who is he to order me to sit down. Why should I sit? I would like to know from the Minister that he is talking about judicial commission, judicial enquiry, whether the conduct of Vice-Chancellor will also be enquired. So much time has been wasted on this. Minister can say in one word that whether they would conduct the enquiry.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Vice-Chancellor is himself a party to it and you are denying his conduct ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, I may be given one minute to speak. This is not a matter of only one incident but it is matter of full tenure of Vice-Chancellor. Due to which this situation has arisen, during the tenure of Vice-Chancellor. The University Closed down for four times and hundred of students rusticated from the University, Vice-Chancellor is acting like a Dictator. He doesnot care about the law formulated by the Parliament. Parliament has enacted a law that the Court will give the decision in big country but there has been no meeting of the Court for the last three years...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to say that CBI enquiry should be conducted and University should opened.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri Sahu.

SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Action may be taken against guilty persons. We will be compelled to walkout. We are making boycott of the House under compulsion ...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP) : ...*(Interruptions)* The Vice-Chancellor has to be asked to function properly.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD) : Mr. Chairman, they want to ruin the Muslim University ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Mr. Chairman, they are ruining the Muslim University..(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : They want to ruin the Muslim University.(Interruptions)

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Mr. Chairman, no attention is being paid to our demand, therefore we boycott the House. On enquiry may be conducted against Vice-Chancellor.

17.16 hrs.

At this stage, Sh. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon'ble Members left the House.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR (MAHASAMUND) : Mr. Chairman, a debate is going on a very important Bill in the House.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I have been trying for the last 15 minutes to say something. Kindly allow me to say something.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I am also walking out in protest.

17.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed left the House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Only one minute please. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : You will not speak. Chairman has called his name not yours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Prabhunath Singh, we will decide, you sit down.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Chairman, he has completed his speech, I may be allowed to speak. You have called my name.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You have not addressed to the real issue in the Aligarh Muslim University. You bypassed the real issues and unfortunately your statement is one-sided. That is why all the Members are agitated. It is the duty of the Government to maintain normalcy in that University and no action is being taken in that regard. Instead, they are encouraging a person who is functioning as the Chief Executive of the University to create trouble in the University. So, we are

not satisfied with the statement. So, the Congress Party is also staging a walk out in protest at the indifferent attitude towards the Aligarh Muslim University.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : You want to ruin the University knowingly ...(Interruptions)

17.18 hrs.

At this stage, Prof. P.J. Kurien and Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Chairman, half an hour has gone, it was discussed forcibly. I want to say my point. I would like to draw your attention towards the amendment of Land Acquisition Act....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Mr. Chairman, in protest I have to say something. The statement is one-sided. I am also, on behalf of the CPI (M), joining the walk out.

17.19 hrs.

As this stage, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan left the House.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL - contd.

(Substitution of new section for section 16 etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Mr. Chairman, There are clear views about land acquisition in the eighth report of the Standing Committee. It has recommendatory notes and the 8th report of the Standing Committee on 16 points which was presented in tenth Lok Sabha discusses the Land Acquisition Act and it also discusses in detail the amendments that require to be made in it and the its anomalies. This is the basis of this Bill. The most important point in the amendment bill presented by Respected Bhagwan Shankar Rawatji in seven sections, is that of returning the land to the farmers.

When returning of land will start in this country, of the future of farmers, then 'Annadata' who are called benefactor who are the farmers and who are the sufferer in each possi-

[Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu]

ble way and who are also nourishing the sufferers, will smile on them.

You are also perturbed that is why you allotted two hours but I am saying with regret that almost half or quarter of an hour has been wasted. They do not want to have discussion on the Bill on which future of crores of people depends and which should be in a sober manner. The provisions in the statement giving reasons and purposes of the Bill includes the very important point of returning of the land to the farmers. Land Acquisition Act has been implemented since 1894. This act is completing 105 years you want to keep the farmers slave from the time of slavery to till now. Even after 50 years of independence lakhs and crores of farmers are roaming around for getting compensation of their land. The most disturbing fact is that the farmers have not received compensation till today for their lands which were acquired to build dams and roads. In my constituency the Kular dam was constructed. That caused displacement of lakhs of tribals. They did not get compensation, nor did they get payment of interests. There is a clear provision in the report of the standing committee which I would like to read, in its 16th paragraph, it is written that :

[English]

"It is further recommended that section 28 also be amended by adding "he took possession of the land or the award is made, whichever is earlier."

[Translation]

There is consensus in the standing committee on the issue of amending the section 28. The committee has made a recommendation in this regard. It will not create any hindrance.

This Government is functioning under the leadership of the BJP. In the 18th point on page 26, of the manifesto, the party has stated:

"Reclaim Land Acquisition Act will have the following goals:

(a) Immediate and complete compensation to the farmers at market price for their land. (b) Those farmers, who have given their land for industrial and urbanisation schemes, should be made share holders in these schemes (c) If a public or private institution acquires agriculture land for a particular scheme and can not implement it in the given time, then the Government will take the land back from their developers."

This is an important issue. Being a member and worker of Bharatiya Janata Party, I would like to say that in view of the implementing the manifesto this bill should be given

importance and the provisions of returning the land should be implemented fully. This will open a new path towards financial independence and from a new chapter. In the 50th year of independence we can say that we have amended the 105 year old law. There was some change in this bill in 1984. Regarding compensation, Shri Rawatji has clearly stated in the fifth section of the bill that till now no clarification and definition has been given about the compensation.

He has clearly mentioned that the cess as provided in this section and also in Section-34, the whole amount due shall be included therein provision of payment of interest on market rate as the cess alongwith the interest accrued thereon has been made in the bill.

Mr. Chairman, if we see the data of India and States, we find that lakhs of farmers are in the position that they have not recovered the compensation. At least hundreds of people belong from each district in this category. Those who have been displaced on whose land has been acquired for not only for government but also non-government plans, have not yet received their compensation. You will be surprised if all the data are presented in the house.

Mr. Chairman, in this era of globalisation it has been clarified stating the objectives and reasons that so far the constant judicial view is concerned that the amount payable under section 23 of the Act is an integral part of cess due in globalisation of acquisition.

Mr. Chairman, the farmers are not capable to go to court in regard to litigation. You know their financial position very well. In this situation he has to run from pillar to post for compensation which is against the natural course of justice. Though these 7 sections are Private Members Bill, but these are appropriate and it has been prepared on the basis of experience. Mr. Rawat is a senior Member of this House and he has prepared this bill on the basis of his vast experience. Therefore, we support this bill collectively and request all the members of this August House to show their large heartedness by passing the Bill in its form and do justice to the farmers. It is today's demand. Keeping this feeling in my mind and extending support to this private member's bill I conclude my speech.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me time to participate in this discussion.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGARH) : Mr. Chairman Hon. Member Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has brought the agony of the farmers in the form of discussion before the House through the Land Acquisition Act and he is trying to draw the attention of the Government, through this bill, I would like to congratulate Shri Rawatji for making the farmers' agony a subject of discussion in this house.

Mr. Chairman, Land Acquisition Bill contains lots of problems for the farmers. In this House, both the Government and the opposition discuss the problems of the farmers in every session but the farmers do not have just one problem. They are facing many problems of which Land Acquisition Act is a major problem. Through Land Acquisition Act, the District Magistrate has the right to determine the price and compensation for the land which is acquired for public industries. Influential farmers are not affected in this process as they have access to the Collector or the leaders or the ministers but small and medium farmers are badly affected. The influential farmers are able to protect their land but the land of the small and medium farmers who do not have any approach is acquired and they do not even get market price for it. Practically you also know it because you are also connected with the villages. When the land of a farmer is acquired, he has to repeatedly visit the office to get the price fixed for his land and in this process, he might get the compensation later on but first he has to pay the compensation to the office also. Even after paying compensation to the office, appropriate market price is not determined. Some times it is also seen that the land has been acquired, the farmer has been deprived of the land but he does not get compensation even after 5 to 10 years and the farmer has to repeatedly visit the collectors office, the regional office and the land ceiling office for that ten years. It seems to me that a small farmer spends more money in visiting the offices than the compensation he gets, had he been able to spend that money for other purposes during the time period of 5-10 years, his economic position might not have destabilized. I would request you to fix the market price of the land of the farmers at the time of acquisition, and interest should be paid to the farmers from the day the land is acquired and they are deprived of it till the day the compensation is paid.

Thirdly, there should be one more condition that a time limit of 5-10 years should be set and if within this time period no public sector undertaking is established on that land then the land should be returned to the farmers after ten years. I would like to draw your attention towards Bihar to point out the problems which the farmers are facing there. It is not about the time during your Government in Bihar. I am giving an example from the Govt. of earlier congress governments. The land of farmers was acquired to make way for a canal. The Irrigation department acquired the land and started the work of digging the canals. Millions of rupees were spent but the work of digging canals was not completed. The farmers had to suffer a lot for this because on one hand they were given the temptation of irrigation that their farms will be provided with irrigation facility and the farmers were deprived of their land but they were not provided the irrigation facility. When water is required for lands then it is not available when it is not needed then it is available there which causes the situation of flood.

The canals are filled with sand and the water reaches in the land due to which crops are destroyed. The officers of the development office issue warrants in the names of the farmers whose lands are adjacent to that of the farmer by saying that water reached in the lands due to their negligence and also fine them. The officials take away the cattles when the fine is not paid. There is an office of Irrigation department. There is an Executive Engineer and many other officials and a peon but it seems that in 5 years, 75 irrigation offices have been closed in Bihar. Farmers have been deprived of their land. Offices were opened in the name of development but they are locked. Similarly in several districts of Bihar, it seems to me that except the new districts, in all the old districts, land was acquired by the housing department to construct houses. Number of houses have been constructed in many districts but their allotment is not done in a proper manner. Today, their roofs are falling, the foundation is cracking and the villagers are taking out bricks to construct mangers for their cattle. In this situation, the Government should think that how capable they are for completing the task for which they have acquired the land. It is my request that the Government should not acquire the land before judging its own capability.

Mr. Khurana can not understand the agony of the farmers but you can. He has not been lucky enough to get the opportunity to see the agony of the farmers from a close distance. I would request you and also the Government that it should not be made a prestige issue and the Government should accept the proposal presented by Hon. Shri Rawatji of all the Members from both the opposition and the Government, whoever have spoken, no one has spoken against the proposal, everyone has supported it. I believe that the House has consensus view hence the Government will also be in agreement. I also believe that if the House does not agree on this bill you will try to make the House to have a Consensus view. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the land acquisition Amendment Bill moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. As the honourable Members, who have spoken prior to me, have expressed their views, I share with them and I would like to inform this House that now-a-days in most of the cases land is being acquired from the farmers for purposes of construction by Development Authorities, Awas Vikas Parishads setting up industries or Government offices. A number of these farmers belong to scheduled castes. Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minority communities they are being paid the compensation at the nominal rates fixed by Government. Whereas a number of such of land Mafia and brokers are there who are exploiting the farmers by setting the land on higher rates in connivance with of the land authorities or Government officers. I would like to submit to this house to include such a clause in this Bill

[Shri Shalendra Kumar]

that wherever land is acquired, the farmers should be paid compensation as per reasonable market price. Things happen to such a pass that whenever Government offices or industries are set up, the farmers are given temptations that their family members would be provided with a job. Now, despite all the promises there are a number of such families of the farmers who have not so far been provided with a job. Green trees are cut down in the name of the colonies. And the farmers are not getting any reasonable gain as compensation. All the honourable Members are sitting here and they all know that a number of such cases are still under trial in the honourable High Courts which results in harassment to the farmers. They are not getting the compensation at the reasonable price.

Mr. Chairman Sir, similarly I would like to submit through this house that the Amendment Bill should also include that whenever farmers' land is acquired, they should be given some price of land on lease basis where agriculture could be possible. It is generally seen that the farmers are given unfertile land or disputed land where they cannot produce crops. Similarly, the farmers are being exploited in the open. The amount of compensation is sent through collectors of the Districts but the collectors are not showing positive attitude in distribution of the amount of Compensation. They are also exploiting the farmers. They have not given them the appropriate amount of Compensation and rather they have given them half the amount and half they are withholding. They say that if the Government would make any changes in it, then the payment would be made. Wherever the unfertile land of the Gram Sabha is lying idle, that land should be acquired and the new construction should be made on the land.

Similarly, at present 15 new Districts have been created in Uttar Pradesh where Government offices have to be opened, residences of Government officers and employees have to be constructed. There the land, that can be used for agriculture is being acquired and the farmers are being exploited. We know that as my former speakers have said that the farmers would neither be given appropriate price nor their family members would be provided with Government jobs. So, I would like to say that for construction of Government offices, houses etc. In the newly created 15 districts, unfertile land should be acquired and all the new construction should be made thereon.

We have got a Development Authority in our Allahabad constituency. Guavas of Allahabad are famous in the entire country. There the Development Authority have cut down the guava trees and constructed the colonies. The concerned farmers have not been paid compensation so far. They neither get a house nor any land there. Therefore, I would like to say that such a black law should be amended. Simultaneously, you also see that rich people of the city are having their farm

houses. These farm houses are made on the land measuring from five, ten or fifteen bighas. A number of people are having such bungalows where bighas of land are lying ideal. Their land is not acquired. If the farmers have got only four or five bighas of agricultural land, their land is acquired first because they are weak people. The land of the riches is not acquired.

I also emphasize on the bill presented by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat and simultaneously I would like to submit that the urban land delimitation which provides for inclusion of 25-30 kilometre areas touching the urban land to that of the rural, that urban land delimitation should also be stopped so that the whatever agricultural land the farmers possess, which produces fruits, vegetables etc. and are brought to the cities for consumption by all sections of the society, is not acquired. Such urban land delimitation and the black law should be stopped. I would like to say that this black law should be amended after making radical changes therein. I emphasize on the bill pertaining to land Acquisition brought by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat and I request him not to withdraw and rather it should be stressed upon so that an amendment is made in this bill. In view of the large scale increase in the population, the old Act should be amended and the amendment bill be honoured. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARASU (MAGAPPATTIMAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill. I wish to bring to your notice certain shortcomings in the Land Acquisition Act.

Sir, when a land is sought to be acquired for the purpose of distributing *pattas* for constructing houses for the harijans and people belonging to the backward classes, the land owners move the courts and get stay orders on purchase of such lands and they delay the implementation of the welfare schemes meant for the down-trodden people of the society. So, this Act should be suitably amended to ensure that the landlords are not allowed to move the courts and obtain stay orders so that the welfare schemes could get implemented quickly.

Again, when the land is acquired for industrial purposes or for use by the Government for purposes of irrigation and all that, a lot of promises are made to the local people including providing employment opportunities to the owners of such land. But those assurances and promises are never met. I have many such experience in my Parliamentary constituency. Even after the industry becomes fully operational, the due compensation is not paid to the party or to the owners of the land. In most of the cases, employment is denied to the owners of such land. One such experience is in the case of the Neyville Lignite Corporation. The Revenue De-

partment gave so many assurances about providing opportunities to the landless persons there.

But till now people whose lands have been acquired and people who were using those lands have not got employment from the concerned Department of the Government. This is a fact.

In my constituency there is a company called Madras Refineries Limited. They had given many assurances and made tall promises but a lot of cases are still pending with them. Nobody got employment there so far. People whose lands have been taken over are agitated over this matter and are taking to the streets.

When the land is under the cultivation of a tenant, the matter is further worse. As a matter of routine, the tenant given 25 per cent of the yield to the land-owner and takes the remaining 75 per cent of the yield. This is the meaning of tenancy. However, at the time of acquiring land, the Revenue Officer contacts the land-owner directly and disburses the total amount of compensation. The tenant who holds the right over the 75 per cent of the yield is not even informed of it. He is deprived of his livelihood. His family is left to starve. A provision should be made in the Bill to ensure that the tenant gets 75 per cent of the compensation corresponding to his right on the yield. There are many cases pending in the High Court in this regard. There are many such people who have not been given any compensation. When they are paid no compensation, there is no way left for these people but to go on to the streets. Tenant is a person who does not have a *patta* for the land he is cultivating. This is a very serious issue. I urge upon the the Government of India to consider this issue very seriously and bring forth an amendment in the law to give compensation to the tenant also. I have seen how tragic things turn out to be for the land-user when a piece of land is acquired by the Government. The Revenue authorities acquire land because they have to acquire it. They do not consider the humanitarian aspects while acquiring land. I, therefore, once again urge upon the Government to look into the matter and come forward with an amendment to provide 75 per cent of the compensation to the land user.

I congratulate Shri Rawat for tabling the Bill on this very sensitive issue. I wish hope that this will be passed on the floor of the House.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (DHARWARD SOUTH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. Regarding the acquisition point of view, I would like to say that the Government has got the powers to acquire any land for the purpose of public utility. The law is clean about it. But then the question comes about the compensation. When the question of compensation

comes, the market value is stated. But while considering the market value, there is black money used at the time of registering the document of purchase and sale in the Registration Office. Suppose the value of a land is Rs. 100 in the market, that is put in the Registration Office at the rates of Rs. 50 only. Like that, if the value of a land per acre is Rs. 50,000 in the market, it will be taken as Rs. 25,000 per acre in the Registration Office during the time of registration. So, it is very difficult for the Government to find out the real market value for acquiring the property of the agriculturists.

Secondly, they say that the solatium would be paid at the rate of 30 per cent. So, along with the solatium, the cost of the land is to be paid in lumpsum to the owner of the land, so that he can use that capital for some other purposes.

Thirdly, I would like to say that while acquiring the land, the fertile land should be acquired. If it is acquired, then that property would be wasted for life long in the form of industrial purposes, residential purposes and some other purposes. This way, the whole area of fertile land will be reduced by that portion of land acquired. So, I suggest and press that the Government should not acquire the land which is very fertile. Sir, there should be a condition in the Bill that if it is acquired for industrial purposes, then those industries should pollution-free industries.

Fourthly, for the purpose of distribution of land to the homeless and shelterless people, I would request that the hilly area should be taken instead of area which is nearer to the city, because city area is the costliest area. That should be retained as agricultural land. That is why, I suggest that wherever the people are to be provided with shelter, at least, the fertile areas should not be taken. For this, some provision is to be made for the livelihood of those beneficiaries.

Fifthly and lastly, I would like to say that while returning the land, if it is not used by the Government or some other private agencies, it will be retained upto 10 years. It is stated in the Bill. I do not think, it is advisable that if the land is to be returned back to the tiller, the question of utility will be affected. Even the owner also will be affected.

Therefore, I would like to impress upon the Government that with these amendments and suggestions, this Bill may be permitted to be converted into an Act. With these words, I support this Bill and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (SAHARANPUR) : Honourable Chairman Sir, I extend full support to the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill presented by our learned friend Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat as a Private Member's Bill.

While speaking we usually say 'Uttam Kheti, Madhyan

[Shri Nakli Singh]

ban, Nipat Chakri Bhikh Nidan'. But now things have gone reverse due to these Acts and Laws.

It is more than fifty years that our country got freedom but the Land Acquisition Act which has been in force since 1894, after passing 105 years that old Act is still in force without any changes. A number of amendments have been made in the Constitution, but no body paid any attention towards this thing. It is also said that farmer is Dhartiputra, the largest producer, the largest consumer, the largest voter. He is Anndata and Prandata. But now his position has been changed. The Government may acquire his agricultural land as and when they wish so. We also know that compensation is paid. He can not make an appeal in this regard. If he moves to the court, it takes years together to come to any decision. Everybody knows that the way the construction work is started on the land acquired from the farmers, it takes a decade to complete the construction thereon. But neither he is paid full compensation nor the land is returned to him. In view of all these things it appears. That as compared to Uttan Kheti Nipat Chakri better is Uttan Chakri and Nipat Kheti because now a days Chakri has gone to be better.

It is also said that India is an agricultural country. Our culture is agriculture. But in fact the condition of the farmers is very bad. His agricultural land is acquired. Whatever green belts are available near urban areas, those all are agricultural land, better for agriculture. Vegetables are produced there and vegetables can always be produced on the fertile land. I do not understand why the farmers are being given such a treatment despite acquiring their fine land.

Eighty per cent population of this country depend on Agriculture. It is the agrarian whose sons having enrolled in the army defend the borders of Nefa and Kashmir of the country. But if we look at the whole picture, we find that they are not getting the justice. Therefore, I support the bill presented by Shri Rawat Ji and request the Government and do believe that they would be kind enough to pass this bill keeping in view the whole background of the matter.

The farmers are so generous that they cannot go for any other profession. They even do not have the knowledge of any other trade. The farmers do farming only and as such generally their knowledge of other things is less as compared to other people. If their land is snatched, they would be ruined. But if shopkeepers are rendered shopless, they would open another shop and like wise if any mill owner loses his mill, he will set up another mill but the farmer can do nothing except farming. You can see even in Delhi that the Parliament House and Rashtrapati Bhawan where we are sitting, these were also built on the land of the farmers but now the women from their families come to these buildings to cut the grass. Farming requires the least mental work. The farmers leads his sugarcane in his bugg or tractor trolley

and comes to the market and while he is on his way, the people pull out sugarcanes and start sucking them. But on the contrary if there is any ground-nut seller in the city and you lift a ground nut, you can see a big drama, a big traffic jam there.

I request that if the collector acquires land of the farmers, then the farmers should be paid not only reasonable, appropriate market price but also the price that is acceptable to him because the farmer considers his land as his mother and he sacrifices his mother for the sake of the country. He must be so compensated for such a sacrifice that he may remain satisfied. Now it also happens that one person from the family of the farmer whose land is acquired is provided with a job but this is also not implemented. We have seen that 90 per cent farmers go on making rounds in the office of the collector. The farmer does not have the guts to talk to the Collector and as such he goes on requesting his peon. If some how he is able to meet the D.M., he says that he has no time. You have not anticipated how much loss he has to suffer. When ultimately he gets the compensation, it costs him thousands of rupees. By that time he goes under debt. And then it also happens that he is not paid interest for late payment of the compensation.

As such the bill submitted by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat is a very good proposal which is in the interest of the farmers and the country as well. If the farmer rises, the village will rise and if the village rises the country will rise. The prosperity of the urbans also lies in the prosperity of the rurals and the farmers.

18.00 hrs.

When eighty percent of people would have money in their pockets, their villages would also become prosperous. When the farmer would be prosperous, the potter would also be prosperous. The shopkeeper, the goldsmith would be happy and when the villagers would march towards cities with their pockets full of moeny, then in the cities somebody will buy motor cycle, somebody will buy cloth, somebody will buy iron and bricks etc. It is true that prosperity of the Urbans lies in the prosperity of the Rurals and the situation is always Vice-Versa.

As such, I extend full support to the motion moved by Shri Rawat Ji as Private Member Bill and I humbly request the Government to accord their approval to this motion.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I thank Mr. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat for bringing such an important bill. I would like to ask the Government that the old bill was implemented in 1894 and now more than a century has elapsed. In the meantime what has happened to the farmers? Industries have flourished in our country and to give

them boost we have collected taxes and acquired land from the farmers. Now the condition of the farmers is that for any social work in the village, no body comes forward. I am talking of my village. When we talk of the canal, the canal has been constructed and for rest of the expansion, farmers have got no land. Farmers want that electricity sub-station be setup. People wish that they should offer their land but land acquisition policy of the Government is so defective. That nobody gets ready to offer his land. That is why I request the Government and the honourable Member that he should stick to his bill. I would like to ask the Government that they should make improvement in it by enacting any law because the land never gets the market rate. The Government acquires the land at a rate much below the market rates and the farmer becomes helpless and surrenders his land. When the land is acquired, it is acquired at the nominal rates but when the payment is made to the farmer, then by that time, rates of the land goes very high. As such a specific Act should be enacted which should include that if the farmer's land is acquired, he would be paid its price at the market rates within a specific period of time. And if the payment is not made due

to some technical reasons, then the farmer would have to be paid interest at bank rate because the fault does not lie with him but it lies on the part of the Government babus, officers and office bearers. Since it has already struck six and I have got only one minute, as such I would not take much of the time and rather request the Government that if the honourable Member, since I understand his problem, withdraws his bill then the Government should bring a bill, make some law and work for amending this Act and pay the appropriate compensation to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned to meet at tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the clock on Monday, December 7, 1998/Agrahayana 16, 1920 (Saka)

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