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Friday, March 14, 1997
Phalguna 23, 1918 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

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



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 14, 1997/Phalguna 23, 1918 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with a deep sense of sorrow of the passing away of one of our esteemed friends, Shri Veerendra Patil.

Shri Veerendra Patil was a Member of Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha representing Bagalkot and Gulbarga Parliamentary constituencies of Karnataka during 1980-84 and 1984-89.

Earlier he was a Member of erstwhile Hyderabad Legislative Assembly during 1952-56 and erstwhile Mysore Legislative Assembly during 1957-71. He was Chief Minister of erstwhile Mysore State during 1968-71 and served his State as Minister for several years and held various portfolios with distinctions.

Shri Patil was also a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1972-78. He also served as Chief Minister of Karnataka.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Patil held various portfolios as Minister in the Union Council of Ministers in different capacities during 1980-85.

A widely travelled person, he was government delegate to U.S.S.R. in 1965 and a member of Parliamentary Delegation to West Germany in 1973.

Shri Veerendra Patil passed away early morning today at Bangalore at the age of 73 years.

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

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Mahanadi Coal Field

*281. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue generated by Mahanadi Coal Field Ltd. during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the operation in the said coal field; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total revenue generated by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
1081.94	810.12	700.97

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The actual production of coal in MCL in 1995-96 was 32.71 million tonnes (mts.). the tentative targets of coal production of the company in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 2001-02, the terminal year of the Ninth Plan are 37.00 Mts., 39.50 mts. and 47.20 mts. respectively. Presently, MCL is having seven on-going coal projects with a total capacity of 22.60 million tonnes per year (mty). Moreover, advance action schemes have been sanctioned for six more coal projects of MCL with a total capacity of 20.35 mty.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you that in order to improve the efficiency, whether the Government is considering to invite foreign investment or to privatise the operation of the Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd; and if so, the details thereof.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as foreign investment is concerned, we are going to get one billion dollar from World Bank. The hon. Member may please repeat his question.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that whether

the Government is ready to permit foreign investment and to allow privatisation in the country and whether the Government are encouraging these two things. Whether any agreement has been signed for private power plants, MCL etc.? If so, the period thereof and the terms and conditions in this regard.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no privatisation is taking place. Those mines which are already existing in private sector, will remain there. The foreign investments are being made in new projects.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is asking about the finance which you are getting from the foreign countries?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Foreign investment is allowed in the new projects.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: In view of the Supreme Court's decision to ban mining inside the forest areas of Orissa, the steps taken by the Mahanadi Coalfield to meet its objective of expansion, have come to a halt. Many new projects are there like Chandipura and Nauctidul. The Ministry of Environment has also given forest clearance. I would like to know whether the Department is interested to operate this or not.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as forest clearance is concerned, we have already got it and we are also taking interest in Mahanadi Coalfields to operate it soon.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: In the forest areas of Orissa, there is a ban. The Supreme Court has given an order to ban the mining activities in the forest areas. I want a categorical reply from the Government whether the Government is going to operate new projects or not.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the forest clearance and have mentioned the Supreme Court's order. In this connection, I would like to say that the work of our projects or companies will not be hampered in future due to forest clearance.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have two thermal power stations at Ropar and Bhatinda in Punjab. Only for three day's coal is available for these two plants. If the coal is not sent there soon, power generation will stop there after three days. The same situation had arisen last year when we had to make much efforts to get coal and to keep the projects functioning. We are facing the same situation this year. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to give an assurance in this House that the thermal power plants will not be allowed to be closed due to shortage of coal and adequate quantity

of coal will be made available to them.

[English]

Sir, it is an important matter. That is why, I raised it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Barnalaji, your supplementary question is not related to the original question. Still if the Minister likes, she may give the reply thereto.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has just now asked me about it. I have no information about it. I would like to tell the hon. Member that whenever any shortage is there, it will be met.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Mahanadi Coalfield is a new coal field under the Coal Field India Ltd., and it has largest reserve of coal. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to what are the investment proposals to increase the production of Mahanadi Coalfield during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

[English]

What is the investment proposal so that the production of Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd., can be increased and it can achieve its target?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: The advance action plans approved for the projects of Mahanadi Coalfield are being implemented by the Company. The annual investment in Vasundhara West Open Cast Project is for 2.40 million tonne. It is included in Ninth Five Year Plan. Out of the total capital of 156.63, the investment is of 5.006. The investment in Chhedipada Open Cast Project is of Rs. two crores. An investment of Rs. 5.79 crores will be made in Bhuvaneshwari Open Cast Project. The investment in Hingala Open Cast Project is of Rs. 5.82 crores. The investment in Kaniah open Cast Project and Kulda Open Cast Project are to the tune of Rs. 6.39 crores and Rs. 8.62 crores respectively.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU: May I request the hon. Minister to intimate the names of the seven on-going projects in Mahanadi Coalfields?

Moreover, there is one defect with the Mahanadi Coalfields. They do not take up proper sand filling. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what amount has been sanctioned for, all these on-going projects, for sand filling purposes after the coal has been taken out?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: The on-going projects are

nine and not seven. We are going to invest Rs. 756.60 million crores in them.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: She must be given proper notice to answer about sand filling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is consulting the papers.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: About sand filling, I will say that whatever amount has been allocated for it, it is fully being released to them.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: You may kindly allow Shri Panigrahi and me to ask supplementary on it. We belong to the Mahanadi Coalfield areas.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five supplementaries have already been asked. If the House permits, I have no objection at all but the decision will be yours.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request you that such a rule should not be enacted.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): We tried to catch your eye but failed. What can we do?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the vehicle is running in reverse.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was missed. I will just call.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, one-third of the coal reserves of India is in Ib Valley and Mahanadi Coalfields. The hon. Minister's distinguished predecessor, the hon. Speaker at the moment, had announced that a massive Rs. 1200 crore project was being taken up for Mahanadi Coalfields, when he inaugurated it in Sambalpur. Now Mahanadi Coalfields will be feeding six steel plants in Durgam and all the power houses of South India. Last year, the Coal Ministry as well as the Government of Orissa inaugurated the Chhendipada Open cast project in the month of March 1996. Till today no work has started. When will the work start and what are the impediments in the way? Why was it inaugurated one year back and why no work has started? May I have answers to these questions?

[Translation]

SMT. KANTI SINGH: It was inaugurated one year ago and the company is taking action. If you want some special information then you can ask as ... (Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can conclude it in one minute, instead of five, seven supplementary can be asked

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIBALABH PANIGRAHI: This question relates to my constituency directly.

[Translation]

Mahanadi Colfields is the junior most company but it is the best in India in respect of profitability, growth rate and productivity. A target of 47.20 lakhs has been fixed till the end of the Ninth Plan and what is position regarding land acquisition and our other requirements? Then, Government have just adopted their Chari Committee Report.

[English]

It means a reversal of the Government's policy and privatisation of coal industry and coalfields is going to take place.

[Translation]

Recently import duty on coal has been reduced and it is causing loss to entire coal industry a dangerous situation has been created and challenging situation has arisen and under it, the target of 47.20 lakhs fixed for Mahanadi Coalfields will be achieved in Ninth Plan or not? What is the present position regarding the provision of funds made for this purpose and whether the Ministry will give its reply?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: He has already talked about privatisation.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Privatisation is not being done. As mentioned by the Hon. Member just now. Our Govt. have a scheme ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLABH PANIGRAHI: Now, your coal will be cheaper.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have asked. All right.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Regarding import, you have said that it has been reduced, what will happen? If we offer to private parties then it will create sense of competitiveness and our companies will also perform better ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now instead of five, seven supplementaries have been asked. You can ask next supplementary under another question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Tax Holiday to Industrially Backward Areas

+

*282. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his budget speech for the year 1994-95, the former Finance Minister had announced 100% tax holiday for initial 5 years assessment in respect of industrial units to be set up in an industrially backward area in the country;

(b) if so, whether even after a lapse of three years, the Government have not notified the industrially backward areas in the country to enable the industrial units to take advantage of 100% tax holiday;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the announcement made by the former Finance Minister has not been fulfilled; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SH. P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) In the Budget speech for the year 1994-95, while presenting the Finance Bill, 1994, the then Finance Minister announced a five-year tax holiday to new industrial undertakings commencing production during the period from 1.10.1994 to 31.3.1999 in such districts which are backward according to certain guidelines which will be prescribed.

(b) to (e) A study group was constituted in the Ministry of Finance for identification of industrially backward districts for the purpose of granting 100% tax holiday under Section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act. The study group submitted its report in October, 1994. Some of the State Governments had requested that small units like *taluka* or *tehsil* be extended the benefit instead of districts. To look into this aspect and certain other issues, a group was constituted to review the report of the study group. The review study group has submitted its report in July, 1996 and the same is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: The Finance Act, 1993 introduced a five-year tax holiday under Section 80 of the income-tax Act for new industrial undertakings which started production from 1-4-1993 but before 31-3-1998 in any of the backward States specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Income-tax Act.

Numerous representations have been made to the Government demanding extension of the five-year tax holiday to industrially backward districts of other States. The Minister of Finance has just now said that the then Finance Minister while moving the Finance Bill, 1993 had announced in the Lok Sabha that he would be setting up a Study Group for this purpose. That Study Group has since submitted a report and it is under the consideration of the Finance Minister.

So, in these circumstances I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the benefit of five-year tax holiday to the industrially backward districts will be given and whether the Government is considering giving further extension so far as the backward States are concerned, from 31-3-1998. I am asking this question because there is a vast scope for it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are really two

separate questions. As far as the backward States are concerned, the States listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, continue to receive the incentives. If it is necessary to extend that period after the current period comes to an end, we shall consider it at the appropriate time. I have an open mind on that.

As regards backward districts, it is true that there is a Study Group report and it is true that there is a report of the Review Group based on the representations received from the State Governments. We have considered it at the highest level at one meeting. I am hopeful that we shall be able to take a decision soon. It is not easy to persuade everyone to agree to the list reported by the Study Group because some district or the other is left out and everybody wants his district to be included. Therefore, I am trying to persuade everybody to agree to the report of the Study Group.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHRI RAM RANA: Hon'ble Minister has said that there is no hurry. He mentioned about 1993's report. Then, Review Study Group was formed and it is in existence for the last four years. I want to say that backward districts should be taken up immediately. You have laid certain criteria and guidelines for the backward districts and several Governments have urged to change them.

[English]

A district in our country is very big area for determining industrial backwardness.

[Translation]

I want to know what measures are prepared to be taken by the Government regarding the objection raised by the State Governments on these guidelines so that backward districts are fully benefitted? Are you considering to extend the tax holiday facility to taluka also instead of districts, at the same level?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the report of the Study Group was received only in October, 1994. After that, it was considered by the previous Government. But they could not take a decision, for reasons which are quite plain to me now, until June, 1996. Then the Review Group, which took into account the State Governments' views and some other views which were represented, gave its report in 1996. As I said, about two months back we had a meeting at the highest level. I am trying to persuade everybody to accept the report of the Study Group. As it is, it is difficult for me to persuade everyone to accept the report because someone's district is included and someone's district is not included. If I go down to *taluka* and *tehsil* level, I shall never be able to get a consensus. I think we should try to get a consensus on the districts which have been identified, and I am doing my best.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: While presenting the Budget for the year 1994-95 the then Finance Minister had announced that tax holiday will be granted to such units which will be set up in backward districts during the period from October, 1994 till 31st March, 1999. Government have received all reports in this connection, yet nothing has been done so far. I want to know from the Government the names of the districts in Bihar where the benefit of tax holiday is likely to be extended to the industrial units.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, you would kindly pardon me for saying that I do not think it is proper now to give the districts of each State. It will only open the Pandora's box. Once the Government decides on which districts are included, I will place the list. But to say it now, will never lead to any consensus.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the Minister has rightly said that the scheme was introduced in 1994-95.

Till now, it has gone through various difficulties. It has been gone through by the committees and sub-committees and now the Report has come. When it is implemented, are you going to start from that point of time of five years because four years are already over? Secondly, be very gracious and consider all the political parties on pro-rata basis instead of instead of going by your 13 constituents.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not think we should change the year of commencement of the holiday period which is 1994. But we can consider extending the terminal period which is 1999. As it is, I have a difficulty persuading everyone to agree to the districts that have been identified. Now, you are adding to my difficulty. I will do my best to persuade everybody to agree to the districts that have been identified. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling. I will call one by one only.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any proposal has been made by the United Front Government to set up an industrial unit at Bakura which is a very backward district in West Bengal?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This question must be addressed to the hon. Minister of Industry.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: At first, identification was done on the basis of districts. In your answer, you have stated that some of the State Governments had requested that this must be done on the basis of small units like, *talukas and tehsils*. Sir, in the name of *talukas*, practically what has happened, is the same districts which were already industrially developed were given more facilities

again. For example, I can cite, Indapur, Baramati and Shirur areas in Pune district and Bhiwandi and Shahpur areas in Thane district. I would like to know whether Government has any specific plan for the totally undeveloped districts like Beed and Osmanabad areas of Marathwada?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I would not be able to answer in respect of any particular district. ... (Interruptions) Sir, they should allow me two answer. If they interrupt me, how can I answer?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please allow him to answer.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Give generalised reply.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, I am giving a generalised answer. There is no proposal to grant benefits to *talukas* and *tehsils*. The proposal is only to grant it to districts. I do not think it is possible at all to arrive at any kind of consensus if we go down to *talukas* and *tehsils*. It would be virtually an impossible task. We have got districts now. There are reports which have identified the districts. The hon. Member is right. The report has said that in a district which has been classified under certain criteria as 'no industry district', that district should be included. We are inclined to accept that suggestion.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, as I understand from the reply of the hon. Minister his problem is that he is not able to persuade the different State Governments and authorities concerned to agree to which should be the backward area and which should not be. I can understand that problem. You are faced with this problem. But there are certain areas in this country which have been accepted as industrially backward. There is no question and no controversy about it. The whole of North-East is known as industrially backward. I would like to know whether North-East has been exempted. If not, why not do this on a selective basis to begin with as advance action rather than delaying the whole thing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The whole of North-East has already been covered under the scheme. This scheme does not in any way touch the benefits of the North-East. All the States and Union Territories specified in eighth schedule are already getting this income-tax benefit. We are now talking about identifying districts in other States. The whole of North-East has already been covered.

Remuneration of Employees of Multinational Companies

*283. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the ceiling on managerial remunerations to the employees of multinational Companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no Government proposal to amend the provisions of the Companies Act relating to managerial remuneration. These provisions apply to all public companies registered in India (and also to private companies, which are subsidiaries of public companies).

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have replied well.

[English]

There is no proposal to remove the ceiling.

[Translation]

So, it is good. The Minister likes multinational companies, so he said that they ruled for 200 years. They will earn profit for more years than this period. We read much statement. So it created doubts. I want to know whether presently there is any proposal. Schedule-13 in companies Act provides for ceiling and multinational companies also have ten percent ceiling under this provision so whether the Government have received any other representation from the trans national companies or any other person for removing this ceiling on this remuneration and the issue of level playing field is being talked these days so whether the Government is considering it. Keeping in view this view point? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What is the question, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Have you received any representation?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Have you received any representation from any trans-national companies to remove this ceiling or whether you are thinking about this?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not recall having received any representation. If a representation has come to the Ministry, I will look into it. But I do recall having received any representation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: You don't know Hindi and I don't know English because I am a very simple lady so it will be difficult for you.

Sir, my second question is that generally it is seen the C.M.D. of most of the trans-national companies like Kirlosker, Seimens belongs to foreign country. I mean multinational companies generally have foreigners in their higher managerial posts. So whatever remuneration they get most of it will go abroad. But the share holders of these companies are Indian citizens. If, even ten percent goes abroad i.e. if a company earn profit of 100 crore Rupees than 10 crore out of it will go abroad as remuneration. I want to know whether the Government are considering

to constitute any expert committee keeping in view all these things and whether this committee will ascertain the extent of effect of out flow of foreign exchange on the dividend given to domestic investors as well as on the total foreign exchange reserves. Whether the Government have constituted or proposed to constitute such expert committee?

[Translation]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no proposal to set up an expert committee. I think, the present laws are adequate and even the group which was set up to redraft the Companies Act has recommended that the present laws are adequate and no change is required.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: May I know whether the Minister is aware that there is a tendency naturally to give more remuneration in the form of perquisites to make the provisions of the Companies Act redundant and whether any checks and balances are thought of by the Government to bring the entire remuneration including the perquisites within the limit prescribed under the Act? Part B of my question is whether the Government has observed the tendency which is there among the employees working in the public sector undertakings to keep an eye on the posts available with the multinational companies.

Immediately after the retirement or even taking a voluntary retirement from the public sector undertakings, the best of the employees are tending to go to multinational companies to secure very prime jobs. Is the Government thinking of taking steps to prevent such a tendency?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Act provides as to what will be included in the definition of remuneration and what will not be included in the definition of remuneration. Some perquisites are obviously outside the definition of remuneration. These include contributions to provident fund, superannuation fund, payment of gratuity, encashment of leave, education allowance for children of expatriates and leave travel concession. Usually, these are not included in the definition of remuneration.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: What about rent free accommodation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am coming to that. What the hon. Member wants to know is about rent free accommodation. I invite his attention to the explanation under Section 198 of the Companies Act which says:

"For the purpose of this Section and Section 309, etc., remuneration shall include any expenditure incurred by the company in providing any rent free accommodation or any other benefit on amenity in respect of accommodation free of charge."

These are all provided in the Act.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, he is not observing. They are giving houses in, one lakh Rupees each.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: How can I answer you? I have to answer him first ...*(Interruptions)* If you quote in Hindi, I have to use my head gear. At least, you must quote in English ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I wanted to give you a chance for supplementary.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Their investment policy is such that Finance Minister can understand without using headgear.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Did Dr. Joshi say something about my Hindi?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I said that you look like the former Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh minus the turban.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You have said that many times.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: So, keep your head gear intact so that you understand what the hon. Members say and you remain as Chidambaram and not as Dr. Manmohan Singh minus turban.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I understand Hindi which is spoken in simple terms. But how can I understand Panditji's Hindi?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I speak Hindi which is very akin to Tamil.

[Translation]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will try. It is very difficult.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He is coming on the right track after trying.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, please come to the question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, let me answer the question about public sector employees after retirement.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): At least, you may try to talk in Hindi.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): In the meantime, you may take the assistance of the translators and reply in Tamil ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let good atmosphere prevail.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (SITAPUR): I suggest that Shri

Nitish Kumar should speak in Tamil and he should speak in Hindi then it will be good for the unity of the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As regards public sector employees seeking retirement, I do not think it is proper or correct to impose a complete ban on public sector employees seeking employment after retirement. But there is a rule for Government servants. I believe there is a rule in the public sector also that for two years after retirement, he must seek permission and that is the period during which Government keeps a watch over it after his retirement.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: That condition applies only in case he will be taken there as a Director and not for any other job.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There are rules. You put a separate question and I think the Minister of Industry will answer your question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please let him ask the question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal that the RRBs should merge with the commercial banks or form a separate bank?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It has nothing to do with this question. It requires a separate notice.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir there are Head offices of big companies in Mumbai. Suppose the executives of those companies get salaries to the tune of Rs. 10-15 thousand, but the rent of big houses is Rs. 70-80 thousand per month and the demand of the companies is yet very much. You have replied that House rent has not been included in the salary. It is not true. Would you get an inquiry conducted in this regard? Inquiry in this regard be conducted by the department of Income Tax. Everybody knows about the commercial rate of Mumbai. Rs. 70-80 thousand is given as rent to them. There is discrepancy in your reply or your reply is wrong because we know the factual position.

[English]

We know the reality. This is happening in Mumbai itself.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIYAD MASUDAL HUSSAIN: Hon'ble Member may face the case of privilege. We would have to tell the Member of Maharashtra that he should say 'Mumbai' instead of 'Bombay'.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: I am sorry. Will the Minister look into the information given by me?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is no need to look into the information. It is well known that rents in Mumbai are very high. But that is not a function of the Company or the Director. It is due to several other factors like the scarcity of land, the meagre stock of housing and the failure to add to the existing housing stock in Mumbai. That has nothing to do with the Company or the Director. I am reading the explanation to Section 198 of the Companies Act in answering my hon. friend's question: 'What is included in the definition of remuneration?' But the question, 'Who pays the tax?' is between the Director and the Company.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The situation is very difficult. Because of the influx of the multinationals, they are paying very heavily to the young engineers. The hon. Minister said that an Officer or a Director can go for an employment in another company only two years after his retirement. That is at the higher level. But at the middle level management, all the public sector industries are starving now, because the middle-level managers are flying, or rather speedily migrating away speedily to the multinationals because of the embargoes and curbs put by the Companies Act. May I request the Minister that in exceptional cases, in the public sector companies, if they apply, whether the Government cannot think about making some exceptions—in emergency cases and special cases—to accept and give more salaries to the middle level managers who are very intelligent and are flying away from the public sector to the private sector and to the multinationals? They are attracting them with very many perquisites and other fringe benefits. May I request the hon. Minister whether he is ready to do this? The Companies Act is being amended now. Some provision is to be made by the Government by which the public sector companies can waive certain provisions and give enough remuneration to retain these exceptionally good people in the public sector.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the provisions of the Companies Act merely set the limit within which the remuneration should be paid. It is a fact that the salaries of the public sector executives are far less than comparable private sector salaries. One of the reasons why the public sector is unable to attract or retain high quality personnel is the poor salaries. The Minister of Industry has already appointed a committee under a retired Judge of the Supreme Court to look into the salary and compensation package of the public sector executives. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The next question is yours.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: I was not here, I am not prepared for the question.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the next question is mine.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, Shri Kurien.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, adjourn the question hour. Students are being sent to prison in my district ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri P.J. Kurien.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I do not mind giving some consideration to the fair sex but not during the Question Hour.

LIC Agents

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

- (a) the total number of working LIC agents in the country;
- (b) whether there is inordinate delay in paying commission to these agents;
- (c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curtail this delay; and
- (d) the total amount of commission payable to these agents during the last three years and the amount of commission actually paid?

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

STATEMENT

(a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that there are about 5.14 lakh active agents in the country as on 31.3.1996 and there is no undue delay in settlement of their claims.

2. The following table gives the total commissions payable and paid by the LIC in the last three financial years:-

Item	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
	(Rs. Crs.)	(Rs. Crs.)	(Rs. Crs.)
(1) Total Estimated Commission due and payable	1073	960	851
(2) Estimated Commission released	1073	948	845

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, in part (d) of the question I wanted to know as to what is the amount of commission payable to the agents and what is the amount actually paid to them. I think, the hon. Minister has resorted to some jugglery of words. Instead of giving the amount of commission actually paid to the agents, he has given the

estimated commission released. I would like to know whether the Commission released by the LIC is actually paid to the agents or not. It is because there is always a slip between the cup and the lip. I would like to be clarified on this point. This is only a clarification.

Coming to the supplementary of my question, I would like to submit that the LIC agents are the most dissatisfied and neglected lot. The hon. Minister has said that as on date, there are 5.14 lakhs of agents in the LIC. I would like to know: What is the number of agents whose agencies have lapsed or have been terminated? What are the reasons for that and what steps are being taken to correct that?

Secondly, is it a fact that the LIC agents are clamouring for revising their incentives and conditions of service? Is it also a fact that sometimes back the agents were recruited as Development Officers in LIC and that practice has now been done away with? If so, what is the reason? Why is the Government not improving and revising the service conditions of the LIC agents that exist today?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, There is no jugglery of words. Thirty per cent of the premia which is collected by LIC is usually collected in the last quarter of the year. In fact, the concentration is in the months of February and March. Therefore, while determining the amount of commission payable and the amount of commission that is released, there will be a lead and lag and the payment would be made sometimes in March, sometimes in April. So, once the commission is admitted to be payable, it is released by the LIC. But then there are a number of procedural steps which have to be taken. These commissions are actually paid to the agents in the last quarter of the previous year or the first quarter of the next year. This is not something which has happened now. This is a well-known and a well-entrenched system. It is because 30 per cent of the business is done in the last quarter of the year. Therefore, there would be a spill over to the next year. I have given the answer. Out of Rs. 1078 crore in the year 1995-96, determined as due and payable, after verifying, an amount of Rs. 1073 crore as commission has been released. Some part of it would actually be paid sometimes in the month of March, sometimes in the month of April. There would be a lead and lag and on that I do not think there is any problem because in previous years also the same thing would have happened. The commission due in March would have been given in the month of April. I do not think there is any serious complaint on this. I know of no case where anybody has complained to me that it is seriously hurting the agents. The agent is a long serving sales person and he knows that he would always get it in the month of April and so he does not mind that. It is not possible to pay the commission for business done in March before March. The records would have to be verified before the commission is paid.

Sir, on the other question of improving the commission and condition of services, I would like to say that these

demands are there. From time to time these demands are made but we have now delegated these powers to the LIC. LIC now is a Board managed company. It has a full-fledged Board. The Board of LIC would have to consider as to what conditions of service and what remuneration must be given to the LIC agents. I do not think that I should give any direction to them on that behalf. As regards termination, it is difficult to say because an agent may cease to be active but he would not be terminated. He would only be terminated if it is found that there is a misconduct or there has been some negligence. He might simply become inactive. Out of 5.14 lakh active agents, there are agents who make Rs. 20 lakh a year. There are agents who make only Rs. 20,000 a year. If an agent simply loses interest in the business, he will attend to his other business. Termination will not arise merely because he brings a little business. Termination will arise if he is guilty of misconduct or misdemeanour.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: The practice of recruitment from the agents as Development Officers was already there. It has been done away with. That is the point.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The recruitment of Development Officers is governed by regulations. Whenever the LIC considers it necessary to recruit some Development Officers, it will recruit Development Officers according to the regulations. He must satisfy the regulations.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: From the agents?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, if he satisfies the regulations, he can also be recruited. He must satisfy the regulations.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I do not say, that is misleading. It is a distortion of the facts. There was a practice of recruiting the Development Officers from the agents alone. There was a special quota for them. That has been done away with. That is my specific question. You should answer it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not aware of this particular problem that the quota has been done away with. I will look into it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: All right. Thank you for this. Now, my second supplementary is...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, you have already asked the second supplementary.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: No, no; I was only asking for a clarification.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This was his one-and-a-half supplementary!

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Since Independence, the middle class in our country has grown. Today, it is at least 35 per cent of the total population. All these 35 per cent of the population of our country are capable of paying premium to the LIC. They should be brought into the LIC coverage. I would like to know what percentage of this

middle class, who can afford to pay LIC premium, has been brought into the LIC coverage. What steps are you taking to bring the rest of these important potential people into the LIC coverage? Has your Department conducted any study in this respect? If not, are you prepared to study and take some steps to bring all these people into the LIC coverage instead of going in for privatisation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not wish to convert a question-answer session into a debate on policy. It cannot be converted into a debate on policy. The new business in the financial year, 1995-1996 has been 110.21 lakh policies. The sum assured in terms of new business is Rs. 51,815 crores. Today, the LIC has about 6,55,00,000 policies. This does not mean that 6,55,00,000 are insured because a person can have more than one policy. It still means that a large number of people are not covered.

Now, the LIC is a monopoly. I have no proposal at the moment to take away life insurance business from LIC or to demonopolise the life insurance business from the LIC. I am urging the LIC to expand the coverage. The LIC is doing it best and we will continue to do our best to attract more and more people into life insurance coverage.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are indications that this Government with Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, want to throw open the insurance sector to the multinational companies, especially for foreign companies. When this proposal is heavily in the mind of the hon. Minister of Finance, what will happen to the fate of 5,14,000 agents who are serving on commission basis under the LIC?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: They will continue to be agents of the LIC.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: That means, there is a proposal that he wants to throw open this sector to the multinational companies...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI: Sir, the Minister has stated that it is not a debate on policy issue. It is a question hour. But the matter is very important. The fate of the agents is very much linked with the fate of the LIC.

Therefore, will the hon. Minister assure the House that apart from looking after the interests of the agents, as they are now in the field of operation, the future prospect of LIC—as it is being run now, being the most laudable public sector unit in the country—shall not be diluted in any form in the future?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front says that Government will take steps to strengthen LIC and GIC. The policy in this behalf has been stated in my Budget speech. I have nothing to add to what I said in the Budget speech...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: You are not giving me an opportunity to ask question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I can do, you ask eight supplementaries on one question. I want that other Members also be given chance.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister said that there is no jugglery in the figures, but the figures in the answer do indicate what he tried to initially assert. If there is a spill over, that is his answer, why is it not paid by estimated commission release? If there is a spill over, then in 1995-96 the estimated commission was Rs. 1073, which is higher than the estimated commission of Rs. 948, which again is higher than the estimated Rs. 845. This spill over of a higher figure should have entered here. Since this is happening, it indicates that there are problems of lack of payment of commission and perhaps the non-payment is increasing with the year. That is the rule for the spill over.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If business increases year after year, if the commissions payable increase year after year, therefore the spill over also increase year after year. At any given point of time there will be some amount which has been released but not yet paid, for verification of records or for other reasons. Therefore, there will always be an amount which is released but not yet paid. But look at the proportion. The proportion is about the same. The proportion is, there is a small amount which has not yet been released.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is in fact declining. This is the point.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not think the hon. Member should interrupt like this. He should wait for the answer. In 1993-94 the difference between the amount estimated and amount released is Rs. 6 crore. In 1994-95, the difference is Rs. 12 crore. In 1995-96 it is Rs. 5 crore. There will always be a difference between the amount estimated and the amount released. I go a step further. There will always be a certain amount out of the release which is actually paid before the end of the year. The question Mr. P.J. Kurien asked is, 'Do you pay before the year is over?'. I said, "No", because the new business is made in February and March. While the commission is released, the payment may spill over into April and May. And, if last year's spill over comes this year April and May, this year's spill over will come into next year's April and May. Agents are fully aware of it and I do not think there is a problem. Let us not make a problem out of it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: This is not true. The answer should be that the spill over is added to the next year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have passed on to the next question now.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are not allowing me to ask question. Whenever I rise, you say something, you say that you would allow me. Therefore, I stage a walk out.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Should the other question be allowed or not?

[Translation]

11.59 hrs.

At this stage Shri Datta Meghe left the House.

Loan on Low Interest for Exporters

[Translation]

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*285. KUMARI UMA BHARATI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give maximum loan on low interest rate to exporters keeping in view the increasing challenges in world market;

(b) whether the Government have also received any request in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard and also to increase the limit of loan; and

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

[English]

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

STATEMENT

(a) and (d) Banks have been advised from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that exporters, credit needs are met in full and promptly. Exporters can avail of Rupee packing credit at 13 per cent upto 180 days and at 15 per cent for period beyond 180 days and upto 270 days. In the monetary policy for second half of 1996-97, the interest rate on post-shipment Rupee credit has been further rationalised. Rupee post-shipment credit is available at 13 per cent up to 90 days and at 15 per cent for period beyond 90 days and upto six months from the date of shipment. For ensuring smooth flow of credit to export sector, instructions have been issued by RBI to banks to ensure that:

(i) no worthwhile export order suffers for want of finance;

(ii) grievances of exporter-borrowers in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit limits are redressed promptly;

(iii) sanction of fresh/enhanced limits/renewal of limits is made within the period stipulated where application is received with complete details and cases of rejection of export credit proposals are brought to the notice of Chief Executives explaining reasons for rejection;

(iv) export credit target of 12.0 per cent (enhanced from 10.0 per cent under the monetary policy for second half of 1996-97) to net bank credit is achieved by 31st March, 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In a Note submitted in October 1996 to the Ministry of Commerce, the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) had, inter alia, made certain suggestions regarding credit facilities to the exporters. These include revision of the target for export credit as a percentage of net bank credit, reduction of interest rates for export credit, further review of rate of interest beyond 90 days and upto 180 days, review of interest rates on overdue bills, review of methods of lending to export sector, and some procedural aspects relating to export credit. Also, in a letter dated 24th February, 1997 to Ministry of Finance, the All India Association of Industries has suggested that the Reserve Bank of India should further reduce the interest rate of export credit.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the recent economic survey the export of India has declined even after making provision of providing loans from the Reserve Bank of India. It seems to me that the reason for decline in the export is that the local traders in Indian market would have been down morally due to the invitation extended by the Finance Minister to the people who ruled over country for 200 years and inflicted us, for ruling again India, because India is also a part of world market. After that perhaps persons who take loans in Indian market must have been discouraged. Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister the reasons for the decline in the export even after making provision for this loan. The Minister may please reply it.

[English]

I hope the Minister could understand what I was saying.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This question deals with credit for exporters. Earlier it was provided that ten per cent of outstanding credit must be given to exporters. After this Government took over and when the busy season credit policy was announced by the Reserve Bank on 19th October, 1996 the Reserve Bank raised the 10 per cent to 12 per cent. I am glad to inform the House that as on 14th February, 1997 all the banks put together have given credit to exporters, 11.34 per cent of the total

outstanding credit. I am confident that, that will achieve the 12 per cent target by the year ending 31st March, 1997. The credit, therefore, is not a problem for exporters. If exporters have other problems, I am sure the hon. Members will put a question to the Minister of Commerce and he will deal with the other problems. Credit is not a problem.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Coal Depots

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

(a) the number and locations of centralised coal depots in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited and the cost

Name of Depot	Location	Capacity per annum (In tonnes)	Cost Incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Katras Depot	Katras Area	384000	122.88
2. Ramkrishna Depot	Chanch		
	Victoria Area	138500	46.42
3. West Mudidih Depot	Katras Area	186500	8.80
4. East Basseria Depot	Kusunda Area	720000	197.64
5. Alakdiha Depot	Bastacola Area	912000	159.55

(c) and (d) Two coal depots namely, East Basseria and Alakdiha are not functioning since 1994. Despatches made from the remaining three coal depots during the last three years are given below:-

(Despatches in tonnes)

Name of Depot	Year		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Katras Depot	226477	255972	170407
Ramkrishna Depot	172735	179210	127934
West Mudidih Depot	311571	168906	270105

(e) Coal depots presently charge dump charges at the rate of Rs. 80/- per tonne of despatch of coal/coke.

(f) The objective of setting up of centralised coal depots in BCCL envisaged that all road despatches to Road sale consumers would be effective from the depots which are situated strategically near the collieries thus restricting entry of Road sale consumers to the colliery premises.

incurred in setting them up;

(b) the annual transporting capacity of each of these depots;

(c) whether they are functioning as per their capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount as 'dumping charge' taken per tonne on coal sold from these depots; and

(f) the objective of setting up these depots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Names and locations of the centralised coal depots in Bharat Coking Coal Limited, their transporting capacity and the expenditure incurred in setting up of these stockyards are given in the following table:-

[English]

Projects Financed by NABARD

*287. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects financed by NABARD in each State during the last three years and the funds sought, released and actually utilised;

(b) the details of achievements made under these projects;

(c) the details of fresh proposals recently cleared/ under consideration of NABARD; and

(d) the details of financial assistance rendered to cooperative industrial ventures of SC/ST community in Maharashtra and action taken for non release/delay in release of funds by the State Government for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctions loans to State Governments and State-owned Corporations for completion of on-going projects relating to major, medium and minor irriga-

tion, soil conservation, watershed management and other projects of rural infrastructure under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The Union Territory/State-wise details of projects sanctioned, together with loan assistance provided by NABARD, under RIDF-I and RIDF-II, are indicated in statement-I and II respectively.

Besides this, NABARD has also been funding individual borrower-oriented projects, in the form of refinance, as a part of its Investment Credit Operations (schematic lending). The details of projects sanctioned, Union Territory/State-wise, together with bank loan component and refi-

nance disbursed for the last three years are given in statement-III.

Details of schemes sanctioned during 1996-97 are given in statement-IV. A summarised position of schemes under consideration of NABARD is given in statement-V.

(d) In Maharashtra State, seven schemes have been sanctioned by NABARD to cooperative industrial ventures of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries. While the total investment on these schemes is Rs. 248.746 lakhs, refinance commitment of NABARD on these schemes works out to Rs. 165.8 lakhs.

STATEMENT-I

Union Territory/State-wise position of projects sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-I) As on 11-3-1997

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total No. of Projects Sanctioned	Total Financial Outlay (Rs.)	NABARD Loan (Rs.)	Disbursement (Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73	45109.67	20693.51	7996.03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34	921.38	335.83	-
3.	Assam	5	8102.27	1145.50	-
4.	Bihar	967	49302.01	18097.51	-
5.	Goa	1	18374.00	3684.00	537.47
6.	Gujarat	35	33432.00	14148.00	8684.00
7.	Haryana	3	3674.48	1827.71	485.70
8.	Himachal Pradesh	77	3143.56	1422.71	691.81
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	2018.16	621.79	62.20
10.	Karnataka	94	35843.73	14392.82	6841.10
11.	Kerala	136	28578.83	9971.92	5087.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	163	71074.35	19963.28	10532.79
13.	Maharashtra	115	82840.00	20722.00	9543.42
14.	Manipur	63	372.07	174.86	-
15.	Meghalaya	19	783.91	339.42	-
16.	Mizoram	21	488.11	238.19	39.70
17.	Nagaland	18	278.29	137.98	108.00
18.	Orissa	2557	41206.19	15268.82	9811.00
19.	Punjab	5	12100.00	6050.00	5700.00
20.	Rajasthan	39	41781.31	11015.53	6936.83
21.	Tripura	36	437.70	182.37	-
22.	Uttar Pradesh	34	105085.50	29234.93	12971.32
23.	West Bengal	23	39991.00	11336.93	4738.00
Total		4530	624938.52	201005.61	90766.37

STATEMENT-II

State-wise position of projects sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-II) As on 11.3.1997

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Total Financial Outlay	NABARD Loan (Rs.)	Disbursement (Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	415	46317.26	33418.35	-
2.	Assam	81	9652.80	8687.50	-
3.	Gujarat	144	14423.50	12962.60	-
4.	Haryana	5	7099.87	6106.07	600.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	66	6731.95	4950.09	-
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	895.19	805.67	-
7.	Karnataka	249	29132.07	17299.72	311.92
8.	Kerala	184	28897.67	8943.39	-
9.	Madhya Pradesh	70	33537.17	20759.79	-
10.	Maharashtra	108	61512.94	23165.75	-
11.	Orissa	46	20346.06	12514.47	626.07
12.	Punjab	5	6950.00	6250.00	-
13.	Rajasthan	254	26066.59	17928.71	2256.67
14.	Tamil Nadu	1589	31288.86	27137.60	-
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1611	65183.05	49165.14	-
16.	West Bengal	3559	20933.64	16451.08	-
Total		8387	408968.62	266545.93	3794.66

STATEMENT-III

Union Territory/State-wise number of schemes sanctioned by NABARD under Investment Credit Operations (Schematic Lending) together with details of Bank Loan and NABARD Refinance disbursed during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
		No. of Schemes	Bank Loan (Rs.)	Refinance Disbursed (Rs.)	No. of Schemes	Bank Loan (Rs.)	Refinance Disbursed (Rs.)	No. of Schemes	Bank Loan (Rs.)	Refinance Disbursed (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1165	56645	33545	1263	60816	36139	120	20466	33772
2.	Assam	63	4740	2685	75	2381	3162	11	6466	4446
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	359	166	1	371	384	2	530	301
4.	Andaman and Nicobar	2	108	71	1	58	31	-	125	85
5.	Bihar	73	12660	8115	128	15255	8225	-	12641	8281
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	3	-	13	6	-	20	12
7.	Goa	73	644	369	60	1324	518	-	211	403
8.	Gujarat	398	25874	16878	268	26629	18525	89	20442	18601
9.	Haryana	176	21816	14166	149	21703	14862	33	16627	17114

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Himachal Pradesh	23	1824	1576	104	3184	2108	1	3227	2477
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	34	1072	602	10	849	848	2	1413	1000
12.	Karnataka	1086	43085	23568	1191	33348	23676	223	21154	24289
13.	Kerala	365	24217	12525	189	13023	12610	23	8390	12694
14.	Maharashtra	1293	60621	32654	831	66205	36368	155	42554	34501
15.	Madhya Pradesh	347	24397	13801	303	24268	15720	209	18491	15724
16.	Manipur	14	406	209	2	258	232	-	807	428
17.	Meghalaya	6	619	215	7	196	215	2	513	304
18.	Mozoram	4	162	154	-	146	135	-	112	124
19.	Nagaland	9	154	101	6	168	116	-	210	152
20.	Orissa	118	10558	7258	132	10429	8036	31	12118	8510
21.	Pondicherry	11	615	182	5	191	181	1	143	320
22.	Punjab	38	19821	14666	132	19515	17726	13	14491	18898
23.	Rajasthan	250	23396	14192	182	22196	15716	32	16359	16783
24.	Sikkim	7	119	86	5	97	103	-	150	95
25.	Tamil Nadu	932	32949	21407	997	36001	25819	155	25434	26607
26.	Tripura	3	743	469	8	1700	818	1	1596	999
27.	Uttar Pradesh	222	51514	44670	1184	106605	47077	16	36905	47499
28.	West Bengal	91	12946	10018	121	13724	10967	27	13842	11604
29.	N.C.T. of Delhi	7	392	105	9	2159	725	3	286	-
30.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	-	35	27	-	34	24	-	108	56
31.	Lakshadweep	-	10	7	-	7	5	-	4	8
Total		6814	432501	274490	7354	482853	301076	1149	295835	306422

Note: Disbursement figures include releases against schemes sanctioned in previous year also.

STATEMENT-IV

State-wise schemes sanctioned by NABARD during the year 1995-96 (as on date) under investment credit (schematic lending)

(Rs. in lakhs)

No.	State	No. of Schemes	Bank Loan (Rs.)	Sanction of NABARD's Refinance (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	2537.043	1066.669
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	48.355	43.519
3.	Assam	8	683.229	614.906
4.	Bihar	6	176.200	128.880
5.	Gujarat	3	140.830	86.730
6.	Haryana	3	1040.570	478.372

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	128.000	110.000
8.	Karnataka	7	1950.746	989.683
9.	Kerala	1	147.177	103.020
10.	Madhya Pradesh	69	1890.791	1368.989
11.	Maharashtra	79	10728.000	8162.000
12.	Meghalaya	1	38.188	34.386
13.	Orissa	13	1849.764	966.978
14.	Punjab	1	155.000	62.000
15.	Rajasthan	27	865.185	602.595
16.	Tamil Nadu	61	4486.409	1796.466
17.	Uttar Pradesh	8	718.971	363.692
18.	West Bengal	21	1346.000	552.800
Total		321	28930.458	17531.685

STATEMENT-V

Union Territory/State-wise schemes under consideration of NABARD under schematic lending

(Rs. in lakhs)			
No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Schemes	Bank Loan (Rs.)
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	224.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8	5732.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	100.00
4.	Assam	1	350.00
5.	Gujarat	12	877.66
6.	Haryana	2	916.00
7.	Karnataka	6	940.32
8.	Kerala	2	845.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	10	814.02
10.	Maharashtra	96	9077.00
11.	Meghalaya	1	1.55
12.	Nagaland	1	69.72
13.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	2	950.00
14.	Orissa	14	1599.14
15.	Rajasthan	5	1384.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	37	8420.69
17.	Uttar Pradesh	18	2316.33
18.	West Bengal	34	3603.17

Assistance from NRF

*288. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds sanctioned under National Renewal Funds during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the progress regarding implementation of projects under the above fund is being monitored properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any new proposals have been received from various States during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) According to the provisional figures available for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 251.90 crores and Rs. 217 crores respectively was released under National Renewal Fund for implementation of voluntary retirement scheme in the Central Public Sector Undertakings and for counselling, retraining and redeployment

assistance to the rationalised workers, which are the only approved schemes under National Renewal Fund at present. These allocations are not made state-wise but are given to Central PSUs, Employee Assistance Centres etc.

(b) and (c) The progress regarding implementation of the schemes is monitored periodically in terms of utilisation of funds and physical achievements at various levels, including by the administrative Ministries, the implementing agencies and by the Empowered Authority of the National Renewal Fund through its secretariat.

(d) and (e) Proposal have been received from different sources during the current year for setting up Employee Assistance Centres at some additional locations, which are under consideration.

[Translation]

Non-Performing Assets

*289. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the non-performing assets in public sector banks are to the tune of Rs. 41,041 crores, Rs. 38,419 crores and Rs. 39,584 crores during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of these amounts have been written off;

(d) if so, the guidelines for writing off such amounts;

(e) the percentage of the loans written off during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(f) whether the amount lying in non-performing assets is justified; and

(g) if not, the remedial steps taken and guidelines, if any, issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The quantum of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks for the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
1993-94	41041.33
1994-95	38385.18
1995-96	39583.94

The bankwise details of NPAs for the last three years is given in the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions laying down the guidelines for writing off of loans. According to these guidelines each bank has to adopt a loan recovery policy duly vetted by its Board of Directors covering the manner of recovery of dues, norms for permitted sacrifices/waiver, decision levels, reporting to higher authorities, examination of staff accountability and monitoring of write off/waiver cases. The banks have also been advised to scrupulously follow the following aspects:

- (i) the authority approving the write-off proposal did not sanction the advance in question in his individual capacity;
- (ii) that the sanctioning authority in the case of advances had exercised his powers judiciously, and adhered to the guidelines issued by the bank in the matter of grant of advances and that normal term and conditions were stipulated;
- (iii) that there was no laxity in the conduct and post disbursement supervision of the advances;
- (iv) that there was no Act of commission or omission on the part of the staff leading to the debt proving irrecoverable; and
- (v) that all possible steps to recover the dues have been taken and there are no further prospects of recovering the debt and that writing off or compromise is in the larger interest of the bank.

(e) The total amount written off by public sector banks as a percentage of total advances at the end of the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is 1.29%, 1.15%

and 0.76% respectively.

(f) The present high level of NPAs in Indian public sector banks is on account of the fact that RBI had introduced from the year 1992-93 prudential norms for classification of advances on the basis of an objective criteria viz. record of recovery. Before that the classification of advances was done under a system of Health Code which contained a high level of subjectivity in implementation. Though the level of NPAs in the initial years was high due to introduction of new prudential norms, but with concerted efforts taken by the banks of percentage of NPAs to total advances of public sector banks as group are showing a declining trend and have declined from 24.78% in 1993-94 to 17.12% in 1995-96 as per details given in the Annexure.

(g) The Government/RBI has been exhorting the banks to reduce their non-performing assets. With the introduction of prudential norms these have been cautious attempts on the part of the banks to keep their NPAs at the minimum. Banks have taken the following steps:

- (1) have evolved loan recovery policy;
- (2) recovery cells have been set up at headquarters;
- (3) recovery targets are set for branches;
- (4) recoveries are monitored at frequent intervals by bank functionaries at various levels;
- (5) have also made efforts to improve their credit appraisal and credit supervision machineries.

The setting up of Debt Recovery Tribunals is expected to help the banks in expeditious recovery of disputed or defaulted dues.

STATEMENT

Position of Non-performing assets

(Amount in Crores)

Name of the Bank	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Amount	Percentage to total Adv.	Amount	Percentage to total Adv.	Amount	Percentage to total adv.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	11604.80	24.36	10926.15	19.98	10553.53	15.96
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	365.92	18.19	400.25	17.21	337.95	12.45
State Bank of Hyderabad	565.00	21.90	554.23	15.75	644.23	15.59
State Bank of Indore	232.65	21.41	199.01	15.28	218.84	14.20
State Bank of Mysore	332.47	21.46	284.48	14.44	328.93	14.45
State Bank of Patiala	305.38	13.09	330.98	11.42	399.71	11.49
State Bank of Saurashtra	231.44	18.92	197.70	12.22	206.49	10.64
State Bank of Travancore	339.29	13.57	377.88	11.10	430.22	11.74
Allahabad Bank	1025.03	24.74	1235.11	26.88	1255.00	23.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Bank	520.78	23.35	377.65	14.30	332.20	11.61
Bank of Baroda	2630.16	18.77	2689.68	16.58	2840.08	16.16
Bank of India	3772.00	29.96	2961.00	20.66	2434.00	14.49
Bank of Maharashtra	847.67	36.23	734.59	25.71	694.28	21.87
Canara Bank	1653.00	18.22	1523.00	12.93	1633.47	11.11
Central Bank of India	2443.00	35.29	2154.78	24.98	2036.00	20.91
Corporation Bank	259.01	16.41	260.01	11.69	251.83	9.67
Dena Bank	564.00	22.51	557.00	17.34	568.00	13.41
Indian Bank	2040.51	26.79	2102.41	24.09	3140.90	34.15
Indian Overseas Bank	2175.18	37.70	2001.41	26.85	1829.00	20.38
Oriental Bank of Commerce	210.95	8.00	221.94	6.14	271.25	5.68
Punjab & Sind Bank	637.28	31.63	619.32	22.53	725.29	22.56
Punjab National Bank	179.03	21.41	2033.00	17.01	2518.00	18.74
Syndicate Bank	1409.60	29.40	1452.97	27.48	1311.75	20.97
UCO Bank	1961.81	34.61	1745.60	29.40	1840.00	24.54
Union Bank of India	693.49	12.87	695.95	9.41	900.63	9.83
United Bank of India	1509.00	45.95	1309.68	36.90	1503.00	36.04
Vijaya Bank	532.88	26.96	439.40	17.47	545.38	20.36

Local Area Banks

*290. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU:

banks should be sent to RBI. RBI have reported that 120 applications have been received by them as on 3.3.1997. The State-wise details are as under:-

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue licences for operating smaller banks in private sector classified as local area banks with a maximum capital of Rs. 5 crore;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has invited applications for opening of such banks;

(c) if so, the response received so far, State-wise; and

(d) by when the licences are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) With a view to providing an institutional mechanism for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economic activities in the local areas, it has been decided to allow the establishment of new local area banks in the private sector. The minimum paid up capital of such a bank shall be Rs. 5 crore and the promoters' contribution atleast Rs. 2 crores. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued guidelines in August 1996 which, inter-alia, stipulated that applications in the form prescribed under Banking Regulation Act, 1949 backed by a project report for the establishment of such

Name of the State	No. of Applications received
1. Andhra Pradesh	24
2. Uttar Pradesh	20
3. Gujarat	16
4. Kerala	10
5. Maharashtra	9
6. Rajasthan	4
7. Karnataka	8
8. Madhya Pradesh	3
9. Tamil Nadu	3
10. Goa	2
11. Haryana	6
12. Punjab	5
13. Himachal Pradesh	1
14. Multi State (Area of operation spread over more than one State)	9

120

RBI have further reported that applications received from different States for setting up of such banks are at various stages of scrutiny and an 'in principle' approval has been given for three such banks. The licence for these banks will be issued after the promoters comply with the terms and conditions stipulated in the 'in principle' approval.

Development of Handloom Industries

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

(a) whether the total turnover of U.P. Handloom Corporation has declined to 35 per cent during the last four years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to discontinue Janata Cloth Scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to revive the handloom industry in the State?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(i) The total turnover of the U.P. State Handloom Corporation for the last four years is as follows:-

Year	Turnover (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	126.97
1993-94	61.83
1994-95	45.96
1995-96	45.18

Main reasons for decline are as under:-

(i) Janata Cloth accounted as high as 75% of the turnover of U.P. State Handloom Corporation. The Janata Cloth Scheme is being phased out. The U.P. State Handloom Corporation could not re-orient its production plan to cater to the changing tastes and preferences of the consumer and market which lead to the decline in turnover of the Corporation.

(ii) Though production declined, the massive overhead cost including staff, salaries etc. were not reduced. This has put the organisation to serve financial strain as salaries and allowances account for about 30% expenditure.

(iii) Under Janata Cloth Scheme, production of non-Janata cloth is encouraged by providing equity. The Corporation did not formulate suitable strategy by revising production plan for production of Non-Janata variety and resultantly could not avail the benefit of subsidy for the purpose.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To encourage weavers to switch over to production of higher value added items, the Janata Cloth Scheme is being phased out.

(e) Central Government is implementing number of developmental schemes for the Handloom sector and the Government of Uttar Pradesh is availing assistance under these on-going schemes:-

(i) Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units.

(ii) Project Package Scheme.

(iii) Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme.

(iv) Market Development Assistance/Special Rebate through Exhibitions.

(v) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.

(vi) Thrift Fund Scheme.

(vii) Group Insurance Scheme.

(viii) Health Package Scheme.

(ix) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers Scheme.

(x) Janata Cloth Scheme.

(xi) Mill Gate Price Scheme.

[English]

Performance of Hindustan Cables Ltd.

*292. SHRI HARADHAN ROY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial performance of Hindustan Cables Limited during each of the last three years, unit-wise;

(b) whether any proposal for revival/restructuring of Hindustan Cables Limited is pending with the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Unit-wise performance of Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. in crores)				
1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (prov. upto Jan, 97)	
1	2	3	4	5
Rupnarainpur Unit				
Sales	197.50	244.72	96.36	52.27

1	2	3	4	5
Profit/(Loss)	(2.63)	1.54	(49.33)	(66.89)
Hyderabad Unit				
Sales	203.37	245.14	138.61	194.04
Profit/(Loss)	(2.98)	7.94	(18.72)	(17.58)
Naini Unit				
Sales	82.56	56.03	40.88	10.98
Profit/(Loss)	8.39	1.45	(19.42)	(23.45)

(b) and (c) The Company has submitted a proposal for financial restructuring involving conversion of outstanding Government loan into equity, waiver of outstanding interest, and moratorium on repayment of future Government Loan and interest thereon. A final view of the Government on this proposal is yet to be taken.

Export of Leather Goods

*293. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSHMARIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote export of leather goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of raw, semi-finished and finished leather products exported during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide more facilities for promoting the export of finished leather products in comparison to the export of raw and semi finished leather goods during 1997-98;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) A number of schemes are available under the Exim Policy for promotion of exports including that of leather goods. They include the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG), Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Oriented Units/ Export Processing Zone Scheme, Deemed Exports Scheme etc. Besides these Schemes, duty concessions are allowed to some major inputs in the leather sector for boosting exports.

(c) The export of raw and semi-finished leather is restricted under the Import-Export Policy 1992-97 and is permitted only under a licence. Since these items are in short supply indigenously, their exports have not been allowed from April' 92 onwards. The value of finished

leather and leather products exported during the last two years and the current year is as follows:-

(US\$ in Million)

Item	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Apr-Dec)
Finished leather	382.96	370.36	226.71
Leather Footwear	302.49	329.68	249.95
Footwear Comp.	247.49	253.72	170.50
Leather Garments	387.12	415.24	320.26
Leather Goods	292.04	353.72	229.60
Total	1612.10	1722.72	1197.02

(Source-DGCI&S)

(d) to (f) In view of the fact that raw and semi finished leather are not allowed for exports, the question of providing more facilities for promoting export of finished leather products vis-a-vis the export of raw and semi finished leather goods does not arise.

Fake Lawyers in the Country

*294. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of advocates in the country particularly in Delhi have acquired degree from a 'fake university';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Bar Association and Bar Council of India propose to initiate removal proceedings against such fake lawyers;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take steps to ensure removal of all fake advocates throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Bar Council of India have directed the State Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh to remove the names of 21 advocates (as given in Statement-I) and that of Delhi to remove the names of 54 (as given in Statement-II) from their rolls.

(d) and (e) The Bar Council of India in exercise of powers conferred by Section 26 of the Advocates Act, 1961 has already taken action in this regard.

STATEMENT-I

List of persons enrolled by the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh on the basis of alleged law degree of Varanesaya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya and directed by the Bar Council of India to be removed from the rolls.

1. Shri Syed Asham
2. Shri Mohd. Mujtaba Hussain
3. Shri Md. Yousufuddin Mansoor
4. Shri Mohd. Zaheetullah
5. Shri Basith Ahmed Khan
6. Shri Ch. V. Vara Prasada Rao
7. Shri Gulam Yazdani
8. Shri Ali Mohammed Yahya
9. Shri M. Iayeeq Akbar Khan
10. Shri M. Ishaq Akbar Khan
11. Shri Qmeruddin Khan
12. Shri Baba Mohiuddin
13. Shri Shaizada Mir Mahboob Ali Khan
14. Shri Mir Zaffar Ali Khan
15. Shri P. Madhusudan
16. Shri Habeeb Hussain
17. Shri Mohd. Mushtaw Ahmed
18. Shri M. Akhlaq Akbar Khan
19. Shri P. Joseph
20. Shri Mohd. Manzoor Ali
21. Shri Ahmed Akramullah Sharooof

STATEMENT-II

List of persons enrolled by the Bar Council of Delhi on the basis of alleged law degree of Varanesaya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya and directed by the Bar Council of India to be removed from the rolls.

1. Shri Vazir Chand
2. Shri Devi Prasad
3. Shri Dharampal Singh
4. Shri Ravi Bhushan Kaushik
5. Shri Narendra Kumar Tyagi
6. Shri Narain Singh
7. Shri Jagbir Singh Malik
8. Shri Rajpal Chawla
9. Shri Raghbir Singh Kadyan
10. Shri Hasmukh Upadhyay
11. Shri T. Maha Vishnu
12. Shri I. Devendra Kumar
13. Shri Kamaljit
14. Shri Rajender Singh Malik
15. Shri Kawal Singh
16. Shri Sarvadaman Sangwan

17. Shri Azad Singh Nehra
18. Shri Shyam Bihari
19. Shri Prashant Pal Singh
20. Smt. Shashi Prabha Sharma
21. Shri Pradeep Kumar Tripathi
22. Shri Radhey Shyam
23. Shri Sham Sunder Jaitly
24. Shri Surat Singh Malik
25. Shri Chet Ram
26. Shri Manjit Singh Sachdeva
27. Shri Surendra Kumar Purohit
28. Shri Jeet Ubbi
29. Shri Shiv Lai Verma
30. Smt. Poonam Rani
31. Shri Jagbir Singh
32. Shri Mahabir Singh
33. Shri Alal Vaiphai
34. Shri Chander Parkash Bansi
35. Shri Neeraj Kumar Tripathi
36. Shri Prem Lal Sandhu
37. Shri Pushap Kant
38. Shri Sureinder Pal Singh
39. Shri Ashok Kumar
40. Shri Gopal Sharan Goyal
41. Shri Satish Kumar Yadav
42. Shri Narinder Jit Singh
43. Shri manmohan Bahadur
44. Shri Randeep Singh Dhankar
45. Shri P.S. Rajachander
46. Smt. Suman Chowdhary
47. Smt. Anita Sirohi
48. Shri Yadvinder Puri
49. Shri K.R. Krishnan
50. Shri Ramesh Chander Yadav
51. Shri Ravi Prakash Sharma
52. Shri Pawan Kumar Saini
53. Shri Udho Ram Arya
54. Shri Shyam Kumar Sharma

Property Acquired by Income Tax

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

(a) the total value of property acquired for under valuation by Income Tax department in various States during the last one year;

(b) the details of such cases pending in different courts;

(c) whether many properties in Metres are still with the Income Tax department for disposal through auction; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the money through the sale of these prime properties across the Metros?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total Value of property acquired for under Valuation by the Income Tax Department in various States is Rs. 24.25 Crores for the year 1996.

(b) The details of such cases pending in different courts are given in Statement attached.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Description of Property	Apparent Consideration	Date of Purchase Order
1.	Plot No. 3, S.No. 79/2/1, Aundh, Pune	Rs. 26,56,575	29.2.96
2.	C.T.C. No. 573, F.P. No. 662 of T.P.S. 1, Bhamburda, Shivaji Nagar, Pune.	Rs. 2,40,00,000	13.9.96
3.	8/2-293, Road No. 53, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.	Rs. 35,42,800	31.12.96
4.	Survey No. 3069, 3073, 3073-1, to 3073-5 Kowdair Village Trivandrum.	Rs. 45,19,318	27.9.96
5.	No. 483, 5th Block, Jay Nagar, Bangalore.	Rs. 62,21,248	28.2.96
6.	No. 775 to 809, O.T.C. Rd., Chickpet, Bangalore	Rs. 1,50,17,084	28.11.96
7.	No. 10, Magrath Road Bangalore	Rs. 1,66,90,150	31.12.96
8.	S-380, Panchasheel Park, New Delhi	Rs. 2,79,00,000	29.2.96
9.	Flat No. 4, Block-C, Diwan Shree Apartments, 30, Ferozeshah Rd. New Delhi.	Rs. 1,05,00,000	27.3.96
10.	22/78, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi.	Rs. 2,76,00,000	30.11.96
11.	Plot No. 13, Road No. 6, Block-F,D.L.F. Qutab Enclave Gurgaon.	Rs. 50,20,000	30.8.96
12.	11, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Lucknow.	Rs. 59,01,700/-	11.7.96
13.	8, Mada St. Srinagar Colony Saidapet, Chennai.	Rs. 35,19,931/-	26.9.96

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The properties purchased under Chapter XX-C of Income Tax Act, 1961, which are free from litigation, are put to open public auction within a period of 3 months of date of purchase order. Sealed tenders are invited if the properties remain unsold after 3 public auctions. If these efforts do not yield result direct negotiations for disposal are made with public sector undertakings, State Govern-

ments/Central Government departments. Wide publicity of the auction sale is also given in the media.

Restructuring of IDBI

*296. SHRI ROMESH ARAYA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to restructure Industrial Development Bank of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The basic role of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is to support industrial development in the country by providing medium and long term credit to the industry. In order to enable IDBI to play its role more effectively in the changing economic and industrial scenario, it has been provided greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility. IDBI has also been enabled to access the capital market through issue of equity share capital and enlarge its share holders' base. For these purposes the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 was amended in 1995.

[Translation]

Bank Loans

*297. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR':
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the banks have disbursed lesser loans despite the increase in the bank deposit during the last six months;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to issue/have issued any guidelines to encourage loan disbursement by banks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks have shown a growth of Rs. 48,829 crores (11.3%) during the current financial year upto February 14, 1997, as compared with a rise of Rs. 26,003 crores (6.75%) in corresponding period of 1995-96. The non-food credit however increased by Rs. 14,602 crores (6.0%) as against a rise of Rs. 34,198 crores (17.2%) last year. The growth in non-food bank credit during the current financial year has however to be viewed in the context of very large increase in net bank credit in the two preceeding years. The outstanding non-food credit of all scheduled commercial banks increased by 59.1 per cent (Rs. 90,713 crores) to Rs. 244,224 crores between March 18, 1994 and March 29, 1996.

(c) to (e) RBI have reported that they have been advising banks from time to time for delegation of adequate loan sanctioning powers in the various functionaries for

expeditious disposal of credit proposals. RBI has recently advised banks that discretionary powers should be exercised in a judicious manner with a view to meeting, without undue delay, the genuine credit requirements of the borrowers. Bank Boards have been advised by RBI to consider building in flexibility in its delegated authority to bank officials to meet exceptional and emergent requirements of the borrowers, and if they consider that existing powers granted to officials at various levels are not sufficient to meet the increased volume of business and the needs of the borrowers, they may suitably enhance the discretionary power at various levels.

Heavy Industries in Public Sector

*298. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of heavy industries functioning under the public sector during each of the last three years;
- (b) the number of industries which are incurring losses; and
- (c) the total amount of losses incurred by them till March, 1996, Industry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) operating under the Department of Heavy Industry in 1995-96 consisted of Engineering Industries, Consumer Industries and Consultancy and Construction Companies, the accumulated losses of which as on 31.3.96 were Rs. 3304.05 Cr., Rs. 3121.09 Cr., and Rs. 1034.36 Cr. respectively. Of the 49 PSEs, 34 incurred losses in 1995-96.

[English]

Production of Coal

*299. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of coal from various coal mines during the last three years;
- (b) the quantum of coal exported out of it during the above period and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and
- (c) the names of the countries to whom it has been exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The details of coal production from the mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL), Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) and captive collieries during the last three years are as under:-

(million tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CIL	216.10	223.07	237.28
SCCL	25.21	25.65	26.77
Captive Collieries			
(TISCO, IISCO & DVC)	4.73	5.01	6.08
Total	246.04	253.73	270.13

(b) and (c) The quantity of coal exported by Coal India Limited to Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are as under:-

(Figs. in 000 tonnes)

Year	Quantity export	Foreign exchange earned
1993-94	98.7	US \$ 1.25 Million
1994-95	111.9	US \$ 2.14 Million
1995-96	92.0	US \$ 1.44 Million

Export to Nepal and Bhutan is made in Indian Rupees.

Judicial Pay Commission

*300. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Chairman and other members of the Judicial Pay Commission;

(b) whether the Judicial Pay Commission has submitted its recommendations to the Government;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP):

(a)	Chairman	- Justice K.J. Shetty, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court.
	Member	- Justice P.K. Bahri, Retired Judge of the Delhi High Court.
	Member Secretary	- Justice A.B. Murgod, Retired Judge of the Karnataka High Court.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As it took some time to provide the basic requirements like office accommodation, finance, staff, etc., the Commission has become functional from the 1st week of December, 1996.

(d) In about two years.

Advocates without Chamber

3105. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to his reply to Unstarred Question No. 2262 dated December 6, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the chambers in the new building at Bhagwan Das Road would not cover all the advocates on record of Supreme Court of India for their smooth and effective working; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The new building has a provision for dormitory of 20 cubicles on each floor where 20 advocates could be provided tables and chairs for working. It may not be practicable to provide chambers to all advocates on record in the new building.

Inflow of FII

3106. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors inflow has shown a downward trend during 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the actual flow during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per reports field by the custodians to the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) with SEBI, net investments by FIIs during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 have been as follows:

	Rs. Crores
1994	6,791.2
1995	3,853.7
1996	10,803.6

Registration of Farmers/Exporters with Apeda

3107. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for registering small farmer as exporters with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA); and

(b) the number of farmers registered with APEDA so far, product-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no separate criterion for registering small farmers as exporters with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). As per Section 12(1) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, (2 of 1986) read with Rule 9 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1986, every person exporting any one or more items covered by the schedule to the APEDA Act, 1985 shall, before the expiration of one month from the date on which he undertakes such export or before the expiration of three months from the date of coming into force of this section, whichever is later, apply to the Authority to be registered as an exporter of scheduled product or products. Every application for registration as an exporter of scheduled product(s), shall be made to the Secretary or any officer authorised in this behalf by APEDA in the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by a certificate regarding applicant's status as well as fee of Rs. 25/- payable by a money order or demand draft in favour of the Authority or by Indian Postal Order payable to the Authority at a post office in New Delhi.

(b) No separate date is maintained for the farmers registered as exporters with APEDA. Productwise and statewide data is also not maintained. The data is being maintained on the basis of merchant or manufacturer exporter. As on 31.12.96, there were 10333 merchant exporters and 1292 manufacturer exporters registered with APEDA.

Gramin Bank

3108. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 21.10 crores to the Kashi Gramin Bank in the second phase of reconstitution of regional rural banks; and

(b) if so, the circumstances leading to striking off the name of Kashi Gramin Bank from the final list and the time by which the required capital is likely to be provided to this bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Kashi Gramin Bank was one of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) selected for provision of equity support during 1995-96. However, due to revision in the budgetary allocation for recapitalisation of RRBs from Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 223.57 crores, capital infusion to some of the selected RRBs including Kashi Gramin Bank could not take place during the year 1995-96. An amount of Rs. 10.05 crores, as Government of India's share (50% out of the total requirement of Rs. 21.10 crores) has since been released to Kashi Gramin Bank.

Gross Domestic Product

3109. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Domestic Product in the country, broad sector-wise in 1995-96;

(b) the estimated growth during the year 1996-97;

(c) whether Central Statistical Organisation has expected 4 per cent growth in agriculture and 8 to 9 per cent growth in Industry;

(d) if so, the reasons for the present recession; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to contain such statistical information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The quick estimates of GDP for different sectors for the year 1995-96 and advance estimate of GDP for the year 1996-97 at 1980-81 prices as released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) are indicated in the attached statement along with corresponding growth rates.

(c) to (e) It would be observed from the Annexure that the C.S.O. has assumed a growth rate of 3.7 per cent for agriculture, forestry and fishing; 1.7 per cent for mining and quarrying; 10.6 per cent for manufacturing and 4.6 per cent for construction for the advance estimates of GDP for the year 1996-97. These growth rates are consistent with recent trends of production of these sectors.

The Economic Survey 1996-97 presented to the Parliament a few days ago provides a detailed and balanced account of the current state of the economy.

STATEMENT

Estimates of Gross Domestic product at factor cost by kind of economic activity for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97

Industry	At 1980-81 Prices			
	1995-96	1996-97	Percentage change	
	(Quick Est.) (Rs. Crores)	(Adv. Est.)	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing	73628	76359	-0.1	3.7
2. Mining & quarrying	5210	5298	7.0	1.7
3. Manufacturing	61119	67621	13.6	10.6
4. Electricity, gas & water supply	7225	7529	9.1	4.2
5. Construction	11836	12377	5.3	4.6
6. Trade, hotels, transport and communication	54972	60158	13.3	9.4
7. Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	30866	32812	4.0	6.3
8. Community, social & personal services	29353	30779	6.2	4.9
Total gross domestic product at factor cost	274209	292933	7.1	6.8

Export of Soyameal to China

3110. SHARIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of soyameal exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom to China during each of the last three years;

(b) whether China had declined to import soyameal during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the total soyameal purchased by China from India during 1996-97; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of soyameal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (c) The total quantity and value of Soyameal exported to China during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	13852	743
1994-95	12230	848
1995-96	111990	8337
1996-97 (April-July, '96)	93185	7652

(Source: DGCI & S CALCUTTA)

(b) No, Sir.

(d) To enhance production and productivity of oilseeds including soyabean, Technology Mission on Oilseeds was launched in 1986. Some of the steps taken to enhance export are:-

- (i) participation in International seminars/workshops;
- (ii) sponsoring delegations abroad; and
- (iii) arranging buyer seller meets.

[Translation]

Smuggling Through Nepal

3111. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of smuggling from Nepal have been reported;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Nepal Government has accepted the fact of smuggling from Nepal to India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent smuggling from Nepal to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Anti smuggling agencies have detected cases of smuggling on Indo Nepal Border. Seizure statistics are as follows:-

Year	Value of Seizure (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	32.55
1996-97	40.98 (Prov.)

(b) Smuggling of contraband goods from Nepal into India has been brought to the notice of Nepalese authorities.

(c) Field formations are alert to check any smuggling including from Nepal to India.

[English]

Office of the Commissioner, Excise and Customs, Guwahati

3112. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planing to open the Office of the Commissioner, Excise and Customs at Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to open the Office of the Commissioner, Central Excise and Customs* at Guwahati.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Disinvestment Commission

3113. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has written to his Ministry saying the off loading of the Government's holding in public sector undertakings and the initial public offerings by PSUs should be coordinated with the decision on both to be taken simultaneously;

(b) if so, his Ministry's decision thereto; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on the disinvestment strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is the policy of the Government to provide a high degree of autonomy in decision making for public sector enterprises. In this context, the decision to go in for a new issue of capital should be left entirely to the public sector enterprise, to be taken in the light of its corporate plans. This should not be conditioned by the Government's desire to disinvest a portion of its equity. However, while planning disinvestment, the Government will take into account the decision of the PSE to go in for fresh equity. Accordingly it has been decided that public sector enter-

prises wishing to make a new issue of capital should not be required to go to the Disinvestment Commission mandatorily, but they are free to consult the Commission if they wish to do so. The decision of the Government has been communicated to the Chairman, Disinvestment Commission.

Computer Exports to Russia

3114. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of computers exported to Russia and the foreign exchange earned therefrom including the names of major exporters during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have allowed any Indian company for their operation from Russia; and

(c) if so, the nature of their operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details of computers export to Russia and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Exports
1993-94	23
1994-95	55
1995-96	35

The major exporters of computer hardware to Russia include Altos India Ltd, Dubhim Exports, Ganesh International, HCL Hewlett Packard Ltd., Melstar Exports & Technologies Pvt Ltd, Microtek International Pvt. Ltd, Modi Olivetti Ltd, Ratan Exports & Industries Ltd, Tangerine Informatique Ltd, Wipro Ltd., etc.

(Source: Electronics & Computer Software EPC)

(b) and (c) A number of Indian joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries have been approved by the Government for their operation from Russia. Their nature of operation include manufacturing, hotel and restaurant, trading etc.

Smuggling of Silk

3115. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of silk yarn of Chinese origin is increasing into the country;

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

(c) the measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Banking System

3116. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have taken any steps to set up a monitoring system with a view to develop a rationalised banking system in the country during the last three years, till-date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Following steps have been taken to strengthen the monitoring of banks by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years:

- (i) Setting up of Board for Financial supervision.
- (ii) Offsite monitoring system for banks.
- (iii) Revamping of the system of on-site inspection.
- (iv) Strengthening internal audit and inspection in banks.
- (v) Annual inspections are now being undertaken for public sector banks, foreign banks and weak private sector banks.
- (vi) Scheme for collection and dissemination of information relating to defaulters and suit field accounts.

(c) Most banks have achieved a turnaround by registering a downward trend in non-performing assets and general improvement in their overall performance.

[English]

Bank Guarantee From Sugar Exporters

3117. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to demand 10 percent Bank guarantee from all sugar exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has also decided similar bank guarantee from the exporters of other agricultural products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for such demand from sugar exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an agency designated for issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate for sugar exports, has fixed 5% of the F.O.B. value as performance guarantee.

(b) The condition to submit Bank Guarantee has been introduced to prevent speculative trade and cornering of quote by a few exporters and to ensure that exports actually take place against the allotted quota.

(c) and (d) Exporters of other agricultural products are required to furnish performance guarantee at the following rates:-

- (i) Milk powder, butter and ghee @ 5% of the F.O.B. value
- (ii) Coarse grains and wheat products @ 10% of the F.O.B. value.
- (e) Does not arise.

Cement Plant in Andhra Pradesh

3118. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from South Korea to set up Cement Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total cost of plant;

(c) whether permission for setting up the cement plant has been accorded by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Funds to State Governments

3119. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request in regard to release of funds to the State Governments to meet the financial crisis being faced by them;

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

(c) the total amount released during the last year; and

(d) the reasons for not accepting the request, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, from some of the State Governments.

(b) Statement-I is attached.

(c) and (d) Statement-II is attached.

STATEMENT-I

Ministry of Finance have received the following requests in regard to release of funds to State Govt. to meet the financial crisis being faced by them. Amounts released during 1996-97 (upto 28.2.97) are given in column 4.

Sl. No.	State	Purpose	Amount released (Rs. in crs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1996-97				
1. Andhra Pradesh				
		(i) Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 636 crores as Additional Plan support for Annual Plan 1995-96	Not agreed to	Centre's resource constraints limit Central support for State plans
		(ii) Addl. Central assistance of Rs. 390 crs. as addl. plan support in Annual plan 1996-97	Not agreed to	-do-
		(iii) Request for ways and means advance		
		(a) to tide over their liquidity crunch	200.00	
		(b) to undertake relief measure for storms/heavy rains	26.72	
		(c) to undertake relief measures due to cyclone	50.00	
2. Assam				
		(i) Request for additional Central Assistance of Rs. 57 crs. to improve budgetary resources of the State.	Not agreed	-do-
		(ii) Request of Rs. 190 crs. for monthly salary basis	-do-	-do-
		(iii) Request for defering interest payment of Rs. 50 crs. due on 15.10.96	49.47	
		(iv) Request for reimbursement of Rs. 326 crs. excess expenditure incurred on internal security measures	under consideration with MHA	
		(v) 25 crs. as ex-gratia relief for victim of ethnic violence	agreed to	
		(vi) Request for defering for repayment of loan and interest due in Jan. and Feb '97	58.55	

1	2	3	4	5
	(vii) Request for advance release of Central assistance			
	(a) For September 1996	20.82		
	(b) For October 1996	30.64		
	(c) For November 1996	38.25		
	(d) For December 1996	26.72		
	(viii) Request for ways and means advance	2.00		
	(ix) Request for advance release of share Central taxes			
	(a) For may 1996	66.60		
	(b) For June 1996	95.84		
	(c) For July 1996	95.82		
	(d) For August 1996	45.00		
	(e) For September 1996	95.83		
	(f) For October 1996	95.83		
	(g) For November 1996	95.83		
	(h) For December 1996	96.81		
	(i) For January 1997	96.81		
	(j) For February 1997	96.81		
	(k) For March 1997	155.00		
3. Haryana				
	(i) To Convert medium term loan of Rs. 300 crores released during 1995-96 as 50% loan and 50% grant	Not agreed		Centre's Resources constraint limit Central support for State plans
	(ii) For compensation of Revenue loss for introduction of Prohibition in the state.	-do-		-do-
4. Himachal Pradesh				
	(i) Request for long term soft loan of Rs. 500 crs.	-do-		-do-
	(ii) For an outright grant or a long term loan of Rs. 800 crs. to meet recurring liabilities due to Supreme Court's Judgement as well as Punjab Pay Scale revisions, etc.	-do-		-do-
	(iii) Request for ways and means advance	53.10		
5. J & K				
	(i) To release the funds of Rs. 378.50 crores on account of special plan assistance and special plan loan at the level of 1995-96.	Agreed to		

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii) To provide special financial assistance of Rs. 351.94 Crs. to bridge the uncovered gap in the BE 1996-97		-do-	
	(iii) Rs. 56 crores to enable them pay interim relief to State Govts. employees consequent on recommendations of 5th Pay Commission		Not agreed	-do-
	(iv) Request for writing off outstanding loan of Rs. 1275 crores out of the total debt obligation of Rs. 2511 crores as on March 1995 (giving effect 10% loan and 90% grant from the beginning).		under consideration	
	(v) Request for advance release of Central Assistance for:			
	(a) May 1996		58.24	
	(c) June 1996		116.87	
	(d) August 1996		97.57	
	(e) September 1996		116.87	
	(f) October 1996		116.87	
	(g) November 1996		116.87	
	(h) December 1996		116.87	
	(i) January 1997		108.12	
	(j) February 1997		122.30	
	(k) March 1997		50.00	
	(vi) Request for advance release for share in Central taxes for			
	(a) May 1996		56.76	
	(b) December 1996		68.67	
	(c) February 1997		68.67	
	(d) March 1997		126.00	
6. Manipur	(i) Request for advance release of share in Central taxes for			
	(a) May 1996		16.08	
	(b) Jaunary 1997		19.13	
	(ii) Request for ways and means advance		22.80	
7. Mizoram	(i) Request for long term loan of Rs. 45 crores to cover the state's opening deficit of the year 1996-97		Not agreed	Centre's resource constraint limit Central support for State plans

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii)	Request for Ways and Means advance	26.25	
8.	Madhya Pradesh			
		Request for ways and means advance for Rs. 100 crs.	Released advance normal Central assistance of Rs. 25 crs. due in May' 96	
9.	Nagaland			
	(i)	Request for addl. Central assistance to clear pending bills	7.11	
	(ii)	Request write off of Rs. 225.98 crs. of Central loan to the State	Not agreed	-do-
10.	Punjab			
		Request for ways and means advance	51.10	
11.	Rajasthan			
	(i)	Request for ways and means advance	330.70	
	(ii)	Request for advance release of share in Central taxes for December 1996	143.64	
	(iii)	Request for advance release of Central assistance for		
	(a)	May 1996	9.00	
	(b)	July 1996	37.30	
	(c)	November 1996	37.30	
	(iv)	Request for medium term loan of Rs. 400 crs. to bridge the gap in resources	under consideration	
12.	Sikkim			
		Request for ways and means advance	15.00	

STATEMENT II

Ministry of Finance have received the following requests in regard to release of funds to State Govt. to meet the financial crisis being faced by them. Amounts released during 1995-96 are given in column 4.

Sl. No.	State	Purpose	Amount Released (Rs. in crs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1995-96				
1.	Andhra Pradesh			
	(i)	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 636 crores as additional Plan support for Annual Plan 1995-96.	Not agreed	Due to higher resources transfer to the State from the TFC recommendation
	(ii)	Request for ways and means advance.	150.00	

1	2	3	4	5
	(iii)	Conversion of Ways and Means advances of Rs. 150 crores into Term Loan.	Not agreed	Centre's resource constraint limit Central support for State plans
	(iv)	ACA to compensate the State for revenue losses due to the implementation of Prohibition Policy and also due to implementation of Rs. 2 per Kg. Rice Subsidy Scheme.	-do-	No compensation has been given to any State for loss of revenue on account of prohibition and rice subsidy scheme of the State.
2. Assam	(i)	Request for ways and means advance.	224.00	
	(ii)	To convert Ways and Means advance of Rs. 136 given in April, 1995 into term loan.	Not agreed	Centre's resource constraints limit Central support for State plans
	(iii)	Request for advance release of share in Central taxes.		
	(a)	For May 1995	57.99	
	(b)	For December 1995	80.57	
	(c)	For January 1996	80.59	
	(d)	For February 1996	80.59	
	(e)	For March 1996	157.00	
	(vi)	Request for advance release of normal Central assistance.		
	(a)	For May 1995	78.15	
	(b)	For December 1995	78.15	
	(c)	For January 1996	78.49	
	(d)	For February 1996	79.12	
	(e)	For March 1996	3.65	
3. Himachal Pradesh		To meet State's financial requirements on account of closing deficit of Rs. 416.00 crores for 1994-95 and Rs. 100 crores on account of liability due to Supreme Court Judgement on enhancement of wages of daily-wage employees in the Government Sectors in the State.	Not agreed	Centre's resource constraints limit Central support for State plans
4. J & K	(i)	State's request of Rs. 71 crores for meeting the requirement of the State Government for interim relief to their employees on Central pattern.	42.34	

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii)	To provide additional grants of Rs. 67 crs. to the State Govt. for import of power.	Not agreed	No Central assistance is given to any State for import of power
	(iii)	Request of advance release of share in Central taxes		
	(a)	For December 1995	53.57	
	(b)	For January 1996	53.57	
	(c)	For February 1996	53.57	
	(e)	For March 1996	55.32	
	(iv)	Request for advance release of normal Central assistance.		
	(a)	For May 1995	56.80	
	(b)	For November 1995	114.00	
	(c)	For December 1995	114.00	
	(d)	For January 1996	114.00	
	(e)	For February 1996	115.13	
5. Mizoram		Special grant in aid to the extent of Rs. 11.44 crores which is equal to the shortfall in budget estimates of Tenth Finance Commission for share in Central taxes.	Not agreed	Devolution of share in Central taxes to the States depends on actual collection of taxes and may defer from the projection made by Finance Commission
6. Orissa		To write off loans to MOF	Not agreed	Centre's resource constraints limit Central support for State plans.
7. Rajasthan	(i)	Request for ways and means advance	90.00	
	(ii)	Request for advance release of share in Central taxes for March'96.	118.98	
8. Sikkim		Request for ways and means advance	13.00	
9. Tripura		Rs. 18.95 crores to meet gap between the TFC award and estimated devolution from the Government of India for 1995-96.	Not agreed	Devolution of share in Central taxes to the States depend on actual collection of taxes and may defer from the projection made by the Finance Commission.

Expansion of Motorola Group

3120. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Motorola. Computer Group, the computer arm of the telecommunications giant, Motorola Inc. has announced its plans to expand its operations into India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Motorola Singapore Pte. Ltd. presently holds approval to establish manufacturing capacity for pagers in existing Indian subsidiary, M/s. Motorola Information Systems India Ltd., Bangalore.

The company proposes to enhance their activities in R&D and manufacturing technology to supply equipment to cellular, paging, value added networks and other telecom network, upgradation of their capabilities to add competence and resources for R&D in India and for this to establish one more highly sophisticated software design and development Centre; and to establish training facilities to produce trained telecom engineers in India.

Loan to Small Scale Industries

3121. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for loan received from small scale industries by the Public Sector Banks in Assam and the amount sanctioned in this regard during each of the last three years, till-date;

(b) Whether the banks are not providing timely loans to the applicants as a result of which these industries turned sick; and

(c) If so, the remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, based on the returns submitted to RBI by the scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick small scale industrial (SSI) units and the outstanding credit in respect of these units in the State of Assam as at the end of March 1993, March 1994 and March 1995 was as under :

	(Rs. crores)	
	Number of Sick SSI units	Outstanding Amount
As on 31st March, 1993	5640	36.43
As on 31st March, 1994	14210	40.52
As on 31st March, 1995	17984	44.60

(b) and (c) RBI has issued instructions to all scheduled commercial banks that applications upto a credit limit of Rs 25,000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs 25,000/- within 8-9 weeks from the date of receipt of application. Banks have also been advised that requests for increase in credit limits should be considered expeditiously and decision taken promptly and in any case within six weeks.

Industrial Sickness

3122. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Sickness is an offshoot of the structural changes in the economy and is mainly caused by manmade factors;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) According to the studies conducted by Indian Statistical Institute, industrial sickness arises out of bad financial structure and/or chronically inefficient use of factors of production and/or poor market positioning. According to them the major difference between sick firms registered with the BIFR and healthy companies lay in interest cost and wage cost. BIFR companies always had higher debt equity and total liability equity ratios compared to the non BIFR firms. The study has suggested the need for creating an information base that deals with the credit worthiness of large borrowers in both their corporate and individual capacities, shifting responsibilities of industrial and corporate organization from secured creditors to the defaulting debtors firms and BIFR becoming a fast track facilitator and occasional arbitrator for disposal of the cases referred to it. The study has also suggested financial restructuring of companies such as converting debt into equity and corporate reorganisation via land sales.

Registration of Powerlooms

3123 : SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made compulsory registration of powerlooms;

(b) if so, the number of powerlooms registered during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the number of powerlooms increasing rapidly every year;

(d) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(e) the number of persons employed per year ?

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

(a) No, Sir. However, in terms of clause 6(1) of the Textiles (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993, every person on installing any powerloom in the small scale industries sector subject to the provisions of any Central or State law, shall file an Information Memorandum in Form 1 to an officer notified in this behalf by the State Government within whose territory the powerloom has been installed, with a copy thereof to the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai and every person on installing any powerloom in non-small scale industrial units (other than units referred to in the proviso) shall file an Information Memorandum in Form 1 to the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, provided that nothing contained in this sub-clause shall apply in the case of non-small scale industrial units located within 25 Kms from the periphery of a city, if such industrial units are not located within "industrial areas" designated by the State Government before 24th day of July, 1991 and the installation of the aforesaid powerloom in such industrial unit is regulated under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(b) A Statement showing the number of powerlooms installed during the last three years, State-wise is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir. From the total number of powerlooms installed during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto June, 1996), it is observed that the number of powerloom has increased.

(d) The percentage increase of powerloom during the year 1994 was 24%, December 1995, 6.42% and 1996 (upto June, 1996), 7.76% over the number of powerloom installed as on December, 1993.

(e) The number of workers engaged in the powerloom sector in the country as on 31st December, 1994, 31st December, 1995 and 1996 (upto June, 1996) were 65.7 lakhs, 68.26 lakhs and 69.15 lakhs respectively.

STATEMENT

The total number of powerlooms installed during the last three years, State-wise is as under:

Sl. Name of State/UT No.	Total Number of Powerlooms Installed		
	1994 (as on 31.12.94)	1995 (as on 31.12.95)	1996 (upto June, 1996)

1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41371	43440	43440
2.	Assam	2726	2726	2726
3.	Bihar	2850	2870	2870
4.	Goa	122	122	122
5.	Gujarat	293491	302280	303670

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	9882	9882	9882
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1302	1302	1302
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL	NIL	NIL
9.	Karnataka	54394	57112	58611
10.	Kerala	2026	2304	3181
11.	Madhya Pradesh	33807	34593	34811
12.	Maharashtra	514302	546110	555712
13.	Orissa	3205	3223	3223
14.	Punjab	21862	21980	22090
15.	Rajasthan	30915	31471	32837
16.	Tamil Nadu	229732	233842	236038
17.	Uttar Pradesh	65366	65366	65366
18.	West Bengal	4212	4223	4237
19.	Sikkim	NIL	NIL	NIL
20.	Delhi	1102	1102	1102
21.	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL
22.	Tripura	NIL	NIL	NIL
23.	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	NIL
24.	Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL
26.	Mizoram	NIL	NIL	NIL

UNION TERRITORY:

27.	Chandigarh	42	42	42
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	464	464	464
29.	Pondicherry	830	830	830
30.	Daman & Diu	NIL	NIL	NIL
31.	Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL	NIL
32.	Andaman & Nicobar	NIL	NIL	NIL

Total	1314003	1365284	1382556
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Rubber Cultivation

3124. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under rubber cultivation in each State of the North-Eastern region;

(b) whether the Rubber Board has conducted any survey for rubber plantation in the North-Eastern regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government for the development of rubber plantation and process the locally available rubber in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total area under rubber in the different States of North-East as on 31.3.1996 is given below:

(In hectare)

i) Tripura	20,761
ii) Assam	10,179
iii) Meghalaya	4,105
iv) Manipur	1,400
v) Mizoram	913
vi) Nagaland	1,523
vii) Arunachal Pradesh	49
Total	38,930

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board has been taking up exploratory surveys in the North Eastern Region since 1970. The area suitable for rubber cultivation in that region, is estimated as under:

(In hectares)

i) Assam	2,00,000
ii) Tripura	1,00,000
iii) Meghalaya	50,000
iv) Nagaland	50,000
v) Other N.E. States	50,000
Total	4,50,000

(d) The Rubber Board has been assisting small growers to set up processing facilities by supplying rollers and other estate equipments at concessional rates, assisting construction of smoke houses by providing technical and financial assistance in addition to special assistance being given to tribal/SC groups for community processing.

The Board has also been providing technical and financial assistance to State Public Sector Undertakings engaged in development of rubber plantation in the region, besides promoting voluntary organisations of rubber growers to take up community processing and marketing

Supply of Mulberry

3125. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply five

thousand kgs. of mulberry yarn per month to Sualkuchi in Assam as reported in "Assam Tribune" dated February 21, 1997 under the caption "Mulberry yarn for Sualkuchi"

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other assistance is likely to be provided to Sualkuchi for development of sericulture ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of a High Powered Team to Guwahati (Assam) on 17.2.1997 and field visits on 18.2.1997 it has been agreed to extend the scope of support to handloom weavers in Sualkuchi area (Assam) by arranging supplies of 5000 kgs. of Mulberry Silk Yarn per month by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd. to M/s. the Assam Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd. (ARTFED) against demand to be placed by M/s. ARTFED.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government for the development of sericulture, the Central Government through the Central Silk Board has established a Demonstration-cum-Training Centre at Sualkuchi to demonstrate the improved techniques of cocoon processing and Silk reeling to the reelers. Besides a special demonstration of the new technologies and machines developed for reeling of muga cocoons is being conducted by Silk Technological Research Training Institute, Bangalore. In addition a post-cocoon Technical Service Centre has also been set up to provide technical advise to silk reeling, spinning and weaving units including dyeing, printing and wet processing of silk fabrics at Sualkuchi.

I.M.F. and World Bank Assistance

3126. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has been receiving I.M.F. and World Bank assistance for the different developmental projects;

(b) if so, the number of projects which have been funded by the I.M.F. and World Bank in India since 1991 and in different States, State-wise; and

(c) the amounts of funds involved in those projects year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) IMF loans are for balance of payments support and are not given for development projects, while the World Bank loans are given for development projects. The numbers and amount of agreement signed for State-sector projects year-wise is given as statement.

STATEMENT

World Bank Aided State/multi-State Sector Projects year-wise

State	Year of Funding										(in US\$ million)	
	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Assam									1	126.00		
A.P.					1	77.40	1	133.00				
Bihar			1	126.15								
Haryana							1	294.29				
Karnataka					1	103.79						
Maharashtra	2	241.27	1	350.00			1	246.2	1	192.00		
M.P.									1	58.00		
Orissa									1	290.90	1	350.00
Rajasthan			1	113.41								
T.N.									2	558.70		
U.P.					2	227.85					1	59.60
W.B.	1	34.00										
Multi-State	3	503.05							2	201.50	1	350.00
	6	778.32	3	589.56	4	409.04	3	674.11	8	1427.1	3	759.60

Textile City

(c) Does not arise.

3127. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for Textile City Project at Belur in Dharwad district;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) The Government of Karnataka desired to establish Textile City at Belur Industrial Estate, Dharwad district of Karnataka. The cost of the project was estimated around Rs. 874 lakhs with a project duration of 3 years. However, the proposal has been dropped by the State Government of Karnataka.

Coal Projects

3128. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 coal projects in the country are facing time and cost run-runs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid further time delay and cost over-runs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) As on 31.12.1996, out of 68 coal projects each costing Rs. 20 crs. and above under implementation in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), 13 projects were suffering time and cost overrun. Reasons of delay inter alia include constraints in land acquisition and related rehabilitation problems, delay in equipment supply and turn-key execution, adverse geo-mining conditions and fund constraints.

(c) The Ministry of Coal is monitoring the implementation of these delayed projects. The Ministry and coal companies follow-up with the concerned State Governments in expediting pending land cases and also with equipment manufacturers to ensure early supply/commissioning of equipment. For providing adequate funds for the on-going projects, coal companies have taken steps to mobilise resources through internal generation, Supplier's Credit and external borrowings. For projects where cost overrun takes place, item-wise cost increases alongwith reasons thereof are examined in depth at the time of formulation of revised cost estimates which are approved by the competent authority.

[Translation]

Electric Railway Engines by BHEL

3129 DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

SHRI SOHAN BEER :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electric railway engines manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited till date;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to enhance the production capacity of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target fixed for manufacturing electric engines during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The number of Electric Railway Engines (Electric Locos) manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) till 07.03.97 is 102.

(b) to (d) The present production capacity of BHEL is 30 Electric Railway Engines (Electric Locos) per year. The enhancement of their capacity depends on the requirement of the customer viz., the Indian Railways. As per the present capacity, BHEL can manufacture 150 Electric Engines (Electric Locos) during Ninth Five Year Plan period.

[English]

Gold Smuggling

3130. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in gold smuggling during recent years through the Airport in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details of gold seized from different airport in Kerala during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Seizures statistics and intelligence reports indicate an increase in attempt to smuggle small quantities of gold at airports in

Kerala by passengers returning from abroad.

(b) The details of gold seized at the airports in Kerala during last three years are as under :-

Year	No. of cases	Value of seizure (Rs. in Lakhs)
1994-95	323	384.72
1995-96	989	956.00
1996-97	1254	1210.05

[Translation]

Court Decisions

3131. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of cases are lying pending in various courts;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government to dispose of such cases out of court; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government launched an Arrears Clearance Quarter, commencing from 2nd October, 1996. Every District Judge in the country was requested to organise atleast one Lok Adalat on 2nd October, 1996 and, thereafter, as many Lok Adalats as may be possible during the said quarter, holding atleast one Lok Adalat on every Saturday/Sunday. Further, Lok Adalats were recommended at every taluka level also. In addition, Nyaya Panchayats, and other alternative methods of dispute resolution are also being made use of.

[English]

Potable Alcohol

3132. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently given approval to M/s. Bacardi International and M/s. Pernod Ricard for manufacturing potable alcohol from molasses;

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

(c) whether the views of the Ministry of Food Processing were taken into account before arriving at a decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Bacardi International and M/s. Pernod Ricard have been granted approval for manufacture of Potable Alcohol, subject to the condition that only Rum would be manufactured out of molasses as a raw material. The other products would be manufactured out of non-molasses raw materials. The approvals are also subject to the condition that no fresh capacity for manufacture of potable liquor shall be allowed and that the existing licensed capacity of the joint venture company will be limited to the licensed capacity of the Indian partner, i.e., the proposed joint venture shall use the existing valid licence of the Indian partner (s) for the manufacture of the proposed products.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

3133. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold imported in the country during the last year;

(b) the quantity of gold in the Government stock;

(c) whether the Government have lent gold to any firm for making jewellery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling Activities At Border

3134. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ
BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALI DAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling activities on large scale in some districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan border;

(b) if so, whether some foreign fishermen come there in their boats for smuggling particularly in Bhuj area;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to plug the smuggling activities in the State; and

(d) the amount of articles seized by the Government during the last three years in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling Heroin

3135. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become the gateway of smuggling heroin, hashish and other narcotics to western destinations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of cases that have come to the light during the last three years wherein heroin was either caught while smuggling in/out of the country and the persons at the back of this trade; and

(d) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) India continues to face trans-~~it~~ trafficking in narcotic drugs from across the borders, especially in heroin and hashish, generally destined to the western destinations.

(b) Government has taken necessary legislative and administrative measures including the following to combat drug trafficking :-

i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

ii) The dedicated narcotic cells are operational in Police and the Customs and Central Excise formations in the border States.

iii) 2/3rd of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.

iv) BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

v) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

vi) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

vii) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.

viii) A bilateral agreement has been arrived at with authorities in Pakistan whereby periodic meetings take place at Secretary level and DG level. Representatives of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies have been included in the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers. Contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operational communication.

ix) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

x) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(c) and (d) As per information available, details of number of cases and persons arrested in connection with heroin smuggling during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below:-

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Persons Arrested
1994	51	49
1995	69	58
1996	53	56

Stringent action against the offenders is initiated in accordance with the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

Import of Urea

3136. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has frozen 2.5 million dollars meant for payment of urea purchased from Libya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get the frozen amount released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. MMTC had opened a Letter of Credit (L/C) for US\$ 2.5 million in favour of National Oil Company, Libya for purchase of 13,817 MTs of urea, through Indian Overseas Bank. The L/C was confirmed by the Union Bank of Switzerland. Indian Overseas Bank as per instructions of Union Bank of Switzerland, remitted the amounts through Chase Manhattan Bank, New York who froze this amount. The entire quantity of urea was received by MMTC in April '96. Indian Overseas Bank has taken up the release of above money to the National Oil Company, Libya through the Ministry of External Affairs. MMTC has no further liability or role in this transaction.

Employment Generation

3137. SHRI K. PARASURMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked the R.B.I. to suggest various measures for employment generation and poverty alleviation schemes including adequate credit flow to rural and priority sectors;

(b) whether the RBI has since given its concrete suggestions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions of the RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Banks have been implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes formulated by the Govt. of India. These schemes include Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).

The performance of public sector banks in these schemes for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Number in Lakhs)

Name of the scheme	Year	Physical Target		Physical Achievement
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	1993-94	25.69		25.38
	1994-95	21.15		21.12
	1995-96	N.A.		15.82
		Target	Sanctioned	Disbursement
Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME)	1993-94	1.23	1.83	1.49
	1994-95	1.20	1.44	1.18
	1995-96	1.17	1.18	0.93
Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY)	*1993-94	0.42	0.32	0.21
	1994-95	2.20	1.94	1.11
(*Oct. 93 to March 94)	1995-96	3.21	2.94	1.63

NOTE : Under IRDP, the number mentioned under physical targets and achievement denote the number of families.

Instructions/guidelines are issued by RBI to banks from time to time for the implementation of the Govt. sponsored poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes. The progress of implementation of these schemes are monitored by the Govt. of India at the All India level. These schemes are also monitored at the District Level Consultative Committee and State Level Bankers' Committee Meetings. Further, RBI has constituted a separate monitoring cell for the implementation of PMRY and IRDP under the overall charge of the concerned Deputy-Governor.

Public Sector Undertakings

3138. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether various departments of Public Sector Undertakings do not keep examination centre or interview centre in the capitals of the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue directions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Under the Articles of Association/ Statute, the management of PSUs enjoy autonomy so far as recruitment at below board level posts is concerned. Hence, no such information is maintained centrally by the Govt.

[Translation]

Pending Election Petitions

3139. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions lying pending in various High Courts and in the Supreme Court since 1991 till date;

(b) the reasons for the delay in disposals; and

(c) the steps taken to expeditious disposal of these election petitions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The requisite information as made available by the Election Commission is given in the Statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Under election law, trial of an election petition should, so far as is practicable consistently with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued from day to day until its conclusion and endeavour should be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial. However, examination of a large number of witnesses, seeking adjournments on various grounds and

procedural wrangles, etc., are amongst the various reasons for the delay in disposal of election petitions.

(c) Government has referred the issue of pendency of election petitions to the Law Commission for a comprehensive study.

STATEMENT

Number of election petitions pending in High Courts and appeals pending in Supreme Court

(Position as on 7.3.1997)

S.No.	Name of election	Number of petitions pending in High Courts	Number of appeals pending in Supreme Court
1	2	3	4
1.	General Elections to the House of the People held in May-June 1991	11	1
2.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in 1991-92	15	3
3.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in February and November 1993	96	10
4.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in November-December 1994	15	3
5.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in 1995	94	2
6.	General Elections to the House of the People held in April-May 1996	43	-
7.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in April-May 1996	90	3
8.	Biennial Elections to the Council of States - 1992	2	-
9.	Biennial Elections to the Legislative Council - 1992	2	-
10.	Biennial Elections to the Legislative Council - 1993	3	-
11.	Biennial Elections to the Council of States - 1994	2	-
12.	Bye-elections to the Legislative Assemblies - 1991	1	1
13.	Bye-elections to the Legislative Assemblies - 1992		-
14.	Bye-elections to the Legislative Assemblies -1993	2	-

1	2	3	4
15. Bye-elections to the Lok Sabha 1994		1	-
16. Bye-elections to the Bihar Legislative Assembly, 1996		1	-
17. Bye-elections to the Legislative Council - 1991		-	-
18. Biennial elections to the Legislative Council - 1996		4	-

Pollution by Lai Matia Mine, Bihar

3140. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the level of air and noise pollution in Lal Matia Mine at Bihar is increasing due to mining operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pollution level of potable water of that area is also increasing and no monthly test to check the pollution level of potable water has been conducted for many years; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the pollution caused by this mining operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Air and noise pollution levels in Lalmatiya mine under Rajmahal project of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. in Bihar are within permissible limits laid down by the statute.

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

(c) and (d) Pollution level of potable water in Rajmahal area is not increasing. Water samples are collected and analysed once in a quarter as per the conditions prescribed in the Environment Management Plan (EMP) as approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. All parameters are within permissible limits laid down by the statute. Water Quality Reports are being analysed by Government approved agencies i.e. Asansol Mines Board of Health and RI-I, CMPDI.

Steps being taken to maintain air, water and noise pollution within permissible limits include:

- (i) Coal Handling Plants and Haul roads are provided with water spraying systems to suppress the dust;
- (ii) air analysis is made to find the level of suspended particulate matter in air;
- (iii) Large scale afforestation in and around the mines and creation of green belt between mining complex and residential colonies;

(iv) Effluent discharge from residential complex are discharged into a soak pit. Water samples are regularly drawn from three selected sites in each quarter and analysed; and

(v) Regular noise survey is made.

[English]

Non-Bailable Warrants

3141. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-bailable warrants issued by the Delhi Courts during 1996;

(b) the number of arrests made consequent to the issue of non-bailable warrants; and

(c) the number of cases in which the Higher Courts granted stay orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Number of non-bailable warrants issued by the Delhi Courts during 1996—34477 (till 15.11.1996).

(b) Number of arrests made consequent to the issue of non-bailable warrants—8299 (till 15.11.1996).

(c) Number of cases in which the Higher Courts granted stay orders—324.

[Translation]

Trade of Foreign Exchange

3142. SHRI KACHARU BHARU RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have unearthed the illegal trade of Foreign Exchange in Maharashtra during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such cases which came to light and the amount of foreign exchange seized in them; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal trade of Foreign Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Details of cases of illegal trading of foreign exchange, unearthed in Maharashtra during the year 1995 to 1997 (upto Feb.) and foreign exchange seized therein, are as under:-

Year	No. of cases unearthed.	Value of foreign exchange seized.
1995	79	Rs. 2.17 crores
1996	52	Rs. 5.46 "
1997	6	Rs. 0.23 "

(Upto Feb., 1997)

(d) The Enforcement Directorate keeps a regular vigil on the activities of foreign exchange racketeers. Actions as envisaged in the statutes are taken as and when any such case comes to the notice of the Directorate.

Import of Newsprint

3143. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of newsprint was imported during 1996-97;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is resulted in surplus stock of foreign newsprint in the country and it has also affected the production of domestic newsprint;

(d) if so, the reasons for such imports;

(e) whether the Government have investigated the matter;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken by the Government to save the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (g) Import of Newsprint had been permitted freely since 01.05.1995 without any restriction. Import of newsprint being free, it would be difficult to confirm that imports have resulted in surplus stock of foreign newsprint in the country affecting production of domestic newsprint.

However, keeping in view the interests of domestic newsprint industries, newsprint has since been restricted for import by Actual Users only since 29.01.1997.

[English]

Jammu B-2 City

3144. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Jammu and

Kashmir regarding declaration of Jammu City as B-2 city; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Representations have been received to upgrade Jammu City from 'C' Class to 'B-2' Class for the purposes of House Rent Allowance. According to the existing policy, cities/towns are classified for grant of House Rent Allowance on the basis of their population as reflected in the decennial Census. A city having a population above 4 lakhs but below 8 lakhs, within its municipal limits, is classified as 'B-2' class city for HRA. The current classification is based on 1991 Census. The Census could not, however, be conducted in Jammu due to unavoidable reasons. The Registrar General and Census Commissioner (RGI) has indicated the estimated population of Jammu City in 1991 to be 2.76 lakhs. Since this is below the bench mark for classification as 'B-2' class, Jammu is classified as 'C' class city for HRA.

The proposal under consideration is to upgrade Jammu city as 'B-2' class taking into account the migrant population.

[Translation]

Production of Opium

3145. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of morphine is less in the opium which is produced in India;

(b) whether on account of this it is sold on low price in the international market which resulted loss to the Indian farmers; and

(c) If so, the measures being taken for the development of new seed and to save the crop from disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The percentage of morphine in Indian opium, as confirmed by Chemical analysis reports, ranges between 9.5 to 11.5. It is not possible to compare the morphine content of such opium vis-a-vis other countries' produce since India is the sole producer of licit opium gum in the world.

(b) Indian opium commands a good price in the international market because of its morphine and other important alkaloid contents. There is no loss to the Indian farmers, on account of morphine content of opium, because payments to cultivators are made on the basis of consistency of opium i.e. percentage of water and other adulterants, if any, therein rather than the morphine content of opium.

(c) The Agricultural Colleges and Research Institutes in the three poppy growing states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are engaged in conducting research to develop high Morphine content and disease resistant varieties of opium poppy seeds. The K.N.K.

College of Agriculture Mandsaur, the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic plants (CIMAP) and National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) at Lucknow have done notable work in this area. The office of the Central Bureau of Narcotics has been taking suitable steps to disseminate the results of such studies for the benefit of the opium cultivators in the above areas.

Soiled Notes

3146. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has imported a machine from Germany for destroying several mutilated and soiled currency notes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two currency disintegrator and briquetting system have been imported from M/s. Giesecke and Devrient GmbH, Germany which are in operation since December, 1996 at the Reserve Bank of India's New Delhi office. The system is an integrated unit with a capacity of 300 Kgs of currency notes per hour and comprises the following features:

- (i) Electromechanical belt conveyor: This conveys the notes into the granulator.
- (ii) Prescrusher/Granulator: The prescrusher crushes the note bundles into small pieces. They are then granulated into small granules (3mm x 3mm) by means of fixed/moveable knives.
- (iii) Briquetting unit: The granules are then sucked from the granulator through a blower fan and compressed into '2' diameter briquettes by a compression pump.

This method of destroying notes is environment friendly as the process is devoid of any smoke emission.

Salt Industries

3147. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Salt industries functioning in Public Sector in the country;

(b) whether any special efforts are being made to promote the export of salt by increasing its production;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Six salt works are functioning in Public Sector.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been initiated to promote export by increasing salt production:-

(i) Salt exports have been exempted from the levy of cess

(ii) Railway is according 'B' Priority for export of salt by rail.

(iii) Establishment of 100% export oriented units (EOU) is being encouraged.

(iv) Long term and short term measures are taken to improve the salt loading rate at Kandla Port.

(v) Setting up of salt refineries is being encouraged to meet the demand of high grade salt.

[English]

Demonstration by All India Gramin Bank Workers

3148. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers and workers of the All India Gramin Bank held country-wide demonstrations on January 28, 1997 to protest against the negative attitude of the Government towards their demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Some of the Associations of Officers and Employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), inter-alia, including All India Gramin Bank Workers Organisation and All India Gramin Bank Officers Association have represented against non-implementation of the VIth Bipartite Settlement in favour of RRB employees.

As regards the extension of Sixty Bipartite Agreement between employees, Officers of Commercial Banks and Indian Banks' Association to the employees of RRBs, the matter was taken by some of the RRB employees to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however did not grant any relief and instead observed that they may seek reliefs available to them under the Industrial disputes Act.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have appointed a three member Committee to examine and suggest the changes in the salary and allowances of the employees of RRBs, which may be considered desirable and feasible. It is expected that the employees will present their view point before the Committee so that it can make considered recommendations on their demands.

Turnover of STC

3149. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total business as well as the turnover of the STC is going down;

(b) if so, the figures for each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the items traded by the S.T.C. with quantity and amount alongwith the profitability/loss during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by STC in improving its trading capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The total turnover of STC during each of the last three years is as under:

(Rs. Crore)

1993-94	1117
1994-95	1861
1995-96	1685

The total turnover during 1995-96 was lower when compared to 1994-95 because of lower exports under countre trade (from Rs. 377 crores to Rs. 201 crores) and lower import sales of sugar (from Rs. 594 crores to Rs. 66 crores).

(c) A statement showing itemwise details of turn-over and profitability of the Corporation during the last three years is annexed.

(d) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items earlier canalised through STC, the Corporation has reoriented its trading strategies in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and competitive environment in the international market. As a part of diversification of its trade activities in the changed business scenario, STC is laying greater emphasis on developing non-canalised trade by way of:-

- direct buying and selling;
- development of captive supply sources through joint ventures and financial assistance;
- import of edible oils for private trade;
- import of gold and export of gold jewellery.
- sale of edible oils in STC's own brand name in the domestic market;
- strengthening overseas marketing network; and
- development of port infrastructure in the country.

STATEMENT

STC: Turnover and Trading Profit During 1993-94 to 1995-96

Value: Rs. Crores
Qty.: 000 MTs in brackets

EXPORT Items	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NON-CANALISED						
Castor Oil/seeds	-	-	9.79	0.32	29.62	0.22
Jute Goods	2.37	1.14	9.80	0.09	16.17	0.29
Rice	2.60	0.03	18.72 (22)	0.67	129.12 (148)	1.58
Tobacco	9.14	0.01	1.94 (0.5)	0.01	3.04	Neg.
Coffee	14.01	0.22	23.80 (3)	0.24	29.53	0.22
Spices	2.23	0.04	1.75	0.04	1.02	0.01
Tea	17.23	0.64	5.58 (0.7)	0.18	5.24	0.20
Extractions	63.25	(-) 3.62	40.40	(-) 2.41	82.10	(-) 0.52
Foodgrains (Wheat)	0.15	0.08	16.07 (34)	1.13	19.35	0.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Others (only Misc. Agri. items)	9.32	0.16	3.41	0.03	4.40	0.01
Natural Rubber	10.35	0.15	-	-	-	-
Cashew	33.36	0.18	46.97	0.22	35.13	0.10
Sugar	43.91	0.44	30.46	0.18	17.34	0.09
			(35)			
Alcohol	4.94	-	-	-	-	-
Sports Goods	4.80	-	6.05	0.01	5.42	-
Textile/RHG/Coir	9.86	0.17	14.63	0.33	21.71	0.33
Consumer Products	8.52	0.12	12.32	0.10	6.59	0.10
Engg./Const. Materials	23.79	0.15	32.51	0.40	54.80	0.62
Chemicals & Drugs	40.37	0.66	39.70	0.71	33.44	0.73
Heat & Harine Products	2.49	0.01	1.05	0.02	1.56	-
Fresh & Processed Foods	11.44	0.13	6.82	0.12	6.49	0.07
Leatherware	44.08	0.48	39.83	0.32	40.72	0.34
Brassware	-	-	2.19	0.01	0.52	0.02
Sub-Total (Non-Canalised)	363.21	1.19	363.79	2.72	543.31	4.57
Off-shore	-	-	65.30	2.91	5.09	0.07
Counter Trade	434.67	1.71	376.53	1.58	201.00	0.92
Total Exports	797.88	2.90	805.62	7.21	749.40	5.56

STC: Turnover and Trading Profit During 1993-94 to 1995-96 (Contd.)

Value: Rs. Crores
Qty.: 000 MTs in brackets

IMPORTS	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Sale Value	T.P.	Sale Value	T.P.	Sale Value	T.P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Edible Oils (Govt. A/C)	60.00	24.41	308.41	19.87	414.33	14.63
Edible Oils (STC A/C)	-	-	-	-	68.51	2.91
Edible Oil (CARE/AID)	108.71	5.90	19.88	0.71	20.21	0.35
					(7)	
Newsprint	36.48	1.55	6.59	0.77	-	(-) 0.01
Fatty Acids	0.69	0.03	0.01	-	0.35	(-) 0.01
Sugar (Govt. A/C)	-	(-) 0.02	594.34	7.28	66.42	1.88
			(471)		(42)	
Fertilizer (Govt. A/C)	-	-	-	-	233.10	1.77
					(309)	
Chemicals & Drugs	9.66	(-) 0.10	0.41	(-) 0.02	0.55	Neg.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
General Imports	13.34	0.29	3.25	0.10	4.89	0.83
Agri. Commodities	9.94	0.80	11.25 (12)	0.04	5.08	(-) 0.25
Imports for Bhakra	-	-	20.81	0.05	6.33	0.02
Other	0.23	0.05	0.39	0.07	1.42	0.03
Total Imports	239.05	32.91	965.34	28.87	857.19	22.15

STC: Turnover and Trading Profit During 1993-94 to 1995-96 (Contd.)

Value: Rs. Crores

DOMESTIC	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
Items	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Edible Oils	51.20	2.65	46.29	0.32	22.80	1.24
Imported Cars	22.91	9.74	28.31	12.87	12.79	6.29
Natural Rubber	0.97	(-) 1.51	-	(-) 2.32	-	(-) 0.03
Thermoplastics	-	-	-	-	0.19	(-) 0.21
HPS Groundnut	2.91	0.05	-	-	-	-
Tea	-	-	8.02	0.30	8.53	0.25
Pulses	-	-	4.30	0.30	28.21	0.22
Gift consignment	0.98	0.02	2.77	0.04	1.05	0.02
Others	0.80	-	0.31	0.03	4.63	0.10
Total Domestic	79.77	10.95	90.00	11.54	78.20	7.88
Total Turnover	1116.70	46.76	1860.96	47.62	1684.79	35.59

T.P.: Trading Profit

- Note: 1. The accounts of the Corporation are prepared as per standard Accounting Policy. As such, profitability figures given above represent the gross trading profit earned by the Corporation in respect of various items. The interest misc. income and overheads are credited/debited for the Corporation as a whole in the profit and Loss Account.
2. The figures are based on duly audited trading accounts of branches and various accounting sections in the Corporate office.
3. Turnover and Trading profit in respect of the business handled by the erstwhile Trade Development Cells of STC have been clubbed in the respective items.

Cloth for Masses

3150. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTC or any other cloth mill in the country produces textiles which the masses are capable of buying;

(b) the range of textiles and the prices at which these are available for the poor masses of the country;

(c) whether any incentive or subsidy is given to cloth mills to produce cheap and durable quality of cloth for use by the poor and economically weaker sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) to (d) In the mill sector only NTC mills are producing controlled cloth at subsidised rates. The range of textiles produced by NTC and the current prices are as follows:

Dhoties	—Rs. 16.03 to 21.98 per piece
Sarees	—Rs. 20.10 to 28.51 per piece
Long cloth	—Rs. 15.50 to 31.79 per mtr.

The subsidy provided by the Government for the production of the above items by NTC is as follows:-

Dhoties and Sarees	: Rs. 1.50 per sq. mtr.
Long Cloth	: Rs. 2.00 per sq. mtr.

Besides, the above textile items, the organised mill sector including NTC produce textile items which are available for mass consumption. The details of these items and the retail prices thereof are as follows:-

(Retail prices (Current))

	Sorts	Rs./Mtr.
(i) Cotton cloth:	Longcloth	20.85
	Poplin/shirting	29.50
	Coating/drill	39.55
	Sarees	40.00
	Dhoty	29.00
(ii) Blended cloth	Poplin/shirting	31.60
	Dress material	37.00
	Saree	41.00
(iii) Synthetic cloth;	Shirting, Poplin	
	Dress material	50.15
	Saree	40.00

Government does not provide any subsidy for the production of the above textiles by organised mill sector.

Ban of Timber and Plywood Industry

3151. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of banning of timber and plywood industries through out the country in general and the NE region in particular has the potential of escalation in the domestic prices of wood and articles of wood;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey of pricing pattern of various wood products in local and international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in its Order dated 12.12.1996 passed in the write petition No. 202(1995) and 171 (1996) had directed that each State Government should constitute Expert Committee to assess the number of saw mills,

veneer mills and plywood mills operating within the state, their capacity and source of timber within two months and file a report. It has also directed the State Governments to constitute an Expert Committee to assess the sustainable capacity of forests of the State, qua saw mills and timber based industry.

External Aid

3152. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the gross external aid received in 1994-95, 1995-96 together with the projection for the current financial year;

(b) the gross revenue receipts for the above period;

(c) the figures for the repayment of principal debt servicing for the same period and the percentage does it constitute of revenue receipts;

(d) the international borrowings and debt liabilities during each of the last three years and projections for 1997-98 together with the repayments; and

(e) the gross amount of repayment of internal and external debt in 1994-95 and 1995-96 and its percentage of the revenue receipts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The information is given in the table below:

(Rs. Crore)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (R.E.)
(a) Gross external aid on Government account	9530	8710	10645
Cash and commodity grants	916	1064	1087
Loans	8614	7646	9558
(b) Gross revenue receipts	155226	179858	211883
(c) and (e) Repayment of Principal (i + ii)	63029	72329	66544
(i) Internal debt and other liabilities (excluding discharge of 91 days treasury bills, Reserve funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions)	57560	65888	59575
(ii) Repayment of external debt	5469	6441	6969
(iii) Percentage of (c) and (e) to (b)*	40.6	40.2	31.4

(d) The debt outstanding against external Loan on Government account for the last three years and estimated for 1997-98 are as follows:

	(Rs. Crore)
As on 31.3.95	142525
As on 31.3.96	148595
As on 31.3.97 (Est.)	151184
As on 31.3.98 (Est.)	153619

The estimated (BE) repayments during 1997-98 is Rs. 7464 crores.

*The principal repayment of internal and external debt is met out of fresh borrowings, thus rolling over the debt. It is not met out of current revenue receipts.

Lending Rate of RBI

3153. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
SHRI RATI LAL KALIDAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has been announcing lending rate for institutions like Housing and Urban Development Corporation etc. from time to time; and

(b) if so, the details of lending rates announced for such institutions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that with effect from September 12, 1995, it was decided to include housing finance agencies in the category of intermediary agencies and banks were advised to charge a fixed rate of interest at 1.5 percentage points below their respective Prime Lending Rates for credit limits in the category of advances over Rs. 2 lakhs on Housing Finance granted to intermediary agencies for on lending to ultimate beneficiaries. As far as HUDCO is concerned, its lending rate is decided by its Board of Directors. However, the lending rate of EWS/LIG Housing Schemes and Action Plan Scheme is decided by an Empowered Committee under the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

NRI Accounts in Cooperative Banks

3154. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for permitting the cooperative banks in Kerala to deal with the foreign exchange remittance of the Non-resident Indians is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and, to the extent

available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

External Aided Projects

3155. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides 25% amount of the Budgetary resource for the Externally Aided Projects as an advance in the beginning of the financial year to be adjusted against the expenditure of implementing the Externally Aided Projects without causing time and cost over-run;

(b) if so, whether the Government has released the amount of advance to the State Government of Rajasthan for such projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Advance Additional Central Assistance (ACA) released to Government of Rajasthan since 1994-95 are:

	(Rs. Crores)
1994-95	32.77
1995-96	46.60

During 1996-97, no Advance ACA was released to the State on account of Budgetary constraints.

Transfers Guidelines to Nationalised Banks

3156. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ
BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directive have been issued by Government to Nationalised Banks for transfer of officers of various cadres after every three years etc. from a Branch/Office/Region to another Branch/Office/Region/Zone;

(b) whether any exemption have been given from such transfers to activities/office-bearers/leaders of officers association etc. recognised by the management etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if not the steps taken by Government for such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The transfer of banks' staff is a management function of the bank. As such transfer/exemption from transfer is done by banks based on administrative exigencies of each bank.

However, Government has advised the banks that they should review the periodic rotation of the staff and not let them continue at the same branch/office for the unduly long time. It was also advised that officers and award staff should not normally continue at the same place for more than three and five years respectively and no exemptions have been given from such transfers to office bearers of any recognised officers association.

[*Translation*]

Videshi Punji Nivesh

3157. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the caption news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 19, 1997 under "Videshi Punji Nivesh ke Dushpranam";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the foreign investment in the country has come as per the target since the announcement of economic liberalisation policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the views expressed by the Asian Development Bank in this regard and the import of foreign investment on our economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Closure of Textile Mills

3158. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some textile mills in Mumbai under the National Textile Corporation are proposed to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to merge some textile mills of Mumbai with other textile mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No mill under NTC in Mumbai is proposed to be closed out-right.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) So far as NTC mills in Mumbai are concerned, the modernisation plan prepared by the Textile Research Associations envisages merger of 18 unviable mills into 9 viable mills. The details of the mills to be merged and the resultant units are indicated below:-

Mills to be merged	Resultant viable units
1. Indu Mills No. 3	1. Indu Mills No. 3
2. Indu Mills No. 4	2. Indu Mills No. 4
3. Indu Mills No. 2	
4. Mumbai Mills	3. Mumbai Mills
5. New Hind Mills	
6. Bharat Mills	4. Bharat Mills
7. Jupiter Mills	
8. Gold Mohur Mills	5. Gold Mohur Mills
9. Elphinstone Mills	
10. Kohinoor Mills No. 1	6. Kohinoor Mills No. 1
11. Kohinoor Mills No. 2	
12. Kohinoor Mills No. 3	
13. Tata Mills	7. Tata Mills
14. Jam Mills	
15. New City Mills	8. New City Mills
16. Madhusudan Mills	
17. Podar Mills	9. Podar Mills
18. Sitaram Mills	

[*Translation*]

Ninth Five Year Plan

3159. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to fix the limit for providing loans to States during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present with Government of India to fix limit for providing loans to States during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

Cotton Export Quota

3160. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to release further export quota to two lakh bales of cotton in favour of Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the 1996-97 season, till 26/12/1996, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation Ltd. have been allotted an export quota of 1 lakh bales. Further allocation would be considered after taking into account all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability consumption, likely surplus, price trends, etc.

Central Loan to States

3161. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the break-up of loans extended by the Union Government to the different States upto the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any plan to exempt the financially weaker States, particularly the N.E. States to repay the loan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) State-wise details of outstanding loss from States to the Ministry of Finance as on 31.12.1996 are given in Statement.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has recommended specific relief for all special category States including NE States and other three States viz. Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which is characterised by high fiscal stress.

The special relief recommended by TFC is writting off 5 percent of repayment dues in respect of the fresh loans given during 1989-95 and outstanding on 31.3.1995.

STATEMENT

Statement showing amount of loans outstanding as on 31.12.1996 to Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(Rs. in crores)

No.	State	Loan Outstanding as on 31.12.96
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10501.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185.94
3.	Assam	3649.91
4.	Bihar	9385.04
5.	Goa	800.54
6.	Gujarat	9433.40

1	2	3
7.	Harayana	3489.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1635.14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2788.51
10.	Karnataka	6468.22
11.	Kerala	4498.51
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6232.44
13.	Maharashtra	15565.23
14.	Manipur	195.47
15.	Maghalaya	228.97
16.	Mizoram	142.05
17.	Nagaland	241.29
18.	Orissa	4560.64
19.	Punjab	10460.42
20.	Rajasthan	6765.46
21.	Sikkim	131.03
22.	Tamil Nadu	8283.94
23.	Tripura	339.97
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20781.56
25.	West Bengal	12708.29
Total		139573.01

Supply of coal to SEBs

3162. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN:
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present coal policy of the Government as regards its production and distribution to thermal plants;

(b) the present stock of coal and its estimated production during the current financial year;

(c) the annual requirement of coal of the different State Electricity Boards and the quantum of coal supplied to each State Electricity Board during each of the last three years;

(d) the quantum of coal imported for each SEB during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the growing demands of coal of SEBs and to check the import of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) At present coal is allowed for production by Public Sector Enterprises of the Central and State Governments, Tata Iron and Steel

Company and for consumption by units in the power, steel, cement sectors. Units washing coal obtained from a mine are also eligible. Coal is allotted to thermal power plants on the basis of recommendations made by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) in the Ministry of Coal taking into account availability of coal and haulage of coal by multi-modal transport network. This committee has representatives of the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Railways as its members. After the thermal plant starts generation, the quarterly allocation of coal is made by the Standing Linkage Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal. This committee includes representatives of Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Industrial Policy and Promotion, the Central Electricity Authority and the coal Companies. The highest priority is accorded to the allocation and movement of coal to thermal power stations, these are regularly monitored at the level of Cabinet Sectt. once a fortnight and on a daily basis by the Railways and the Coal Companies.

(b) The present vendable stock of coal with CIL and SCCL as on 31.1.97 is 22.794 million tonnes (Prov.). The estimated production of coal in the country during the year 1996-97 would be as follows:-

(In million tonnes)

CIL	252.00
SCCL	30.20
TISCO/IISCO/DVC	6.45
Total	288.65

(c) The SEB-wise details regarding demand and supply of coal during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached statement.

(d) As per the information available with the CEA, only Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has imported coal. Details of imports by TNEB from 1993-94 to 1995-96 are as follows:

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Coal Imported by TNEB
1993-94	168
1994-95	—
1995-96	1826

(e) Steps taken by the Government to increase coal production to meet the growing demand of coal by the SEBs include:

- (i) Re-structuring of Coal India Limited.
- (ii) De-control of prices of A, B, C and D grades of coal in order to improve the financial position of the coal companies and thereby raise invertible resources.
- (iii) To permit investments by the private sector in coal mining for captive consumption.
- (iv) The Govt. have recently decided to permit coal mining, without being restricted to captive consumption. A bill for consideration in this regard will be moved shortly.

STATEMENT

State Electricity Board-wise Demand and Supply of Coal for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

(In '000 Tonnes)
Data Provisional

Name of Power House	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply	Demand	Supply
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	8150	8217	9990	9295	11476	12996
Assam State Electricity Board	605	238	370	318	369	402
Bihar State Electricity Board	3200	3064	3740	2477	3590	2298
Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking	1770	1465	1840	1668	1666	1769
Gujarat State Electricity Board	11780	11121	11850	11216	12190	12141

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana State Electricity Board	3130	2212	3250	2818	2825	2585
Maharashtra State Electricity Board	23120	24208	25220	24976	26135	26521
Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	10822	10582	12430	12541	12625	12915
Punjab State Electricity Board	6040	6828	7500	5980	6691	6334
Rajasthan State Electricity Board	3200	3306	3570	3355	4422	3894
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	9890	9784	9930	10083	11018	10124
Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	12674	12080	13780	12363	15716	14666
West Bengal State Electricity Board & WBPDC	6625	5758	6480	6293	6700	6708
Orissa State Electricity Board (Talcher)	1320	1403	1580	1207	(Since taken over by NTPC)	
Raichur TPS	3010	2741	2870	3095	3748	3638

Note: The above list does not include power stations of NTPC, DVC DLP and privately owned power station such as CESC etc.

*Agreed demand

Enrolment of Government Servants as Advocates

3163. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI): Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of India have issued instructions to all the State Bar Councils against enrolment of Government servants who are not law officers;

(b) if so, the details of the instructions issued in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal to terminate the membership of the Bar of Government servants who have enrolled themselves as member of the Delhi Bar Council before the issue of the aforesaid instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India have issued instructions to all the State Bar Councils to strictly enforce its Rule 49 prohibiting enrolment of full time salaried employees who are not law officers.

(c) to (e) The Bar Council of India have informed that no case of enrolment of person in employment who is not a law officer has been reported to them.

[Translation]

Prices of Coal

3164. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers in Coal India Ltd. before its nationalisation;

(b) the number of workers after a decade of nationalisation of the Coal India Limited as well as their present strength;

(c) the per metric tonne price of coal of various grade before nationalisation of coal mines and also as on date; and

(d) the number of times the prices have been increased after its take over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The manpower on the date of nationalisation of non-coking coal mines (i.e. on 1st May '73) was 5,21,167 and on the date of formation of Coal India Limited (i.e. on 1st November '75) was 6,05,979.

(b) The number of workers after the decade of nationalisation of Coal India Ltd. and at present are as follows:

Category	Grade	Size	ECL Mugma	ECL Rani Ganj	ECL S.P. Mines	ECL Salan Pur	ECL BCCL Raj Mahal	CCL	MCL	NCL	SECL	WCL	NEC	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Long Flame Non Coking Coal Produced in 108 mines of ECL and 76 mines of SECL (Circular No. CIL/ CMO/C&C/Pricing/ 572 dt. 19. 10. 96)	A	Steam Slack Rom	- - -	1088 1028 1017	1068 1028 1017	- - -	- - -	- - -	1068 1028 1017	- - -	- - -	1068 1028 1017	- - -	- - -
	B	Steam Slack Rom	- - -	986 931 920	986 931 920	- - -	- - -	- - -	986 931 920	- - -	- - -	986 931 920	- - -	- - -
	C	Steam Slack Rom	- - -	834 779 768	834 779 768	- - -	- - -	- - -	834 779 768	- - -	- - -	834 779 768	- - -	- - -
Long Flame (Non Coking) of other than Mines Specified above	A	Steam Slack Rom	944 984 924	984 934 924	984 984 924	944 984 924	- - -	944 934 924	984 934 924	908 896 888	944 934 924	984 934 924	1011 1001 996	- - -

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Non Long Flame (Non-Coking)	B	Steam	856	896	896	856	-	856	896	828	856	896	960	-
		Slack	846	846	846	846	-	846	846	818	846	846	950	-
		Rom	836	836	836	896	-	836	836	808	836	836	940	-
	C	Steam	718	758	758	718	-	718	758	691	718	758	675	-
		Slack	708	708	708	708	-	708	708	681	708	708	665	-
		Rom	698	698	698	698	-	698	698	671	698	698	655	-
	D	Steam	486	486	486	486	-	486	486	486	486	486	665	-
		Slack	472	472	472	472	-	472	472	472	472	472	655	-
		Rom	466	466	466	466	-	466	466	466	456	466	645	-
	A	Steam	884	924	924	884	-	884	924	848	884	924	956	-
		Slack	874	874	874	874	-	874	874	838	874	874	946	-
		Rom	864	864	864	864	-	864	864	828	864	864	936	-
	B	Steam	796	836	836	796	-	796	836	768	796	836	900	-
		Slack	786	786	786	786	-	786	786	758	786	786	890	-
		Rom	776	776	776	776	-	776	776	748	776	776	880	-
	C	Steam	658	698	698	658	-	658	658	631	658	658	815	-
		Slack	648	648	648	648	-	648	648	621	648	648	805	-
		Rom	638	638	638	638	-	638	638	611	638	638	795	-
	D	Steam	426	426	426	426	568	426	426	426	426	426	604	-
		Slack	412	412	412	412	555	412	412	412	412	412	500	-
		Rom	406	406	406	406	549	406	406	406	406	406	584	-
	E	Steam	342	342	342	342	485	342	342	342	342	342	506	-
		Slack	328	328	328	328	471	328	328	328	328	328	492	-
		Rom	322	322	322	322	465	322	322	322	322	322	486	-
	F	Steam	277	277	277	277	420	277	277	277	277	277	425	-
		Slack	263	263	263	263	406	263	263	263	263	263	411	-
		Rom	257	257	257	257	400	257	257	257	257	257	405	-
	G	Steam	203	203	203	203	346	203	203	203	203	203	325	-
		Slack	189	189	189	189	332	189	189	189	189	189	311	-
		Rom	183	183	183	183	326	183	183	183	183	183	305	-
Semi Coking Coal	Steam	1044	1044	1044	1044	-	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	-	
	GR I	Slack	1034	1034	1034	1034	-	1034	1034	1034	1034	1034	1034	-
		Rom	1024	1024	1024	1024	-	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024	-
	Steam	868	868	868	868	-	868	868	868	868	868	868	-	
	RG II	Slack	858	858	858	858	-	858	858	858	858	858	858	-
Rom		848	848	848	848	-	848	848	848	848	848	848	-	
Direct Feed Coal produced in 9 specified collieries of BCCL	Steam	-	-	-	-	-	1476	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Slack	-	-	-	-	-	1466	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rom	-	-	-	-	-	1456	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Undergraded Coal (Ash not exceeding 25%)			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	741

Table-II (Coking Coal)

		Sale Price Per Tonne (Rs)		
Subsidiary	Grade of Coal	Steam Coal & Rubble	Slack Coal & Washery Middlings	Run of Mine Coal
BCCL	COKING COAL:			
	Steel Grade-I	1488	1478	1468
	Steel Grade-II	1246	1236	1226
	Washery Grade-I	1082	1072	1062
	Washery Grade-II	900	890	880
	Washery Grade-III	670	660	650
	Washery Grade-IV	625	615	605
CCL-SECL ECL	COKING COAL:			
	Washery Grade-I	1044	1034	1024
	Washery Grade-II	868	858	848
	Washery Grade-III	647	637	627
	Washery Grade-IV	604	594	584
WCL	COKING COAL:			
	Washery Grade-I	1044	1034	1024
	Washery Grade-II	868	858	848
	Washery Grade-III	785	775	765
	Washery Grade-IV	648	638	628

[English]

Trade Relation with Indo-South Korea

3165. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand Indo-South Korea bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-South Korea's trade has been established; and

(c) the details of plan drawn up and bilateral trade expected to be expanded between both the countries in coming years?

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

(b) and (c) Bilateral trade between India and South Korea has been steadily expanding as is evident from the bilateral trade figures given below:-

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Year	Exports	Imports
1994-95	99547.48	192435.41
1995-96	147485.87	266006.13

The major items exported by India to South Korea

include cotton yarn, iron-ore, oil cakes; husked rice, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, electrical machinery and equipments, machinery and mechanical appliances. The major items imported by India from South Korea include machinery and mechanical appliances, electronic items, engineering products including ships and boats, automotive components, plastic and articles thereof, fabrics and articles of iron and steel. Efforts to further expand the existing level of bilateral trade are continuing through various mechanisms like Joint Commission, Economic Cooperation Committee, Joint Trade Committee, Joint Business Committee Meetings besides steps like frequent exchange of delegations, participating in exhibitions and trade fairs.

It has mutually been agreed to set a target of US\$ 5 billion for two-way trade between the two countries by the year 2000.

Export of Cotton

3166. SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the price mechanism in respect to cotton;

(b) whether price of cotton in the country is lower than international market; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to protect the interest of cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) Cotton is marketed in India mostly in the form of kapas (seed cotton). Kapas is brought to the yards of Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) by the growers for sale. In the APMC market, the auction of kapas is arranged by APMC, and different buyers participate in the auction. The purchase prices of cotton are arrived at by bidding. To protect the interests of cotton growers, the Government fixes the minimum support price (MSP) taking into consideration all relevant factors.

(b) While domestic market prices are ruling well above the MSP, these are lower than international market prices.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the cotton growers are as under:

- (i) Government has already released a quota of 12.20 lakh bales of cotton for export during 1996-97 cotton season.
- (ii) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been making aggressive purchases to give support to cotton growers.
- (iii) The ceiling for export of cotton yarn of counts 40s and below was raised from 80M. Kg. to 120 M.Kg. in 1996.
- (iv) Cotton has been removed from Selective Credit Control.
- (v) An Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture in Cotton growing states.
- (vi) The CCI also undertakes extension and development activities to help cotton growers.

Computerisation of Banks

3167. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of branches of nationalised banks computerized so far;
- (b) the number of branches of the nationalised banks proposed to be computerized during the year 1997-98; and
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on computerisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loans for Self Employment Scheme

3168. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATTIDAR:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions imposed by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of the loans granted to the educated unemployed youths under the self employment scheme; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure timely recovery of those loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that loans granted under PMRY scheme are treated as advances under Priority Sector. Under the extant guidelines for priority sector, disbursement of loan amounts sanctioned has to be made as far as possible directly to the suppliers of goods/inputs etc. Working capital portion is to be released on the basis of actual requirement and the loan account is to be reviewed periodically. Periodical post disbursement follow-up are undertaken by the banks to ensure that assets have been created/activities are carried on by the borrower. The guidelines of the PMRY Scheme provide that repayment of loans would be in instalments, beginning after initial moratorium of 6-18 months ranging from 3-7 years depending on the nature and profitability of the venture. The repayment schedule is to be worked out only for the term loan. Recovery of loans is the responsibility of banks concerned and they take normal recovery steps. However, State Government/District Committees also monitor and help in the recovery of the loans.

[English]

Lapses Under Salary Saving Scheme of LIC

3169. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that several companies commit lapses in the payment of premium money collected from their employees under the Salary saving Scheme to the life Insurance Corporation of India;
- (b) whether such lapses deny benefit of the insurance policy to the insured employees and make them lose the premium money paid till such lapse;
- (c) whether the Government have any plan to prevent such loss to the insured employees; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) LIC have reported that there are instances where the employers after recovering the premium from salaries of the employees covered under Salary Savings Scheme, fail to remit such premium to the concerned Branch Offices which service these policies. Consequent upon such failure to remit the premium if the policy is found to be in the lapsed condition at the time of death, the insured employees do not get the benefit of the insurance cover. However, in such cases, the insured employees lose the premium money paid till such lapse only where the policy has not acquired paid up value in terms of section 113 of the

Insurance Act and the policy conditions as per the insurance policy.

(c) and (c) In case of default on the part of employers in remitting premium collected from the salaries of the employees, LIC procedure prescribes that the matter will be followed up by the concerned Branch Office with the employer to recover the amounts without delay. The procedure also envisages discontinuance of the Salary Savings Scheme itself under intimation to the employees concerned in cases where the employer persistently defaults in remitting premium to LIC after collecting them from the salaries of his employees.

[Translation]

Textile Mills

3170. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

Year	Central Government		State Government		Private Sector	
	No. of Mills	No. of Workers on Roll	No. of Mills	No. of Workers on Roll	No. of Mills	No. of Workers on Roll
1990-91	123	183236	65	112868	764	709090
1996-97	122	125202	66	92599	1251	701802

(as on 31-12-96)

(b) The quantum of cloth produced by the above mentioned mills during 1990-91 and 1995-96 (latest available position) was as under:

	1990-91	1995-96 (Mn. Sq. Mt)
Central Govt. Mills	668	259
State Govt. Mills-	335	118
Private Sector Mills	1586	1351

(Date for the year 1996-97 is not available)

(c) The Government of India had enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination by the Board of Exports (BIFR) of the preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures which need to be taken with respect to such companies.

Textile Mills in Orissa

3171. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to

state:

(a) the number of textiles mills functioning in the country under the control of private sector, State Government and Union Government during the year 1990-91 and 1996-97 and the number of labourers working in them;

(b) the quantum of cloth manufactured by these textile mills during the above period; and

(c) the present policy formulated for revival of the textile industry and the action plan prepared for its implementation?

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

(a) As per available information, the number of cotton/manmade fibre textile mills (spinning and composite) functioning in the country under the control of private sector, State Government and Central Government and the number of workers engaged in them during the year 1990-91 and 1996-97 (as on 31.12.96) are as under:

(a) the total number of textile mills in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of mills out of them running in losses and on the verge of closure;

(c) the number of textile mills closed down in the States during the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to sell out the loss making mills to the private sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to revive these mills and their modernisation?

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

(a) There were 15 and 52 Cotton/Manmade Fibre Textile Mills as on 31.12.96 in the States of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

(b) Information about the mills running in losses and on the verge of closure is not maintained in the Ministry. However, 3 Cotton/Manmade Fibre Mills in Orissa and 4 such mills in Madhya Pradesh were registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as on 31.1.97.

(c) (i) In the State of Orissa no mill was closed down during the last 3 years (from Jan. 94 to Dec. 96)

(ii) In the State of Madhya Pradesh, 3 mills were

closed down during the last 3 years (i.e. from Jan. 94 to Dec. 96).

(d) and (e) No such proposal is presently under consideration of Govt. of India.

(f) The Central Government had taken certain steps in the past to revive the closed sick Textile mills in the country. These are as follows:

- (i) A nodal agency was set up in pursuance of the Textile Policy of June, 1985, to work out rehabilitation packages for weak but viable units.
- (ii) A Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS) was created with a corpus amount of Rs. 750/- crores as per the Textile Policy of June, 1985 to meet the modernisation need of the Textile industry, so as to increase its productivity.
- (iii) The Government of India had enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) 1985 and Established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination by a Board of Experts (BIFR) of the preventive, ameliorative remedial and other measures which need to be taken with respect to such companies.

[English]

Branches of Nationalised Banks

3172. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of branches of nationalised banks which were proposed to be opened in Karnataka during the last three years as per the target fixed, location-wise alongwith the number of branches actually opened bank-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under 1990-95 Branch Expansion Programme, it was decided that future growth of bank offices should be guided only on well established need for offices and financial viability of proposed branches. As such the decision for opening branches at particular centres is left to the discretion of banks themselves.

The bank-wise and location-wise number of branches for which authorisations were issued to nationalised banks by the RBI in Karnataka during the last three years (i.e. 1.4.94 to 28.2.97) are given in the attached statement. Information regarding bank-wise and location-wise number of branches opened in Karnataka during the above period is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Authorisations issued to nationalised banks during the last three years (i.e. 1.4.94 to 28.2.97) for opening branches in Karnataka

	Bank	Centre	District
	1	2	3
1.	Canara Bank	Sommasandra	Bangalore
2.	Vijaya Bank	Bidar	Bidar
3.	Canara Bank	Shiwali Udipi	Dakshin Kannad
4.	Canara Bank	Moodupadu Project Area MRPL	Dakshin Kannad
5.	Canara Bank	Hassan	Hassan
6.	Punjab National Bank	Kanwar Town	Uttar Kannad
7.	Bank of Maharashtra	Bangalore	Bangalore
8.	Syndicate Bank	Jaynagar Mkt. Comp.	Bangalore
9.	Bank of Maharashtra	Bangalore	Bangalore
10.	Syndicate Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
11.	Vijaya Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
12.	Canara bank	Maladevapure	Bangalore
13.	Vijaya Bank	Koramangala	Bangalore
14.	Vijaya Bank	Vijayanagar Steel Plant Project	Bellary

1	2	3
15. Canara Bank	Bijapur	Bijapur
16. Union Bank of India	Bangalore	Bangalore
17. Syndicate Bank	Bhutaramanahatti	Belgaum
18. Punjab National Bank	S.J. College of Engg.	Mysore
19. Indian Bank	Udupi	S. Kannada
20. Union Bank of India	Ramanagaram	Bangalore
21. Union Bank of India	Kanakapura	Bengalore
22. Union Bank of India	Chamanna	Bangalore
23. Union Bank of India	Magadi	Bangalore
24. Canara Bank	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
25. Syndicate Bank	Bengeri-K.G. Sangh	Hubli
26. Canara Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
27. Canara Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
28. Vijaya Bank	Chickpet	Bangalore
29. Vijaya Bank	Puri-M.K. Chowk	Baikampadi
30. Canara Bank	Nimnans	Bangalore
31. Union Bank of India	Tumkur	Tumkur
32. Canara Bank	Sullia	D. Kannada
33. Canara Bank	Moodapadavu	D. Kannada
34. Canara Bank	Konankunte	Bangalore
35. Canara Bank	Hebri	D. Kannada
36. Canara Bank	Bangalore ST. Exch.	Bangalore
37. Canara Bank	HDMC-Hubli	Hubli
38. Canara Bank	APMC-Hassan	Hassan
39. Union Bank of India	Vijanpura-Bangalore	Bangalore
40. Canara Bank	M. Auto-Belgaum	Belgaum
41. Union Bank of India	Hubli	Dharwar
42. Canara Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
43. Union Bank of India	Tilakwadi-Belgaum	Belgaun
44. Canara Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
45. Canara Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
46. Syndicate Bank	Hubli-P.C.J.S. Coll.	Hubli
47. Canara Bank	Mangalore	D. Kannada
48. Canara Bank	Bangarpet	Kolar
49. Canara Bank	Hassan	Hassan
50. Canara Bank	Mysore	Mysore
51. Canara Bank	Peenya II Stage	Bangalore
52. Punjab National Bank	Rajaji Nagar Bangalore	Bangalore
53. Canara Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore

1	2	3
54. Punjab National Bank	KR Market Davangere	Chitradurg
55. Canara Bank	Mangalore	D. Kannada
56. Canara bank	Stock Ex. Bangalore	Bangalore
57. Punjab National Bank	M' Laxmilayout B' Lore	Bangalore
58. Indian Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
59. Syndicate Bank	Dharwar-Vidyagiri	Dharwar
60. Indian Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
61. Syndicate Bank	Bengalore	Bangalore
62. Punjab National Bank	Karwar Town	Tumkur
63. Syndicate Bank	Mangalore	S. Canara
64. Punjab National Bank	Subhash Rd. Dharwar	Dharwar
65. Canara Bank	Harihar	Chitradurg
66. Canara Bank	Shimoga	Shimoga
67. Vijaya Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
68. Canara Bank	Hassan	Hassan
69. Syndicate Bank	Hospet	Bellary
70. Bank of Baroda	Bangalore	Bangalore
71. Corporation Bank	R.P.C. Layout	Bangalore
72. Bank of Maharashtra	Bangalore	Bangalore
73. Corporation Bank	Basaveshwar Nagar	Bangalore
74. Canara Bank	Basaveshwar Nagar	Bangalore
75. Corporation Bank	Arekera Gate	Bangalore
76. Corporation Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
77. Corporation Bank	Sahakar Nagar	Bangalore
78. Syndicate Bank	Holy Saini School	Bangalore
79. Vijaya Bank	Bilekalhalli	Bangalore
80. Dena Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
81. Corporation Bank	Bangalore	Bangalore
82. Corporation Bank	Hennur Banaswadi	Bangalore
83. Canara Bank	BITP Whitefield	Bangalore
84. Canara Bank	Banashankar	Bangalore
85. Canara Bank	Padmanabha Nagar	Bangalore
86. Corporation Bank	Koramangala	Bangalore
87. State Bank of Mysore	Bangalore	Bangalore
88. State Bank of Mysore	RPC Bangalore	Bangalore
89. Oriental Bank of Commerce	Hubli-Dharwad	Dharwad
90. Oriental Bank of Commerce	Mysore	Mysore
91. Union Bank of India	Vijaya Nagar	Bangalore
92. Oriental Bank of Commerce	Belgaum	Belgaum

	1	2	3
93.	Union Bank of India	Ramanagaram	Bangalore
94.	Bank of India	Jaya Prakash Nagar	Bangalore
95.	Bank of India	Kollegal	Mysore
96.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Bangalore Yehalanka	Bangalore
97.	Bank of India	Chickmangalore	Chikmangalore

Junk Exports to EC Under Hawala Route

3173. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the 'Times of India' dated December 20, 1996 under caption "Junk Export is a Hawala Route";

(b) whether the mass exports of junk like iron, buckets, plastic brushes and tools are being flown to East European countries through CIS countries where these are dumped for remitting payment through hawala;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made any enquiry in the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

Setting Up of New Textiles Mills

3174. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan/assistance given to the National Co-operative Development Corporation for setting up of new Co-operative spinning mills and expansion of existing mills during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the details of spinning mills set up and the number of those which were expanded with the loan/assistance, State-wise; and

(c) the location of each of the new spinning mills set up during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) and (b) Loan/assistance of Rs. 2.00 crore was released to NCDC during 1994-95 and 1995-96, the details of which are as under:-

(c) No assistance was given to NCDC for setting up of new Spinning Mills during 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Year	Name/Location	Programme	Assistance Provided
			(Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	(i) Tamralipata CSM Ltd., West Bengal	Addl. Share capital participation	Rs. 129.00
	(ii) South Indian CSM Ltd., Tamil Nadu	Margin Money Assistance	Rs. 46.00
	(iii) West Bengal CSM Ltd., West Bengal	-do-	Rs. 25.00
			Rs. 200.00
1995-96	No assistance had been provided.		

Recovery Suits Filed By SBI

3175. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Recovery suit filed by the State

Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, Canara Bank and Corporation Bank as on 31st December, 1996;

(b) the number of cases settled by each of these Banks during 1995-96 by granting Interest Concession; and

(c) the amount of concession and the amount of

actual recovery made by each of these Banks during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c)

Name of the Bank	No. of suits filed as on 31.12.96	No. of cases settled during 1995-96	Amount of concession granted during 1995-96 (Rs. in crores)	Actual recovery made during 1995-96
Syndicate Bank	96,357	477	70.23	36.49
Canara Bank	1,46,329	163*	59.55*	46.03*
Corporation Bank	14,261	990	1.53	10.05
State Bank of India	26,69,000	5159	131.00	193.00

*Information pertains to the calendar year 1996.

B.H.E.L.

3176. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited had entered into a contract with a German firm for import of a second hand forge press in the year 1990 at a cost of approximately Rs. 20 crores at that time and that the contracted second hand forge press was only commissioned in the year 1995 after making additional payment of Rs. 20 crore to the said German firm totalling to Rs. 40 crores for a second hand forge press;

(b) if so, the reasons for making an additional payment of Rs. 20 crore;

(c) whether BHEL had made an advance payment of Rs. 20 crore to the said German firm in the year 1990 even though the BHEL had provided to the supplier an irrevocable letter of credit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any officials of the BHEL had complained about the said deal alleging kick backs; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) had placed a Purchase Order on a German firm after obtaining all the required approvals in January'90 for import of a

Reserve bank of India (RBI)'s data monitoring system does not generate information in the manner asked for in the question. However, the information collected from the banks is given below:

second hand Forge Press alongwith associated equipment at a value of DM 8.05 millions (equivalent to Rs. 8.06 crore at that time).

The Press was commissioned in March' 94. The actual payment made to the said German firm was DM 7.51 millions (Rs. 8.08 crore) for supplying the equipment between March'90 and December'91 which was well within the value of Purchase Order including changes in scope of supply and the impact of exchange rate variation. No additional payment has been made to the said German firm. Hence, the payment made to the said German firm was only Rs. 8.08 crores inclusive of exchange variations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. BHEL had not made any advance payment to the said German Firm. A Letter of Credit (LC) for DM 6.78 millions was opened for making payment against despatch. However, the said German Firm had encashed an LC amount of DM 6.44 millions which was not commensurate with the value of part consignment despatched. The difference between the amount due and amount drawn was later recovered from the said German Firm alongwith interest.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) and (f) One of the officials of BHEL has made some complaints about the aforesaid matter and the said official has also submitted an Intervening application in Delhi High Court and the case is subjudice. CBI has also registered a FIR in 1995 in the said case which is under investigation. All necessary information/assistance is being provided to the CBI by the Company in this regard.

Strike at Tocklai Tea Experimental Station in Assam

3177. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of a continuing two month long strike at Tocklai Tea Experimental Station at Jorhat in Assam;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any steps to resolve their charter of demands;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) It has been reported that employees of the Tocklai Tea Experimental Station, Jorhat, under Tea Research Association which is a private body, have been agitating demanding inter-alia, nationalisation of Tea Research Association and implementation of service rules applicable to the employees of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

(c) to (e) Tea Reasech Association, being a private body, the Council of Management of the Association is negotiating with the employees' Union.

[*Translation*]

Import of Dung

3178. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import of dung is increasing; and
- (b) if so, the total quantity of dung imported with its value during 1960-61 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Dung is not separately specified in the Trade Classification System being followed by DGCI&S, Calcutta. However, the item would appear to be covered under the geneylic description "Other Natural Animal and Vegetable Fertilizers." The import data for "Other Natural Animal and Vegetable Fertilizers" during 1960-61 and 1995-96 are as under:-

Year	Qty : Tonnes	
	Value : Rupees	
Year	Qty.	Value
1960-61	1037	6,66,864
1995-96	9	10,89,489

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

[*English*]

Calcutta Bank Fraud

3179. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had asked the Enforcement Directorate to investigate into the multi-crore Calcutta bank fraud case;
- (b) if so, whether the Enforcement Directorate have since investigated the matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Enforcement Directorate independently took up investigations against some banks in Calcutta allegedly involved in multi-crores fraud cases. Show Cause Notices have been issued to two of the banks and others for granting/obtaining loans against Foreign Currency Non-Resident (F.C.N.R.) accounts in violation of the instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

Rashid Jalani Committee

3180. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rashid Jalani Committee have made some suggestions to check scams in banks;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the said suggestions and the directions issued to banks in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the officers found guilty in bank scams and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that a Working Group was constituted by RBI under the Chairmanship of Shri Rashid Jilani, Chairman & Managing Director, Punjab National Bank in February, 1995 to review internal control and inspection and audit system in banks and to suggest necessary improvements. The Working Group submitted its report to RBI in September, 1995. Banks have been advised by the RBI in November, 1996 to implement 25 major recommendations in respect of which no discretion has been left to the bank. Implementation of 50 recommendations has been left to the banks after taking into account their existing policies and procedures. Instructions have separately been issued by RBI in respect of three

of the four remaining recommendations.

(c) Information readily available relating to action taken against the delinquent employees in public sector banks for frauds during 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto June) is given below:

	1994	1995	1996 (upto June)
1. No. of employees convicted	50	33	08
2. No. of employees awarded major/minor penalties	1248	1160	585
3. No. of employees dismissed/discharged/removed	360	301	146

[English]

External Aided Projects

3181. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of state in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has informed the Government that the new loans will not be released unless completion of projects for whom the loan has already been granted;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the projects to be completed under financial assistance of World Bank, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bank's funding is a long-term programme of activities, involving sequential sets of investments in the same field. The processing of new loan, which may be an extension of earlier ongoing loan, is done at a time when the earlier loan is well underway. The new loan can benefit from experience gained in the ongoing operation but would not be held up for completion of the earlier project. Moreover, investments in the new project would be complementary and not necessarily sequential to ongoing projects.

(c) The detailed State-wise list of the State Sector projects to be completed under financial assistance of World Bank is attached as statement.

STATEMENT

Ongoing World Bank aided State Sector Projects

Name of the Project		Year of loan completion amount (in US\$ m)	
1		2	
Assam			
1.	Assam Rural Infra.	31.12.03	126.00
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	A.P. Forestry	30.09.00	87.28
2.	Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation	31.03.98	95.29
3.	A.P. First Referral Health Project	31.03.02	142.94
Bihar			
1.	Bihar Plateau Development	30.06.98	126.15
Gujarat			
1.	Gujarat Rural Roads	31.12.96	99.42
Haryana			
1.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation	31.12.00 31.12.00	267.20 27.08

1

2

Karnataka

1.	Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	31.12.99	103.79
2.	Upper Krishna Ph. II	31.12.96	169.08
		31.12.96	45.00

Maharashtra

1.	Maharashtra Irr. III	31.12.96	187.65
2.	Maharashtra Power	31.12.96	337.33
3.	Maharashtra Power-II	30.06.98	350.00
4.	Maharashtra Forestry	30.09.98	138.31
5.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply	31.12.97	117.27
6.	Maharashtra Earthquake	30.06.97	276.82
7.	Illrd Bombay Water Supp.	30.06.96	145.00
8.	Bombay Sewage Disposal	31.12.02	167.00
9.	Bombay Sewage Disposal	31.12.02	25.00

Madhya Pradesh

1.	M.P. Forestry	31.12.99	58.00
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Punjab

1.	Punjab Irrigation II	31.03.98	77.56
		31.03.98	93.86

Orissa

1.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	30.09.02	290.90
2.	Orissa Power Restructuring	31.12.02	350.00

Rajasthan

1.	Rajasthan ADP	30.09.99	113.41
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Tamil Nadu

1.	T.N. Agri. Development	30.09.98	96.91
2.	T.N. Agri. Development	30.09.98	20.00
3.	T.N. Nutrition II	31.12.97	77.66
4.	Madras Water Supply & Sewage II	30.06.02	80.50
5.	T.N. Water Res. Consol.	31.03.02	282.90
6.	T.N. Urban Dev.	30.09.96	264.89

Uttar Pradesh

1.	U.P. Sodic Land Reclamation	31.03.01	61.85
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1	2
2. U.P. Primary Education	30.09.00 181.94
3. U.P. Urban Development	31.03.96 120.90
4. UP Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	31.05.02 59.60
West Bengal	
1. W.B. Forestry	30.09.97 37.08
Multistates	
1. Shrimp & Fish culture (AP, Bihar, Orissa, UP & WB)	30.06.99 62.58
2. Integrated Watershed Development (Plains) (Guj, Orissa & Rajasthan)	31.03.98 65.18
3. Integrated Watershed Development (Hills) (HP, J&K, Punjab & Haryana)	30.06.97 86.23
4. IInd National Highway (Haryana, Orissa, Punjab & TN)	30.06.96 181.64
5. States Road Project (Bihar, Maharashtra, UP & Rajasthan)	30.06.95 108.59
6. Dam Safety Project (MP, TN, Orissa & Rajasthan)	30.09.97 148.88
7. Tech. Education-II (AP, HP, WB, TN, Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra & Punjab)	30.06.99 274.33
8. Technician Education-I (MP, UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Karnataka & Rajasthan)	30.06.98 239.49
9. National Sericulture (AP, J&K, Karnataka, TN and WB)	31.12.96 147.88
10. Agriculture Human Resources Development (AP, Haryana, TN & ICAR)	31.12.00 59.50
11. National Hydrology	31.03.02 142.00
12. State Health Systems II (Punjab, WB & Karnataka)	31.03.02 350.00

Problem of Tobacco Growers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

3182. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka who are facing problems due to the huge accumulated surplus production with them;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the issues raised by the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Tobacco Farmers Federation in their representation are regarding enhancement of export quota to Russia under the debt repayment, creation of a 'Price Stability Fund' for price support operation, enhancement of credit to tobacco purchases to enable them to buy

voluminous produce in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, opening of additional platform in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and for assistance in modernisation of curing practices in barns.

(c) The Tobacco Board has reported that the estimated production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh is 132.50 Million Kgs. against an authorised crop of 83.08 Million Kgs. and in Karnataka the estimated production has been 36.00 Million Kgs. and the authorised crop has been 29.50 Million Kgs. The average prices; fetched by the tobacco farmers in 1996-97 as on 4th March, 1997 have been Rs. 53.71 per Kg. and Rs. 38.43 per Kg. in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh auctions respectively, and these are much higher than the Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP) agreed to by the traders of the respective States. Some of the steps taken to help the tobacco farmers are:-

- (i) Opening of 3 additional auction platform in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the growers to sell their produce early.
- (ii) Persuading the Indian Tobacco Association, Exporters, manufacturers and other Traders to participate actively in the auctions to absorb the tobacco crop produced.
- (iii) Negotiating with tobacco trade to declare a Minimum Guarantee price (MGP) for tobacco purchase which is higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government.
- (iv) Assisting the tobacco trade in obtaining larger quantum of credit from the financial institutions for making purchases of tobacco.
- (v) Participating in trade fairs and exhibitions abroad and arranging buyer-seller meet to enhance tobacco exports.
- (vi) Providing financial assistance for energy saving roof insulation of barn.
- (vii) Supplying tarpaulines for protection of cured tobacco

Production of Tea in Unauthorised Tea Gardens of West Bengal

3183. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that inferior quality of tea being produced in a number of unauthorised tea gardens of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check on the quality of tea being produced by these unauthorised tea gardens so that the name of our country is not defamed in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No complaint relating to production of inferior quality tea in

unauthorised tea estates in West Bengal has been received by the Tea Board.

(b) Does not arise.

District Poverty initiative Project

3184 : SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Poverty Initiative Project is being launched in some districts of the selective States :

(b) whether the World Bank has identified such districts for providing loan to implement the programmes;

(c) if so, the basis on which those districts have been selected either by the Central Government or the World Bank, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not selecting any district from Orissa for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. District Poverty Initiatives Project with possible World Bank assistance is in its initial stage of preparation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The project aims to alleviate poverty and create conditions for sustainable development and building local institutional capacity for the benefit of the SC, ST and tribal population of the selected districts. The basis for the selection of districts by the State Governments was poverty and social development criteria and the presence of functioning groups to facilitate project implementation in the districts.

(d) No such proposal was received from the Government of Orissa.

[Translation]

Export of Carpets

3185 : SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the exports of cotton and woollen carpets separately during 1994-95 and 1995-96 alongwith the countries to which these carpets were exported;

(b) whether the raw material was imported for weaving carpets during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of carpets for the welfare of carpet weavers?

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

(a) The foreign exchange earned from the exports of cotton and woollen carpet during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:

Foreign exchange earned (in US \$ Millions)

Item	1994-95	1995
Cotton Carpets	25.92	31.25
Woollen Carpets	507.36	515.00

These carpets are mainly exported to Germany, Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Netherlands, USA, UK, Japan etc.

(b) and (c) During the year 1994-95 and 1995-96, the raw wool imported for carpet weaving is estimated to be 20 and 7 million Kgs. respectively. However, for weaving of cotton carpets, no raw material has been imported.

(d) Steps taken by the Government include:

- (i) Import of raw wool at concessional rate of duty;
- (ii) Massive training of carpet weavers for upgradation of skill;
- (iii) Opening of schools for non-formal education of children of weaver's families;
- (iv) Medical facilities for Health care for carpet weavers;
- (v) Preshipment and postshipment credit facilities for export;
- (vi) Duty draw back @ 8.5% of FOB value;
- (vii) Participation in international fairs abroad;
- (viii) Organisation of Carpet Expo in India to benefit small exporters;
- (ix) Buyer-Seller-Meets in non-traditional countries for exposure of Indian carpets.

Malegam Committee

3186. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Malegam Committee was constituted by the Union Government and report of the Committee received by the Government;

(b) the details of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Malegam Committee;

(c) the number of recommendations of the Committee implemented or proposed to be implemented by the Union Government, so far; and

(d) the reasons for delay in implementing the remaining recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam in March, 1995 to make recommendations to

improve the disclosure standards in the offer documents by companies. The Committee submitted its report on June 29, 1995 to SEBI.

(b) The major recommendations of the Malegam Committee are :-

- (i) issuers should provide in their offer documents statement of assets and liabilities after deducting revaluation reserves, all adjustments, rectifications etc.;
- (ii) income from main activity and other activities undertaken by the company during the year should be clearly indicated;
- (iii) financials of the issuer company alongwith financials of five listed companies promoted by the same promoter should be disclosed;
- (iv) justification of the issue price in terms of financial ratios should be disclosed;
- (v) financial projection could be made only by specified companies under specified conditions; and
- (vi) the offer document should indicate the shareholding of top ten shareholders of the company and also disclose details of transactions of the promoters and the promoter group in the shares of the company during six months preceding the filling of the offer document.

(c) and (d) The major recommendations have already been implemented by SEBI and necessary circulars were issued between September, 1995 and March, 1996.

[English]

Major and Medium Scale Public Sector Units

3187. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of a major and medium scale public sector units working in each State/ Union Territory alongwith capital investment as also the employment potential ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): As on 31.3.95, there were 245 Central PSUs including enterprises under construction in the country. All these PSUs fall under major and medium scale industries. Details showing State/Union Territory-wise list of these PSUs, PSU-wise investment in terms of equity and loans and employment are given in Appendix-III, Statement No. 16 and 28 respectively of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1994-95 laid in both Houses of Parliament on 19.7.96.

Lending Norms

3188 : SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether State Bank of India exposure to some Public Sector Undertakings was much above the exposure

limit allowed by the prudential lending norms;

(b) if so, the names of the PSUs whose exposure limit is higher and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether RBI has given any instructions to SBI to slash its exposure limit with immediate effect to these PSUs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that their exposure to three public sector undertakings is in excess of the prudential norms. According to SBI the basic reason for the exposure norm being exceeded is the historical sole banking relationship of the PSU's with the bank. The other significant factor is the unique position of the SBI which offers a large network of branches affording collection/remittance facilities to these PSUs. The names of the parties (PSUs) cannot be disclosed on account of laws relating to secrecy in banking.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised SBI to bring down the exposure to these PSUs to permitted levels through suitable arrangements of consortium lending and other measures.

Trade Missions

3189. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Trade Missions visited India during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereon for promotion and strengthening economic cooperation and trade, country-wise;

(c) the details of the Trade Agreements/protocol signed and implications thereof, country-wise; and

(d) the similar details in respect of high level Indian Trade delegations visited abroad and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Name of the Country	Country-wise details and Agreement signed (Incoming)
1	2
1. Canada	High level Trade delegation headed by the Canadian Prime Minister visited India in January, 1996.

1	2
2. Brazil	President of Brazil visited India in January, 1996 and a Joint declaration on setting up of Indo-Brazilian commercial council was signed.
3. Cuba	Trade Delegation headed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation visited India in November, 1996 and meeting of the Indo-Cuban Trade Revival Committee was held during his visit.
4. Trinidad and Tobago	High level business delegation headed by Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago visited India during January, 1997. Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago was signed.
5. USA	A business delegation headed by Governor of Ohio and Iowa State in USA visited India in November, 1996. United States Deputy Trade representative visited India during October, 96 to hold discussions on patent regime and India's obligation under agreement on trade related intellectual property rights. United States's Deputy Assistant Trade representative for Asia Pacific and APEC visited India during March, 97.
6. Russia	Russian delegation led by Deputy Health Minister of Russian federation visited India during April, 1996 in connection with the working group on pharmaceuticals.
7. Slovak Republic	The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on C.M. on 8.3.96 and discussed Trade between the two countries. Second session of Indo-Slovak Joint Commission was held during Dec., 96. A protocol was signed on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

1	2
8. Czech Republic	Deputy-Minister of Industries and trade visited India to attend the 2nd session of the Indo-Czech Joint Committee during Feb., 97. A protocol was signed.
9. Croatia	A delegation visited India during October, 96 to attend the Indo-Croatian Joint Committee on bilateral trade and a protocol was signed.
10. Poland	Deputy Minister of foreign Relations visited Indian during Nov., 96 to exchange views on future plans for boosting trade.
11. Bulgaria	A delegation visited India during Dec., 96 for the meeting of the working group on Trade. An agreement was signed on Trade and Economic Cooperation on Dec., 4, 96.
12. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Federal Minister of Trade visited India during Dec., 96 and exchanged views and future plans to boost trade.
13. Slovenia	The State Secretary of Foreign Economic Relations visited India to attend 2nd session of Indo-Slovenian Joint committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation during Feb., 1997. A protocol was signed.
14. Romania	Secretary of State in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce visited India during Feb., 97. A protocol was signed.
15. Greece	A delegation visited India to attend Indo-Greek Joint Economic Committee during Oct., 1996.
16. Cyprus	A delegation visited India to attend Indo-Cypriot Joint Commission Committee during Nov., 96.
17. Switzerland	Swiss delegation visited India during Dec., 96 to attend

1	2
	Indo-Swiss Joint Commission meeting.
18. Italy	Italian delegation visited India during Dec., 96 to attend Indo-Italian Joint Commission Meeting.
19. Jordan	Jordan's Minister of Supply visited India during Nov. 96 to promote bilateral trade.
20. Vietnam	The Prime Minister and Trade Minister of Vietnam visited India during March, 97. An agreement on Economic cooperation was signed.
21. South Africa	Deputy President of South Africa visited India in Dec., 96 along with Minister of Trade and Industries and Members of Business community.
22. Ethiopia	Prime Minister of Ethiopia visited India during March, 97. A trade agreement was signed.
Name of the Country	Country-wise details and Agreement signed (Outgoing)
1. Bahrain	Commerce Minister went to address NRI conference from 1st to 2nd Nov., 96. (Commerce Minister).
2. Dubai	Commerce Minister went to inaugurate "Expo India- 1996" from 6th to 7th Dec. (Commerce Minister).
3. China	Commerce Minister led the High powered Chief Executive Officers Mission sponsored by Confederation of India Industry (15th Sept to 19th Sept). (Commerce Minister).
4. Hongkong	Commerce Minister addressed the gathering of the Indian Chambers of Commerce (20th Nov., 96). (Commerce Minister).
5. Brussels	Commerce Minister went to attend the Indo-EU investment and Trade Cooperation

1	2	1	2
	Forum on 25-26 November, 1996. Economic Cross-cultural Agreement between India and European Commission was signed. (Commerce Minister)		attending Made in India Show arranged by Confederation of Indian Industries at Nairobi from 14th to 16th August, 1996. (Commerce Minister).
	Indo-EC sub-commission meeting was held during Dec., 96 including WTO matters GSP etc. (Commerce Minister).	14. Ivory Coast	Commerce Secretary visited Abidjan for attending the 1st meeting of Indo-Ivorian joint trade committee during Feb., 97.
6. Finland	Commerce Minister has attended the Indo-Finish Joint Commission meeting was held during Oct., 96. Bilateral Economic matter were discussed.	15. Russia	The 3rd session of Indo-Russian working group on trade and economic cooperation was held to discuss bilateral relations during January, 97.
7. Geneva	Commerce Minister went to participate in the High Level Segment of the 43rd Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board on foreign direct investment on 10th October, 96. (Commerce Minister).	16. Azerbaijan	A joint business delegation of Ficci and Indo-CIS chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Azerbaijan during Dec., 96. An MOU for establishing joint business council was signed.
8. Brazil	Commerce Minister went for inaugurating the exclusive Indian Exhibition in Sao Paulo (3-7 Nov., 96) (Commerce Minister).	17. Romania	A delegation comprising of Govt. Officials and business men led by Joint Secretary. Ministry of Commerce visited Romania for attending intersession consultations during August, 96.
9. USA	Commerce Minister attended the Meeting of Indo-US Commercial Alliance (15-18 Oct., 1996) for taking a meeting of the representatives of the PSUs/Boards of the Ministry of Commerce on 8th Nov., 1996. (Commerce Minister).	18. Poland	Commerce Secretary visited during September, 96 for exploring and laying down necessary infrastructures in the interest of Indian business man.
10. Singapore	First Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organisation. (9-13 Dec., 96). Commerce Minister attended (Commerce Minister).	19. Jordan	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Amman during March, 96 to discuss the areas covered under Joint Committee.
11. Kazakhstan	Commerce Minister went to inaugurate the exhibition organised by ITPO 8th to 13th October, 1996. (Commerce Minister).	20. Iraq	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Iraq to promote the export of Indian Tea and other products under UN "Food for Oil" programme.
12. Bulgaria	Agreement signed on Trade and Economic co-operation with Bulgaria at New Delhi on 4.12.96.	21. Japan	Led by Commerce Secretary, to Japan for Indo-Japan Trade Talk in Nov., 96.
13. Kenya	Commerce Minister went for	22. Mangolia	Led by Vice President, Govt. of India for signing agreement on Economic Cooperation during Sept., 96.

Economic cooperation with other countries has been the constant endeavour of the Government. In a fast integrating world it is important to establish partnerships with other countries so that India can derive economic advantage in its efforts at maximising exports and developing the economy. Strong links have been established both at the bilateral level with various countries, as well as at the multilateral level and with important groupings like the European Union, ASEAN etc. SAPTA is fast becoming an important instrument for liberalising trade within the SAARC region.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Textile Workers

3190. Dr. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA;

SHRI GORDHAN BHAI JAVIA

SHRI VIJAY PATEL;

SHRI N.J. RATHWA;

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to

state:

(a) the policy of the Government to rehabilitate the textile workers who rendered jobless due to closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat seeking assistance of the NIFT to make suitable arrangements for training the jobless textile workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) The Textile Policy 1985, inter-alia while holding that there might be no alternative but to close down those textile units which had no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, also stressed that, the interests of the labour force, in the event of permanent closure of such units, would be fully safeguarded. Accordingly, the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) had been formulated. The TWRFS came into force with effect from the 15th September 1986. The objective of the

TWRFS is to give an interim relief to the mill workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure of the mills. Relief under the scheme is available only for 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year.

(b) to (d) A proposal was made by Gandhi Labour Institute Ahmedabad to train a batch of workers in Garment Manufacturing at NIFT centre, Gandhinagar. It was suggested to fund this from National Renewal Fund. The scheme envisaged a course leading to skill formation and capabilities to operate in tiny sector a Readymade Garment unit. The proposal could not be considered as the funding was not available. It was also found that such training would be costly and involve expenditure of more than Rs. 20000/- per trainee.

[Translation]

Retraining of Employees

3191. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made arrangements for retraining of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and location of the States where such arrangements have been made; and

(d) the names of nodal agencies of the State Government which have been included in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The National Renewal Fund was set up by the Government in February, 1992, to provide a social safety net for workers affected by industrial restructuring, technology upgradation and modernisation of Indian Industry. It, inter-alia, envisages assistance for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers. 13 nodal agencies have been approved for implementing this scheme in 49 locations in 16 states. Details of the nodal agencies and the locations is given as statement. Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad is the State Government Agency included in this scheme.

STATEMENT

Employee Assistance Centres (EACs) set up under NRF

Sl. No.	Name of the Nodal Agency	Location
1	2	3
1.	M.P. Consultancy Organisation, T.T. Nagar, Bhopal.	1. Napanagar (M.P.) 2. Bhopal (M.P.) 3. Korba (M.P.)
2.	Institute of Labour Development, Station Road, Jaipur.	4. Beawar (Raj.) 5. Kota (Raj.)

1	2	3
3.	U.P. Industrial Consultants Ltd., G.T. Road, Kanpur.	6. Saharanpur (U.P.)
4.	National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.	7. Gorakhpur (U.P.)
5.	Small Industries Development Organisation, Ministry of Industry, O/o the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi.	8. Delhi
6.	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, New Delhi.	9. Indore (M.P.)
7.	Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi.	10. Coimbatore (T.N.)
8.	National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.	11. Indunagar (T.N.)
		12. Ramagundam (A.P.)
		13. Kanpur (U.P.)
		14. Bombay (Maha.)
		15. Calcutta (W.B.)
		16. Ranchi (Bihar)
		17. Howrah (W.B.)
		18. Hooghly (W.B.)
9.	National Productivity Council, New Delhi.	19. Bangalore (Kar.)
		20. Mysore (Kar.)
		21. Oorgaum (Kar.)
10.	Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad.	22. Petlad
		23. Bhavnagar
		24. Viramgaum
		25. Baroda
		26. Surendranagar
		27. Porbandar
		28. Kalol
		29. Navasari
		30. Ahmedabad
		31. Cambay
11.	Indian Council of Small Industries, Calcutta.	32. Durgapur (W.B.)
		33. Bokaro (Bihar)
		34. Sindri (Bihar)
		35. Vishakhapatnam (A.P.)
		36. Warangal (A.P.)
		37. Namrup (Assam)
12.	Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi.	38. Madras**
		39. Hyderabad**
		40. Ludhiana**
		40. Ludhiana**
		41. Pune

1	2	3
		42. Lucknow
		43. Cochin
		44. Patna
		45. Cuttack
		46. Jodhpur
		47. Ambala Cantt.
		48. Jabalpur
13. Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur.		49. Barrackpore

** DGE&T is operating through both ITI & ATI.

[English]

Tribal Population Exempts from Income Tax

3192. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tribal population of the country particularly North East and some other areas have been exempted from payment of Income Tax in view of their poor socio-economic conditions;

(b) if so, whether the 95 per cent population of Ladakh region has been declared scheduled tribe in the year 1989 and Income Tax exemption prior to 1989 were enjoyed by the entire population of Ladakh region; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not granting Income Tax exemption to the tribals of Ladakh region and remove the discrimination and disparity towards 95 per cent tribal population of that region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Sir, under clause (26) of section 10 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 a member of a Scheduled Tribe as defined in clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution, residing in any specified area, is exempted from paying income tax on any specified income accruing or arising to him.

(b) There was no Scheduled Tribe in Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh region prior to 1989. The Scheduled Tribes were declared as such for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir by the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. The 1991 Census was not conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and, therefore, the figures of Scheduled Tribes for Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh region are not available as per this Census.

Income Tax exemption was provided to the residents of Ladakh through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1965 with

retrospective effect from 1st April, 1962, in view of the position that the residents of Ladakh and suffered hardship and their trade had been adversely affected as a result of Chinese aggression. This exemption continued upto the assessment year 1988-89.

(c) The reasons for not granting income tax exemption to the residents of Ladakh region after the assessment year 1988-89 are as follows:-

(i) Time to time increase in the exemption limit to the present limit of Rs. 40,000/-combined with other tax benefits such as standard deduction, deduction under section 80L, tax rebate under section 88, etc. take care of residents with poor economic conditions.

(ii) Income-tax exemption which was intended to benefit the poor sections of the people of Ladakh was benefitting the affluent and was being misused by unscrupulous businessmen for laundering their black money through the residents of Ladakh.

[Translation]

Agro Based Industry in Rural Areas

3193. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the steps taken by the Union Government to set up agro-based industries in rural areas during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the extent of success achieved by the Government as compared to the targets fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Agro-based industries are being promoted by the KVIC which has taken various steps to develop them. The KVIC provides financial assistance by way of grant and loans to its registered Institutions, Cooperative

Societies, State KVIBs and individual entrepreneurs on the basis of viable Projects submitted by them. KVIC also provides technical assistance, makes arrangements for supply of improved tools and implements and assists in training and marketing of the products produced by the rural artisans. The major Agro-based activities promoted by the KVIC are bee-keeping, ghani oil, honey, cane, gur and khandsari, palm gur, processing of cereals and pulses, fruits and vegetables, fibres, forest plants and fruits for medicinal purposes, etc. KVIC has also launched a National Programme on bee-keeping to boost the production of honey and to provide gainful employment to rural artisans. During the last two years, the State-wise financial support provided for the development of Agro based industries is as given in the Statement.

(b) KVIC succeeded in achieving its target fixed for Agro based Industries during the last two years as per the position given below in terms of both production and employment:

	Production		Employment	
	(Rs. Crores)		(No. Lakhs)	
	8th Plan		8th Plan	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1994-95	1064.88	1221.59	17.97	18.95
1995-96	1460.91	1320.09	18.87	20.08

STATEMENT

Statewise Disbursement of funds for development of agro-based industries by KVIC

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	1994-95 Grant	Loan	1995-96 Grant	Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	94.83	6.16	140.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	0.23	-	-
3.	Assam	1.52	9.53	8.32	10.7
4.	Bihar	2.14	25.07	17.44	87.06
5.	Delhi	-	12.85	-	3.55
6.	Goa	-	5.23	0.23	10.72
7.	Gujarat	4.57	3.28	-	-
8.	Haryana	0.08	32.73	-	18.4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.75	25.18	-	11.01
10.	Jammu And Kashmir	-	1.56	6.64	65.36
11.	Karnataka	1.20	185.01	0.34	186.78
12.	Kerala	4.55	58.02	1.26	59.18
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.46	37.85	1.11	12.63
14.	Maharashtra	-	131.73	5.96	206.06
15.	Manipur	-	-	9.23	38.6
16.	Meghalaya	1.71	5.91	0.84	2.97
17.	Mizoram	8.24	27.55	9.52	18.19
18.	Nagaland	11.39	55.39	0.43	5.82
19.	Orissa	46.76	116.71	2.02	102.02
20.	Punjab	3.14	29.45	3.28	38.29
21.	Rajasthan	0.08	59.94	2.92	23.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Sikkim	-	-	0.06	0.16
23.	Tamil Nadu	19.05	133.19	5.02	7.58
24.	Tripura	1.50	16.98	2.31	10.12
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5.35	30.59	1.95	299.93
26.	West Bengal	5.04	95.12	1.10	63.17

Union Territories

1.	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
2.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	0.40
3.	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
4.	Daman And Diu	-	-	-	-
5.	Lakshadweep	-	-	10.97	43.73
6.	Pondicherry	-	0.87	-	0.55

*[English]***Opening of Branch Offices of EPC
in Andhra Pradesh**

3194. SHRI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government to open branch offices of various Export Promotion Council at Hyderabad in view of the growing exports;

(b) whether a high level meeting was held to discuss this issue with the Union Government and the representatives of Commerce and Industry ministries;

(c) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the time by which these offices are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A high level meeting was held on 4.1.97 at Hyderabad wherein requests were received for opening up of branch offices of various Export Promotion Councils. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCI) is looking into the possibility of opening of a regional office at Hyderabad.

World Bank Loan

3195. DR. G.R. SARODE: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans to utilise the World Bank loan already taken/ proposed to be taken, giving the details of infrastructure thus created; and

(b) the steps being taken to generate adequate funds to repay the interest accrued thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) World Bank assistance has been utilised mainly in the areas of human resource development, agriculture and allied activities, financial sector development etc. besides infrastructure. As far as creation of infrastructure is concerned, World Bank assistance has been utilised in construction of roads, ports etc., provision of irrigation and drinking water facilities, generation and distribution of power and electricity etc.

(b) Adequate funds are provided in the annual budget for the repayment of principal and payment of interest every year.

*[Translation]***Chari Committee Report**

3196. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chari Committee has recommended abolition of holding companies in the coal sector;

(b) whether the Chari Committee has also recommended the independent working for coal subsidiary units which has also been endorsed by the Cabinet; and

(c) if so, the reason for not implementing the recommendation of the Chari Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy has emphasised the need

to look into the organisational structure of Coal India Limited (CIL) and has suggested that it may be necessary to consider making a separate company of each of the subsidiaries of CIL and they should be enabled to function independently after the price de-regulation and other reforms are undertaken. The matter will therefore be submitted for consideration of the Cabinet later.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Policy of Liberalisation

3197. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to go ahead with the policy of liberalisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any important decisions in regard to the liberalisation policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Since June 1, 1996 several measures have been taken by the Government in the areas of foreign investment and infrastructure development. The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) has been set up, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has been streamlined and made more transparent and the first ever guidelines for direct foreign investment have been announced in the areas which are not covered under the automatic route. The list of industries eligible for automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51 per cent has been expanded and a new list for automatic approval of foreign equity upto 74 per cent has been announced. Foreign Institutional Investors have been allowed to invest in unlisted companies and in corporate and Government securities, and guidelines for External Commercial Borrowings have been liberalised.

Other reforms include setting up of Disinvestment Commission, independent Tariff Commission, enhancing investment ceilings for small scale industries, delicensing of consumer electronics, changes in sugar policy, deregulation of prices and distribution of certain categories of coal and amendment of Coal Mines Act.

Since December, 1996 the Government has allowed automatic approval for foreign equity participation upto 74 per cent in key infrastructure industries such as electricity generation and transmission, non-conventional energy generation and distribution and construction activities in the area of roads, bridges, railbeds, ports and harbours. Sector specific reforms incorporating tax holidays and concessional import duty have been introduced for telecom and power sector. The Government has recently announced guidelines for private investment in highway development through Build Operate-Transfer (BOT) route.

Several measures have also been announced in the

Central Budget for 1997-98.

Those include:

- * 14 items dereserved from the existing list of 836 items reserved for exclusive manufacture of small scale sector. The dereserved items include rice milling, dal milling, poultry feed, vinegar, synthetic syrups, biscuits, ice cream, etc.
- * Profit making PSUs can incur double their existing limit of capital expenditure without the prior approval of the Government.
- * A second batch of PSUs has been referred to the Disinvestment Commission, subsequent to the submission of its first report.
- * Announcement of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for the oil and Gas sector.
- * Oil exploration and Industrial Parks designated as infrastructure.
- * Refineries allowed to import capital goods during Ninth Plan at a concessional duty on par with fertiliser sector.
- * Enhancing budget support for National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to Rs. 500 crore from Rs. 200 crore.
- * Limit of aggregate investment in a company by FIIs/NRIs/NRI-OCBs raised to 30 per cent from 24 per cent.
- * Enhancement of equity investment limit for venture capital funds in any single company to 20 per cent from 5 per cent.
- * Government promoted societies recognised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and notified under the Income Tax Act, allowed to invest in equity of private sector companies.
- * LIC to promote joint ventures in pension business.
- * Selected Indian players (with majority of India ownership) allowed entry in health insurance business alongwith permission of joint ventures by GIC.
- * System of ad-hoc treasury Bills to finance budget deficit to be discontinued and scheme of ways and Means Advance (WMA) being introduced.
- * Concept of "Budget Deficit" being discontinued.
- * Introduction of a capital indexed bond, with repayment of principal amounts being indexed to inflation.
- * Acceptance of Tenth Finance Commission recommendation of single divisible pool of tax between Centre and States at the proportion of 29 per cent.

- * Residents of large metro showing 4 wheel vehicle, unmovable property, telephone, foreign travel in previous year (any two) should voluntarily file tax returns.
- * Reduction in personal Income Tax rates and increase in limit of standard deduction.
- * MAT amended by exempting export profits and introduction of tax credit.
- * Abolition of surcharge on corporate income tax, reduction in corporate tax rates and abolition of tax on dividends.
- * Tax holidays, amortisation of licence fees and other fiscal incentives extended to Telecom Sector.
- * Reduction of rate of custom duty and customs exemption on computer software, and reduction of duty on computer parts, etc.
- * Service tax on transportation of goods by road, consulting engineers, custom house, air travel agents, outdoor caterers etc.

[Translation]

Backlog of SC/ST Vacancies in PSUs

3198. Dr. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the backlog of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Public Sector Undertakings during the last two years;
- (b) the steps being taken to fill up these vacant posts;
- (c) whether the Government propose to fix any target date for filling up these posts; and
- (d) if so, the tentative date thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) As per information available in 1995, PSEs were requested to identify backlog vacancies reserved for SCs and STs as on 1.4.1995 and launch special recruitment drive to fill up these vacancies. Accordingly, 6869 vacancies were identified in 79 PSEs out of which 3072 were filled by June, 1996.

In 1996, another special recruitment drive was launched. PSEs were advised to assess the backlog vacancies reserved for SCs and STs and complete the formalities regarding recruitment by end of March, 1997. As per information furnished by 92 PSEs, 5704 vacancies were identified out of which 556 were filled by January, 1997.

[English]

Export Garment Units in Tamil Nadu

3199. SHRI K. KANDASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to start any export oriented garment unit in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which this unit is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government do not propose to start any export oriented garment unit. However, entrepreneurs can set up 100% Export Oriented Units in all parts of the country, including Tamil Nadu, subject inter alia to the location policy of the Government.

Restructuring of UTI

3200. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for restructuring of UTI is under the consideration of the Government for a long;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of the proposal;
- (d) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure operation of UTI entirely on professional lines in terms of set targets;
- (e) the details of major projects/Schemes finalised for launching during 1997-98 to protect the interests of small investors assuring them better returns;
- (f) whether the performance review of schemes launched in operation has been taken up recently; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Unit Trust of India (UTI) has been brought under the Regulatory framework of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) since July, 1994. All schemes of UTI launched after 1st July, 94 require the approval of SEBI. In order to further segregate the Asset management functions from the Trust, SEBI has recommended constitution of 3 Asset Management Committees, one each for the growth schemes, fixed income schemes and the US-64. UTI has agreed with this recommendation and is considering ways of implementing it.

(e) SEBI has undertaken several measures for protecting the interest of investors in mutual funds including UTI. SEBI has notified the revised SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 which would aim at improving service standards to the investors, help in ensuring more transparency and uniformity in the performance of mutual funds and offer greater degree of protection to the investors. Besides, SEBI has also undertaken inspection of 28 mutual funds including UTI for the year 1997-98.

(f) and (g) Analysis of performance of specific Mutual Fund Schemes does not fall within the Regulatory purview

of SEBI. As the statutory regulatory body, SEBI ensures adequate disclosures of information to the investors, compliance with various regulatory provisions through off-sight monitoring and on-sight inspection and if required take appropriate action for violation of the regulatory provisions. SEBI ensures that the facts relating to the performance of existing schemes are disclosed in the offer document to enable investors take informed investment decisions.

[Translation]

Sale of Soyabean Crude Oil By STC

3201. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN:

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soyabean crude oil has been sold by STC to some firms at prices lower than the market price causing huge loss to the STC;

(b) whether the soyabean crude oil is sold after refining which is more profitable;

(c) if so, the estimated loss suffered by STC as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the sale of soyabean crude oil at prices lower than the market price and to fix responsibility in the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) STC has intimated that the selling price for refined Soyabean Oil is marginally higher than Crude Soyabean Oil price. However, taking into consideration the expenses incurred in refining, quantity lost during refining, interest on blocked funds, the net realisation for Crude Soyabean Oil sold after refining would not necessarily be higher than the price of crude Soyabean Oil.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Russian Commercial Banks

3202: SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Russian Commercial Banks have shown interest to set up their branches in India; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No Russian Commercial Banks have shown interest in opening branches in India. However, one Russian commercial bank has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for opening a representative office in New Delhi.

Kishore Instigated CLB Complaints

3203. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in 'The Economic Times' (Mumbai) on December 6, 1996 under captioned "Kishore Instigated CLB Complaints" stating that the Shaw Wallace Employees Federation had filed a petition before Company Law Board at the behest of Shri Kishore Chhabria and he has donated Rs. 10.96 lakh to the Federation;

(b) whether the Government propose to find out the source of the said money donated to the Federation and other aspects revealed in the above mentioned news-item; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A petition u/s 235, 237, 397, 398, 399, 402, 403, 406 and 408 of the Companies Act, 1956, has been filed before the Company Law Board by All India Shaw Wallace Employees Federation and Others on 16.7.1996 and the said petition is listed for further hearing on 1st and 2nd May, 1997 before the Company Law Board. The matter is thus subjudice.

The allegation that this petition has been filed with the aid and assistance of the K.R. Chhabria Group is also subjudice before the Company Law Board.

Tax Adjudication Forum

3204: Dr. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All-India Tax Advocates have urged the Government to streamline the tax adjudication forum;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the number of appeals pending as on January 1, 1997, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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

*[Translation]***Production and Supply of Janata Cloth**

3205. SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA :
 SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH:
 SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for production and supply of Janata Cloth in Madhya Pradesh has been reduced to even below 50 percent during the current year;

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

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to maintain the previous target; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
 (a) and (b) As per the decision of the Government Janata Cloth Scheme is being phased out. Targets therefor are being reduced every year on a tapering basis. For the year 1996-97, targets have been reduced on the basis of the actual production achieved during the last year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Targets for all the States have been reduced on the basis of last year's production.

*[English]***Opening of New Branches of Banks**

3206. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have liberalised the branch licensing policy and has given full autonomy to rationalised banks in opening of new branches;

(b) if so, whether any conditions have been stipulated to the autonomy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) As per the extant branch licensing policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Indian Commercial Banks which fulfil the following criteria are given freedom to open branches without prior approval from RBI on case to case basis:-

(i) Capital to Risk Assets Ratio (CRAR) at 8% or more.

(ii) Minimum owned funds of Rs. 100 crores.

(iii) Net profit for three consecutive years.

(iv) Non-performing Assets below 15% of total outstanding loans and advances.

In such cases, the banks are advised to submit to RBI an action plan for one year for opening all types of branches (general as well as specialised) taking into consideration the broad national policy objectives. Once the plan is approved, the banks can open branches. However, the banks have to obtain Licenses under Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 from RBI's Regional Offices before opening the branches.

Regional Rural Banks

3207. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a proposal for offloading entire stake in Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the present status of the proposal with implementation schedule; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to strengthen Regional Rural Banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Under the existing arrangement, the sponsor banks nominate the Chairman of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and are required to provide such operational guidance and other assistance as is necessary. With a view to strengthening the management and financial structure of RRBs, various measures are being taken by the Government including capitalisation support for RRBs which attain designated performance bench-marks and also providing a larger role for the sponsor banks.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to strengthen RRBs which include, inter-alia, the following:-

(i) 119 RRBs have been provided with financial support to the extent of about Rs. 499 crores by Government of India for comprehensive revamping.

(ii) With a view to widening the range and scope of their services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1.1.1994, to finance non-target groups to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending. More discretionary powers have been given to them for purchase/discounting of cheques demand drafts. Further for widening their range of services, RRBs have been, inter-alia, allowed to issue guarantees on behalf of their customers install lockers, issue drafts and effect mail transfers.

(iii) RRBs have, subject to certain conditions, been allowed to relocate their loss-making branches to relatively better locations viz. commercial centres like market areas, village mandies, block and district head-quarters etc. and to redeploy concerned staff suitably.

- (iv) All RRBs have been advised to prepare bank specific development action plans to enable them to adopt a systematic approach for their turn-around.
- (v) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institutions and in non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy a part of their surplus non-SIR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to the issued by the latter.
- (vi) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been applied to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be applied in a phased manner from 1996-97 onwards.
- (vii) With effect from 26.08.96, the RBI has fully deregulated the interest rates that can be charged to the ultimate borrowers by the RRBs.

Inland Container Depts/Air Cargos

3208. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up a chain of Inland Container Depots/Air Cargos in the Country during the current year as a part of the package to establish infrastructure network to boost exports;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard, so far, and the projects under implementation, in progress and under consideration for clearance; and

(c) the details of proposals pending and action taken/proposed to be taken for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) In order to provide door-step facilities, Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Statons (ICDs/CFSSs) and Air Cargo Complexes (ACCs) are being set up at vantage location in the country. An Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce since 1992 to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up ICDs/CFSSs in the country. Prior to the constitution of IMC about 31 such facilities were functional. The Govt. consider proposals for setting up of ICDs/CFSSs as and when received and this is an ongoing process and both public and private sector can apply for the same. The primary object being to upgrade infrastructural facility for encouraging exports. The IMC has so far approved 69 proposals for setting up of ICDs/CFSSs in the country. A list of approved projects and their present status is given in the attached statement.

ACCs have been set up at the Gateway Airports of Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Thiruvananthapuram and at the inland airports of Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Varanasi, Jaipur, Amritsar, Srinagar, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Coimbatore, Bhubanewshwar and Dabolin. Besides a proposal for setting up of ACC at Indore has been approved and State Govt. has been requested to prepare an implementation plan.

A proposal for setting up of ACC at Patna is also under consideration. The proposals for setting up ICDs/CFSSs under consideration of the Govt. are also given in the Annexure.

STATEMENT

Status of ICDs/CFSSs Approved by Inter Ministerial Committee

1	2
Functioning (26)	
Amritsar (Punjab)	Surat (Gujarat)
Calcutta (West Bengal)...2 CFSSs	Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
Nhava Sheva (Maharashtra)	Tirupur (Tamil Nadu)
Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)...3 CFSSs	Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)
Dronagiri Node (Maharashtra)	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Madras (Tamil Nadu)...4 CFSSs	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
Cochin (Kerala)...2 CFSSs	Salem (Tamil Nadu)
Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
Kandla (Gujarat)	Raxaul (Bihar)
	Nagpur (Maharashtra)

1

2

Under Implementation (40)

Faridabad (Haryana)
 Rewari (Haryana)
 Dasrath (Baroda), Gujarat
 Nasik (Gujarat)
 Porbunder (Gujarat)
 Rajkot (Gujarat)
 Udaipur (Rajasthan)
 Kota (Rajasthan)
 Bhilwara (Rajasthan)
 Bhiwadi (Rajasthan)
 Bhatinda (Punjab)
 Ballasore (Orissa)
 Paradip Port (Orissa)
 Malanpur (Gwalior), Madhya Pradesh
 Raipur (Madhya Pradesh)
 Aurangabad (Maharashtra)
 Nagpur (Maharashtra)

Jalgaon (Maharashtra)
 Dronagiri (Nhava Sheva)....3 CFSs
 Waluj (Maharashtra)
 Jashkar (Maharashtra)
 New Mangalore (Karnataka)
 Panambur (Karnataka)
 Cochin (Kerala)....3 CFSs
 Madras (Tamil Nadu)....3 CFSs
 Silliguri (West Bengal)
 Haldia (West Bengal)
 Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)
 Unnao (Uttar Pradesh)
 Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)
 Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)
 Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
 Verna (Goa)
 Barwala (Near Chandigarh)

Under Consideration (7)

Aroor (Kerala)
 Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)....2 CFSs
 Dadri (Uttar Pradesh)

Chanje (Maharashtra)
 Ludhiana (Punjab)
 Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)

Note: Of the 69 approved proposals, one CFS (at Kalamboli) was closed down while other two CFSs (at Kanpur and Faridabad) were cancelled as per the request of the party.

Conditions of Workers Under TTCl in West Bengal

3209. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tea gardens owned by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal with its area and number of workers and employees working in each gardens;

(b) whether these tea gardens are functioning at present;

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

(d) the amount of payment made to the workers and employees as on date in different each tea garden;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the TTCl is following/implementing the

statutory provisions meant for the works in respect of housing, medical and other benefits;

(g) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Required information is attached as Statement.

(b) and (c) While Looksan and Potong tea estates are producing finished tea, Pashok and Vah-Tukvar tea estates are, at present, not producing black tea due to labour problems resulting from delay in payment of salary/wages etc. on account of acute financial problems of TTCl Ltd.

(d) and (e) Wages of the employees in a garden are determined by a tripartite agreement arrived at between the Planters' Associations and the Trade Union leaders in the presence of State Government representatives. Ap-

proximate amounts of Wages/Salary payment per month in each of the gardens are as below:

Looksan Tea Estate	- Rs. 5.41 lakhs
Pashok Tea Estate	- Rs. 5.00 lakhs
Vah-Tukvar Tea Estate	- Rs. 4.50 lakhs
Potong Tea Estate	- Rs. 2.31 lakhs

(f) and (g) Provident Fund dues of the workers in respect of all the four gardens have been cleared by Tea Trading Corporation India Ltd. upto March, 1996. In Looksan tea estate, housing, medical and other facilities have been paid upto date. In other three gardens, however, there have been arrears on this account.

(h) In view of consistent losses incurred by TTCL Ltd. on account of its garden operations, it has been decided to dispose of all the gardens owned by the Corporation through outright sale. Attempts are being made to complete the sale process expeditiously. In the meanwhile, the management of TTCL has been asked to continue production and manufacturing activities to the extent feasible to ensure payment of current dues. Funds have also been provided to TTCL by STC/Govt. of India from time to time, to meet the statutory liabilities.

STATEMENT

*Details of tea gardens owned by
TTCL in West Bengal*

S.No.	Name of the tea gardens	Planted area (Hectares)	No. of workers & employees
1	2	3	4
1.	Looksan Tea Estate, Dist. Jalpaiguri	417.70	893
2.	Pashok Tea Estate, Darjeeling.	305.70	959
3.	Vah Tukvar Tea Estate, Darjeeling.	197.08	747
4.	Potong Tea Estate, Darjeeling.	138.44	345

Land For Agricultural Activities

3210. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under liberalisation policy the Government have permitted foreign companies and Non-Resident Indians to purchase agricultural land in India and partially/wholly carry on agricultural activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Acquisition of agricultural land in India, by way of purchases, and carrying on agricultural activity by foreign companies and Non-Resident Indians is not permitted under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

(b) Does not arise.

Textiles Designing Exhibitions

3211. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile design exhibitions organized in the country, particularly in Gujarat during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the details of export orders received through these exhibitions till now;

(c) whether the Government propose to organize more such exhibition in future; and

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

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

(a) 212 exhibitions were organised under the National Design Collection Programme (NDCP) and by the Weavers Service Centres (WSC) during the last three years, including 6 exhibitions in Gujarat. The details of the exhibitions are attached as statement.

(b) The purpose of organising these exhibitions is primarily to disseminate technical information and to increase awareness.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the near future more exhibitions are likely to be organised in the country.

STATEMENT

Exhibitions held under the National Design Collection Programme and by the Weavers Service Centres during the last 3 years.

	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	3
2.	Assam	2	2	4
3.	Bihar	1	-	-
4.	Chandigarh	4	4	4
5.	Delhi	4	5	14
6.	Gujarat	2	-	4
7.	Haryana	-	-	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	2	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	2	1
10.	Karnataka	-	-	4

	1	2	3	4
11. Kerala	1	-	2	
12. Madhya Pradesh	-	1	15	
13. Maharashtra	2	17	35	
14. Manipur	-	-	1	
15. Orissa	1	-	7	
16. Punjab	1	-	-	
17. Rajasthan	-	1	10	
18. Tamil Nadu	-	1	6	
19. Tripura	-	-	2	
20. Uttar Pradesh	3	1	13	
21. West Bengal	9	6	10	
	30	42	140	

Compensation Paid By Bank of India

3212. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of India's eastern zone office in Calcutta has not yet given its final decision in regard to payment of some compensation for withholding some constituents current deposit account by its Lindsay Street Branch, Calcutta;

(b) whether the constituents have been representing the cases both to the Government and the bank for long for settlement of the accounts since 1993;

(c) whether the bank had offered some interest as were prevalent for the savings bank account holders and which the constituents refused;

(d) whether any further negotiation has been held; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Bank of India's Zonal Office in Calcutta has taken a final decision to pay interest at the rate of 5 per cent on the amount lying in the accounts of M/s. Bineyog from the date of death of account holder till the release of the amount remaining in the balance to the claimant. In the opinion of the Bank the claim of the constituents for an amount of Rs. 1.25 lacs is not acceptable.

(c) According to the Bank the interest offered is in accordance with the provisions governing such accounts.

(d) The bank has reported that its best efforts to convince the claimant had failed.

(e) Does not arise.

Export of Cotton Yarn

3213. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the export quota for cotton yarn for the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of cotton yarn ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have announced a quantitative ceiling of 120 million kgs for export of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts during the calendar year 1997.

(c) In order to boost exports of textiles, including cotton yarn, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Stowing Operation

3214. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions in the budget during the last three years for expenditure from the net proceeds of cess towards conservation including stowing operation and development of roads in colliery areas;

(b) the physical targets and actual achievements in regard to each item of expenditure provided for in the budget during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the works undertaken in 1996-97 for conservation and safety in mines from the above provision in the budget ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The budget provision to meet the expenditure towards conservation including stowing and development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas out of the excise duty (cess) collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 and actual expenditure during the last three years was as under:-

(Rs. crores)

		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
(a)	Conservation including stowing	38.20	37.23	40.00	39.99	45.00	37.55
(b)	Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	27.00	27.00	40.59	40.59	55.00	55.00

The coal companies undertake stowing, protective works and construction of roads and subsequently approach the Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee (CCDA) constituted in terms of provisions of Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Rules, 1975 for subsidy against these works from the funds collected through excise duty collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974. The proposals of coal companies are examined from the point of view of eligibility of subsidy on a case to case basis within the limits of the budget.

The existing guidelines provide for reimbursement upto 75 per cent of the cost of protective works, 35 per cent of cost of sand stowing and 50 per cent of the cost of construction of roads, while the balance cost has to be borne by the concerned coal company and in some cases of road construction by the concerned State Government as well.

(c) For the year 1996-97 the following budget provision alongwith anticipated expenditure is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	Budget Provision	Anticipated Expenditure
1. Conservation including stowing	50.00	50.00
2. Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	50.00	50.00

Coloured Cotton

3215. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coloured cotton in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of coloured cotton exported during the above period and the countries to which it has been exported;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that growers of coloured cotton are not getting remunerative price for their crop; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the coloured cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Brown cotton known as Cocanadaned is grown in Kakinada tract of Andhra Pradesh in small areas. Since 1995, naturally coloured cotton belonging to American cotton developed with the assistance of Cotton Corporation of India Ltd is grown in parts of Madhya Pradesh. 14.50 qtls. of brown coloured cotton (seed cotton) was produced during 1995-96.

(b) Coloured cotton lint has not been exported from the country.

(c) Farmers got about 72 per cent to 80 per cent more price for coloured cotton compared to white linted cotton.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Sericulture

3216. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to provide assistance to Assam for development of sericulture in the State is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the assistance likely to be provided during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam has forwarded proposals for the development of sericulture in the State. The Central Silk Board is preparing a project for integrated and sustained development of sericulture in the North-Eastern States including Assam for implementation during the IXth Five Year Plan period. The above proposals of the Government of Assam will also be considered by the Board while preparing the project report.

Decline in Production of Tea in Assam

3217. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tea gardens in Assam have illegally occupied a large amount of the Government land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tea production per hectare of land in Assam is decreasing every year during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no information about illegal occupation of Central Government Lands by Tea gardens.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tea Gardens

3218. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea gardens owned by the Union Government;

(b) the locations of those gardens alongwith their size and the total quantity of productions of each tea gardens during each of the last three years;

(c) whether only a few gardens are earning profits,

while a large number of other tea gardens are incurring losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, garden-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Requisite information in respect of tea garden owned by Central Public Sector Undertakings is attached as Statement.

(c) to (e) In so far as gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. are concerned, all the five gardens have been incurring losses on account of management problems, lack of funds with the Corporation for undertaking developmental activities in the gardens etc. In view of the consistent losses, it has been decided to dispose of all the five gardens owned by TTCI through outright sale.

As regards gardens owned by M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd., only one tea garden viz. Hoolungooree tea estate has been incurring losses during the last three consecutive years. Steps have been taken by the management of M/s Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. to make the garden viable by undertaking developmental activities such as extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation etc.

STATEMENT

Details of tea gardens owned by the central public sector undertakings

S.No.	Name of the Tea Gardens with location	Planted Area (Hectares)	Production (Million kgs)		
			1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(A) Gardens under Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.					
1.	Pathini Tea Estate, Karimgani Distt., Assam.	810.83	0.46	0.33	0.20
2.	Lookaan Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	417.70	0.48	0.44	0.42
3.	Pashok Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal.	305.70	0.13	0.09	0.04
4.	Vah Tukvar Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal.	197.08	0.06	0.05	0.01
5.	Potong Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal	138.44	0.06	0.05	0.08

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(B) Gardens under Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.					
1.	Banarhat Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	630.59	0.99	0.92	1.02
2.	Choonabhutti, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	401.80	0.07	0.05	0.06
3.	Karballa, Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	753.67	1.38	1.26	1.32
4.	New Dooars Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	784.01	1.26	1.12	1.18
5.	Mim Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal.	177.15	0.09	0.09	0.01
6.	Desam Tea Estate, Dibrugarh, Assam.	477.97	0.85	0.82	0.66
7.	Khowang Tea Estate, Dibrugarh, Assam.	995.95	1.76	1.81	1.58
8.	Basmatia Tea Estate, Dibrugarh, Assam.	270.26	0.64	0.62	0.60
9.	Rajgarh Tea Estate, Dibrugarh, Assam.	282.99	0.47	0.47	0.42
10.	Tinkong Tea Estate, Dibrugarh, Assam.	501.16	0.91	0.94	0.84
11.	Hoolungooree Tea Estate, Jorhat, Assam.	403.34	0.39	0.32	0.37
12.	Murphulani Tea Estate, Jorhat, Assam.	330.52	0.36	0.32	0.41

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3219. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weavers are fighting for survival in the country particularly in Meerut ;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Under the various programmes being implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, no specific instances of Khadi weavers fighting for survival either from Meerut or from any other part of the country, have come to notice of KVIC.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a).

Sodhani Committee on Investment From NRI'S

3220. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved some of the recommendations of the Sodhani Committee on Investment from NRI overseas corporate bodies and persons of Indian origin;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines in this regard have been issued;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent it is likely to be helpful for encouraging the foreign investment in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A number of recommendations made by the Working Group set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to look into various

schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have been accepted by RBI for implementation and have been notified through a Press Release by RBI on 25.9.1996 as per the statement attached. These are in addition to the recommendations already accepted/implemented by RBI. These measures, together with other efforts of the Government towards simplification of procedures and transparency in approval mechanism create a positive and investor friendly environment for attracting more foreign investments into the country.

STATEMENT

(a) The scheme for 100 per cent investment by NRIs in sick units would be further liberalised.

(b) General permission would be granted by the Reserve Bank for interest free non-repayable loans from NRI relatives for personal purposes and for business activities. Interest-free-repayable loans upto US \$ 2.5 lakh with a maturity of seven years would be cleared by the Reserve Bank automatically. Other cases would continue to be cleared on a case to case basis by the Reserve Bank.

(c) The Reserve Bank would permit transfer of funds from one Non-Resident (External) (NRE) account to the NRE account of another person for any purpose.

(d) NRIs/OCBs would be permitted to establish schools and colleges on the same terms and conditions as a resident individual/corporate body.

(e) The existing 40 percent scheme would be abolished. In Non-Annexure-III industries, investments by NRIs/OCBs upto 51 per cent in companies other than listed companies would be allowed on repatriation basis.

(f) The condition regarding 60 per cent turnover from eligible activities for the investment to be eligible under the old 40 per cent and the proposed 51 per cent scheme would be waived.

(g) NRI participation in venture capital activity would be permitted on the same terms and conditions as foreign investment in this area.

(h) The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) and other housing finance institutions would be permitted to grant loans to NRIs for acquisition/improvement to the existing houses on the terms and conditions as applicable to residents.

(i) All information relating to NRI foreign investment would be put on the Internet.

Trade Agreement With Myanmar

3221. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between Union Government and Government of Myanmar for promotion of border trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by his ministry to implement the terms of the agreement and the progress made so far;

(d) whether there was any provision to construct roads within the territory of Myanmar by India as per the agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and progress made so far ?

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

(b) The Border Trade Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Myanmar was signed in New Delhi on 21.1.1994. As per the Agreement, border trade is to be conducted through Moreh and Champai in India corresponding to Tamu and Rih in Myanmar respectively and through any other route which may be notified by mutual agreement between the two countries. Under this agreement, 22 commodities have been identified for exchange by residents living along the border of the two countries and trade is to be conducted in freely convertible currencies or in currencies mutually agreed upon by the two countries including through counter trade arrangements.

(c) Subsequent to the signing of the Agreement, bilateral talks were held with Myanmar in June, 1994 for the expeditious implementation of the Agreement. Steps were taken to put in place necessary banking, immigration, customs and other related trading arrangements. The progress in this regard were reviewed in an official level meeting between the two sides in January, 1995 paving the way for inauguration of border trade on 12th. April, 1995 by the respective Ministers of Commerce via Moreh in Manipur and Tamu in Myanmar. After operationalisation of this route, reviews were undertaken with the Myanmar authorities in Yangon in July, 1995 and in India in November, 1996 to further facilitate growth of border trade.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Disinvestment Commission

3222. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission set up by the Government have submitted its first report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and whether the Government have accepted them;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to refer some more Public Sector Undertakings to the Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has submitted its first report to the Government on 20-2-97. The Disinvestment Commission has recommended inter-alia on level of disinvestment in three PSUs i.e. GAIL, ITDC and Modern Food Industries Ltd., establishment of disinvestment fund for PSUs, restructuring areas for PSUs and recommendations on corporate governance and autonomy for PSUs. These recommendations are under examination in the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the Government is contemplating to refer some more PSUs to the Disinvestment Commission for its examination.

Indo-Iran Joint Venture in Banking Sector

3223. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Indo-Iran joint venture bank;

(b) if so, the main objectives to set up the above joint-venture bank;

(c) whether the branches of the joint-venture bank would be set up both at Iran and India; and

(d) by when the above joint-venture bank is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no Indian bank has approached them for setting up any joint venture bank in Iran. Likewise no Iranian bank has approached RBI for setting up joint venture bank in India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian Judicial Service

3224. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought the views of all the State Governments with regard to the constitution of All India Judicial Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, comments have been received from 23 States. 9 State Governments have supported the proposal and 7 others have given their conditional support. 7 States

have not supported the proposal and 2 State Governments are yet to respond.

(c) The matter relating to the creation of an All India Judicial Service is receiving the attention of the Government. It is not practicable to indicate a definite time frame for its constitution.

[Translation]

Fake Currency Note

3225. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether the Reserve Bank of India has cautioned all its Zonal offices in regard to the use of fake currency notes in India which being sent by Pakistan on a large scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all its issue offices including offices at Chennai, Calcutta, New Delhi and Mumbai on 14th August 1996, asking them to exercise utmost care while accepting/examining currency notes tendered at their end, so that forgeries, if any, do not escape undetected. Further, they have also been advised to caution all Public Sector banks, private sector/Co-operative banks coming under their jurisdiction to exercise similar care.

Laser Machines

3226. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laser machines known as revolutionary in the field of surgery are being indigenously manufactured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of indigenously manufactured laser machines are lower than the cost of the imported ones; and

(d) if so, the estimated cost to be incurred on the indigenously manufactured machines ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Only one Indian manufacturer is reported to be manufacturing Laser Machines.

(c) and (d) The cost of indigenously manufactured machines is reported to be lower than the cost of imported ones. The estimated cost of the indigenously manufactured machines depends on the in-built facilities desired by the customer as per the different models.

[English]

Exports of Fruits

3227. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU:
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fruits including mango exported with its percentage and the foreign exchange earned therefrom to European and Middle East countries, during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether problems of mango farmers and exporters of Andhra Pradesh have been studied recently by the Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the study groups; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to redress the grievances of fruits particularly mango growers and exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The quantity and value of fruits including mangoes exported during the last three years are as follows:-

Qty: In MTs.
Value : Rs. in Crores

		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. European Countries							
(i)	Fruits including mangoes	7291	14.81	12379	30.76	14745	40.45
(ii)	Mangoes	1526	4.03	1604	3.43	1685	4.22
(iii)	percentage of exports of mangoes to fruits.	20.9%	21.3%	12.9%	11.1%	11.4%	10.4%
2. Middle East Countries							
(i)	Fruits including mangoes	46863	74.82	38767	65.02	39787	61.73
(ii)	Mangoes	18346	36.37	17685	35.16	18090	29.96
(iii)	percentage of exports of mangoes to fruits	39.1%	48.69%	45.6%	54.1%	45.4%	48.5%

(Source DGCI&S, Calcutta & APEDA)

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

(b) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has not so far studied the problems of mango farmers and exporters of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise; and

(d) Some of the measures adopted to overcome the problems of exporters of fruits (including mangoes) are:-

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

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

(iii) 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;

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

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

(vi) Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of selected fresh fruits including fresh mangoes of all varieties other than alphonso.

- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns in the potential markets overseas and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

Supply of Coal

3228. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ancillary units of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) which met the requirement of coal of Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years alongwith the details of coal received from each ancillary unit;

(b) whether any complaints have been received from the above plant about the quality of the coal during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of deductions made in the bills of each coal company on account of supply of coal of poor quality during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Bokaro Steel Plant received coal from Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Northern Eastern Coalfields (NEC). Company-wise details of coal despatches to Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years were as follows:-

(In '000 tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CCL	990.70	751.10	870.70
BCCL	2240.00	2123.00	2278.00
NEC	43.00	32.43	65.45

(b) and (c) Quality of coal despatched to Steel Plants including Bokaro Steel Plants was being determined jointly both at loading points as well as at Steel Plants ends. Complaints relating to quality of coal despatches are also raised/discussed in the monthly allocation meeting and corrective steps taken to improve quality of coal despatches.

(d) The price of coal supplied to Steel Plants is related to the quality in terms of ash percentage and accordingly adjustment of price is made. The year-wise deductions made by Bokaro Steel Plant from the bills are given below:-

(Rs.in lakh)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CCL	726.01	299.98	1052.05
BCCL	869.92	532.66	355.64
NEC	NIL	NIL	NIL

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

3229. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether iron ore is being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the average quantum of iron ore exported during each of the last three years;

(c) the estimated quantity of iron ore reserves in the country; and

(d) the average consumption of iron ore in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quantity of iron ore exported during the last three years is given below:-

Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)
1994-95	260.48
1995-96	304.00
1996-97	190.81
(April-Dec.)	

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

(c) Recoverable reserves of iron ore (which includes proved, probable and possible reserves) as on 1.4. 1990 are 12744 million tonnes.

Source: IBM, Nagpur

(d) The domestic consumption of iron ore during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)
1994-95	33.4
1995-96	36.2
1996-97	24.6
(April-Nov.)	

Source : IBM, Nagpur

[English]

Small Farmer Development Bank

3230. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Small Farmers Development Bank in the country to take

care of small and marginal farmers in the country;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The credit needs of small and marginal farmers are being met by existing institutional arrangements.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

3231. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries whose currencies are available with the Foreign Exchange Reserves at present;
- (b) the amount invested by the Reserve Bank of India out of the said reserves during the last three years; and
- (c) the impact on the prices due to non-utilisation of the said reserve on productive works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank of India broadly consist of convertible hard currencies of major countries where the markets are deep and liquid.

- (b) The entire foreign currency assets are invested abroad.
- (c) It is difficult to establish a direct correlation between productive work, utilisation of forex reserves and inflation.

Export of Silk

3232. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been decline in the export of silk products during the last few years;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Central Silk Board has urged upon the Union Government for creation of reserves of indigenous raw material in order to remain in competition in the growing global market of silk;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of silk products ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) There has not been a single trend of the exports

of silk products of the country during the last three years. While the exports of silk products during the year 1994-95 increased as compared to 1993-94, the exports during the year 1995-96 declined in comparison to 1994-95. This was mainly due to changes in fashion and customers preferences in the International markets, fall/stagnation in the unit export price of silk goods in terms of US \$ and general recession in major markets like USA and Europe.

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

(e) In order to increase the exports of silk products, the Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organising generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc. Besides, the Government has taken several measures to boost silk exports such as the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products etc.

Foreign Investment in PSUs

3233. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign investment has been made in the public sector industrial units for the development and expansion of the industries during the Eight Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the year-wise and industry-wise investment made during the above period;
- (c) whether the profit has been increased in these industries as a result thereof; and
- (d) if so, the break-up of profit earned industry-wise and year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The allocation of plan outlay for Five Year Plans for public sector undertakings does not include foreign investment. However, there are some PSUs in which foreign parties have invested by way of equity and loans. As on 31.3.95, the foreign investment in terms of equity and loans was Rs. 112.21 crores and Rs. 36173.79 crores respectively. PSU-wise details are given in Statement No. 17 and 18 of Volume-I of P.E. Survey, 1994-95 laid in both Houses of the Parliament on 19.7.96. During 1992-93, the beginning of 8th Five Year Plan, the investment from foreign parties in terms of equity and loans was Rs. 121.81 crores and Rs. 30703.98 crores respectively. Year-wise cumulative figure for 1992-93 to 1994-95, up-to which period only information is available, is given in

the Volume-I of respective year of P.E. Survey.

(c) and (d) The profitability of the PSUs cannot be correlated to the foreign investment.

[English]

Illegal Wine Factory

3234. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs department had unearthed an illegal wine factory in Shastri Nagar of Kanpur, U.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to stop the illegal trade of wine and to save the Government's revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Customs Department has not unearthed any case of illegal wine factory in Kanpur, U.P. It is also stated that production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of liquor is a State subject.

Hence, appropriate steps are to be undertaken by the State Government.

Collection of Direct Tax

3235. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total collection of direct taxes all over the country for the financial year 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the details of the top hundred tax payers in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the revenue collections of direct taxes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The total collection of Direct Taxes all over the country upto 28.2.1997 is Rs. 28204.02 crores. The financial year is not yet over, therefore other details cannot be made available.

(c) The following steps are being taken to increase the revenue collections of direct-taxes:

- (i) Strengthen TDS Circles for better collections;
- (ii) Augment survey operations for better collections by way of Advance Tax;
- (iii) Ensure filing of Returns after due payment of self-assessment tax; and
- (iv) Complete assessment of big cases to increase collections by way of regular assessment.

Investors Interest in Private Terms Deposit

3236. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Investors take interest in private sector's terms (Fixed) deposits such as Tata Finance, L&T Finance, Birla Global Finance, Mahindra Finance, Twentieth Century Finance, Mafat Lal Finance, Annagram Finance and Apple Finance etc.;

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

(c) The remedial steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the finance companies named in the question are Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) accepting fixed deposits. Investor preference in fixed deposits could be on account of a number of reasons including interest which the institutions concerned give on the fixed deposits kept with them.

(c) Since NBFCs constitute an important segment of the financial sector, Government do not propose to take steps to reduce the fixed deposits of NBFCs. The RBI Act, 1934 has been amended to ensure, inter-alia, that NBFCs function in a manner consistent with the interest of the depositors.

World Bank Aided Project in Orissa

3237. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for various World Bank aided projects in Orissa, project-wise;

(b) the year of completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of World Bank aided projects in the State of Orissa is as follows :

(in US\$ Million)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Loan/Cr. Amount	Closing Date
1.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	290.90	30.09.02
2.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	350.00	31.12.02

* Besides these State Sector projects, there are a number of Multi-State and Central Sector projects in which the State of Orissa is a beneficiary.

[Translation]

Cement Corporation of India

3238. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nayagaon Unit of Cement Corporation of India had to be closed due to non-payment of different dues, such as electricity bills etc. during the last year;

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

(c) the amount of loss incurred due to closure; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to check such recurrence ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Nayagaon Cement Unit of Cement Corporation of India was not closed during the last year. However, the production activity in the Unit remained suspended for about 34 days during the year 1996 due to disconnection of electricity by the State Electricity Board on account of non-payment of electricity dues. The company could not make the payment due to liquidity problems.

(c) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has reported that there was a production loss of around 34000 tonnes of cement as a result of suspension of production activities at the unit.

(d) CCI has been referred to BIFR under the provisions of SICA and the Company has already submitted a draft revival package to the Operating Agency for consideration. The package, inter-alia, envisages installation of captive DG sets in various units of the company including Nayagaon Unit to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

[English]

Development of Handloom Sector

3239. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding the development of handloom varieties and strengthening marketing in Karnataka is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Based on the viable proposals received from Government of Karnataka, an amount of Rs.339.75 lakhs has been sanctioned till date during the current financial year under various handloom schemes.

Primary Capital Market

3240. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies and the quantum of funds raised in the primary capital market during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of companies and the quantum of funds lost based on market capitalisation in respect of these companies as on 31st December, 1996;

(c) whether such losses to investors could have been avoided or minimised if the instruments raising the funds were in the form of optionally convertible debentures;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for the companies raising the funds to issue term OCD allowing safe exit route to investor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) According to the data furnished by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) the information is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	No. of companies	Amount raised from the primary capital market.
1994-95	1692	27632.1
1995-96	1725	20803.7
1996-97	864	13181.1

(Upto February, 1997)

(b) SEBI has stated that according to available data, during the period between March 31,1996 and January 31,1997 there was a decline in the market capitalisation on Bombay Stock Exchange of Rs. 68,215 crores. However this cannot be viewed as a loss of funds.

(c) to (e) The choice of instrument through which the capital should be raised is decided by the issuer companies and their lead merchant bankers. The issuer companies plan their capital structure according to their needs. Thereafter, it is the option of the investors to subscribe or not to subscribe to particular instruments issued by the companies. It is not possible to quantify the impact on capitalisation of different choices by issuers of market instruments.

Setting up of Export Processing Zone

3241. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Export Processing Zones in the country, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the products being exported from Maharashtra, U.P. and Gujarat and the percentage of its contributions towards total exports;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Export Promotion Zones in the country particularly in Gujarat keeping in view of its abundant potential for exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) functioning in the country are located at Bombay (Maharashtra), Kandla (Gujarat), Noida (U.P.), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

(b) State-wise data on exports is not maintained.

(c) and (d) An Export Processing Zone is functioning at Kandla (Gujarat) keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise the infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new Zones in the country. However, Export Processing Zones can now be established by State Government or in joint/private sector. One such private EPZ has been approved for establishment at Surat.

Indian Stock Market

3242. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any report in the context of the small investors having lost faith in the Indian Stock Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon specially against the merchant bankers who induced entrepreneurs with or without track record, to tap the market with high premia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) received a research report from J.M. Share and Stock Brokers Ltd. in October, 1996. The study was done on 2012 companies which came out with public issues during the period April, 1994-March, 1996. The major finding of the study was that the investors in the primary market have suffered substantial losses on account of decline in the prices of shares as compared to the issue price and price on listing of stock exchanges.

(c) According to the SEBI guidelines for disclosure and investor protection, any company proposing to access the primary capital market with an initial public offering should necessarily have either a three year dividend paying track record or have its project appraised and funded upto 10 per cent of the project cost by financial institutions/scheduled commercial banks. In case of premium issues the promoters are required to justify the premium in the offer documents. SEBI ensures relevant disclosures in the

offer document including risk factors so as to enable the investors to make informed investment decisions. Further, SEBI initiates action against the merchant bankers for not exercising the diligence while managing the public or right issues. In cases of violation of SEBI's regulations, SEBI has allowed the investors to withdraw their applications, ordered withdrawal of acknowledgement cards and such issues were not allowed to enter the market.

Public Sector Undertakings

3243. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the frequent remission of excise duty has been adversely affected the public sector units;

(b) if so, the extent to which affected and the public sector units which suffered the worst for the last three years; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome such contingencies ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Any change in excise duty will have uniform impact on industries both in Public and Private Sectors.

Companies Vanished After Raising Money Through Public Issues

3244. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOL):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several companies vanish after raising money from the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any machinery for monitoring utilisation of issue funds and for ascertaining if the companies exist after they have made public issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to a study conducted by SEBI for the year 1994-95, most of the companies that raised money from the public are in existence. The study revealed that out of 382 companies which came out with premium issues in 1994-95, 2 companies have not been listed and the monies have been refunded to the public. Of the remaining 380, 377 are trading. SEBI has written to Department of Company Affairs (DCA) for further verification.

(c) to (f) the measures for monitoring utilisation of issue proceeds and for ascertaining if the companies exist after they made public issues are given below:

- (i) According to the SEBI guidelines, in case of issues exceeding Rs. 500 crore the issuers are required to voluntarily disclose the names of financial institutions who would monitor the use of proceeds;
- (ii) Stock Exchanges have amended their listing agreements on the advice of SEBI which requires companies to give cash flow statements in their Annual Reports indicating the utilisation of funds raised from the public;
- (iii) Based on the SEBI sponsored report of the Malegam Committee, DCA have amended Schedule VI of the Companies Act which requires that all unutilised funds out of the issue must be separately disclosed in the balance-sheet of company indicating the form in which such unutilised funds have been invested.

Plywood and Timber Industries

3245. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether plywood and timber industries are under compulsory licencing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of licences issued to produce plywood and timber in the country;
- (d) whether licences are also issued to Small Scale Industries for producing such products; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Plywood, veneers of all types and other wood based products such as particle board, medium density fibre board/block board fall in the list of industries for which an industrial licence is compulsory.

(c) There are at present about sixty units in the organised sector for the manufacture of plywood.

(d) and (e) In terms of the New Industrial Policy, 1991, all industrial undertakings are required to obtain industrial licence for setting up plywood industry, except those small scale industrial undertakings which employ less than fifty workers with the aid of power or less than hundred workers without the aid of power.

Jute Bags

3246. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Advisory Committee of Experts (S.A.C.E.) have submitted their recommendations in regard to use of jute bags for packing of cement;

- (b) if so, the recommendations thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) have submitted their recommendations in regard to use of jute bags for packing of Cement, food grains, Sugar and Fertilizer (Urea). The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Merger of MITCO with MMTC

3247. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has been merged with Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. w.e.f. May 2, 1996; and

(b) if so, the new name given to the Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and whether the facilities being provided to the employees of the then Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. are at par with the employees of M.M.T.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rehabilitation-cum-Amalgamation/merger scheme was sanctioned by BIFR during its final hearing held on 8.4.96 in accordance with the approval given by the Group of Ministers (GoM). MMTC in its Extraordinary General Meeting held on 25.5.96 passed the order for merger, effective from 1.4.95.

After merger, it is functioning as a division of MMTC. The facilities being provided to the employees of the then MITCO are in accordance with the Rehabilitation-cum-Amalgamation/merger scheme approved by BIFR but are not at par with MMTC.

Profit/Losses by CIL units

3248. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for revival of loss making subsidiaries of CIL;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme, and
- (c) the amount of additional investment likely to be required for the scheme and the sources from which the above amount is likely to be mobilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) In February, 1996 the Government introduced a scheme for capital restructuring of Coal India Limited; the details of the scheme are as under :

- (i) Moratorium on the interest-free non-plan loan of Rs. 432.64 crores as on 31.3.1992 for three years i.e. upto 1998-99 and repayment of the amount

in three equal annual instalments thereafter with usual interest.

- (ii) Conversion of outstanding plan loan of Rs. 904.18 crores as on 31.3.1992 into non-cumulative 10 per cent preference shares redeemable in the year 2003-04.
- (iii) Waiver of overdue interest (non-plan loans) of Rs. 891.75 crores and penal interest accruing since 1.4.1995.
- (iv) Allowing Western Coalfields Limited, a CIL subsidiary, to charge grade prices of coal notified for Singareni Collieries Company Limited.
- (v) Deregulation of prices and distribution of coking coal and A,B and C grades of non-coking coal.

In February, 1997, the Government have also decided to deregulate the prices and distribution of D grade of non-coking coal and hard coke and soft coke.

The cumulative effect of the above measures will strengthen the financial base of CIL and consequently the financial health of loss making subsidiaries of CIL will improve. Moreover, CIL has a proposal to reduce equity of some of its healthier subsidiaries by conversion of equity into debt in such subsidiaries with simultaneous reverse conversion of debt to equity in the weaker subsidiaries. As per information received from CIL the amount intended to be used as fresh equity in weaker subsidiaries is as follows:

ECL	Rs. 923.60 crores
BCCL	Rs. 979.50 crores

As a result of deregulation of coking coal and A,B and C grade of non-coking coal ECL, and BCCL have earned additional income of Rs. 360 crores and Rs. 400 crores respectively.

Industrial Growth

3249. SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of industrial growth in the country during the last three years and the current year so far;
- (b) the contribution of the Indian companies as well as companies with foreign collaboration in industrial production separately; and
- (c) the areas in which Indian companies have registered maximum growth rate after the liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the Index of Industrial Production, broad sectoral growth rate have been as under:

Sectoral Growth Rate in per cent

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97*
Manufacturing	6.1	9.8	13.0	11.0
Mining	3.5	7.5	7.1	2.5
Electricity	7.5	8.5	8.2	3.7
Overall	6.0	9.4	11.6	9.1

*April-November

Data on separate contribution of the Indian and Foreign Companies in the industrial production is not maintained.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

3250. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have given permission to the Government of Maharashtra to seek assistance from the World Bank for improving the financial position of the State;
- (b) if so, the details of the assistance sought by the Government of Maharashtra; and
- (c) the assistance provided or proposed to be provided by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) GOI have not received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra to seek assistance from the World Bank for improving the financial position of the State.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

[English]

Charges Against The Promoters of Indus Bank and Times Bank

3251. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that there are grave charges of financial and criminal malfeasance against the promoters of the Indus Bank and the Times Bank;
- (b) whether these facts are overlooked while granting permission to these promoters to set up these two banks;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether applications from other private parties being rejected or kept in hold because of similar charges against them; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), who are the licensing authority for private banks have reported that they have not come across any charges of financial and criminal misfeasance by the promoters of the Industrial Bank Ltd. and Times Bank Ltd.

(b) RBI has informed that one of the criteria for deciding whether a licence can be given to a promoter group to open a bank is that they are not defaulters to any bank/financial institution in respect of their existing obligations. In pursuance of this policy queries are made by RBI with the defaulters of the promoter as well as other departments of RBI and only when it is observed that they can be considered as fit and proper management group a licence is issued to them. No licence has been issued for setting up a new bank in the private sector to defaulters figuring in the list of defaulted borrowers of banks and financial institutions having a default of Rs. 1 crore and above. Prior to the introduction of this scheme, the antecedents and track records of the promoters of new bank were verified by the RBI before giving a licence to set up a new bank.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

"Indo-Russian Treaty"

3252. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news-item "Indo-Russian treaty soon to check exim frauds" appearing in New Delhi edition of Indian Express on 10th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the treaty to be signed between the two countries; and

(c) to what extent the agreement is likely to curb the exploitation of Export Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A bilateral agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters has been negotiated between India and Russia and is under consideration for being signed shortly. The Agreement, inter alia, provides for:

- (i) assistance in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of Customs offences;
- (ii) sharing information for administering and enforcing the Customs law;
- (iii) undertaking measures in order to facilitate and expedite movement of goods and passengers;
- (iv) Co-operation in the research, development and

testing of new Customs procedures, in the training and exchange of personnel and in other matters that may require joint efforts; and

- (v) striving for harmony and uniformity in Customs systems and in improving Customs techniques.

All assistance extended under this Agreement shall be consistent with the domestic laws of the contracting parties.

(c) It is expected that the Agreement will help in receiving information and other assistance useful in investigating and obtaining evidence about cases involving misuse of export schemes.

Stock Norm for Natural Rubber

3253. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the stock norm for natural rubber from two months consumption to six weeks consumption;

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

(c) whether the Government also propose to export the natural rubber during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the incentives provided by the Government to the exporters of natural rubber ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no restriction on the export in any form or grade, of natural rubber.

(e) No exportable surplus of natural rubber is available in the country. Special incentives for export are, therefore, not proposed.

MFN Status to India By Neighbouring Countries.

3254. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has established Most Favoured Nations status with China or any other neighbouring countries;

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

(c) the stage at which negotiations for establishing such status with other countries stand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to all our neighbouring countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and all these countries except Pakistan have accorded MFN status to India on a reciprocal basis. Government have taken up with Pakistan the issue of their according MFN status to India.

Seizure of Gold

3255. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gold, foreign currency or other contraband articles have been seized from passengers/ aircraft crew members at Calicut Airport during the last three years; and

(b) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of contraband goods seized from passengers at Calicut Airport during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Value of Seizure (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Gold	Foreing Currencies	Others
1994-95	172.92	291.39	33.57
1995-96	339.76	130.51	22.85
1996-97	256.42	152.79	2.49
(upto 28.2.97)			

There has been no case of involvement of aircraft crew member of Calicut during the last three years.

[*Translation*]

Japanese Assistance for Economic Development

3256. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered its assistance to India for the economic development of the country;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Japan has offered ¥ 132,746 million for the following 11 projects for 1996-97 OECF loan assistance:-

Projects	(in million Yen)
1. Northern India Transmission System Project	8,497
2. West Bengal Transmission System Project	11,087
3. Umiyam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	1,700
4. Tuirial Hydro-electric Power Station Project	11,695
5. Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project	19,817
6. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	14,760
7. Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	10,679
8. Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	15,968
9. Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	13,324
10. Kerala Water Supply Project	11,997
11. Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	13,222

The rate of interest for projects at S.Nos. 1-7 and 11 is 2.3% per annum while for S.Nos. 8-10 is 2.1% per annum. The repayment period is 30 years with a moratorium of 10 years.

(c) The loan agreements between the Governments of India and Japan for all the above projects were signed on 25.2.1997.

[*English*]

Joint-Ventures and Investment Agreement with Asian and European Companies

3257. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Commission is launching a new programme "Asia Invest", designed to promote the development of mutually beneficial trading relationship and investment ties between Asia and European companies; and

(b) if so, how far the new scheme is likely to boost Indo-EC trade and promote the establishment of joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The European Commission is launching a new programme, "Asia Invest" designed to promote development of mutually

beneficial business relationships between Asian and European Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

(b) It is expected that the various initiatives likely to be implemented under the aegis of "Asia Invest" would lead to a large number of contacts between businessmen and economic operators on both sides, which can result in significant improvement in expanding investment and trade cooperation between two sides.

Simplification of Export Promotion Schemes

3258. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently simplified the export promotion schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the view of the export houses were taken in this regard and the reaction of the export houses on simplification of export promotion schemes at present; and

(d) the extent to which exporters have been benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Simplification of Export Policy and Procedures is a continuous process which is undertaken in consultation with the various Export Promotion Councils, concerned administrative Ministries and also keeping in mind the suggestions received from time to time from the trade and industry through their Apex bodies like FIEO, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII etc. Some of the significant steps taken in this regard include provision of green channel clearance of export and import consignments to specified categories of exporters, progressive reduction of licensing and other discretionary controls on imports and exports increased delegation of powers for implementing the various export promotion schemes and introduction of computer based operations to expedite various clearances.

The effect of these efforts may be seen in the growth of exports which in absolute terms increased from US \$ 26.33 billion in 1994-95 to US \$ 31.83 billion in 1995-96.

[Translation]

Registration of Cement Companies

3259. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cement companies registered in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of cement companies functioning in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) After the delicensing of the cement industry

with effect from the 25th July, 1991, entrepreneurs are required to only file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with the Government of India, subject to locational clearance by the State Government authorities. The State-wise number of IEMs filed during 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given in statement-I.

(b) A statement showing the State-wise distribution of large cement plants functioning in the country is given in statement-II. Apart from these, there are about 310 mini cement plants in the country having a total installed capacity of nine million tonnes. However, Statewise details of these plants are not maintained centrally.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise number of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) filed during the last three years

State	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	293	468	403
Assam	9	14	6
Bihar	37	53	44
Gujarat	756	1113	694
Haryana	269	425	326
Himachal Pradesh	56	83	42
Jammu & Kashmir	3	18	7
Karnataka	177	235	160
Kerala	51	95	80
Madhya Pradesh	251	368	261
Maharashtra	769	967	736
Meghalaya	1	1	6
Nagaland	1		1
Orissa	20	55	27
Punjab	211	280	187
Rajasthan	241	301	233
Sikkim		1	
Tamil Nadu	498	731	530
Tripura			1
Uttar Pradesh	382	503	520
West Bengal	156	330	232
Arunachal Pradesh	1		
Andaman & Nicobar		1	4
Chandigarh	1	1	9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	220	202	127
Delhi	90	62	3
Goa	33	63	54
Pondicherry	61	66	55
Daman & Diu	77	66	77
Total	4664	6502	4825

STATEMENT-II

State-wise number of large cement plants in operation

State	No. of Cement Plants
Delhi	1
Haryana	2
Punjab	1
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Rajasthan	14
Uttar Pradesh	5
Bihar	5
Orissa	3
West Bengal	2
Assam	1
Meghalaya	1
Tamil Nadu	8
Andhra Pradesh	17
Karnataka	8
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	7
Gujarat	11
Madhya Pradesh	23
Total	115

[English]

Nidhi Companies

3260: SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exempted the Nidhi Companies from the interest rate ceiling on deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such exemptions is likely to affect the business of other financial institutions particularly the banking sector; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India had announced certain policy measures on 24th August, 1996 granting freedom to Nidhi Companies to fix their own rate of interest on deposits selectively on a case-to-case basis subject to compliance of certain conditions. RBI had issued a press release on 15.1.1997 giving further relaxations. Nidhi Companies for

the purposes of fixing up their own rate of interest on deposits have to comply with the following conditions:-

- (i) The Nidhi company has complied with the directions contained in Government of India, Department of Company Affairs Notification No. GSR. 773 (E) dated December 4, 1995.
- (ii) The net owned fund of the Nidhi company is positive as on March 31, 1996.
- (iii) The Nidhi company is and will be in a position to repay the amount of its liabilities including the interest payable to the depositors as and when their claims arise.
- (iv) The ratio of net owned fund to incremental deposit liabilities over the deposit liabilities as on January 15, 1997 of the Nidhi Company does not exceed 1:20 as on the date of the application. However, such of those Nidhis which are maintaining net owned fund to deposit ratio of 1:20 or less as on January 15, 1997 should continue to maintain a ratio not exceeding 1:20 on the aggregate deposit liabilities.
- (v) The compliance with the above requirements should be certified by the Nidhi company's statutory auditors, being the member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Seizure of Gold and Foreign Currency

3261. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of smuggled gold seized by custom officials during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) amount of foreign currency seized during the above period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) number of arrests made in this regard State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of gold and foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Committee on SSI

3262. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a Committee headed by Shri T.S. Vijay Raghavan for reviewing the list of items reserved for manufacture in the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the names of other members of the Committee and the subjects referred to the Committee for their suggestions;

(c) whether the Committee was asked to submit its report within a stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the time limit prescribed for submitting the report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Advisory Committee on Reservation constituted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, in its meeting held on 28th August, 1995 had appointed a Committee of officials to review the reservation list and submit its recommendations to the Advisory Committee on Reservation from time to time. The Committee was constituted on 17th October, 1995. The Committee consisted of the following Members:-

Shri T.S. Vijayaraghavan, Chairman
Additional Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce.

Shri B.D. Jethra, Member
Adviser,
Planning Commission

Shri B. Bhanot, Member
Dy. Director General
Department of Industrial
Development

Dr. Ahmed Masood, Member
Member (Technical),
Bureau of Industrial
Costs and Prices

Dr. C.S. Prasad, Member
Economic Adviser,
Office of the Development
Commissioner (Small Scale Industries)

Ms. Aditi Ray, Member
Dy. Economic Adviser,
Department of IP&P

Shri M.C. Singhi, Member
Dy. Economic Adviser,
Ministry of Industry

Shri Brahm Dutt, Member-Secretary
Joint Secretary,
Department of SSI&ARI

(c) and (d) The Committee was asked to submit its final report within a period of three months. The Committee submitted the final report in November, 1996 and the same was referred to the Expert Committee on small Enterprises.

Export of Cotton

3263. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton exported during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the revenue earned by the country from the export of cotton;

(c) the extent to which the domestic prices of cotton and cotton clothes have been affected due to the export of cotton; and

(d) the extent up to which it has affected the export of cotton textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (d) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Export quotas for cotton are announced by the Government after considering all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, consumption by the mills, small spinners and non-mill sector, likely surplus, price trends etc. The quota releases help the cotton growers to get remunerative prices, particularly if there has been a falling trend in prices. Variations in the prices of cloth cannot be attributed to the export of cotton because quotas for cotton export are released after taking into account the domestic demand and supply position.

STATEMENT

Country-wise export of raw cotton

Country	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	Quantity		Quantity		Quantity	
	Value		Value		Value	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Taiwan	7181	410.27	17288	1217.02		
Japan	203037	11076.72	65519	3348.86	48005	3610.25
Malaysia	14839	848.09	2124	131.49		
Thailand	171402	8116.64	64961	4186.93		

Quantity in bales
Value in lakh Rs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sri Lanka	24105	1362.94	5795	356.19		
Bangladesh	30692	1417.36	16402	990.00	1804	184.00
Indonesia	147191	8945.78	78968	5283.89		
Hongkong	387799	19248.01	75522	4766.15		
Phillipines	82740	4315.28	8893	595.73		
U.K.	42021	2276.40	1900	113.22		
Brazil	128286	7455.06	11949	655.00		
Nepal	9597	554.69	1846	95.19		
Turkey	6000	358.77				
Romania	37457	2160.94	11432	592.17	6000	612.00
Switzerland	11037	606.33	3750	223.47		
Belgium	38174	1720.96			308.0	2349.24
Singapur	21765	996.56			300	35.10
Others	13295	666.40	24095	1268.27	21726	1548.17
Total	1376618	72537.20	390444	23823.58	108125	8338.70

Pending Court Cases

3264. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corruption and criminal cases in the country lying pending with the Supreme Court, the High Courts and District Courts for the last three years, Court-Wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps for the speedy disposal of these cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT. D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Coal Reserves

3265. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal reserves in coal mines of the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of new coal reserves explored during the last three years and expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the ongoing exploration operation being undertaken to identify new coal reserves and expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As on 1.1.1997, the coal resources of India (down to a depth of 1200 metres) have been estimated by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) at 204652.69 million tonnes. The State-wise details are as under:-

(In Million Tonnes)

Sates	Total
Andhra Pradesh	13057.23
Arunachal Pradesh	90.23
Assam	320.21
Bihar	67819.36
Madhya pradesh	41451.21
Maharashtra	6738.79
Meghalaya	459.43
Nagaland	19.94
Orissa	47889.83
Uttar Pradesh	1061.80
West Bengal	25744.66
Total	204652.69

(Source: GSI)

(b) State-wise details of new coal reserves explored by GSI and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years are given below:

(in million tonnes) (in Rs. crores)

State	Reserves	Expenditure incurred (Approximate)
West Bengal	1350.84	2.75
Bihar	413.62	2.06
Madhya Pradesh	803.21	7.58
Orissa	1363.16	4.14
Andhra Pradesh	36.73	2.69

(Source: GSI)

(c) The details of on-going exploration operations being undertaken by GSI during the field season and the fund allocation in respect thereof are as under:-

State	Coalfield	Area of Operation
1	2	3
West Bengal	Raniganj	(a) Bistupur-Dandeswar
		(b) Trans-Damodar
		(c) Berul-Bagdiha
Bihar	Rajmahal-Malda Master Basin	(a) Balurghat-Hilli
		(a) Koiyotanar (East)
		(a) Latehar
		(a) Urma-Paharitola
		(b) Chaudhar-Gariapani
Madhya Pradesh	Hasdo-Arand	(a) Kente
		(a) Nagdarna
	Mand-Raigarh	(b) Ongana-Potiya
		(a) Karkoma
	Korba	(a) Batura
		(b) Kelmenia-Mithauri
	Sohagpur	(c) Shadol
		(a) Meghuli
		(b) Dhamni
		(c) Sursa
Orissa	Tatapani-Ramkola	(a) Singrauli Main Basin
		(a) North of Akhrupal & Srirampur
		(b) Bagharia-Aunli
	Singrauli	(c) Kosala (East)

1	2	3
Maharashtra	Ib-River Wardha Valley	(a) Budhajharia
		(a) Maser-Pirli-Pavna
Andhra Pradesh	Godavari Valley	(b) West of Saoner
		(a) Jagannathpuram-Gudipadu
		(b) Venkatapur (North)
		(c) Koprava-Kachinapalli
		(d) Rampuram
		(e) Yellendu

Total allocation of fund during the year 1996-97 (till December, 1996) for above operations is around 11.9 crores.

(Source : GSI)

[English]

Relaxation in Licencing Norms

3266. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have relaxed the licencing norms for 161 consumer items in a bid to free the consumer goods sector from State control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent by which the relaxation of import restrictions have been helpful to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As part of the ongoing process of review of the Export and Import Policy, changes in the Import Policy of a few items, have recently been made as per details indicated in Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 23 (RE-96) dated 10.2.1997, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. As the notification has been recently issued, it would be difficult to make any assessment regarding annual duty likely to be earned by Government on account of import of these items or their impact on indigenous industry.

Public Investment Board

3267. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry had proposed to clip powers of the Public Investment Board;

(b) if so, whether the Ministries and Departments are likely to be given powers to clear the projects in consultation with it and the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, whether the proposal also envisaged that projects should not be cleared on the basis of Projects Authorities providing token funds;

(d) if so, the what extent these proposals have helped in reducing the powers of the Public Investment Board; and

(e) to what extent this has also helped in reducing the delay in sanctioning of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) There is no proposal by this Ministry to transfer the powers of Public Investment Board to respective Central Ministries and Departments. However a decision has been announced in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech to delegate more powers on investment decisions to Boards of PSUs.

Instructions already exist that all investment proposals should be backed by adequate funding arrangements.

Instructions also exist, laying down a time schedule regarding each stage of investment decision before a case can be put up to the PIB. It is the responsibility of each agency to ensure that the time schedule is adhered to.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units in U.P.

3268. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export oriented units in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh permitted during 1996-97;

(b) the total amount invested in these units;

(c) whether the Government have estimated about the number of workers got employment in these units; and

(d) if so, the percentage of workers employed in these units during the last one year?

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

	Entire Country	U.P.
(a) No. of export oriented units (EOUs) approved during 1996-97	455	29
(b) Investment proposed to be made in these EOUs (Rs. in Crores)	9994.53	457.85
(c) Proposed employment of supervisory and non supervisory staff in these EOUs (in No.)	71,990	4373
(d) Percentage of workers proposed to be employed in these EOUs.	100%	6%

[English]

Income Tax Payers of Ladakh

3269. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount realised from the Income Tax Payers of Ladakh region during each of the last three years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): The amount realised from income-tax payers of Ladakh region for the last three assessment years are stated below:-

1994-95	Rs. 50,000/-
1995-96	Rs. 41,000/-
1996-97	Rs. 38,000/-

Separate date in respect of Leh and Kargil districts is not maintained.

[Translation]

Shortage of Stamp Paper

3270. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of stamp papers of the value of Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 in some districts of Bihar;

(b) is so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply adequate quantity of stamp paper of lower denomination to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The short supply is due to constraints of capacity at Security Presses.

(c) The capacity of the Presses is proposed to be augmented by installation of new machinery and reorganisation of production activities of the presses.

[English]

Unrecovered Loan

3271. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY:
PROF. JITENDER NATH DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of unrecovered loan extended by the Nationalised Banks to the industrial and business sectors;

(b) the details of such unrecovered loans which are of an amount of above rupees five crores business, house-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for recovery of such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the details of categorywise overdue advances of public sector banks as on September 1994 (latest available with RBI) are give below:

Category	Overdue advances (Rs. crores)
Large and Medium Industries	8153.12
Small Scale Industries	5419.85
Agriculture	5321.23
Other Priority Sector	3977.66
All others	5805.81
Total	28677.67

(c) Debts Recovery Tribunals have been established by Government to speed up the recovery of dues owed to banks and financial institutions. Government and RBI have also been impressed upon the banks the need to strengthen the credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances. Targets of recovery/reduction of non-performing assets (NPA) have been fixed by RBI. Recovery Cells have been set up at the Headquarters of the nationalised banks under the charge of a General Manager. Board of Directors are also required to review the recovery position on a regular basis. The RBI has also put in position a system of circulating a list of large defaulting borrowers for the confidential use of banks and financial institutions on a half-yearly basis, so that this information could be used as an input in decision making.

[Translation]

Loss Making Industries

3272. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the Industries which are running in losses and which are earning profit in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have examined causes for the losses incurred to such industrial units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the losses to such units in future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) State-wise/Union Territory-wise list of Central

PSUs is given in Appendix III of Volume-I of P.E. Survey, 1994-95 laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 19.7.96. PSE wise detail showing net profit/loss during last five years is given in Statement No. 7A and 7B of the said volume.

(b) and (c) Reasons for making losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons are obsolete and outdated plants and machinery, surplus manpower, high interest burden, lack of suitable market, etc.

(d) The steps taken to improve the performance are also enterprise specific. However, some of the steps taken by the Government include periodical performance review meetings by the administrative Ministries/Departments, enhanced power to Board of Directors, professionalisation of Board management, signing of MOUs, reduction in surplus labour force through VRS, technology upgradation, etc.

[English]

Frauds in Bihar

3273. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bank in tizzy as staff swindle 1.45 cr." appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 6.11.1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether cases of blame worthy culpable negligence, criminal acts of fraud, cheating and fraud and misconduct etc. are on increase in the private sector banks; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take to bring discipline in the private sector banks and to ensure that there is check on the proper administration of justice in those banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, to be extent available.

Cases Registered Against Officials of MMTC by CBI

3274. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been spurt in the cases registered against senior officials of Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. by CBI;

(b) if so, the details of cases registered during the last one year; and

(c) the details of cases wherein investigations have been completed and the outcomes thereof alongwith the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMECE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A total of 4 cases have been registered

by CBI in 1995-96.

(c) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

	Details of Cases	Date Regd. by CBI	Against MMTC Officers	Remarks
(i)	M/s. Vijay Sea Food Int'l	29.2.1996	1 Manager	Cases registered after vigilance investigations had been completed by MMTC and the Ex-CGM was imposed major penalty of down grading to the post of GM. CBI's report relating to Vijaya Sea Food has been received on 25.2.1997.
(ii)	Unauthorised credit sales of Fertilizers to 5 selected dealers of Vijayawada	29.2.1996	1 Sr. Manager	The case was referred by MMTC to CBI on 29.1.96. The CBI investigation report was received on 15.1.97 advising initiation of 'Major' penalty proceedings against the officer. The chargesheet is under issue to the Sr. Manager. Original records in both these cases are being obtained from CBI for further follow-up action.

Revival of Braithwaite & Co

3275. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival status of Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. is as per sanctioned scheme of BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have released the sanctioned fund for its revival;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on the profitability; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The BIFR sanctioned scheme envisages fresh fund infusion of Rs. 26.68 crore inclusive of Rs. 8.38 crore for rationalisation of manpower, conversion of Government loan into equity and write-off of outstanding interest on Government loan. The revival scheme also envisages State Bank of India waiving penal interest of Rs. 62.32 lakhs, converting outstanding interest amount of Rs. 1.38 crore into funded interest term loan and extending need-based working capital. The scheme is under implementation.

(c) to (e) Government has released Rs. 9.38 crore so far and a budgetary provision of Rs. 8.19 crore has been made in RE 1999-97. Fund for rationalisation is not required as the Company has already reached the desired manpower level. Although the performance of the Company suffered during 1995-96 mainly due to delay in release of

wagon orders, there has been distinct improvement in the working results of the Company during 1996-97 indicating signs of turnaround.

Exchange Control Regulation

3276. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has announced major relaxations in exchange control regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has also liberalised the existing regulations in regard to payments for various kinds of feasibility studies, legal services, postal imports and purchase of designs and drawings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how for the banks/country's export is likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are furnished in Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir. Details are furnished in Statement-II.

(d) This is expected to promote trade since exporters/importers etc. Will be able to remit for the purpose indicated in the annexures, through authorised dealers without RBI's prior approval, procedural delays would be avoided and speedier settlement of transactions/payments would be made.

STATEMENT-I

The following major relaxations in Exchange Control Regulations have been announced by RBI since 1st January, 1997.

1. Solicitor's fees/average adjustor's fees.

The existing ceiling of remittances upto US\$ 10,000 towards Solicitor's fees/average Adjustor's fee etc. by Indian Shipping Companies has been removed. Authorised Dealers have been permitted to allow such remittances on actual basis i.e. without any monitory limit.

2. Maintenance/annual service charges for imported machinery/software.

Authorised dealers have been delegated powers to allow such remittances on the basis of contracts entered into by Indian companies with overseas companies.

3. Establishment of overseas offices by exporters.

The existing ceiling of foreign exchange release of US\$ 25,000 or its equivalent towards initial expenses for opening of non-trading offices abroad and upto US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent for posting representatives abroad by Indian firms/companies has been removed. Authorised Dealers have been permitted to release foreign exchange for the initial expenses for the purpose upto the actual expenses to be incurred by the applicant firm/company.

4. Retainer's fees payable by Indian companies to the overseas companies/firms.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow Indian companies/firms to remit the actual amount of retainer fees payable to their overseas agents who will render services for promotion of exports provided the applicant company/firm does not have a non-trading/trading/trading office or representative posted at that centre.

5. Appointment/posting of correspondents/representatives by newspapers/news agencies/periodicals.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittance of actual monthly maintenance expenses incurred/to be incurred by the correspondent/representative posted abroad by the Indian newspapers/news agencies/periodicals as per the terms and conditions of their appointment irrespective of the country of posting and nature of appointment.

6. Electronic data base costs.

The existing limit of US\$ 10,000 for release of exchange by ADs has been removed. ADs have been permitted to allow the actual charges incurred by Indian companies towards data base costs, computer connect/time charges, software charges, hit charges, etc.

7. Advertisements in print media abroad.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of the actual cost of advertisements in print media abroad such as overseas newspapers/periodicals by firms/

companies/organisations as well as banks/financial institutions in India.

STATEMENT-II

The details of the regulations liberalised by RBI in regard to payments for feasibility studies, legal services, postal imports and purchase of designs and drawings.

1. Feasibility/pre-feasibility studies for projects in India.

Authorised dealers have been delegated powers to allow remittances towards feasibility/pre-feasibility studies for project in India on the basis of contract entered into by Indian companies with overseas companies.

2. Legal services.

The monitory limit of US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent towards expenses incurred on legal services relating to import transactions has been removed. Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of actual expenses incurred/to be incurred on legal services relating to import transactions.

3. Postal imports.

The existing monitory limit of US\$ 5,000 or its equivalent for postal imports has been removed. Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of the actual cost of the goods imported through post parcel irrespective of the amount involved.

4. Import of designs and drawings.

Authorised dealers were permitted to allow remittances towards import of designs and drawings upto Rs. 25 Lakhs or its equivalent. They have now been permitted to allow remittances towards the actual cost of designs and drawings imported by their importer clients.

[Translation]

**Pending Cases in District and
Session Courts of U.P.**

3277. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of different nature lying pending with various district courts of Uttar Pradesh and Allahabad High Court till 15th February, 1997;

(b) whether the cases are lying pending with the above courts in a large number; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the civil cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) As per the available information, as on 30.4.1996, 8,41,085 and 31,12,460 cases were pending in Allahabad High Court and Subordinate Courts in the

State of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

(c) In a continuing endeavour for making justice prompt and affordable, Government intends further to simplify judicial procedures, increase the number of courts and judicial posts, strengthen the infrastructure for administering justice by providing additional funds for construction of court buildings and residential facilities, and adopt Lok Adalats, Nyaya Panchayats and other alternative and locally appropriate methods of dispute resolution.

[English]

Outstanding Income Tax

3278. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Income Tax pending realisation for more than three years and as at present;

(b) the amount of the above tax written off during the last three years alongwith the grounds therefor; and

(c) the details of that income Tax payers in whose favours outstanding tax exceeding Rupees one lakh was written off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3279. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting, etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets likely to be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi likely to be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent per cent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Most of the equipments such as computers, electronic typewriter etc. in use in the Ministry are bilingual. Some old equipments in Roman Script are also being converted into bilingual equipments.

(b) Necessary training is provided to concerned staff. This will help in Presenting documents bilingually like Cabinet Note, Reports etc.

(c) The use of modern gadgets will improve the quality and standard of bilingual documents and facilitate use of Hindi in the official work of the Ministry.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Pending Cases of Income Tax

3280. SHRI ANNA SAHIB M. K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of references made by the Income Tax Department pending before the High Courts for hearing, High Court-wise for the last three years;

(b) the details of the estimated revenue involved;

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed for clearance of these pending cases and results thereof for the last three years;

(d) whether the position of pending cases has been reviewed recently and important decisions taken to deal with the problem of growing pendency of reference to the High Courts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The High Court-wise information regarding the references made by the Income-Tax Department, and which are pending for the last three years is not maintained.

Consolidated information on number of cases which are filed by the Department before High Courts and are pending at the end of 31st March for the last three years are as under:-

Year	Number
31.03.94	42603
31.03.95	39666
31.03.96	41918

(b) The details of estimated revenue are not maintained.

(c) The Department has taken up the matter with Hon'ble Delhi High Court for bunching of common issues in all the appeals/references for which an exclusive Joint Registrar who is heading Judicial Management and Legal Research Cell in the Delhi High Court is functioning. The Department has also provided requisite assistance to the Joint Registrar in the form of manpower. As a result 404 cases of Income Tax References have been bunched, listed and decided. 11 petitions under section 256(2) (ITCs) have been bunched, listed and decided. Similarly, 21 petitions under section 27(3) of the Wealth Tax Act have been

bunched, listed and decided. 1105 Wealth Tax References have been bunched, listed and decided.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Specific measures taken by the Department to reduce litigation in assessment and collection of tax are enumerated below:-

1. To clarify various legal issues and to reduce avoidable litigation, circulars are issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes at the time of introduction of the various provisions and also subsequently.
2. Directions have been issued to make prima-facie adjustment u/s. 143(1) (a) only on those issues on which no two views are possible.
3. A very small percentage of returns are taken up for scrutiny.
4. Continuous efforts are being made to simplify law so that there is less and less scope for litigation. Consequently presumptive taxation of income (u/s. 44AD and 44AE) have been enacted. An Expert Group has been set up to rationalise and simplify the Income Tax Act in entirety. The report of the Group has been submitted.
5. To avoid repetitive appeals on identical question of law pending before High Court or Supreme Court, a new Chapter XIV A prescribing procedure for avoiding repetitive appeal has been introduced with effect from 1.4.84.
6. Instructions have been issued to field formations not to engage in unnecessary litigations and accept appellate decisions of Commissioners of Income-Tax (Appeals) unless the findings are perverse. Monthly review of a percentage of appeals filed before Income Tax Appellate tribunal by the Chief Commissioners of Income-Tax/Directors General of Income-Tax has also been prescribed.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

3281. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the loss to Neyveli Lignite Corporation due to water wall punctures in energy production in Thermal Power Station-II;

(b) the fuel oil consumption per kwh in TPS-I and II during 1996-97 and how does it compare with the normal consumption standard;

(c) the details of production loss to Neyveli Lignite Corporation due to flooding during the last three years;

(d) the recommendations of the Experts Committee in this regard; and

(e) the action taken to deal with the problem effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The loss to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) due to water wall puncture in energy production in Thermal Station II is 243.369 Million Units for the year 1996-97.

(b) A comparative statement with the normal consumption standard (CEA norms) and actual consumption for the year 1996-97 for Thermal Station I and Thermal Station II is furnished below upto 28th February, 1997:-

(in ml/Kwhr)

Thermal Station I		Thermal Station II	
Standard	Actual	Standard	Actual
3.00	3.189	5.00	2.91

(c) The production loss to NLC due to flooding during last three years is as under:

	TPS	MINES
1994-95	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Nil	Nil
1996-97	177.764 m.u.	3.75 lakh tonnes

(d) As the flooding in both the Mines was only due to incessant and copious rains and not due to any inrush of water from the outer area, the Expert Committee recommended raising and widening the bund levels inside the Mines and housing the ground water pumps and the connected electrical installations at a higher level.

(e) Action was taken on a war footing to restore the Mines back to normalcy by increasing the pumping capacity wherever possible.

Changes in Newsprint Policy

3282. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made some changes in the policy of newsprint in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure good quality newsprint and paper for printing text books, news etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken following steps:-

- (i) 10% customs duty on import of newsprint has been imposed since 29.10.1996.

- (ii) Actual Users condition has been imposed w.e.f. 29.01.1997.
- (iii) Paper and newsprint have been placed under OGL.
- (iv) Under the new Industrial Policy, newsprint and writing and printing paper units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy.
- (v) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.
- (vi) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.
- (vii) With a view to encourage the indigenous availability of newsprint, paper mills producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order 1962.

Unviable Branches of PSUs.

3283. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks have submitted a proposal to the Government for closing down some of the unviable rural and semiurban branches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that banks are not permitted to close single branches functioning at rural centres. However, at centres where two commercial bank branches are functioning (excluding RRBs) banks may, with mutual consent, take a decision for closing one of the loss making branches. Proposals for such closure duly approved by the concerned District Consultative Committee are to be forwarded to RBI through the concerned State Government. No bank has so far approached RBI for closure of rural branches under this procedure.

As per the extant branch licensing policy, banks can close their branches at Semi-Urban centres without the prior permission of RBI.

Export of Spices

3284. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries to which spices are being exported from India at present;

(b) whether West Asian countries are the main markets for Indian spices;

(c) if so, the total quantity of spices exported to those countries during each of the last three years;

(d) whether there is a vast scope to export spices from the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of spices during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Details of the total exports of spices and the exports to the West Asian countries during the last 3 years are given below:-

Years	Quantity-(In MTs) Value-(In Rs. lakhs)			
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94	182361	56890.64	29264.77	7409.55
1994-95	157643	60648.33	27284.30	6464.38
1995-96(P)	211515	78589.33	40406.22	11889.67

(P)-Provisional

(Source: DGCI&S Calcutta/Spices Board)

The country-wise export figures are available in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of the Foreign Trade Statistics published by the DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Steps taken to enhance the production of spices include modification of ongoing programmes to introduce cropping systems approach, minimising, inter-regional disparities, emphasis on block/areas with low productivity level, use of organic and soil ameliorants in problem soils, adoption of Integrated Pest Management, providing incentives to farmers for using seeds of location specific high yielding varieties and farm implements, field demonstrations, training of farmers, implementation of special programmes for pepper gardens, production of planting material of released varieties of ginger, turmeric and chillies, establishment and maintenance of demonstration-cum-progeny gardens in North-Eastern States for production of quality planting material, area expansion with high yielding varieties and adoption of soil and water conservation measures.

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices are, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine) to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like logo promotion; grant of spice house certificate as a recognition of processor/exporters of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

TAFCO

3285. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present condition and number of workers accommodation available at the Allenganj Settlement of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited;

(b) whether some accommodation had collapsed due to non-maintenance;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of persons injured therefrom;

(d) whether any alternative arrangements have been made to accommodate them;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to take initiative to rescue the workers most of whom belong to SC/ST and minority communities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There are 585 quarters for workers in the Allenganj Settlement of TAFCO. These are more than 70 years and are not in good condition.

(b) and (c) The inner layers of ceiling of two houses had partially collapsed during the last monsoon and one family member of an employee had sustained miner injuries.

(d) and (e) The occupants of these two houses were given alternate accommodation in the colony.

(f) and (g) Company has been advised to take remedial steps. TAFCO has carried out miner repairs of roofs of a large number of quarters, to the extent possible, within the limited internal resources.

Foreign Investment Proposals

3286. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals that have been cleared with the stipulated to set up 100 per cent export oriented units in the country during the last one year; and

(b) the details of such investors, the field of investment and the location of the proposed units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) 162 proposals, involving foreign/NRI investment have been approved to set up 100 per cent Export-Oriented Units in the country during the year 1996.

(b) The foreign investments are from different

countries including Holland, UK, Mauritius, USA, Israel, Italy,, Singapore, Germany, etc. The Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) are proposed to be set up in various sectors namely floriculture, textiles, computer software, food processing, etc. These units are proposed to be located in various parts of the country.

[Translation]

Textile Mills in MP

3287. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the textile mills in Madhya Pradesh lying closed and the time by which they are lying closed;

(b) the reasons for their closure and whether there is any possibility of their reopening in future;

(c) the action taken by the Government in regard to the suggestions given by textile mills owners regarding sale of their land; and

(d) the amount of salaries of workers outstanding towards each of the closed mills in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) There are nine Cotton/Manmade Fibre Textile Mills lying closed in the State of Madhya Pradesh, as on 31.12.96.

Two of these nine mills have been lying closed since 1986, 4 since 1991 and one each since 1992, 1994 and 1995.

(b) The major reasons for closure of these textile mills are financial crisis/difficulties. Out of the 9 closed Cotton/Manmade Fibre Textile Mills, in the State of M.P., 4 Mills were registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on 31.1.1997. Out of these 4 Mills, the BIFR has recommended winding up under Section 20(1) of the SICA, 1985 in respect of 3 Mills. The draft rehabilitation package has, however, been sanctioned by the BIFR only in respect of one Mill. The other 5 mills do not fall within the purview of BIFR.

(c) As per available information, the Government is not aware of any suggestion given by textile will owners regarding sale of their land.

(d) Information on the dues of the workers of the closed textile mills (including the outstanding salaries of their workers) is not maintained.

[English]

Handloom Cooperative Societies

3288. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of Handloom Cooperative Societies functioning at present in Assam;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to them by the Union Government during the last year; and

(c) the scheme under which assistance is being given to them alongwith the guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) At present 2539 Handloom Cooperative Societies are functioning in the State of Assam.

(b) and (c) During the year 1995-96, financial assistance of Rs. 13.06 Crores has been provided under the following Handloom schemes:-Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, National Silk Yarn Bank, Hank Yarn Price Subsidy, Janata Cloth, Health Package, Handloom Development Centre, Market Development Assistance, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers, Workshed-cum-Housing and Jute Handloom Development Centre Scheme.

Under the various Handloom Schemes the assistance is provided to the Handloom Cooperative Societies for supply of inputs, training, development of products, marketing, welfare of weavers etc. The pattern of financial assistance varies from scheme to scheme.

Foreign Institutional Investors

3289. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) will be allowed to invest in any listed companies in the infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, whether these changes have been proposed by the Government and referred to the SEBI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In terms of the guidelines announced by the Government on 14th September 1992, read with Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) Regulation 1995 as amended from time to time. FIIs are allowed to invest in the securities of all listed and unlisted companies, including companies in the infrastructure sector.

Narcotic Problem in Goa

3290. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the narcotic problem continues unabated in Goa;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make some changes in the drug laws for tackling the growing drug abuse problem in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Drug trafficking is a clandestine activity. Although seizures of various narcotic drugs in the State of Goa during the year 1996 have shown a declining trend compared to the data of narcotic drugs seized during 1995, it cannot be said definitely whether narcotic problem in Goa continues unabated.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to amend the N.D.P.S. Act, inter-alia, to rationalise the sentence structure so as to make the Act more effective by providing stringent punishment even for offences relating to cannabis including cultivation of cannabis. The enhanced punishment for previous convicts for selected offences is proposed to be extended to all the offences under the Act.

[*Translation*]

Fall Back Wages

3291. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of collieries in which the workers were paid 'fall back wages' during the last three years, colliery-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons due to which 'fall back wages' are paid;

(c) the reasons due to which maximum 'fall back wages' were paid during the last three years; and

(d) the amount spent under 'fall back wages' head during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The information relating to names of collieries in which the workers were paid 'fall back wages' during the last three years, colliery-wise and year-wise is quite voluminous. The efforts and labour involved in collecting the same will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved. However, numbers of collieries, company-wise and year-wise where fall back wages during the last three years was paid are as under:

Company	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	114	110	106
BCCL	78	78	76
CCL	34	34	37
NCL	Nil	Nil	Nil
WCL	41	41	45
SECL	16	19	23
MCL	6	5	5
NEC/CIL	Nil	1	Nil

(b) Fall back wages are paid to piece-rated workers who are not able to achieve their prescribed work load in their shift on any day for no fault of their but due to the reasons of:

- (i) Power failure,
- (ii) Break-down of machinery relating to coal production, transportation, ventilation etc.,
- (iii) Derailment,
- (iv) Startamovement/Geological disturbances;
- (v) Non-supply of wagons at the siding within stipulated time,
- (vi) Temporary stoppage of faces due to safety reasons, etc. etc.

- (c) (i) Power failure,
- (ii) Breakdown of machinery,
- (iii) Geological disturbances i.e. adverse roof problems, faults etc.,
- (v) Failure of wagon supply within stipulated time.

(d) The amount spent under the head 'fall back wages' during the last three years are as below:

Year	Amount
1993-94	1380.35 lakhs
1994-95	1193.10 lakhs
1995-96	1516.23 lakhs

[English]

Export of Agricultural Products

3292. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI NITESH BHARADWAJ:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the country's performance of the exports of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of agricultural products including spices and cardamom exported foreign exchange earned therefrom and overall achievements made during the Eighth Plan, item-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to boost the agricultural products particularly spices and cardamom upto 2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof and likely revenue to be earned upto 2005;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government for setting up of a regional office of Agriculture processed Foods Exports Authority in the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the said office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Review of export performance is an ongoing exercise. The export projections for the agricultural and allied products (including coffee, tea, raw cotton and marine products) made by the Planning Commission for the terminal year of the Eighth Plan and the actual exports have been as under:-

S.No.	Item	Export Projection* for 1996-97 (Rs. in Crores at 1991-92 prices) (Planning Commission)	Export ** during 1995-96		Export** during 1996-97 (April-Dec'96 (Provisional)	
			Qty. in Tons	Value in Rs. Crores	Qty. in Tons	Value in Rs. Crores
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Tea	1324	157494	1171.66	104425	780.06
2.	Coffee	342	157087	1509.17	125049	1063.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Tobacco (Unmanufactured & manufactured)	450	71430	365.81	80851	492.36
4.	Oil Cakes	1250	4327816	2350.55	3015617	2167.03
5.	Spices (including cardamom)	447	211515	785.89	169562	816.26
6.	Cashew Kernels	1047	97792	1231.07	55061	1036.36
7.	Raw Cotton	323	137018	206.10	183930	1109.95
8.	Rice	1127	5512601	4553.01	1959170	2357.84
9.	Marine Products	2077	311536	3384.25	290906	3078.19
10.	Meat and Meat preparations	354	-	62.70	-	532.66
11.	Misc. processed foods (including processed fruits and juices)	700	-	757.15	-	1577.49
12.	Fruits and Vegetables	573	-	542.51	-	415.71
13.	Sugar and Molasses	1100	731459	503.55	1298775	853.00
14.	Not classified	950	-	1620.12	-	2265.35

* Source: Eighth Five Year Plan Vol. I- Planning Commission

** Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) No, Sir. Government has not formulated any plan to boost Agricultural products, particularly spices and cardamom upto 2005 AD.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) A Regional Office of the APEDA is proposed to be established at Hyderabad.

Expansion of Banking Services

3293. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have explored the field of Corporate Banking, Overseas Banking, Small Industries, High-Tech Agriculture, Housing, Leasing and Capital Market for the opening of new bank branches in this field;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Under the extant Branch Licensing Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks can open in India without prior approval of RBI, five types of specialised branches viz. Industrial Finance, Overseas, SSI, NRI and Treasury Branches at centres of their choice. However, the banks have to obtain licences from concerned Regional Office of RBI before opening such specialised branches. Proposals for opening other types of specialised branches are to be referred to RBI for prior approval. Such proposals are considered by RBI on merits of each case.

Bank-wise data, as per information available with RBI (as on 31.12.96), regarding total number of specialised branches of public sector banks opened for (i) Corporate Banking, (ii) Overseas Banking, (iii) Small Scale Industries,

(iv) Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches for High-Tech Advances, (v) Housing Finance, (vi) Leasing Finance and (vii) Capital Market Service branches is as furnished in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

Bank-wise number of specialised branches relating to (i) Corporate Banking (ii) Overseas Banking (iii) Small Scale Industries (iv) Specialised agricultural finance branches for High-tech advances (v) Housing finance (vi) Leasing finance and (vii) Capital market service branches of Public Sector Banks opened as on. 31.12.1996.

Name of Bank	Total Number of Specialised Branches Opened
1	2
State Bank of India	57
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4
State Bank of Hyderabad	9
State Bank of Indore	3
State Bank of Mysore	6
State Bank of Patiala	12
State Bank of Saurashtra	4
State Bank of Travancore	6
Allahabad Bank	10
Andhra Bank	13
Bank of Baroda	38
Bank of India	40
Bank of Maharashtra	11
Canara Bank	62
Central Bank of India	35
Corporation Bank	4
Dena Bank	24
Indian Bank	23
Indian Overseas Bank	5
Oriental Bank of Commerce	20
Punjab & Sind Bank	15
Punjab National Bank	25
Syndicate Bank	14
UCO Bank	8
Union Bank of India	41
United Bank of India	19
Vijaya Bank	23
Total	531

Deposit Made by NRIs in Nationalised Bank

3294. DR. LAXIMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange deposited by the Non-resident Indians in Nationalised Banks in the country during the last three years, till-date;

(b) whether consultation facilities regarding account management, capital investment, tax assessment have been made available for the Non-resident Indians in these banks; and

(c) if so, the response of the Non-resident Indians thereto?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDERA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

3295. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cotton in the country State-wise, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the last year;

(b) the quantity of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the above period;

(c) whether the CCI propose to purchase more from these States;

(d) if so, the total number of bales proposed to be purchased in addition to earlier purchase; and

(e) the quantum of cotton exported during the above period from these States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) During the 1995-96 cotton season (Sept. 95 to Aug. 96) the production of cotton in the country was 160 lakh bales, as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board. A statement showing state-wise production of cotton is attached.

(b) During the 1995-96 Cotton season, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) purchased 24,159 bales of cotton from Karnataka and 2,11,260 bales from Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) In the current (1996-97) cotton season, as on 11 March, 1997 CCI has purchased 36774 bales from Karnataka and 1,22,187 bales from Andhra Pradesh. This is against a quantity of 18,052 bales and 90,279 bales purchased by the CCI as on the same date in the year

1995-96 for the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. No specific targets have been fixed for purchases during 1996-97 cotton season.

(e) The details of the quantity of cotton exported by the CCI during the 1995-96 and 1996-97 cotton seasons from the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are as under.

(Qty. in bales of 170 Kg. Each)

	1995-96	1996-97*
Andhra Pradesh	20269	15090
Karnataka	15511	3950

*(as on 18th March, 1997)

STATEMENT

*State-wise production of cotton during the last year
(Sept. 95—Aug. 96) i.e. 1995-96*

Sl. No.	State	Production (In lakh bales of 170 Kg. Each)
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	14.75
2.	Haryana	11.50
3.	Rajasthan	13.75
4.	Gujarat	32.25

1	2	3
5.	Maharashtra	28.25
6.	Madhya Pradesh	14.50
7.	Andhra Pradesh	29.00
8.	Karnataka	10.25
9.	Tamil Nadu	4.75
10.	Others	1.00
Total		160.00

Coal Washeries

3296. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of washed coal and the capacity utilisation of the washeries of the subsidiaries of CIL during the last three years, washery-wise;

(b) whether the washed coal production of the washeries of subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. has stagnated or shown a decline over the years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance of the existing washeries and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The production of washed coal and the capacity utilisation of the washeries of subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, washery-wise, for the last three years are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Washery	Washed Coal Production (m.t.)			Capacity Utilisation (percent)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-95	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)							
1.	Dugda-I & II	1.14	1.11	1.1	62.8	61.53	51.53
2.	Bhojudih	0.98	1.01	0.98	88.4	92.66	87.47
3.	Patherdih	0.52	0.62	0.65	61.8	62.67	61.06
4.	Lodna	0.20	0.19	0.18	87.5	85.10	84.25
5.	Sudamdih	0.34	0.46	0.42	40.5	50.90	58.56
6.	Barora	0.12	0.13	0.15	79.6	81.48	75.79
7.	Moonidih	0.51	0.54	0.50	52.3	53.93	62.00
8.	Mahuda	0.26	0.24	0.24	57.1	52.92	53.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)							
9.	Kargali	1.35	1.05	1.00	91.2	80.77	74.26
10.	Kathara	0.82	0.78	0.70	60.7	58.17	55.03
11.	Swang	0.70	0.60	0.61	131.5	130.93	130.00
12.	Gidi	0.96	0.52	0.91	69.5	85.90	92.35
13.	Rajrappa	0.97	0.90	1.24	56.8	56.63	70.43
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)							
14.	Nandan	0.37	0.39	0.42	51.4	57.65	57.58

(b) Yes, Sir. The washed coal production from washeries of CIL has almost stagnated during the last three years.

(c) Main reasons for under utilisation of the capacity of existing washeries are as under:-

(i) Most of the washeries are old and are designed to process better quality coals. Due to depletion of these reserves over the years, the ash content in the raw coal feed has increased affecting the performance of washeries considerably.

(ii) Inadequate raw coal feed to washeries.

(iii) Frequent power failures.

(d) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal, inter-alia, include:-

(i) Increasing raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines.

(ii) Modification of the existing coking coal washeries to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal.

(iii) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supplying low volatile medium coking coals of suitable quality.

(iv) Early commissioning of two new washeries under construction at Madhuband (BCCL) and Kedla (CCL) for increasing the existing washing capacity.

Appointment of Chairman

3297. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public Sector Banks whose Chairman are likely to retire during the current year alongwith the date of their retirement;

(b) whether the prospective incumbent have not been selected as yet;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when they are likely to be selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The names of the public sector banks whose Chairman and Managing Directors are due to retire during the current year alongwith the date of their retirement are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Date of Retirement
1.	Chairman, State Bank of India	31.3.1997
2.	Chairman and Managing Director, Bank of India	30.4.1997
3.	Chairman and Managing Director, Bank of Maharashtra	30.4.1997
4.	Chairman and Managing Director, Central Bank of India	30.9.1997
5.	Chairman and Managing Director, Syndicate Bank	30.11.1997

(b) to (d) The prospective incumbents to be appointed to fill up the vacancies mentioned at Sl. Nos. 1, 2 & 3 above have been identified and approval of the competent authority have been sought for their appointments. The vacancies mentioned at Sl. Nos. 4 and 5 shall arise only on 1st October, 1997 and 1st December, 1997, respectively.

IMF Loan

3298. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have availed of any loan from the I.M.F. during the last one year;

(b) if so, the amount thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to avail further loan from the I.M.F. during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Suggestion by the World Bank and IMF

3299. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of the STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are exerting pressure to Control the financial loss and to lower down subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Policy making is the sovereign right of the Government of India and there is no question of the World Bank, IMF or any external agency exerting pressure on the Government of India to accept its suggestions. However, World Bank, in its Country Economic Memorandum'96, has suggested that India should reduce the fiscal deficit and reduce/retarget the subsidies, in particular the fertilizer and food subsidy. Similar suggestions were also made by the International Monetary Fund.

[*English*]

External Audit of Finance Institutions

3300. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce external auditing for financial institutions besides inspections by the RBI to detect mistakes;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The accounts of all-India financial institutions (AIFIs) such as Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited, Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. are being audited every year by statutory/external auditors.

It may also be added that a Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) was constituted under the aegis of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 1993 to oversee the supervision financial system comprising banks, AIFIs and non-banking financial companies. At present, AIFIs are subjected to 'On-site' inspections bi-annually.

(c) Does not arise.

Selection of Chief Election Commissioner

3301. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of LAW and JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Goswami Committee regarding the selection of the Chief Election Commissioner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The mode of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner is one of the proposals on Electoral Reforms which are being discussed by the Government with the political parties. No decision in the matter, however, has yet been taken.

Foreign Exchange Outflow

3302. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have information of the foreign exchange outflow on account of royalty, import of machinery, purchase of technology, import of kits in CKD condition, import of manufactured vehicles, transfer of profits by the automobile sector including four wheelers, three wheelers and two wheelers in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that the outflow of foreign exchange far exceeds the foreign exchange earned through export of automotive vehicles from India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps are proposed to be taken to prevent this large outflow of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Import of machinery, etc. is under Open General License and a number of agencies are involved in remittance on account of royalty, import of technology, profits, etc. relating to different types of automotive vehicles. Such data is exhaustive and is not maintained centrally.

(c) Outflow of foreign exchange on import of

machinery, royalty, etc. is in the form of one time payment, whereas earning of foreign exchange through export of automotive vehicles takes place on a continuing basis. A realistic comparison of inflow and outflow of foreign exchange is, therefore, not possible.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Revenue Collection

3303. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue collected from Income Tax, Wealth Tax, Customs and Central Excise in the country during each of the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to strengthen/upgrade the administrative set up for collection and

settlement of claims by the respective Central agencies; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen/upgrade tax collectrate agencies to facilitate better services to the tax payers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The total revenue earned from Income Tax, Wealth Tax, Customs and Central Excise during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Restructuring of tax collecting agencies and other appropriate administrative and legal measures are taken on regular basis to ensure better tax administration revenue realisation and services to the tax payers.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Crores).

1.	Customs Duty	1993-94	22240
		1994-95	26683
		1995-96	35502
2.	Central Excise Duty	1993-94	31711
		1994-95	37467
		1995-96	40565

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

3. Income Tax (I.T.) and Wealth Tax (W.T.)

States	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	I.T.	W.T.	I.T.	W.T.	I.T.	W.T.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	340.61	5.45	479.63	18.72	607.90	1.91
Arunachal Pradesh	1.72		2.58	-	3.03	-
Assam	68.61	0.96	88.04	0.48	132.53	0.24
Bihar	207.80	0.90	232.61	0.23	361.06	0.27
Goa	44.45	0.82	55.78	0.78	71.23	0.85
Gujarat	793.00	10.35	910.44	5.02	1164.90	3.96
Haryana	103.66	1.09	130.50	0.76	161.09	0.13
Himachal Pradesh	24.76	0.19	26.88	0.08	44.74	0.05
Jammu Kashmir	40.62	0.12	37.48	0.05	27.95	0.05
Karnataka	491.52	9.36	631.35	6.07	874.48	4.10
Kerala	243.54	4.17	301.81	2.32	370.77	2.58
Madhya Pradesh	252.35	3.88	278.24	2.30	408.22	1.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	2847.81	49.89	3954.13	33.53	4871.54	32.40
Manipur	6.72	0.03	5.32	0.01	4.23	0.01
Meghalaya	9.98	0.19	8.10	0.08	11.72	0.04
Mizoram	0.03	-	0.08	-	0.55	-
Nagaland	4.75	0.01	7.00	-	6.46	-
New Delhi	1048.59	22.16	1608.10	7.97	2065.12	6.99
Orissa	93.66	0.20	101.35	0.12	168.83	0.09
Punjab	241.37	2.49	317.24	1.07	336.78	0.60
Rajasthan	181.77	1.83	226.84	0.82	297.39	0.52
Sikkim	0.16	-	0.26	-	0.08	-
Tamil Nadu	723.53	22.18	962.32	15.36	1261.97	11.63
Tripura	5.36	0.05	7.08	-	9.30	0.01
Uttar Pradesh	493.69	3.89	600.18	1.73	858.66	1.42
West Bengal	535.06	13.16	644.97	7.19	804.80	5.47
Total (I)	8805.12	153.37	11618.31	104.69	14925.33	73.96

Letters of Credit

3304. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has decided not to honour the Letters of Credit of five public sector banks, namely United Commercial Bank, United Bank of India, Vijay Bank, Indian Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank, whose worth allegedly stood eroded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps have since been taken to restore the net-worth of these banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that they have not issued directions to any of their branches prohibiting discounting of bills under the Letters of Credit (L/Cs) of the five banks referred to in the Question. They have further reported that the instructions issued by them in December, 1996 regarding L/Cs did not in any way call for dishonouring the L/Cs of the five banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to point (a) above.

Debt Recoveries Tribunals

3305. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed before the respective Debt Recoveries Tribunals as on December 31, 1996 and total amount involved therein by each of the nationalised banks;

(b) whether any more Debt Recoveries Tribunals are proposed to be set up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Eight Debts Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Jaipur, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Guwahati and Patna have been set up so far. Two more Debts Recovery Tribunals at Jabalput and Mumbai are also proposed to be set up.

Plan to Dismantle all Tariffs on Information Technology Under W.T.O.

3306. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have finalised its plan to dismantle all tariffs on Information Technology (IT) products by 2005 to be unveiled at the next meeting of the World Trade Organisation slated for the last week in March 1997; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government on the stand India will adopt at these negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) A Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products was adopted by some World Trade Organisation (WTO) Members, and States or separate customs territories in the process of acceding to the WTO, in Singapore on the expansion of World Trade in Information Technology. India has submitted its offer of an extended staging of reduction in import duties in respect of products covered under the Declaration for review and approval by the participants, scheduled to be completed no later than 1 April, 1997.

Seizure of Gold

3307. SHRI KACHARU BHAAU RAUT:

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise quantity and value of gold confiscated at each of the International Airports during the last one year;

(b) the number of smugglers arrested in this regard; and

(c) the details of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Production of Cotton

3308. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cotton production in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new cotton mills in view of the production of cotton in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal is also under consideration to set up more powerlooms in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The quantum of cotton production in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as under:

In Lakh Bales of 170 Kg. (each)

1993-94	0.124
1994-95	0.116
1995-96	0.151

Source: (Ministry of Agriculture)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The Government does not propose to set up any powerlooms.

[English]

Delhi Share Market

3309. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation headed by the President of Delhi share market met the Prime Minister on December 19, 1996 and urged him to restore the Badla system to eliminate the slump in share market and gave many suggestions in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of requests/suggestions received by Government in this regard during the last one year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Ltd. has informed that their President had met the Prime Minister on 19th December, 1996 and submitted a representation containing various suggestions for the revival of the capital market. One of the suggestions in this representation related to the revival of the 'badla' system of trading in shares. Similar suggestions relating to revival of the 'badla' system and modification of the existing carry-forward system of transactions in stock exchanges have also been received by the Government from the Stock Exchange, Mumbai and some other persons.

(d) A revised 'badla' system of trading in securities was permitted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in October, 1995. SEBI is the statutory authority for regulating trading in securities in the Stock Exchanges. Government have referred the representation of the Delhi Stock Exchange Association to SEBI for appropriate consideration.

Reorganisation of Public Sector Banks

3310. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose reorganisation and retrenchment in some public sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details of such banks alongwith the proposal for reorganisation;

(c) the accumulated loss of these banks during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have enquired into the affairs of these banks to find out the reasons for their deteriorated financial position; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Restructuring of NABARD

3311. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating restructuring of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government to accelerate private investment in NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In view of the need to strengthen National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for improving, inter-alia, increased ground level flow of agricultural credit, it has been considered necessary to enhance the share capital of NABARD from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 2,000 crores over a period of five years. For meeting necessary statutory requirements in this regard, it would be necessary to amend to NABARD Act, 1981 for enhancing its authorised share capital to Rs. 2,000 crores. Further, the role of NABARD as a principal agency in the field of rural credit needs to be strengthened. For this purpose, NABARD has decided to set up a Board of Financial Supervision for rural financial institutions. With growing liberalisation of the financial markets, it is necessary to equip NABARD to play its role as a catalyst for rural lending and leader of rural credit institutions. For this purpose, it is proposed to amend the NABARD Act to remove restrictions on NABARD's capability to raise resources through the market, develop new instruments of lending and to enable it to invest its surpluses in such instruments as may be approved by Government.

P.M.R.Y.

3312. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing

more opportunities of jobs for educated youth under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role of banks as well as the State implementing agencies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been made for providing more self employment/job opportunities under PMRY during the IX Five Year Plan. Once the IX Plan is finalised, the proposal shall be firmed up.

Corporate Sectors Borrowings

3313. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDHIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corporate sector borrowings from banks have been declining; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far it is attributable to decline in industrial growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the net non-food credit of all scheduled commercial banks showed a subdued growth of Rs. 14,395 crore (5.9%) during the current financial year (upto January 31, 1997) as compared with an increase of Rs. 31,615 crore (15.9%) in the corresponding period of the previous year. The growth in net non-food bank credit during the current financial year has, however, to be viewed in the context of very large increase in net bank credit in the two preceeding years. The outstanding non-food credit of all scheduled commercial banks increased by 59.1 per cent (Rs. 90,713 crore) to Rs. 244,224 crore between March 18, 1994 and March 29, 1996.

In viewing the growth of bank credit, the growth in total flow of funds to the commercial sector from banks and non-banks also needs to be considered. The total flow of funds to commercial sector both from banks and non-banks sources amounted to Rs. 67,956 crore upto January 31, 1997 as compared with Rs. 73,929 crore in the corresponding period of 1995-96.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Damodar Valley Corporation

3314. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation have demanded the Coal India Limited for supply of 5 metric tonnes of coal for setting up of power plant having 1000 megawatt capacity in Maithan Right Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Damodar Valley Corporation have requested Coal India Limited for supply of required quantity of coal for their proposed Maithan Right Bank Thermal Power Project, having capacity of 1000 MW (4 x 250 MW).

(c) The proposal of Damodar Valley Corporation in this regard has been received in the Ministry of Coal in February, 1997 which after due examination will be submitted to the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) for appropriate decision.

[English]

CBI cases Against Bank Officials

3315. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases for investigation by CBI against senior officers of the nationalised banks were referred to the RBI for advice during the period from January, 1991 to January, 1997;

(b) the number of cases which RBI opined in favour of investigation; and

(c) the number of cases in which CBI was permitted to investigate such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIC Office at Siliguri

3316. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open LIC's Divisional Office at Siliguri, Haldia, Maldah, Agartala;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has informed that since its branch offices are complete activity centres and are functioning satisfactorily at all the places mentioned it has no proposal to open Divisional Offices at Siliguri, Haldia, Maldah and Agartala.

NABARD Loan to Kerala

3317. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'NABARD' has stopped Agriculture loan to Kerala co-operative Banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government/State Co-operative Bank for revamping the co-operative credit structure on sound lines. The MoU, inter-alia, contains a covenant whereby the Chief Executive Officers of Co-operative institutions could be appointed/replaced only in consultation with NABARD. This has consequently been incorporated as one of the terms and conditions governing sanction/release of refinance by NABARD and it has been stipulated that non-compliance with this requirement will lead to stoppage of refinance.

In so far as Kerala is concerned, the State Government has passed orders for replacing the Chief Executives of both Kerala State Co-operative Bank and Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank without prior consultation with NABARD. NABARD has, therefore, suspended the release of refinance to both the institutions, under all lines of credit, in terms of the relevant covenant governing sanction/release of refinance facility.

Lead Bank Scheme in Assam

3318. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Non-functioning of LBS a common phenomenon in Assam' appearing in Assam Tribune dated December 3, 1996;

(b) if so, the fact and the details of the issued raised therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Loan by NABARD

3319. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are monitoring utilisation of the loan given by NABARD loans for the purpose it was meant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for fresh loans; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends refinance assistance to commercial

banks, co-operative banks and regional rural banks against their lendings for agriculture and rural development activities. These schemes are monitored by NABARD, inter-alia, by holding mid-term reviews and conducting specific studies.

Further, NABARD sanctions loans to State Government and State-owned Corporations for rural infrastructure projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). Under the terms and conditions of sanctions, the State Governments are required to monitor the Utilisation of such loans. However, NABARD also monitors the implementation of the scheme in association with State Governments.

(c) and (d) NABARD has reported that Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Bank (APSCB) and Government of Andhra Pradesh requested NABARD to allow additional funds to the co-operative banks functioning in districts affected by cyclone during October-November 1996 to facilitate rabi (1996-97) operations. NABARD has accordingly enhanced the allocations to APSCB for financing seasonal agricultural operations (crop loans) from Rs. 750 crores to Rs. 900 crores, pending completion of conversion formalities by the co-operative banks. NABARD has also earmarked funds from its National Rural Credit (Stabilisation) Fund for grant of conversion facilities to co-operative banks for providing necessary relief to calamity-stricken farmers.

Chairman of Nationalised Banks

3320. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details such as the names of Chairman, Board of Directors of the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Names of Chairman and Managing Directors (CMDs) of nationalised banks are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the CMD
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad Bank	Sh. Harbhajan Singh
2.	Andhra Bank	Sh. G. Narayanan
3.	Bank of Baroda	Sh. K. Kannan
4.	Bank of India	Sh. G. Kathuria
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	Sh. S.A. Kamath
6.	Canara Bank	Vacant
7.	Central Bank of India	Sh. S. Doreswamy
8.	Corporation Bank	Vacant
9.	Dena Bank	Sh. Ramesh Mishra
10.	Indian Bank	Sh. S. Rajagopal
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	Sh. K. Subramanian
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Sh. Dalbir Singh

1	2	3
13.	Punjab National Bank	Sh. Rashid Jilani
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Sh. S.S. Kohli
15.	Syndicate Bank	Dr. N.K. Thingalaya
16.	Union bank of India	Sh. A.T. Pannir Selvam
17.	UCO Bank	Vacant
18.	United Bank of India	Sh. Biswajit Choudhuri
19.	Vijaya Bank	Sh. K.C. Chowdhary.

Board To Deal Bank Frauds

3321. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:
SHRI N.J. RATHWA:
SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT:
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which has been referred by CBI to Advisory Board on bank frauds till date;

(b) the details of such cases and money involved therein;

(c) how many cases are pending with Board at present;

(d) the number of requests made by CBI has been cleared by the Board; and

(e) the present status of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as on 11.3.1997 no fraud case has been referred to the Advisory Board on Bank Frauds constituted by RBI on 17.2.1997.

JPC on Securities Scam

3322. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the action has been taken on all the recommendations given by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on securities scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not taking action so far; and

(d) the time by which the action is likely to be taken by the Government on the remaining recommendations of JPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The details of action taken by the Government on the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on irregularities in securities transactions are given in the Action Taken Report laid in the Parliament in 1994. The status reported to Parliament in the Summary of action taken by Government in the revised Paragraphs of the Action Taken Report on the JPC Report in December, 1994 is as follows:-

"The position in respect of some areas where Government/RBI have not been able to accept the recommendations regarding system reforms made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee is as follows:-

- (i) The JPC had recommended a prohibition of Portfolio Management Scheme (PMS) transactions by PSUs. After full consideration the Government is of the view that PSUs may have a need to deploy resources temporarily in PMS type operations and therefore a complete ban may not be workable, but the Government has responded to the JPC's concern about the misuse of this facility by laying down new guidelines to be followed by PSUs engaging in investment operations which will prevent misuse.
- (ii) The JPC had recommended that the practice of having RBI nominee directors on the Boards of the banks be dispensed with. After full consideration the Government's view is that in the present circumstances, when the banking industry is going through an important transition there is a need for continuing with the RBI nominee on the boards of banks.
- (iii) In the light of substantial penal action taken against foreign banks, the Reserve Bank of India have indicated that they are not in favour of taking the extreme step of cancelling or suspending the licences of foreign banks involved in securities irregularities. Government agrees with the view of RBI.

On many other points the Government has amplified and clarified its response in the light of comments received to remove any appearance of disagreement with the report of the JPC, and also to clarify the position in the light of queries and comments by Members of the Opposition."

Premium Collected/Invested By LIC

3323. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of premium collected by Life Insurance Corporation from the policy holders in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last two years; and

(b) the amount invested in development work by LIC in State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The requisite information as furnished by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India is as under:-

Year	Amount of Premium	Amount of Gross Investments made (Rs. in Crore)
1994-95	1135.58	656.98
1995-96	1331.43	350.38

Nominee Director on Board of Nationalised Banks

3324. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts of officer and employees nominee directors are vacant in a number of banks as the tenure of officer-nominee directors have expired;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the appointment of officers-employee Directors on the Board of the Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The post of officer employee director is presently vacant in five nationalised banks. In six other nationalised banks the tenure of officer employee director has expired but they are continuing to hold directorship in terms of the provisions of the statute, pending appointment of their successors. The names of these banks are Allahabad Bank, Andhra Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Indian Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, Union Bank of India, UCO Bank and Syndicate Bank.

(c) The nomination of officer employee directors on the boards of nationalised banks are made in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the relevant statutes and Government's guidelines in this regard. In the light of representations, reexamination of these guidelines is considered necessary before further action is taken in this regard.

Assistance to Rural Beneficiaries for Small Enterprises

3325. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to the rural beneficiaries for small enterprises during the year 1996-97; and

(b) the total number of beneficiaries who were provided assistance from the bank, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, Public Sector Banks advances to Small Scale Industries including to Village and Cottage Industries and Tiny Industries (States/UT-wise) as on last Friday of *March 1995 is given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

Statement showing public sector banks advances to small scale industries (States/UTs-wise) under Priority Sectors as on the last Friday of March, 1995 (Latest available)

Region/State	Small Scale Industries	
	No. of A/Cs	Amount
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	161895	15609912
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1147	43193
3. Assam	67335	2190376
4. Bihar	228297	7341886
5. National Capital Territory of Delhi	44240	22136615
6. Goa	4523	857388
7. Gujarat	107831	19382643
8. Haryana	47873	9071385
9. Himachal Pradesh	21984	1279415
10. Jammu & Kashmir	7412	922536
11. Karnataka	124729	15345043
12. Kerala	200512	8715613
13. Madhya Pradesh	132095	9448962
14. Maharashtra	151828	42091443
15. Nanipur	13744	282449
16. Meghalaya	3048	83191
17. Mizoram	1754	53488
18. Nagaland	5092	192731
19. Orissa	154190	1871252
20. Punjab	109737	5319951
21. Rajasthan	104472	6210713
22. Sikkim	746	35385
23. Tamil Nadu	208363	30863573
24. Tripura	13678	173312

(*latest available)

	1	2	3
25. Uttar Pradesh		338899	23842750
26. West Bengal		616058	18776416
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		639	30301
28. Chandigarh		5964	1744109
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		68	28511
30. Daman & Diu		330	114160
31. Lakshadweep		36	580
32. Pondicherry		6183	299711

Wages of Employees of RRBS

3326. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Industrial Tribunal constituted on the direction of Supreme Court directed the Government to provide salary, allowances and other facilities to officers and employees of rural banks at par to that of sponsoring banks;

(b) whether the Union Government have constituted a pay rationalisation Committee instead of implementing the Sixth Pay agreement reached on February 6, 1995 and 23rd June, 1995;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is resentment in more than 75 thousands rural officers and employees in the country due to constitution of Pay rationalisation Committee;

(d) whether Government are also aware that the officers and employees of rural banks have organised a rally to press for their demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The pay and allowances of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are to be determined by Government under Section 17(1) of the RRBs Act, 1976. In pursuance of an order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government appointed a National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) in 1987. The Tribunal was required to decide the dispute relating to pay, salary, allowances and other benefits payable to the employees of the RRBs in terms of the pleadings of the parties in a Writ Petition.

Pursuant to the award of the Tribunal, Government issued an order on 22.02.1991 determining the salary and allowance of the employees of the RRBs and made them effective from 1.9.1987. However, after the implementation

of the Sixth Bipartite Settlement for the Commercial Banks, the employees of RRBs had taken a stand that the Settlement should be extended to them also. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court by some employees. Government had taken a stand that the award of NIT could not be an authority for continued parity between the employees of RRBs and those of sponsor banks. The Supreme Court has not granted the relief prayed for, and instead observed that the employees may seek relief available to them under the Industrial Disputes Act.

In view of the provision of the Act and legal position and in order to have a comprehensive package that will reconcile the interests of the employees, the clients and the banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed a Committee to make recommendations to Government on the exercise of its powers under Section 17(1) of the Act. It is expected that the employees will present their view point before the Committee to enable it to make considered recommendations on their demands.

[Translation]

NABARD in Bihar

3327. 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 Agriculture and Rural Development Bank in Kudarma, Giridih and Hazaribagh in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the areas in which investment has been made by the bank 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 FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Temporary Appointment in Overseas Bank

3328. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's directives for reservation for SC/ST in services are followed by Indian Overseas Bank in the appointments of Messengers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Indian Overseas Bank has reported that it is maintaining a common roster cadre for messengers, watchmen and drivers in the subordinate cadre and is following the guidelines/instructions of the Govt. in the matter of such appointments.

(b) Does not arise.

Lending Rates for Loan and Cash Credits

3329. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed Commercial Banks to have two set of prime lending rates for loan and cash credits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have reported that Scheduled Commercial Banks are free to determine their own lending rates on their advances with credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakh. Banks are required to declare a Prime Lending Rate (PLR) which will be the minimum rate charged by the banks for credit limit of over Rs. 2 lakh. Banks are also required to announce the maximum spread over the PLR for all advances other than consumer credit. Reserve Bank of India have in February 1997, clarified to the banks that they are allowed to prescribe PLRs and spreads over PLRs separately for loan component and cash credit component with approval of their respective boards.

New Bank Branches

3330. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of branches proposed to be opened in Orissa during the year 1997-98;

(b) the number of letter of Indent issued during the year 1996-97 in respect of Orissa by the banks;

(c) whether the Government give any assistance to the Cooperative Banks for expansion and setting up of branches in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of authorisations issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Nationalised Banks during the period 1.4.95 to 28.2.97 for opening of branches in Orissa which are yet to be opened, are furnished in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assists the State Government towards contribution to the share capital of District and State level co-operative banks.

It is for the state governments to formulate plans for the setting up and expansion of branches of these banks, having a bearing on viability. NABARD have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 0.96 crores, Rs. 2.93 crores and Rs. 6.41 crores for contribution to the share capital of Co-operative

credit institutions in Orissa during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

STATEMENT

Authorisations issued by Reserve Bank of India to Nationalised Banks during the period 1.4.95 to 28.2.1997 for opening of branches in the State of Orissa, which are yet to be opened.

Bank	Centre	Districts
Canara Bank	Sahadevkunta	Balasore
Canara Bank	Rourkela	Sundergarh
Andhra Bank	Jharsasuguda	Sambalpur
Corporation Bank	Rourkela	Sundergarh
Andhra Bank	Baripada	Mayurbhanj
Andhra Bank	Barbil	Keonjgarh
Punjab National Bank	Shahid Nagar	Bhubaneswar
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Sambalpur	Sambalpur
Dena Bank	Balasore	Balasore
Dena Bank	Behrampore	Behrampore
Indian Bank	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar
Indian Bank	M.T.M. Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar
Indian Bank	Sailashree Vihar	Bhubaneswar
Indian Overseas Bank	Jharsuguda	Sambalpur
Indian Overseas Bank	Talcher	Angul
Indian Overseas Bank	Bargarh	Bargarh
Indian Overseas Bank	Baripada	Mayurbhanj
Indian Overseas Bank	Dharmgarh	Kalahandi
Indian Overseas Bank	Nayagarh	Nayagarh

New Pension Scheme for LIC, GIC

3331. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and Bank employees has been covered under a new pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees who have been retired before January 1st, 1986 are not being covered by this schemes and if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Pension Scheme in case of LIC/GIC was introduced w.e.f. 1.11.1993 with an option to those retiring between 1.1.1986 and 1.11.1993 to join the scheme after returning the benefits paid, with interest. The details are

contained in LIC (Employees) Pension Rules, 1995 and General Insurance (Employees) Pension Scheme, 1995. These Rules were published in Extraordinary Gazette on 28.6.1995 for LIC and GIC. These rules were laid on the table of the House on 8.2.1995. In case of Banks (except State Bank of India which already had a Pension Scheme), a Pension Scheme was introduced in lieu of contributory provident fund from 29.9.1995. The employees who were in service of the bank before 29.9.1995 and continue to be in service on 29.9.1995 had the option to opt for pension in lieu of contributory provident fund scheme or continue with the contributory provident fund scheme.

(c) and (d) The cut-off date in respect of LIC, GIC and Banks is 1.1.1986. This was adopted on the lines of RBI with an understanding between the management of LIC/GIC and their employees' union. In case of banks, it was done on the lines of RBI on the basis of an understanding between Indian Banks Association and representatives of Bank Employees'/Officers' Association. It was felt by LIC/GIC/Bank that it would not be possible for them to trace the records to the employees who had retired much earlier and had also availed the benefits of contributory provident fund. It may be mentioned that while introducing any new benefit scheme, stipulating a cut-off date is inevitable. Further, it is neither feasible nor practicable to cover all past retired employees.

RRBs Functioning in A.P.

3332. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks functioning in Andhra Pradesh particularly in the rural areas;

(b) the amount of loan disbursed during the last two years; and

(c) the percentage of such loans in comparison to total deposits in banks during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) There are 16 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with a net-work of 1123 branches functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh, out of which 931 branches are operating in rural areas.

(b) and (c) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, the details of loan disbursed by RRBs in Andhra Pradesh and its percentage to total deposits during last two years are as given below:-

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

	1994-95	1995-96
Loan disbursed	42464.86	59821.55
Percentage to total deposits	44.40	51.52

Punjab & Sind Bank

3333. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance Banking Department in July, 1995 asked the Punjab and Sind Bank to furnish the panel of 5 office bearers for appointment as officer Director from the majority representative association of the officers of the bank;

(b) whether the Punjab and Sind Bank submitted the panel of 5 office bearers to the Ministry of Finance in Oct./Nov. 1995;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India has also sent its recommendations to the Ministry of Finance regarding the above panel;

(d) whether no officer-nominee Director has been appointed on the Board of Punjab and Sind Bank since nationalisation; and

(e) if so, the reasons for discrimination for the officers of Punjab and Sind Bank and the action taken by the Government for the appointment of officer employee director on the Board of Punjab and Sind Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Nomination of officer employee directors on the boards of nationalised banks are made in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the relevant statutes and Government's guidelines in this regard. The guidelines were revised in July, 1995. The Punjab and Sind Bank submitted a panel of names of office bearers of the majority officers' association in the bank in accordance with these guidelines. Reserve Bank of India was consulted in the matter.

(d) No officer employee director has been nominated on the board of Punjab and Sind Bank since its nationalisation.

(e) In the light of certain representations received from some national level bank officers' associations, reexamination of the guidelines became necessary. The process of appointment of officer employee directors shall be initiated as soon as the guidelines are finalised.

[Translation]

MMTC Projects in M.P.

3334. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch some

projects in some States particularly in Madhya Pradesh by the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the above projects and the extent of employment avenues to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) MMTC is proposing to set up in joint venture a Steel Plant Project at Dubri in the State of Orissa for production of 1.1 million tonnes of Pig Iron/Steel Billets/Wire Rods per annum. The cost of the Project has been estimated at Rs. 1510 crores and will give direct employment to about 1750 people. MMTC is also planning under joint venture to set up a Coke Oven Plant to produce 8.8 lakh tonnes/annum of metallurgical coke and captive power plant of 55 MW capacity, at an estimated cost of Rs. 480 crores. The project will provide direct employment opportunity to about 350 people.

MMTC initiated an exploratory proposal for setting up of a textile mill in Madhya Pradesh, for manufacturing of knitted fabric and garments etc. with an estimated cost of Rs. 290 crores approx. A techno-economic feasibility report was prepared which has not yet been cleared by the Financial Institutions.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review of the Working and Annual Report of the Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. Calcutta for the year 1995-96 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in library. See No. LT. 1575/97]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle

Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in library. See No. Lt-1576/97]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1577/97]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Island Integrated Development Corporation Limited Port Blair, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Island Integrated Development Corporation Limited Port Blair, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1578/97]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Praga Tools Limited, Secunderabad, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Praga Tools Limited, Secunderabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1579/97]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Six statements (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1580/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, for the year 1995-96.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1581/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 1995-96.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1582/97]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks for the year 1995-96, under section 126 of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1583/97]

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Cement Corporation of India Limited for the year 1995-96 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1584/97]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, for the year 1995-96, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1585/97]

**SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors)
Amendment Regulations, 1997**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) Under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-
 - (i) The SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 105(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 1997.
 - (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O.124(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1586/97]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 530 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 565 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 51/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 1 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 171/94-Cus., dated the 30th September, 1996.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 8(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (v) G.S.R. 16(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt printed Indian Bank notes imported by the Reserve Bank of India from the import duty.
 - (vi) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 194 dated the 29th November, 1996 together with an explanatory

memorandum regarding exemption to goods when imported into India viz. Chemicals, films and tubings etc. as mentioned in the notification from the whole of the basic, additional and special duties of customs leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1587/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:-
 - (i) A copy of the Income-tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 880(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 1996.
 - (ii) The Income-tax (First) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 35 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1588/97]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 570(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 85 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt duties of excise leviable in excess of 15 percent *ad-valorem* on such paper and paperboard containing at least 50 percent unconventional raw materials during the period commencing on the 16th March, 1995 and ending with the 19th March, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1589/97]

- (5) A copy each of the following Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996. together with Auditor's Report thereon:-
 - (i) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1590/97]

- (ii) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1591/97]

- (iii) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1592/97]

- (iv) Ka Bank Nongkyondong Ri Khasi Jaintia, Shillong.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1593/97]

- (v) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1594/97]
- (vi) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Warangal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1595/97]
- (vii) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank, Rewa.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1596/97]
- (viii) Aurangabad-Jalna Gramin Bank.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1597/97]
- (ix) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1598/97]
- (x) Rushikulya Gramya Bank, Berhampur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1599/97]
- (xi) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1600/97]
- (xii) Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1601/97]
- (xiii) Gurgaon Gramin Bank.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1602/97]
- (xiv) Mallabhum Gramin Bank.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1603/97]
- (xv) Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1604/97]
- (xvi) Faridkot-Bhatinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhatinda.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1605/97]
- (xvii) Chikmagalur-Kodagu Grameena Bank, Chikmagalur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1606/97]
- (xviii) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1607/97]
- (xix) Jaipur Nagaur Aanchalik Gramin Bank.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1608/97]
- (xx) Netravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1609/97]
- (xxi) Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1610/97]
- (xxii) Bijapur Gramin Bank, Bijapur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1611/97]
- (xxiii) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1612/97]
- (xxiv) Pandyan Grama Bank, Sattur.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1613/97]
- (xxv) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1614/97]
- (xxvi) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1615/97]
- (xxvii) Cuttack Gramya Bank, Cuttack.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1616/97]
- (xxviii) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Monghyr.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1617/97]
- (xxix) Sangameshwara Grameena Bank, Mahboobnagar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1618/97]
- (xxx) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1619/97]
- (xxxi) Dewas Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dewas.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1620/97]
- (xxxii) Shri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1621/97]
- (xxxiii) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1622/97]
- (xxxiv) Sri Rama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1623/97]
- (xxxv) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1624/97]
- (xxxvi) Praqivotish Gaonlia Bank Nalbari.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1625/97]
- (xxxvii) Lakshmi Gaonlia Bank Golaghat.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1626/97]
- (xxxviii) Mizoram Rural Bank Aizwal.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1627/97]
- (xxxix) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimnagar.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1628/97]
- (6) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English Versions)

of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (No. 10 of 1997)-Union Government-Revenue Receipts-Indirect Taxes (Customs) for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996, Under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1629/97]

- (7) A Copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English Versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1630/97]

**Annual Report and Audited Accounts of
the Wool and Wollens Export Promotion Council,
New Delhi for the Year 1995-96**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Wollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Wollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1 above).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1631/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1632/97]

- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1633/97]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export

Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 1995-96.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1634/97]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987:-

- (i) S.O. 199(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1995 containing order directing that with effect from 15th March, 1995, the commodities mentioned in the notification shall be packed in jute packaging material for supply of distribution.
- (ii) S.O. 462(E) and S.O. 666(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 1996 and the 30th September, 1996 respectively making certain amendments in the Order published in Notification No. S.O. 199(E) dated the 15th March, 1995.
- (iii) S.O. 905(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1996 making certain amendments in the Order published in Notification No. S.O. 666(E) dated the 30th September, 1996.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item (i) of (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1635/97]

- (10) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 202(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1995 containing order directing that the tiny of mini cement plants having installed capacity upto 100 metric tonnes per day shall be exempted from the operation of the order published in S.O. 199(E) dated the 15th March, 1995, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1636/97]

**Annual Report, Review, Audited Accounts
and a Statement Showing Reasons for
Delay in Laying the Papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
On behalf of Shri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, I beg to lay on the
Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1637/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1638/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 1995-96.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1639/97]

- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of the section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1640/97]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the India Trade

Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1641/97]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1642/97]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Projects and Equipment Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (8) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) of item (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1643/97]

- (9) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1644/97]

Detailed Demands for Grants of The Ministry of Food Processing Industries for 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): On behalf of Shri Dilip Kumar Ray, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1645/97]

Review by the Government and Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. Neyveli for the Year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1646/97]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1647/97]

**Annual Report and Audited Accounts of
Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary
Studies, New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1648/97]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1649/97]

**Notification Under Section 21 of
the Coinage Act, 1906**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 591(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India

dated the 27th December, 1996 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 485(E) dated the 18th October, 1996, issued under section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1650/97]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

- (i) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the One Hundred Rupees (constaining Silver 50 percent, Copper 40 percent, Nickel 5 percent and Zinc 5 percent), Fifty Rupees and Five Rupees (containing Copper 75 percent and Nickel 25 percent) coined on the occasion of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on "Men and Women Partnership in Politics" Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 73(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1997.

- (ii) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the Hundred Rupees (containing Silver 50 percent, Copper 40 percent, Nickel 5 percent and Zinc 5 percent), Fifty Rupees, Ten Rupees and Two Rupees (containing Copper 75 percent and Nickel 25 percent) coined in the memory of "Subhas Chandra Bose" Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 15(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 1997.

- (iii) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the One Hundred Rupees (constaining Silver 50 percent, Copper 40 percent, Nickel 5 percent and Zinc 5 percent), Fifty Rupees, Ten Rupees and Two Rupees (containing Copper 75 percent and Nickel 25 percent) coined in the memory of "Subhas Chandra Bose" Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 82(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1651/97]

- (3) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) S.O. 820(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of import.

- (ii) S.O. 821(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign

currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of export.

- (iii) S.O. 898(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of import.
- (iv) S.O. 899(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of import.
- (v) G.S.R. 13(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods when imported into India and donated for the relief and rehabilitation of the people effected by the cyclone in the state of Andhra Pradesh from the whole of the basic, additional duties of customs leviable thereon subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) G.S.R. 28(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (vii) S.O. 65(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of imports.
- (viii) S.O. 66(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of exports.

[Placed in Library. See No. CT-1652/97]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 12(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide full exemption from excise duty on goods donated for the relief and rehabilitation of the cyclone victims in Andhra Pradesh subject to certain conditions.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 35(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 1997 together with an

explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (iii) G.S.R. 46(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 266/67-CE, dated the 28th November, 1967.
- (iv) G.S.R. 63(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1653/97]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 47(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR) originating in or exported from Germany and Republic of Korea and imported into India till 30th July, 1997, under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1654/97]

- (6) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (No. 11 of 1997)—Union Government—Revenue Receipts—Indirect Taxes (Central Excise) for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1655/97]

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (KHAJURAHO): Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is for the first time that firing has been resorted to on the students of my district...(Interruptions) you please listen to me. If you won't listen to me, I will stage a dharna ...(Interruptions) Three Thousand students have been subjected to Confinement in the district ...(Interruptions) which included too girls....(Interruptions) there is no news about the whereabouts of these students.

12.01 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Uma Bharati Came and Stood near the Table.

(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

12.02 hrs.

At this Stage, Kumari Uma Bharati Set on the floor near the Table.

[English]

12.02 1/2 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 13th March, 1997, agreed without any amendment to the Industrial Reconstruction Bank (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th March, 1997."

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Second Report and Minutes

[English]

12.03 hrs.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Ninth Plan perspective-Infrastructural Requirement of Indian Railways' alongwith Minutes relating thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.04 hrs.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now item No. 12. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the telecommuni-

cation services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the telecommunication services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP: I withdraw the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the Statutory Resolution.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on hunger strike. I will break my hunger strike when you will allow me to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please meat me. I will see to it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Today there is no Zero Hour. It is Private Members Day today.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I will not listen to anybody. ...*(Interruptions)* If you want, you can disqualify me from Membership ...*(Interruptions)* This is a question of life and death of the students of my district ...*(Interruptions)* Whereabout of hundreds of girl and boy students is not known ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Umaji, I will attend to your problem.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Umaji, I will look into your problems definitely.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Jaswant Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. Uma Bharati, please go back. I have told you that I will personally look into your problem. I will take up the matter with the Government. I will take up the matter with the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take up the matter. You bring it to my notice. I will deal with it myself. I will take it up.

(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Uma Bharati went back to her seat.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question of students. I will take it up myself.

(Interruptions)

[English]

12.06 1/2 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RESPECT OF THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (CHITTORGARH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the consideration that you have shown to my colleague. It is a very real concern.

At this stage, I seek your permission, Sir, when the Resolution extending the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh is finally being taken up, and that despite our party's many reservations, I wish to register our party's protest again. We have consistently held and have reiterated our views that this step is politically dishonest; it is constitutionally suspect and unwise; it sets a bad precedent. It is destructive of democracy; it is harmful to the State of Uttar Pradesh. We cannot be a party to any such step being taken only because all of you in the Ruling party wish to lose your reason and harm the country simply because of the arithmetic, a straight line arithmetic of numbers. We cannot be party to it. I seek the permission to withdraw.

12.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Jaswant Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, what has been said, apart from anything, is definitely ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please leave in silence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a very sad day. Those who claim to be a responsible Opposition make allegation which are nothing but a reflection on your ruling. After that, nobody can take up this attitude. This is very very unfortunate. After your considered ruling yesterday, after hearing all of us, you have made a ruling. ...*(Interruptions)* We have discussed it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please leave in silence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is a deliberate disrespect shown to the Chair. I am happy that this party is not in power anywhere—cannot come to power in India or in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* So long they are kept out of power, that is good for this country. This is the most irresponsible attitude. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHADIGARH): Punjab has shown the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jain, if you have to leave, leave in silence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If we denigrate this institution, then what is this Opposition for? If we do not show proper respect to the Chair and the Chair's decision, whatever may be our feeling, we must bow to your decision. This is the way it has been described. Mere strong words will not change the situation. He may take recourse to strong English, that does not make a good point. We repudiate what has been said and we strongly condemn the irresponsible attitude of the BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are on a different matter, Mr. Mohan Rawale.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No Zero Hour today. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything on this?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): I have a very small request, Mr. Speaker.

The other day, during Zero Hour I mentioned some matter in the House and I requested the Government to make a statement on that. Yesterday, Shri Indrajit Gupta, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs made a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Again you are on a different subject?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: But he has not referred to that. That is the only thing I would like to remind.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you have reminded.

We are on the Resolution.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: I just want to remind that a Pakistani agent has been arrested in Mumbai yesterday. What I said yesterday is 200 per cent correct. That is the only contention.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 17th October, 1996 in

respect of Uttar Pradesh, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 17th April, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. Let us not break the convention.

[Translation]

Dr. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, This is about the Mosque.

MR. SPEAKER: Today is Friday. Today there will be no zero hour, whatever the matter may be.

12.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Set up a National Judicial Commission

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): The procedure of appointment of High Court and Supreme Court Judges should be modified in such a manner that it may reflect social justice besides being more transparent. According to constitutional provision governing the appointments of the Supreme Court and High Court Judges, only advocates of High Courts can be appointed as Judges. The term High Court advocates has been construed to mean the advocates practising in High Courts only which is not correct. The advocates practising in Subordinate Courts are no less eligible for appointment to the posts of judge in High Courts. All the three judicial functionaries suggested to in the Constitution, viz. judges, advocates and eminent jurists should be given equal importance in the matter. Therefore, The Central Government is requested that a National Judicial Commission should be set up early for this purpose. Besides and today there is a need to put an end to such practise in order to check the misuse of cases of public interest.

(ii) Need to Expedite the Opening of Government Aquarium at Digha in Midnapore District, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAL): Digha, a beautiful sea resort on the Bay of Bengal is situated in the border areas of West Bengal and Orissa. It is in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal which attracts a large number of tourists every day. An aquarium has been built up by the Union Government for the purpose of satisfying the needs of the visitors. But the said aquarium has not yet been opened to the public in spite of the visitors' persistent demand. I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to

take urgent steps to open the aquarium to the public and equip it with all the necessary inputs.

[Translation]

(iii) Need for Early Prosecution of High Officials of Uttar Pradesh Government Involved in Corruption Cases

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Since Uttar Pradesh is under President rule, the responsibility of Uttar Pradesh fully lies with the Central Government. The premises of many high officials in Uttar Pradesh have recently been raided by the Vigilance Department which has found them guilty with clearcut proofs of their involvement in corruption. But no chargesheet is being filed against them and they are not being prosecuted as the necessary permission of the State Government for the same is not forthcoming, due to which no action is being taken against the guilty officials. There are about 50 such old and new officials.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Home Minister to intervene and issue necessary directions to the Uttar Pradesh Government for granting permission to the vigilance department for filing chargesheet against the guilty officials so as to facilitate early prosecution of such guilty officials.

(iv) Need to Evolve a Comprehensive Master Plan For Replacement of Slums in Metropolitan Cities Particularly in Howrah, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Sir, Ninth Plan document is approaching very fast to share the destiny of the nation for next five years by taking special care of rural and urban development. The pressures on the urban centres are mounting every day. The metropolitan city of Howrah, which is one of the oldest in India, 510 years old, is faced with untold miseries in the slum, sanitation, health, road and drinking water. The Ninth Plan document must ensure a comprehensive master plan concept for the revival of such old cities with a proper living condition and phase by phase replacement of the slums for a proper living condition of the poorest of the poor. The idea of combining the development work in a model twin city project between Howrah and Calcutta must get special priority in the ultimate economic development with a view to strengthening the infrastructure shall depend on how we handle the urban problems of Calcutta and Howrah. While Calcutta is gaining some momentum but Howrah is on the bad side. There are enough land and opportunities to bring Howrah in a comprehensive master plan programme for its total revival. The city is affected by pollution, lack of drinking water, sanitation and communication at the nose of Calcutta city and Calcutta port.

The matter has been brought before the Prime Minister and the Planning Commission time and again through several representations. I would request the Government

to take appropriate steps consulting the State Government for a proposal which could figure in the Plan Document to save this city.

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of West Bengal For Completion of Sunderbans Delta Project Phase II

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): The Central Government was kind enough to consider the proposal regarding Sundarbans Delta Project-Phase-II submitted by the State Government of West Bengal sometime back. About 3400 k.m. embankment of Sunderbans river is vulnerable to high time flood and all other calamities. The Sunderbans though renowned for its flora and fauna and unique bio-diversity, does not have any industry and the poor people of the area live only on the catching of fish and cutting of wood. This Project was a part of the Ganga Flood Control. The West Bengal Government, as you know, Sir, is suffering from acute financial crunch and thus unable to proceed with the project, which is causing utmost distress to the people of this area. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 225.39 crore. I wonder whether any provision for this project has been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan or not. Sir, it is high time that the Central Government comes to the rescue of the poor Sunderbans inhabitants and save them from the vagaries of the Sunderbans river and render necessary financial help to the West Bengal Government to go ahead with this project.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker. Sir, yesterday an explosion took place in Satara district of Maharashtra. 58 persons died and 22 persons injured in the incident. We would like to seek information from the Union Government that today R.D.X. is being smuggled into the country at large scale. R.D.X. has been recovered from Gujarat. Hon. Home Minister is here in the House, A.K. 47 and other weapons are being smuggled into the country. Weapons have been dropped in West Bengal. He may tell from where the weapons are coming from? How many weapons have been recovered and still being smuggled into the country? I.S.I. wants to create turbulence. Earlier, myself alongwith Our hon. leader Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar had raised this issue. The fact has come into light in Mumbai. A photo has been published along with the caption 'A plot to assassinate Bal Thakarey unearthed' in a newspaper. One person named Salafi, who has entered into Maharashtra through I.S.I. has been arrested in Maharashtra. He had come to Maharashtra with an intention to blow 'Matushi', the house of Bal Thakarey Sahab near our office "Saamna". Explosion occurred in Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh. He was involved in these incidents also. We would like to ask the Government if they would inform us about the increase in the ISI activities? Today people are trying to kill Bala Sahab Thakarey. We

would like to have a statement in this regard from the Government. We had raised this issue the other day also but Home Minister was not present here at that time. Today, he is here in this House. Through You, I request him to give a statement in this regard....(interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. Since this was a serious matter, I allowed it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have to start the general discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, you cannot get response every time in the Zero Hour. Without notice how do you expect the Minister to reply ?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Government had said that the statement would be issued. Then why statement is not being issued...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State problem.

[*English*]

This is a matter, law and order, relating to the State Government and the State Government will look into it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you today. You cannot go on violating the procedure of the House everyday. have given the floor to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

GENERAL BUDGET—1997-98—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

12.22 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance Minister of India, Shri Palani Appan Chidambaram had presented his budgets on 28th February. It is 14th March today. Just two weeks have passed by yet the change in the fiscal atmosphere is discernable. I recall the carnival like evening of February 28th when the people were given to understand that this budget had cleared off the cloudy sky to give them a peep into the Starry future ahead. This unelouded budgetary luster seemed to indicate that the country had emerged from the gloomy situation of economic crisis and the affluent future was waiting ahead. However, within 14 days this euphoria have fizzled out and the clouds cleared off by him seem to eclipse the stars again. Hon. Speaker Sir,

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

why have those, who welcomed and lauded this budget as a dream budget, been rendered witless ? Some one on 28th February or 1st March had termed this budget as the finest budget of last several decades. Some other had written that Shri Chidambaram had made the impossible possible. This title seems to have indicated as if this discussion is not on the Indian budget but on a Cricket match heading for a certain defeat, but that very moment our best batsman like Tendulkar came in and turned the complexion of the game. I have no doubts that Shri Chidambaram is a sharp intellect and also an authority on economic affairs, however I would like to endorse the views of Shri Manmohan Singh—earstwhile colleague of Shri Chidambaram that the euphoria created by this budget will not persist for long.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the making of budget is a serious exercise and it should not be glamourised. The budgets, particularly in developing countries, are milestones on the path of economic development and we should refrain from converting it into a dream budget. This kind of quibbling may lead a person to ask that if this budget is a dream budget then, whose dreams this budget has been made of and which dreams this budget has been made of. In a country where half of the population hardly know anything about budget making exercise, the budget making exercise should be taken up seriously however it has not been so. The budget presented by Shri Chidambaram on 28th Febuary seems to indicate that this staggering Government is trying to make an impression, though in vain, that though those are some chinks in the U.F. but everything is fine at the economic front. This budget has been an utter failure in paying attention to those points which have been highlighted in its non-economic review report for 1996-97. In a situation when as per the data of the Government the prices fo food items have gone up by 30 per cent, it was expected that the budget would bring down the prices. Unfortunately the Government concentrated just on containing the inflation rate. It is quite unprecedented that the Government did not make any serious effort to check the rising prices during the past some time. Even then this Government can not claim any credit for the fall in the inflation rate. It has doubled in the last six months.

This budget would hit the common massed hard. A burden of 1800 crores has been encumbered upon the common people. Though the steep hike in the rates of rail fares and freight charges and 300 crores rupees burden has to be borne by the people because of the increase in the rates of Post and Telegraph. Imposition of one new tax will affect the people comprehensively and the Government intends to mop up 1200 crores through this tax. The oil pool deficit stands at 19,000 crores and the Government has not explained as to how it will meet it. The implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report involve the financial implications of seven thousand crores and during the current year, the Government will have to spend around 5,000 crores and if the Government still claims that this budget will benefit the common people then, it is like rubbing salt to the wound.

The development projections made in this budget are quite unrealistic and exaggerated. The projection for G.D.P. growth rate is 7 per cent which include 10 per cent growth in industry, 3.5 per cent in agriculture sector and 8 per cent in service sector. Every body including myself wishes that there should be speedy development in the country but we would not overlook the stumbling blocks on the path of development. There is acute shortage of water which is to continue in future also. Which is likely to cast adverse effect on the industrial production and several other fields. Our agriculture is rainfed. If we have good rainfall then, there is bumper crop otherwise it is all drought, scarcity and crisis. We have had good monsoons during last 8-9 years. If we do not have good rain, though I do not wish to be so, then all our projections would prove wrong. Therefore, while making projections for future, we should not be unpragmatic. The estimated recovery of 1200 crores through the newly imposed service tax is also on higher side and deficiency supply side may come in the way. A sum of 8,000 crores is to be spent for supplying cereals to the poor at subsidised rates. Estimates in this regard should be worked out.

Sir, as far as creating opportunities are concerned the present budget and much hyped policies of the Government do not seem employment oriented. The Eighth Five Year Plan document had envisaged creation of 100 million jobs in the period of 1991-2000 that means 10 million jobs per year. However not even six million jobs have been created in the last six years. Which steps the Government have taken so as to create 12-15 million jobs per year in the next few years ? I think, the fault lies with those Governments which utterly failed in creating physical and social infrastructure in the country.

I was shocked to find in the financial review that public capital investment in the agriculture sector has declined during 15-16 years. It is perhaps the first occassion since the green revolution that our foodgrains production did not match with our increasing population. Per capita foodgrains consumption has gone down from 184 Kg to 181 kg. This shortfall may however seem insignificant but in actual terms it has caused steep hike in the rates of wheat in the market.

The U.F. Government may say that it is not responsible for these failures and to some extent it is true however it can not exonerate itself fully. One sentence in the Presidential Address which was later on struck off, indicated towards it. There is no precedent till date that a sentence has been struck off in the Presidential Address after it has reached into the hands of the Members and this correction has been made in such a manner that even after striking out the sentence is perfectly, legible.

It could have been done more prudently. Nevertheless I seek the U.F. Government's clarification in this regard. Could I remind them that they have spent less funds in all departments of social sector than the allotted amount. In the U.F. Government's previous year budget an amount of Rs. 20,324 crores was earmarked for the social sector including the rural development. However only 18,805

crores rupees have been spent. The details of the less amount spent in various sectors is as under:

In education, only 2571 crores have been spent against the allocation of 3388 Crores. For rural employment and poverty alleviation programme Rs. 6437 crores were earmarked but out of that only 5977 crores were spent. In agriculture and cooperative sector 1338 crores were spent against allocation of 1471 crores. For irrigation and flood control only 815 crore were spent against the allocation of 1248 crores. A suggestion was given to constitute an expenditure commission which has been shelved.

There has to be some Government agency to monitor whether the funds allocated are utilized properly. The finance Minister is pointing towards Shri Jaswant Singh, but shirking from the responsibility will not serve any purpose. The present Government is responsible and under utilization of funds in education, rural development, rural employment, poverty alleviation, agriculture, cooperative, irrigation and flood control is a matter of concern. Do we not need development in these sectors? There are constant complaints of the scarcity of funds but when the House gives more funds to the Government then the Government is not able to utilise full grants. There are core sectors owing to which the pace of our development has been impeded.

The Finance Minister has declared in this year budget that the Government will spend 23,000 crores rupees in social sectors including education and rural development. This amount is 22 percent more than the last year allocation.

This declaration was welcomed by the entire House. This figure is quite impressive however the performance in 1996-97 has been quite disappointed. There is a big gap between the projection and the implementation. I am not discussing here the issue of corruption of Government funds by political leaders and bureaucrats. I think all may recall how Late Shree Rajiv Gandhi had said that only 16 paise out of centre's 1 rupee reaches for implementation.

Hon' Speaker Sir, this budget would further widen the gap between the rich and the poor. If the amount of 23,000 crore is spent in future then, it amounts only 1.6 per cent of the G.D.P. This figure is 0.2 per cent less than the amount spent by the Congress Government in its last year rule, 0.1 per cent of G.D.P. is not trial amount. Infact it amounts to Rs. 1400 crores. This is now obvious that with the claim of strengthening of the economy, the Government expenditure in the social sector, education and rural development will go down. Which will also affect the gap between the rich and the poor resulting in social strifes which should not be overlooked. The funds spent in social sector, education and rural development have gone down from 1.7 per cent of G.D.P. in 1995-96 to 1.5 per cent of G.D.P. in 1996-97. The reality is that this Government is spending less funds on primary education than several Governments of Sub-Sahara region of Africa.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as per the economic review of 1994-95, the wages of agriculture labourer which had gone down by 0.5 per cent in 1994-95, has gone down by 0.7 percent in 1995-96. These are average figures which provide logical base to assume that the poorest landless labourers and the landless labourers engaged in the poorest sectors have been the victims of maximum deduction in wages.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is quite strange that even after 50th year of our independence we are not able to estimate the exact figure of poors in our country. The slogans of 'Garibi Hatao'(alleviate poverty) are shouted. There is nothing wrong in it but these should be implemented as well. The poverty is a social evil, a curse but does the figure of poor in the country fluctuate? Can we not prescribe a criterion for it? Can we not have unanimity on it? Will the figure of poverty be worked out on political lines? This Government has recently made a declaration that people living below poverty line will be provided foodgrains at cheaper rates. The states have been asked to ascertain the number of people living below poverty line. Have these states got these figures? Were the decisions taken so far in this regard not correct? How can we formulate effective policies for poverty alleviation when we do not have the exact number of people living below poverty lines.

Some new figures have come up according to which the number of people living below poverty line has doubled i.e. from 160 million to 320 million. If these figures are true then, 36 per cent people are living below poverty line. I do not know how far these figures are correct ...*(Interruptions)* Are you not accepting these new figures?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA): You are saying that this figure has doubled. If it is so, this is matter of concern. Therefore, you should ask the person who has given you these figures.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE. No, nobody gave me these figures, I am an educated person....*(Interruptions)*

I am speaking on the basis of the figures which published in "The Times of India" two days back. Being in the opposition, we can not gather figures, this is the job of those who are sitting on the other side. Still Shri Yadav Ji would agree with me that we all are genuinely interested in alleviating poverty? This is noble job but we should have exact figures in this regard.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, overcoming poverty is our national cause and prosperity is our goal. However, instead of motivating the people for hard labour we should not indulge in party politics in these figures.

Sir, the fiscal deficit is mainly due to lack of discipline and good management which needs to be checked. We should not forget that the revised estimate of expenditure on the central plan has gone down below 10,000 crores.

Previously this estimate in budget was rupees 87,686 crore which now has reduced to Rs. 77,718 crore. The

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

budget estimates for 1997-98 for which the Minister of Finance has landed himself that it is the largest estimates in the recent past whereas it is only rupees 4000 crore more than the budget estimates of last years. If the pace of increase in the inflation rate of 8 per cent is taken into account, it will be less than the last years estimate.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as such the actual expenditure on planning has decreased. The unproductive non-plan expenditure of the Government is increasing year after year. As I have said that the Minister of Finance has not paid any attention towards Oil Pool Deficit. The present rate of consumption of petroleum products is around rupees 19000 crore. If we consume petroleum products on the line of developed countries then what will be the quantum of deficit. I leave it to you. When we see the decrease of 10 per cent in domestic production of petroleum products and oil then the picture of heavy decrease in petroleum products come to our mind. Fortunately the prices in international market have fallen in the recent past. An opportunity to convert loss into profit is with us. The need of the hour is that we should take steps to change the financial structure of Companies in oil sector and make efforts to increase capacity of entire oil sector keeping in view the increase in the capacity of oil refineries and crude oil production.

The Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda, who is present in the House tries to identify himself as poor farmer and this is good image. Unfortunately, I cannot do so but inspite of this the facilities given to agricultural and rural poors are of cosmetic nature. These have no depth. As I have said that the production of food grains does not keep pace with our increasing population. The production of wheat has decreased by 3.15 million tonne in 1996-97. The Government have decided to import two million tonne of wheat. There is a gap of 940 million tonne between the consumption and production of edible oils. 1.99 lakh tonne of Palmolin was imported by STC during April to December 1996. It costs 295 crores of rupees. Under OGL 9.40 lakh million tonne of more edible oil was imported which costs rupees 2195 crores.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, justice has not been done to small industries. If I say that injustice has been done to them then no one should have any objection. It is right that the multinational companies are happy over this. The industrial houses in the country also seem satisfied over this but it should be kept in mind what problems are being faced by the small industries. Maximum opportunities of employment are provided by the small scale sector. These have considerable contribution in the export but they have to face high rate of interest. Loan is not available to them. The decrease in the general industrial recession and across the board reduction in custom duty is harmful. Most objectionable aspect is that by dereserving the production of 14 articles of small industry the Government have left them on the mercy of big countries and big companies. What is the necessity of dereservation? Biscuits and Ice-cream come under it. If good biscuits can be produced in small sector then what is the need of doing so on large

scale. Small scale is actually not the small scale in this country. What is the problem if Ice-cream is manufactured in small scale? Are we unable to produce delicious biscuit in our country? Whether it will require multinational companies?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : How this "Pan Masalla" has been left out ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do not eat pan and I do not talk about masalla.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the public sector banks have started showing results. It is necessary that we should learn lesson from our previous mistakes and do not repeat them. The maximum problems of banks are due to non-payments and non-performing assets. The banks should publish the list of non-performing banks within a specified limit.

The Minister of Finance has announced concession for black marketeers. I will comment on it later on. It is also necessary that the list of those who have not paid more than Rs. 5 lakh be published by these bank. The second list should be of non-performing seekers. This information must be there in the annual balance sheet of banks in public sector.

The Minister of Finance has made effort to widen the tax base. It should have been made earlier. We agree with this effort. There are only one crore or 20 lakh Income Tax payers in such a vast country and there are only 12 thousand people whose income is more than 10 lakh.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM) : Even the figure of one crore and 22 lakh does not refer to individuals only; it includes companies and other bodies also. There are only 88 lakh individuals who pay tax.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is correct. For a change, I agree with him.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If you sit, when I speak, I hope to wean you away not from BJP but from your views.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, the Communists are no longer Communists. I do not mind to be dubbed as a non-BJP person..... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, BJP has been making a constant demand for transparency in financial matters and we want that the actual position of the country, the tax given on the income of individuals and corporate sector should be made available to the masses. Its information should be given. There is place for confidentiality but to the extent that same food policy continue to prosper in the name of confidentiality.

I was astonished to read the report of three progresses of Florida University that more than 11 billion dollar has been siphoned off from India to other countries during 1994

and 1996. It is done by indulging in over invoicing of import and under invoicing of export which is going on openly.

I am sure that Government should look into it and it is not good that such activities are going on even after liberalisation and globalisation and now black money has been allowed free hand. I also going to mention about it. People can convert their black money into white and by paying just 30 per cent tax. Those who have been honestly paying more tax will presume that they are being penalised.

Corporate tax is also 35 per cent and those who will pay under voluntary disclosure scheme will convert their black money into white by just paying 30 per cent tax. If I am wrong I would like that Minister of Finance may correct.

Bharatiya Janata Party cannot see the budget of United Front in isolation. It is also difficult to remember the number of 13-14 parties, it is conglomeration of these, the identity of which is being projected by another fourteenth party. As I have said that Shri Chidambaram can neither appreciate Congress nor can criticise it. By criticising there is fear of losing support and by appreciating there is fear of losing public support.

Increasing financial loss, decrease in capital investment in agriculture and complete neglect of the development of infrastructure is the legacy of Congress regime. I am unable to understand on one hand, income tax rate is being reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent by the Finance Minister and on the other hand efforts are being made to being those in the ambit of income tax who have a house, a telephone, a car and performed foreign trip. Is it necessary, is it feasible? I can understand that they want to widen their tax net but it should not happen that the crocodiles are left out and small fishes are trapped in the net of Chidambaram. We do not agree with the reduction of income tax from 40 per cent to 30 per cent.

I know it can go against popularity while in opposition but should a person earning in a poor country not be prepared to give 40 per cent of his income in the treasury? Was it necessary to reduce this? Now once it is reduced the Minister of Finance cannot go back. But it is one of the thread of that world which the Minister of Finance wanted to weave. He should see how to reduce tax of big industrialists, capitalists, think about share market, how the sensenx is going on falling down. Previously it was very high whether we will depend only on this? It should be considered that to what extent this decision is correct. There is one more aspect of it. The tax of that person has been reduced who used to give tax before. Now rupees 50 thousand can be saved on five lakhs. He will not have to pay 50 thousand as tax. His income will increase. What will he do with these 50 thousand rupees? Whether he will indulge in concession? Whether he will have it or spent it? But the Minister of Finance has not shown any way of savings. If rupees 50 thousand is saved on five lakh then this 50 thousand must be invested in development, it should be invested in the nation building. Budget speech of Minister of Finance is totally silent about any new

insurance scheme. We do not want the people in the country indulge in wasteful expenditure, it will increase the gap. Already the gap in the country has been increasing. There is a need to bridge this gap. There is need of reducing this gap. There is need to tell the people that your tax has been reduced but do not spend it in five star hotel, save it invest it in the development of country. I have not seen any such appeal, any step in the speech of Minister of Finance.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : Som Nath Ji says that it is growth oriented.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have already mentioned that the voluntary disclosure scheme is an illegal step. Previously also there has been voluntary disclosure scheme. It has not prevented black money. There is need of attacking the very basis of black money. There is a need to think seriously when liberalisation has taken place and control regulation has been reduced then why black money is being generated in such large quantity. It is not that our duty is completed by just converting black money into white. Sometimes it appears that voluntary disclosure scheme is a mockery on honesty. But whole of the budget of Finance Minister is a puzzle of Lucknow. You cannot go out of this side from where you enter. It is an allusion. As I have said budget is a serious exercise. It is a serious step. The budget should inculcate the sense of enthusiasm in common man. It should encourage the common man to save. It should be seen that where the tax collected will go where it is going, which sort of imbalance is taking place. There is no tariff commission. The goods coming from other countries are getting cheaper day by day and the goods manufactured in the country are not getting the same treatment, why? How will they survive, excise should also be reduced in their case. There is need to save domestic industries. Liberal economy does not mean that foreign companies come and start usurping the domestic industries. They have started usurping one after another company. They are say that they will manufacture such items which are needed. Once it can be considered that they may be allowed limited concessions. But they are not interested in manufacturing items, but in profit. Everyone wants to earn profit but at what cost? How much price we are ready to pay. There is need to consider it seriously.

Minister of Finance says that we will recover taxes more effectively. If rate is reduced, more people will pay taxes. Originally will be encouraged. I have to see that to what extent this thought matters with reality.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of concern that the debt on the country is increasing. We are spending more than the income. We pay 27 per cent of our income towards the interest on loan. It comes to rupees 68,000 crores. In 1980 this amount was rupees 1200 crores. In 1986-87, this amount increased to rupees 9246 crores now it is 68,000 crores. Are not we trapping in the grip of loan? Is it the sign of prosperity? In 1990-91, 48 per

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

cent as interest in the fiscal deficit goes as interest. Now it has increased to 103 per cent. As far as the liabilities of the Government are concerned it has increased by rupees three lakh crores.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is good thing that economic reforms are taking place in the country. But economic reforms cannot be successful without administrative reforms. What steps have been taken to improve administration ? Minister of Finance can say that this question is not in my jurisdiction. Can we implement economic reforms in such an administrative set up ? The administrative set up has crippled, has become corrupt, delay has become its nature. Can we take the country towards the prosperity with this administrative set up ? Money goes for the poverty eradication from the Central budget and we see in our respective constituencies that the money is not spent as it should be. Whom should we ask for reply ? Who is responsible ? We have already been talking about decontrol and deregularisation.

Today files are pending. Files are being delayed today also and when it is delayed then bribe comes. Our friends are aware of convenience charge rampant in Uttar Pradesh. Some sort of gratification has to be given for getting the work done there. It is known as convenience charge.... (Interruptions) administrative reform is necessary. Steel like bureaucratic set up established by Sardar Patel was praised at that time and we got benefit from that. That was suitable for that period. Today change is required and in that changing atmosphere if administration is not reformed, activated and the sense of responsibility towards people is not created in the administration, the benefit of economic reforms would not reach to the common people. We should understand this thing clearly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned about the shortage of electricity in the country. Hon. Minister has not given any indication as to how this shortage would be made up ? Electricity generation should be increased by 40000 M.W. Out of which 30000 M.W. electricity can be generated in Public Sector. It would require one lakh and fifty thousand crores rupees in five years. It means 3000 crores rupees per year should be provided for this purpose only seven hundred crores rupees have been provided in the budget to achieve this target. From where the remaining amount would come ? States can not provide this amount. To what extent we would depend on foreign investors ?

So far as the matter of Petroleum Pool is concerned, it requires a clarification. Government reap the benefit when there is profit from it but remain silent when there is losses. Hon. Finance Minister has stated the loss to the tune of Rs. 19000 crores in his speech but there is no mention about it that how would this loss be made up ? There is no indication of it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs. 35000 crores are being spent on defence. It is essential. Defence of the country is supreme. Pension etc. have not been included in this amount of Rs. 35000 crores. It includes the capital expenditure of Rs. 8500 crores. It means that even one forth of the total expenditure is not being spent on the

modernisation of the three armed forces. It is happening for the last 11 years. Everything is changing. Our forces should be modernised in terms of arms and ammunition, training and other equipments. It is very essential that they should meet the challenges of modernage. But there is no provision for it in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with one more point I would conclude my speech. There is cut throat competition between jute and plastic industries due to the budget proposals. Jute and Plastic both are essential items. So some balancing provision should be made so that both plastic and jute factories prosper side by side. Their interest should also be protected. It is not difficult. The question is this that in which the packing should be made ? In which the packing of cement will be profitable and durable. This proposal appears unilateral and due to which there is resentment among the plastic manufacturers. Hon. Finance Minister should think about that....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do not speak against jute....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE: I have not spoken against jute....(Interruption) We want that the use of jute should be diversified. Items of jute should be manufactured....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You know that the Jute Development Council is doing that. But it cannot meet all....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE: I think, you are the Chairman of that Council.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No. I wish I were.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I want to conclude my speech. Hon. Finance Minister would excuse me if I say that it is not a full budget, it is a half budget and other half is yet to be come. Rosy picture has been presented before us, painful aspect is yet to be come.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Finance Minister should make the procedure of budget preparation transparent, there is no need to conceal anything. If excise duty has to be increased and any decision has to be taken on custom, it should be done in open and there should be discussion on it. National consensus should be evolved on it but it is not being done. If budget is used as a tool of vote catching, budget can not do justice towards the development of the country and when we test the present budget on this yardstick, we can not say that it is budget of poor and common man. However, no one can deny that big companies have been benefited from this budget. But at the same time we should not forget it that these big companies do not make Hindustan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Since, day before yesterday, the House was sitting the whole night, I want to give half an hour more today for your lunch.

13.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till Forty-Five Minutes Past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.51 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after
Lunch at Fifty-One-Minutes
Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

GENERAL BUDGET—1997-98—GENERAL
DISCUSSION—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up General Discussion on the General Budget. Shri Sharad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of budget presented by the National Front Government for this year. I would like to mention about the circumstances in details under which this budget has been presented.

Hon. Atalji has left the House. I was hearing him attentively. This is the second budget presented by the National Front Government. First of all we presented budget for six months and as per our strength we tested it in the economic conditions of the country for six months and today our Government have completed nine months. I appreciate the budget presented by Finance Minister Chidambaramji of our National Front Government but I am not saying so because I am a Member belonging to The National Front Government. You see every section of the country has supported and appreciated this budget whether it is middle class or businessman. Atalji was saying that it had gained praise a lot. We have presented this budget within our limits and our Finance Minister does not want that he should be praised. The people of this country whether they are toiling masses, middle class, industrialists or those who wish to strengthen this country and its economy have praised this budget which has been presented by Chidambaram Sahab under the leadership of the Prime Ministership of Shri Hardanahalli Deve Gowda. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is fiftieth year of our Independence and I admit that within these 50 years we can not save ourselves merely by saying that who was in power. Neither I am in Government nor in opposition, I am standing in the highest institution of the country. I do not want to say

anything about the period prior to 50 years of independence but after independence we have run this country. The people of this country have formed the Government whether it is State Government or Central Government and the persons elected by the people have run this country for 50 years and within this period we have formed the economy. Those who remained in the power whether they were in Government or opposition extended their contribution to it. I admit that we got this set up as legacy. Atalji has rightly said that it is the Government of 13 parties. There is no doubt that many parties have formed this National Front Government, these parties have a number of independents and congress party against which we have fought is also extending its support to this Government. It is possible because of circumstances, once you were also in Government.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA) : Your policies, principles and programmes have gone....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No comments please.

[Translation]

It is good to make comments sometimes but not like this....(Interruptions) Well, it does not matter, now he will not point at you.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Joshiji, you have said correctly that you were in the Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Yadav, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with Joshiji that principles have changed and those who were in the Government, they are now in opposition and those who were in the opposition they are now in the Government. I admit this.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (MURSHIDABAD): You have forgotten that Congress and both these parties supported Chandrashekharji....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Joshiji in jolly mood, you say that do not look at him while speaking. He will not feel happy unless I look at him....(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is sufficient.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Unless I say something, he does not feel happy. He is a son of soil and my memory also becomes fresh when I see him. He eats pure ghee and he is an Ayurvedic Vaidya. Agreeing with you I am expressing my views. You do not think that I am stating anything here as a member of treasury bench or opposition.

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

You see the condition of this country.

Our struggle for independence was fought under the leadership of Mahatmaji, Subhash Babu and Shaheede Ajam Bhagat Singh. Broadly speaking, Mahatmaji was the greatest leader of this struggle but he did not fight this struggle alone rather he showed the economic and social path of the country. He said that 75 or 80 per cent people of Hindustan live in the villages. He said about artisans that they were the second largest population of the country and he himself became artisan.

National Front Government has included the dream of Mahatmaji in its programme. Atalji has said correctly that there should be a vision while preparing a budget. We have included the vision of Mahatmaji in our programmes. We have also included the dream of Jawahar Lal Nehru in it. Thereafter, we have included farmers, labourers, artisans, public sector, private sector etc. of the country in this budget. It does not has dream of a particular individuals.

Atalji who is our elder brother made a mention of many diseases afflicting our country. He made a mention of some incurable diseases also. He has also played an important role to run this country.

One is political power and the other is people's power. Atalji has also been in power, although it may be for a short period. He was in power in the Government of Morarji Bhai in the year 1977. Beside him, many stalwarts such as Choudhary Charan Singh, Babu Jagjiwan Ram etc, who were also freedom fighters, were also in that Government, but they could not change the direction. We don't claim that we have brought any revolution. But it would have been better if Atal Ji would also tell the cure of the illness which he had pointed put. I was surprised at what he said about the manner in which they would do saving which was stated in their manifesto. It has been stated clearly at Page 18 and 20 of the manifesto B.J.P. manifesto that they would bring out the black money which is being created by parallel economy and we have promised to bring it out by December. In this regard he is telling the Finance Minister Chidambaramji that he does not agree to it. He agrees to it in the Manifesto of his party:

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR): Black money is to be unearthed by punishing the thieves no by rewarding them.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : How it came to your mind that we would reward them ? How you would bring it out ?

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA (DAMOH) : We would tele if when we would come in power.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: The thieves should not be rewarded. They should be punished. You are rewarding them.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : You would bring it out by playing Kabaddi....(interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through Sharad Yadav, I would like to ask the Finance Minister that if the black money is donated for construction of temple, whether the Finance Minister would exempt it from tax because that is also a noble cause ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : They don't disclose the money that was collected for the construction of temple. They *lathicharge* immediately.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, he is not speaking on Budget. He is speaking on the speech of Atalji.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am emphasising what Shri Atalji has said. He should tell the way out. He has said that they would bring out the black money from parallel economy. We have stated the manner in which we would do it. If he knows any better way, he should tell that. In my opinion, the Prime Minister of United Front would easily accept that as he works with open mind. I want to make it clear that I am not the man of the Government, but if they would tell any better way, we are ready to accept that. What would be your way of *lathi* because it is democracy. But you have principally raised the issue of bringing out black money.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, why could we tell the way ? We ourselves are fighting to come in power. What we shall do, we would tell it when we come to power.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Chaubeyji is a righteous man. We know him for the last many years. He has been in jail with us in the year 1977 and he has said a right thing. Now what he is saying, is saying because they have to reach here.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Yadavji is such an experienced person. Even then he is talking like this. Do you not know that we want to come in power. When we would come to power. Then they would tell. We were there, but you did not allow us to remain there. You came there by manipulations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is good if there is light talk in between. But it should not continue.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : What is going on, is all right. I don't object to it.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems that Yadavji has not come after making preparation for the budget.

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSHMARIA : The fact is that it is not a socialist budget. Therefore, he is not speaking properly.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are doing injustice to Sharad Yadavji.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : When Yadavji is a

socialist leader and this budget is not a socialist one, why he is speaking on it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that hon'ble Atalji has made such preparation for the first time for the budget and I would say it not only today but continue to say it in future in also. If I did not support this budget, I would not have risen to speak on it. I would tell every thing in the house clearly later on. I would like to say something about the issue raised by hon'ble Atalji. He was saying in his speech that bring such cows which eat less fodder, give more milk and give more dung.

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA : Which is fodder. Fodder has finished.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Now-a-day man is eating fodder. There is no fodder for animals.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, please speak on the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The purpose of Atalji was to criticise and what he said was all criticism whether it is regarding price-rise or unemployment. I want to say something issue-wise in that regard. Keeping in view, the condition of the country which we have inherited, no one can say that we have misused the funds of this country in any way in the last 8 or 9 months. He said and cited the former Primer Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi that only 15 per cent money reaches where it is intended and the remaining 85 per cent money is taken away by the middle-man and the middleman gets powerful. You would admit the fact that we have not misused the funds of the country during the nine months. There are 540 Members in this House. No one can raise figures against any member of Cabinet including the Prime Minister. We know ... (Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA) : ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI : He must withdraw it. It is highly objectionable. ... (Interruptions) it is a direct allegation against the conduct of the Prime Minister and the conduct of the Chief Justice. It cannot go on record... (Interruptions) It must be expunged... (Interruptions) No, there is a limit... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Joshi, please sit down.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am not saying it, the press of India is saying it. What has been published in press, has not been denied. There is no control of any one over the press of India... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has replied in this regard that he had not gone for this purpose.

[English]

The matter should end here.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No, No, Sir... (Interruptions) This is not proper... (Interruptions) This is highly improper.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given direction to remove those words.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI : Sir, this is something which questions the *bonafide* of the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court... (Interruptions) It is highly improper. It is not correct... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already directed them to remove those words. What more do you want ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, we must understand... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI. P.R. DASMUNSHI : Sir, if I say whatever I like beyond the dignity of the House and say something about the conduct of the hon. Prime Minister and the highest office of the nation, than...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given the direction for removing them.

SHRI. P.R. DASMUNSHI : Is simply an order of expunction of the remarks from the Chair enough ? Would you not like to reprimand the Member so that it is not repeated in future... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Speaker has said that he has been receiving hundreds and thousands of letters reflecting on the conduct of the Members in the House. It is a fact that poeple today are looking at us not with a straight face. They have started questioning us on our approach to dignity; our approach to upholding the traditions of this Parliament. Now, if such actions and such statements are once again made in the House then this tantamounts to denigrating not only the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief of the Executive, the Prime Minister but also the House itself... (Interruptions) Therefore, if you consider that it is

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

enough to expunge these remarks then we are sorry because it is a denigration of the Parliament. He should apologise and withdraw the words...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given directions to remove those words. The matter ends there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : No, Sir. He should withdraw his statement. In deference to the wishes of the House I would like to request him through you, Sir, that he should withdraw the statement right now.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When the Chairperson is standing, all other should sit down.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that occasional light remarks are not objectionable. So, it is not unexpected.

[English]

Please avoid all these controversial things and now you please allow him to resume his speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, my submission, therefore, is that in order to uphold the dignity of this House it should be possible for him to stand up and say that he said that in the heat of the moment and that he now withdraws all those...(Interruptions) Sir, I respect him...(Interruptions) I have seen his conduct in the House. It has been exemplary...(Interruptions). Therefore, my request to him is that in order to defend our prestige, he should stand up and say that he uttered those words in the heat of the moment and he is withdrawing those things. That would uphold the prestige of the House....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those words are not on record now. I have already directed them to remove it. Now please allow Shri Sharad Yadav to resume his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not insist.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Try to get the matter settled.

(Interruptions)

Not Recorded

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry. I am not allowing you. I have allowed him only.

SHRI. V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE) : I seek your protection. I am on a point of information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing the point of information. Please sit down.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : The fact has gone on record. The Prime Minister is present in the House. He should enlighten us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The Hon. Prime Minister may please tell that whether he had gone or not. There is misconception all over the country about it and it will be removed only after the Prime Minister explains the position.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why do you repeat all these things ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This is why I requested that....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Only expunction is not enough...(Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever is being told from both sides.

[English]

I can only express regret.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Let him continue his speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHADAMBARAM: Why is Shri Dhananjay Kumar provoking him ? Please sit down.

Not Recorded

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain dignity of the house. Allow him to speak please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Atal Ji rose to speak nobody interrupted him. I rise to defend the Government and I do not want to say anything about the interruption. I want to make a request that the matter is serious and while discussion we should not take it lightly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Now, I come to the point. The United Front Government have set a target for alleviation of poverty in the country. We are the followers of the ideologies of Gandhi, Lohia and Jai Prakash. We have formulated a common minimum programme and the objective of this programme is to strengthen the working class, the labour class of the country. Unless the working class in the country is strengthened, the economy of the country or for that matter the economic condition of the country will not improve and India will not be strong.

For the first time in the history of India, we have allocated 1300 crores rupees for irrigation. For a long time, we were simply saying that our Constitution is a federal one, we are a Union of States, No doubt we are a 13 parties Government but it is this Government which has fulfilled the spirit of Union of States. No other Government did this work till date. We have distributed an amount of Rs. 1300 crores among the States of the country just in keeping with the spirit of Union of States that we have in our country. Atalji was saying that the allocation for irrigation has been reduced. The amount has not been reduced but on the contrary, it has been increased from last year's Rs. 900 crores to Rs. 1300 crores this year. We have provided Rs. 200 crores for Ganga Action Plan. We have also made allocation for rural social upliftment programme to the States.

We have provided Rs. 15,707 crores in the budget for basic needs of the country. In the history for the first time we have provided so much money. The Finance Minister has stated that the fiscal deficit will not be more than five per cent because the increase in prices is deeply related with the budget deficit. Whatever we told six months ago, that has been reflected in this budget. We hope that we would be able to bring it down to 4.5 per cent and even below it.

Regarding electricity, I agree to the criticism made by Shri Atalji. We need 25,000 mega watt more electricity in the country. We have limited resources. Our central power authority NTPC is the main supplier of electricity for the last fifty years. Each and every State irrespective of the party ruling there, as a matter of fact one or the other

party is ruling in one or the other state should make retrospection as to how much amount of NPPC is outstanding against them. If I say anything about the arrears of amount outstanding against DESU of Delhi you say that I am politicising the matter. This Central Institution is engaged in power generation work and if the States do not make payment for the power being supplied to them, then how can we do the development work. Water and electricity are two basic things for the development of the country. If these two things are in plenty, the country can prosper rapidly. We have paid attention towards them. This House should also pay heed to them and a discussion be held thereon. Water and hydro-electricity should be properly utilised in the country. We have made efforts for it. I am on my leg to speak in favour of the budget. We have signed the Mahakali Treaty with Nepal. Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh are the poorest and the most backward areas in the country. Here all rivers originate from Nepal. The United Front Government will leave no stone unturned to make negotiations and agreements with Nepal in this regard. Our intention is above board. A treaty should be executed between India and Nepal for sharing of water. If we get the electricity generated from water, then India can give electricity and water to them.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Are you going to sign any agreement ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : We are quite ready, Chaubeyji should think seriously in this matter. Water is an important resources of the country. It is not meant just to bring greenery in the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the installation of a tubewell costs about one and a half or two lakh rupees but in Bihar boring of tube well costs only two thousand rupees. Chaubeyji knows it well.....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Sir, I would like to say a small thing. When Shri G.P.Koirala was the Prime Minister of Nepal, we called on him. When the embankment was breached the Kosi Embankment Committee met him. At that time, when we requested him to supply power for Bihar, he told us that they were ready to supply provided the Government of India took up the matter with them. He stated that they were not able to utilise so much power. Excess power could be given to India....(Interruptions). Therefore, I would like to submit that the Government of India should talk to them....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Certainly, it is....(Interruptions) I am telling you that nobody executed the Mahakali Treaty...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is half past three.

[English]

Please continue on Monday.

15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up further discussion on the following Resolution moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona.

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the other day when I was speaking on this Resolution, I said that so far as this Resolution is concerned, it looks very innocent, but once we start discussing the purpose of the Resolution, then we would find that the subject is controversial and the subject is so serious that it would have a lot of repercussions on the whole country.

So far as the citizenship issue is concerned, after the Partition, refugees had come from different parts of Pakistan. Providing citizenship to them has not yet been decided.

After the Assam Accord was signed, in one stroke of pen, within a particular cut off date, all those people who are residing there became the citizens of India. But the matter regarding others is not yet finalised. As a result what is happening in Uttar Pradesh, particularly, Nainital, Pilibhit, Bijnaur and in many other areas is that people are coming with complaints that they are staying there for 25 years or 30 years but even then their pleas for citizenship not considered.

Here, I would like to mention about the letter written by an hon. Member, Shrimati Menaka Gandhi, I quote:

[Translation]

In my constituency Pilibhit, people belonging to a particular community have been ignored by the Uttar Pradesh administration for the last twenty years. They are not being provided even essential and basic amenities for living even though these generally provided by the local administrator. Besides this, Gupta Colony, Joshi colony, Nuria colony, Mauf colony and other areas which have been mentioned. She has told how atrocities have been committed against a particular community.

[English]

I would like to mention here that in this perspective it is not a small issue. This issue is a bigger one as we find that there are 40 lakhs of Nepalese citizens living in India; Bhutanese are living in India; Tibetans living in India; Sri Lankan Tamils and the LTTE people are coming to India. I would like to ask a question here. If this Resolution wants to deal with the citizenship issue and the illegal immigrants coming to other parts of the country *in toto*, then, I can understand that there is a point. If they are singling out one community only, then it seems that there is some motive behind it. In that case, I have my objection.

I think that we will not do justice in this sphere.

Sir, one can raise the question of international Agreements. There was an Agreement with Nepal. There are also other Agreements. Even there was Nehru-Liaquat Agreement. There was an Agreement with Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and so on. On the basis of those Agreements, decisions had been taken about the minorities in Bangladesh, the erstwhile Pakistan. Nobody had made any assessment about supplementing them. By simply branding them as Bangladeshis and asking the Government to remove them is highly objectionable. I raise this objection here.

Sir, there is another important point. Since the Government of India is having a better relation with the present Bangladesh Government, I would like to request the Government to take up this matter with them. What about the alien, refugee properties? Those properties are not the properties of Bangladesh. The people had left and come here as refugees. What about their property? What about their status today? I want to know whether the Government would like to discuss this issue with the Bangladesh Government.

Then, we must also understand that among the SAARC countries, India is an affluent country. India is the richest among the SAARC countries. As such there is a trend all over the world, that the people belonging to poor countries start migrating to the nearby rich countries for getting jobs and for earning their livelihood. Even Indians go to America or Canada or the Gulf or such other countries, whether illegally or legally, because they are affluent countries and just want to earn their livelihood.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Even after staying for ten-twenty years, citizenship is granted.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Where is it granted?

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: In countries like America, citizenship is granted in this manner.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The give them green cards. They give them work permits. Why do you not introduce it here? I am saying that I am not against illegal immigrants coming here and they should be stopped from coming to this country. What I am saying is that all of them are not illegal immigrants. It is not correct to say that all are illegal immigrants. This country was one. Ethnically and culturally also, we were one. We had one citizenship. Only after partition of this country, this question has come up. At the time of partition, an assurance was given that the minorities who come to this part of the country will be provided shelter. You give them shelter. This is a bigger issue. At the time of Independence, we had a population of 33 crores. Today, it has gone up to 93 crores. Only because of increase in population, many problems have come and we are facing them today. So, the Government should try to examine all these matters.

What do you think of Nepali population who are coming to our country ? What is your idea about them ? Why are you not saying anything about them ? They are also getting jobs. What about Tibetans ? What about Bhutanese people ? What about LTTE people who are coming to this part of the country ? On all these questions, the Government should bring out a White Paper so that the magnitude of the problem can be known. Thereafter, a decision can be taken appropriately. But, today, singling out one community as Bangladeshis and branding them as foreigners is not correct. They might have come illegally. I am not against throwing out illegal immigrants. But my point is that in the name of illegal immigrants, you should not throw the refugees out. You must understand that point.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): May I just intervene for a moment ? My Resolution is very clear. It is not aiming at any particular community. I said that all those who have illegally immigrated into India after 1975 should be identified and deported. Shri Bhakta, it is not against one community in particular. That is why, I want to correct.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : I am happy that you have clarified the position. Before that, whenever you all spoke, you had all only named the Bangladeshis and nobody else. You had only named the Bangladeshis and nobody else. Now I am happy you have clarified that you have included all those who are coming from other countries...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Shri Bhakta, I request you to go through my speech. It is not Bangladeshis alone, I have named Pakistan, I have named other countries and the majority of them have come from Bangladesh. That is what I have said...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, I would say that his Resolution is a good thing in one way. I must congratulate him. He has given us an opportunity to discuss this issue, particularly the citizenship issue and illegal immigrants issue. Now it is the responsibility of the Government to bring out a White Paper on this so that the magnitude of the problem is known and appropriate action can be taken by the Government. So, I request the hon. Minister, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, who is present here to give a specific reply, when he is replying to the House, what about the alien properties in Bangladesh, what about the Nepalese, the Tibetans and Sri Lankans, who are living here; what are their basis; what they are going to do with those minorities, who have come here and staying here for 25 or 30 years, — even in some places they have been rehabilitated—and how you are going to provide citizenship to them and how soon you are going to provide the citizenship.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of infiltration of foreigners

is the unfortunate outcome of partition after Independence.

Sir, I represent Assam, the North-Eastern Region. After our boundary was fixed, the border in the eastern side, that is East Pakistan now, presently termed as Bangladesh, was open till 1957. But the border in the western sector with West Pakistan was sealed at the time of partition. Not only that, even after 1957, because of very liberal approach to East Pakistan, which is now termed as Bangladesh, a large number of infiltration took place to Assam and in other parts of the North-Eastern India. This problem had further aggravated after the Pakistan war in 1965 when a large number of refugees crossed over to the Indian side and stayed back. In 1964 some Tribunals were formed under the Foreigners Act for identification of foreigners and their deportation. That was also stopped in 1969 because of political influence. This problem had further aggravated when in 1971 Bangladesh was formed, a large number of population of all the religious communities, irrespective of any religion, Chakmas, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims, settled down in different parts of the North-Eastern Region.

Negotiations were there. Indira-Mujib pact was there. But a very little emphasis was made to send back the refugees at that time. At that time, when the situation became very much alarming, the people of Assam under the leadership of All Assam Students Union and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad initiated a mass movement through Gnadhian principle methods. After Independence, this was the first mass movement based on Gandhian theory. It was the first non-violent movement. But the people of Assam at that time were termed as parochial, chauvinists, anti-nationals, secessionists and so on.

I am happy that today after a lapse of 20 years, in this House, the Members of this august body of this country, are expressing their concern for the increased infiltration from across the border. It is not only from Myanmar border but also from Bangladesh, Nepal and Tibet borders, and also from some other countries. Infiltration takes place from Pakistan also.

I listened to the contention of some of the hon. Members when they spoke last Friday. It was alleged that the All Assam Students Union which ultimately led to the formation of Assam Gana Parishad and is now in power, has forgotten the issue. I strongly object to such a contention. Who were the signatories of the Assam Accord ? The Central Government was also a Party and during that time, the Government which was in power was a signatory to the Assam Accord. Lot of problems were created thereafter. There were some discriminatory Acts which existed like the Illegal Migration (Determination by Tribunal) Act, 1983. Not only that Act, there are many other Acts which were aimed at protecting the infiltrators who have crossed over to Assam.

The so-called IMT Act which is aimed at protecting the interests of the minority, is a discriminatory Act. This act is applicable only to Assam and not to other parts of

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

the country. If the entire nation is interested to keep some infiltrators, still interested to allow some of the infiltration to take place, to give them shelter and to give them voting rights, we have no objection. But they should do it in some other parts of the country. But why is Assam always made a dumping place for all the burden of all the population, irrespective of Hindu or Muslim at the cost of our identity, at the cost of our cultural and economic interests in the region ?

It is heartening to note that in some parts of the North-Eastern region, the original inhabitants were reduced to minorities, as for example Tripura. In the national interest, Assam has shown its greatness by accepting a large number of refugees up to 1971 and they were given citizenship rights as per the clauses of Assam Accord.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please stop for one minute; this resolution was allotted two hours which have been completed. If House wishes, it can increase one hour.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Increase the time, it is very important issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, you continue.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : This is a serious subject and I am happy to learn the concern of our hon. Members who are present here. The people of Assam have shown their good gesture by accepting a large number of refugees and also infiltrators keeping national interest in view. Those who have come from Bangladesh or from some other country to a definite period that is, up to 1971 have been given citizenship status

They were also given the voting rights. But it should not be that for 100 years to come the infiltration will take place, that all the infiltrators will be given shelter, land, economic benefits, economic status, the right to vote and the right to decide our political destiny. This situation requires attention from all corners of the House and I would like to appeal to all the parties. We have to remove the obstacles which stand in the way of prevention of infiltration of foreigners. The members of some parties have mentioned that the Illegal Immigrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act is the only Act which can protect the interests of the minorities.

This Act is a discriminatory Act because of which a number of people have crossed over to India through other boundaries, they have come and settled in Assam and they are getting all sorts of protection through this Act. It is in the interests of the Indian minorities who were given citizenship after they were accepted as per the Assam Accord. The Indian minorities who have been shifting their homes since time immemorial. It is in their interest that this Act is to be modified as provided in the Assam Accord and if it is not amended, it should be repealed.

15.52 hr.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*)

I want to clarify this point. This Act is applicable only to Assam and the entire responsibility of identification of the infiltrators is shifted to the common citizens. For identification a citizen has to file a petition with sufficient evidence to prove that a particular person is a foreigner, he has also to pay a fees for that and after that he has also to depose before the tribunal to prove that a particular person whom he has alleged as a foreigner was a foreigner.

It is a discriminatory Act; it discriminates against the prevailing laws of the country, the Constitution, the rights of the Indian citizens residing in the country and it is also a discriminatory Act which is applicable only to Assam. Therefore, this Act requires an immediate review or a suitable modification should be made by which the Act should be made applicable to the entire country, not only to Assam. I must reiterate that Assam should not be made a dumping ground for all the infiltrators or for all the refugees. I strongly condemn the attitude of a former honourable speaker who tried to antagonise or allege that the Assam Gana Parishad which was sponsoring the Assam Movement at one time is keeping silent now.

I must prove my contention that it is during the five-year period that the AGP was in power all negotiations were taking place with the Government of India and the process of identification and deportation of foreigners was started. Also, in the Common Minimum Programme which was issued when the United Front Government was formed it was mentioned that Assam Accord should be included in the agenda of the CMP. That was included. I want to read only one paragraph with your permission, from the Common Minimum Programme.

"ASSAM-AND THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

The problem of infiltrators or foreigners into Assam will be resolved on the basis of the Assam Accord to which the Central Government is a signatory."

Not only that. When the hon. Prime Minister visited the North-Eastern region in the month of October, there was a declaration on the question of foreigners. It is a published notification. "New Initiatives for the North-Eastern region."

It says:-

"One of the important factors impinging on the identity of the people of the North-Eastern States is the question of foreigners. I have reviewed this issue in some details during my discussions with All Assam Students Union and also several others. It was represented that the laws existing for the detection of foreigners such as Illegal Migrants' Determination by Tribunal (IMDT) Act, 1983 as amended have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in

consultation with the States. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened."

Not even one year has been completed after the United Front Government has assumed office. Very recently, day before yesterday, the All Assam Students Union came and met the hon. Home Minister where it was decided to have clause by clause review of the progress of implementation of the Assam Accord. The hon. Prime Minister is committed, and the Assom Gana Parishad is a part of the United Front and we are actively pursuing the matter. We should not be termed that we are slowing down the process and we are keeping mum. This is a national issue. We initiated it 20 years back. Now, because the problem is extended to other parts of the country, all are concerned. At that time, when we initiated it, we were termed as anti-national, parochial, anti-Indian and so on. The insurgency activities have cropped up because the Assam Accord was not implemented in true spirit. The Assam Accord is an outcome of the non-violence movement, Gandhian movement. The hard-liner extremists' outfit has taken the advantage of saying that there is no meaning of any negotiations, any understanding with the Government of India because there is no value of the non-violence and any Accord.

Lot of Accords were signed like the Punjab Accord, the Mizoram Accord and the Assam Accord. But how many Accords were implemented? It was only for fizzling out the movement in sensitive situations that some Accords were signed. But what about our Foreign Policy? There is infiltration from Sri Lanka because of the wrong policy and the infiltration is still continuing from that country. As far as Bangladesh is concerned, was it our duty to go and interfere with the affairs of some other countries? As a result, a part of the Indian territory has been subjected to undesirable harassment by various types of pressure on land, pressure on economy, pressure on culture and pressure on language. This foreigners' issue should not be viewed on the basis of religion. Some of the parties wanted to exploit the situation by depicting the infiltrators as only Hindus or Muslims. Now, in Bangladesh, there are more than one crore Hindus. If, because of political situation, the entire one crore people come and settle in Assam. I do not know whether the identity of the Assamese people will be protected or not. It is definitely not because India is a big nation; it is like a form of the union of smaller nations, it is Union of India. But because of the lapse in the Citizenship Act and the Foreigners Act and because of lack of proper initiative from the Government of India during the last 50 years after Independence, the foreigners came.

16.00 hrs.

The foreigners came. They got their names entered into the voters' list. They got the right to decide our political destiny. That is very unfortunate. The time has come for all of us to sit together and decide how to prevent future infiltration by completely sealing the border. The sealing

of the Indo-Bangladesh border was a part of the Assam Accord, but it is unfortunate that since 1985, no proper initiative has been taken to seal the border.

16.01 hrs.

(*SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair*)

Still in most parts of our country, the border is not sealed and infiltration is still continuing.

In the interest of the Indian citizens residing in Assam, irrespective of their religion, irrespective of their minority or majority status, infiltration should be stopped and adequate steps should be initiated by the Government and the Home Ministry to check infiltration and to protect the identity of the indigenous population living there.

There was a clause in the Assam Accord to provide constitutional safeguard to protect the people of Assam. Because of the foreigners who were accepted at different times by dint of different Acts and by dint of amendment of the Citizenship Act, there is a pressure on the identity of the original inhabitants in the State, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or language they speak. For the protection of that, this clause No. 6 was inserted in the Accord, but still no proper initiative has been taken to specify the safeguards that are to be granted to the people of Assam.

This is the problem in the North-East when the entire country is marching towards competing with the developed countries. Even after 50 years since Independence, these people of Assam and the North-East have been trying to beg from the Central Government that minimum infrastructure should be provided to them so that the people of Assam and the North-Eastern region can compete with the other developed States of the country. Not to speak of other countries, we cannot compete even with Calcutta or with Mumbai. Because of this backwardness, the foreign tourists were prevented from going to North-East since Independence till 1993. But at that time, a large number of infiltrators were allowed. We were not allowed to be exposed to the outside world but we were forced to bear the burden of a large number of infiltrators, whether Hindus or Muslims or Buddhists, at the cost of our identity. Now it is good that the United Front Government is taking urgent steps to remove regional disparities and economic imbalances so that all the regions of the country can be at par, so that after 2000 A.D. we can compete with other developed nation through liberalised economy.

At this time, we are further afraid that when there is no adequate infrastructure for development, when we are exposed to the developed nations because of the liberalised economy, no private party is willing to go to Assam because of insurgency. Only by sending army, this problem cannot be solved. There should be a pragmatic view and there should be negotiations for sorting out this problem. I am constrained to say that in the Railway Consultative Committee's meeting, where some projects were declared for Assam and the North-Eastern region with additional allocation of funds, the Railway Minister was criticised.

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

But in the last 50 years this area was deprived of its share. What is the harm if the other parts of the country give a small share from the total allocation for the development of this area so that this area can be at par with the other developed areas ? This is our legitimate claim. The foreigners were restricted to go to that place. Is it not our legitimate claim to be exposed to the outside world ? Still some parts of the North-Eastern region are not allowed to be visited by the foreign tourists. What is the reason ? Such a kind of approach to control the insurgency may even further aggravate the situation.

There is no employment. All the employment opportunities which were there were enjoyed by particular section of people and in future there is no possibility of further employment opportunities with the present set up of infrastructure. If the Government funds are not going to that side and if only private funds are allowed to go there, there will be no development and the areas will be further alienated. That is why, a pragmatic view on the North-Eastern region is to be taken. I request all the hon. Members of this august House, through you, and also the Central Government under the leadership of our noble Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deva Gowda to initiate further action to remove the regional imbalances and to protect the small States which are the constituents of the Union.

We are talking about national integrity. But how will national integrity come about ? National integrity will not be achieved by sending some forces or by sending some armies. National integrity is possible only when everybody feels that this is my country and we have been properly looked after. If we have to always come and beg here to get our legitimate dues, there will be no feeling of nationalism. This time the people of Assam have also rejected the spirit of secessionist forces and insurgency activities. Now these people should be encouraged. We should encourage moderate group to have link with the national mainstream so that they can come at par with the pace of development of the other developed States of the country and they can get their due share in the nation's employment, other economy and other developmental activities. They should be allowed to expose themselves to the outside developed world. But we have been secluded as if nobody can pass through this area.

Do you know that the North-Eastern region still remains the second pollution-free in the entire world next to the Amazon Valley in South America ? This is the most environmentally-suitable area of tourist attraction and it will remain so in the country. This occupies the second position in the world. There is a potentiality to develop tourism and to develop export with neighbouring countries like the South-East Asian countries through the North-Eastern region. But, there is no infrastructure. The Railway Department says that because there is no industry, it is not economical to extend the broad gauge line and the Industry Department says that because there is no broad gauge line, industries cannot be established there.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATTRAPAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHAH) : Is he delivering speech on Railway or on this topic.

MR. CHAIRMAN : when your turn comes, you can also speak.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : I am expressing my feeling. This is the result and effect of the unfortunate partition of our country where some of the small State were further alienated and they were suppressed. The infiltration was imposed upon them at the cost of their identity. The North-Eastern region is rich. Fifty per cent of the exportable tea is produced in Assam, and 50 per cent of the oil reserves of the country and 50 per cent of the coal reserves of the country are in the North-East. The entire timber and the plywood are supplied from the North-East. Now the Supreme Court has to go and intervene.

The ecology of the area was exploited. The Brahmaputra river is the second waterways in the country. It was declared in 1988. The first national waterways, the Ganga is developed to such a great extent that ships are moving, but the Brahmaputra was never developed and so, the ships cannot move. The river and the sea were the traditional routes for development of any civilization. But this Brahmaputra was never developed.

There are many spheres where attention is to be given now for all-round economic development of this area. Otherwise, if we term them only as anti-national, secessionist, parochial and chauvinist, the application of these terminologies will not help national integration. If we want a united and strong India, every small State and backward area should be allowed to develop itself to a great extent so that there are equal opportunities for development, employment and education for all States.

Assam and the North-Eastern region is neglected in all spheres, for example, the natural gas. Assam was the first State to produce crude oil in the country. The first refinery was established a century ago. Since then, gas has been flaring. The Assam Industrial Development Corporation applied to the Government of India for opening a gas cracker project which can produce a large number of ancillary industries also. This was denied. But subsequently, four gas cracker projects were declared in the country which were given sanction. They will be fed with the imported naphtha or gas from other countries. But still, gas has been flaring in Assam and the gas cracker project did not come. For the refinery, the people of Assam had to agitate. Now, 12 years have passed.

I must speak the truth. In 1962, the Chinese attacked the Indian territory. All the Indian Army from Tezpur and Arunachal Pradesh fled away. All the officers fled away and the Indian currency was burnt.

From this august House. It is very unfortunate, the late

Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru gave a statement : "My heart goes to the people of Assam". That was the time when the bureaucracy at Delhi had a feeling that at any time the North-East India can be taken away by China. That is why, no major investments were made there.

Assam and the North-Eastern region constitute more than 33 per cent of the water reserves and has potential to produce more than 50,000 MW of electricity, which can not only feed the country, but also be exported to other countries. The kind of power that can be produced from the water rivers in the North-East is the cheapest in the country because of the geographical situation, the slopiness of hills and other facilities. But in 1980, the Brahmaputra Board was formed and it was entrusted to prepare plans for mega project.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : I will conclude with two minutes.

This Brahmaputra Board prepared plans for five river valley projects. Till today, not a single project is sanctioned. If they had been sanctioned, there would have been electricity and infrastructure for development. Now, it is not possible to establish any industry there because there is no power. We have all potentialities, but they were not exploited for the benefit of the people. They have only been neglected. That is why, the insurgency is coming up.

Sir, the Brahmaputra river bed is coming up due to de-forestation and Jhum cultivation. The river system has come to a level that there is no particular channel of the river. It is because of the silt deposition in the rivers. Now every year 500 to 1000 villages are submerged with the water system. In certain areas the breadth of Brahmaputra is more than 15 kilometres. Small islands are formed and a cultivable lands are covered with the infertile silt. The major cultivable land in Assam is with the tea gardens and the remaining cultivable lands are submerged with the flood water. Now, where these people would go. There is no employment. Whatever minimum cultivable land the tribal people were having is also not fit for cultivation now. During the last two decades more 10,000 villages have been submerged with the water system because river bed has come up, rivers are changing their course and many areas are covered with the silt. When it was brought to the notice of the Government of India, they said that the State would deal with this problem. We were given loans for the flood protection measures. When the question of resources comes, the Central Government is the master. It is the owner of the resources. But when some problem arises, they say that the State would solve it. That was the reason why the insurgency could get strong footing in the North Eastern region. I would like to appeal to the Government to take strong measures for removing the regional imbalances. I also request the hon. Members to bear with us to check infiltration and help us to strengthen the pace of economic development to bring the people of that area at par with the other parts of the country and to bring them

to the mainstream not by gun but by increasing the pace of economic development.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir this year our country is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Independence. It is but natural that while celebrating the golden jubilee our citizen would wish that our national unity, integrity and borders remain secure. But unfortunately to appeasement policy of Congress and so called pseudo secular people, such an atmosphere has been created that the impending threat to the security and borders of the country is not being viewed by them in correct perspective and sometimes they view it as problem of development and at other time, they link this issue, with someother problems.

Sir, partition of the country was an unfortunate happening. But after the partition and in 1971 when Bangladesh was formed, we thought that our neighbour, a small country will be a cooperative and friendly country. But after this people who came into power started infiltration of their citizens in to India in a very systematic manner. It resulted in tremendous increase in the number of immigrants, we should, say, infiltrators. Due to this increase, social balance of the country linked with security and the social balance and peaceful atmosphere in eastern States got disturbed. It cereated discontentment among the people there.

Sir, just now my friend of Assam Gana Parishad was loudly speaking.

[English]

'beating the bush but not to come to the point'.

[Translation]

The problem is this that they should be expelled from India. They are related to the security, unity and integrity of the country. They are endangering the country and in a way, they are enemies of the country. Instead of expelling them, the politics of vote bank is being played and these enemies of the country are infiltrators are seen as vote bank. It is resulting in such arguments which seem very surprising.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when China attacked our country in 1962 then these infiltrators came from Eastern Pakistan, which later on became Bangladesh, and entered in to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh or North-Eastern states. They were happy that the China attacked India and expressed their sympathy with China. Later, they hoisted Pakistani flag and then Government of India realised the factual position and Home Ministry got alert. Only after this, Govt. of India thought that these illegal infiltrators coming from Eastern Pakistan should be expelled from India. History is witness that when Home Ministry got the report from Darang and Nowgaon, a plan was formulated to indentify and expell the infiltrators. Implementation of this plan was attempted in Assam,

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Meghalaya, Tripura, Bengal. But when Bangladesh was formed in 1971, name of this plan was changed and a force of P.I.F. was formed and named Mobile Task Force to expell such infiltrators. The Border Security Force is deployed on India Bangladesh borders and as the second time of defence mobile Task Force was constituted and P.I.F. was strengthened so that the entry at infiltrators could be checked and they must not be allowed to enter into Indian territory and after their identification they are sent back to their country. In this connection, I want to remind my colleague Shri Arun Sarma that he himself belongs to Assam and his Party A.G.P's Chief Minister is there who had started student agitation at that time. A large scale agitation was going on in Assam during the period from 1979 to 1985 i.e. for six years. All Assam Students Union, A.G.P. and other nationalist parties participated in it and people of our ideology also participated. All of them had launched 'Videshi Bhagao' student agitation from 1979 to 1985. 'Bangladeshi Videshi Bhagao' (Shunt out Bangladesh nationals). Shunt out the infiltrators who have entered into the country clandestinely. When the incident of massacre occurred at Nelli in Assam in 1983, the then Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi had enacted a I.M.D.T. law to identify these infiltrators and shunt them out of the country. Sir, through you, I want to say that this Govt. is so undecided that when our Prime Minister Shri Devegauda went to Assam in October, 1996 he said that I.M.D.T. will soon be repealed. When A.G.P. Govt. came to know of it, they were stunned, Congress people gave the ultimatum that they will withdraw their support. They are already looking for some opportunity to withdraw their support. When Janata Dal people come to know about it, they also expressed their unhappiness to the Prime Minister saying that he has created uproar by making such announcement in Assam. Why this drama had to be played? The policy of appeasement and vote bank is the main reason for the move. These infiltrators have got prepared their ration cards after entering into the country and now they have mixed with the people of this country and now they are employed here doing various jobs. They have got their names included in the main voter list of Assam. Mr. Chairman, History is witness to this fact that infiltrators from Eastern Pakistan and Bangladesh were knowingly allowed to enter into the country. They were provided all types of facilities and politics of vote bank was played. Now they felt threatened. These AGP people used to shout that shunt out these infiltrators from here. Now, they are raising the issue of Hindu-Muslim. I support Dronaji's motion. It does not have any mention of Hindu or Muslim. It say:

"This House expresses its grave concern over the large scale illegal immigration into the country since 1975 and recommends that concrete steps be taken to identify all those illegal immigrants and deport them to the country of their origin."

Now whenever this demand is made, they say that Bangla speaking people are being expelled. It is right that Bangladesh's language is also Bangla and language of West Bengal in our country is also Bangla. There is no question to expel people of our own country. When India

and Pakistan were formed an agreement was concluded with Britishers and later Nehru-Liakat pact was concluded and at that time it was agreed that minority Hindus from there will come here and minorities from here will go there. An agreement was concluded regarding their assets and settlement. So, if a Hindu's name is also included in the list of foreigners and he is in India since 1975, then he is also a foreigner. Regarding the foreigner immigrants, we are talking of deporting them, but we say 'A guilty mind is always conscious.' Whenever this issue is raised then it is said that BJP people are raising the issue of infiltrations to create troubles for minorities. Then the issue at minority and majority, causing feelings of disunity in the society and in the country are raised. But one country is one and is united from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari, Gujarat to Nagaland. Crores of Hindu-Muslim-Sikh-Christian are all one in this country. They all are citizens of this country and have equal rights. They are living in the same nation and are governed by the constitution. We have been demanding that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and elsewhere should be sent back to the country of their origin but, sometimes in the name of minority and sometimes majority. It is said as to why we do not ask for deportation of Hindus? Jinha demanded Pakistan in the name of religion. Resultantly the country was divided into two parts. We made many efforts to keep India united but unfortunately it was divided into two parts in the name of religion. Gandhiji had said that he would lay his life if Pakistan was formed but later he also accepted the formation of Pakistan. No question arises at all to deport those people who came to this country after losing their property, their religion and their society. The reason for Bangladeshi people, who came to India in 1975 after 1971 and also often either due to poverty or for getting job opportunities or sense of security among them under the umbrella of Pseudo-secularism in India. But since this is a matter of our national unity and integrity, a matter of peace and love in our country, they have to be sent back to their own country—be they Bangladeshi or Pakistani. Though, some Tibetan people also took refuge in our country. They came with Dalai Lama we gave them shelter in Dharmshala and other parts of our country. But they were never found involved in ISI activities. Therefore, such intruders as are found involved in ISI activities—be they Pakistani or Bangladeshi—should be deported to the country of their origin. Further, we should have raised the matter of Chakama people also when we signed the Farakka Treaty with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Haseena. We should have told her that Chakamas are not the citizens of India, hence, they should be called back. They are staying in tents in Tripura. We should have told her categorically that lakhs of intruders have sneaked into India and there are two or three lakhs intruders in Delhi alone. I live in Ajmer. There is the tomb of Khwaja Saheb in that city where people go for offering prayer. There also the number of Bangladeshi intruders has gone upto eight to ten thousands. In Bikaner district of Rajasthan, we are catching 50 to 60 or sometime 100 Bangladeshi intruders almost every second or third day in the area bordering Pakistan. How far is Bangladesh from Rajasthan but the intruders are travelling the whole of India and reaching

there in order to go anywhere in Pakistan from that point. Who are the people behind them and who are extending them all possible help, needs to be enquired into immediately. But unfortunately the attention of the Government has not gone towards this problem. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was talking of IMDT Law which in a way has become controversial because it was framed so deliberately. Indira Gandhi was a very smart politician. At that time, All Assam Students Union and Assam Gana Parishad were launching their agitations. In view of those agitations, she thought to enact such a law or which would kill the snake without a stake. She made a provision in this law that a Tribunal would be set up to decide as to who is an intruder and who not. Alongwith this, she put one more condition according to which if you complain against a person alleging him/her of being a Bangladeshi origin who has intruded in your country then you will be required to prove your allegation before the Tribunal. Now, tell me, how can one prove that he/she is a Bangladeshi intruder because his/her name has been enrolled in the ration card. They also have a few sympathisers here who have got their names enrolled in ration card and voter's list. Now we are demanding that the Government of India should maintain a citizenship register and provide I-cards to the people living at border areas. But they are paying no attention towards that demand. They have merely set-up a Tribunal in the name of IMBT and the result was 'much ado about nothing' which makes me laugh. Under this IMBT law 2,89,767 cases were enquired and only 8,937 people were found as intruders by 30th June, 1995 and out of this number merely 1,305 intruders were ousted from the country. On the one hand we are saying that nearly one crore Bangladeshi intruders have sneaked into our territory and in certain districts of West Bengal and Assam, they are living in majority and on the other hand we are allowing them to live happily. Assam Gana Parishad felt that these people are becoming a vote bank but when Congress feared the power going out of their hand, they held talks with the organizations of minorities and allowed them to live freely. They ensured their vote bank and soon after that their passion to oust those Bangladeshi intruders subsided. They were allowed to live happily and move freely. They were assured that nobody would speak against them. Nothing else can be more heinous than the saviour becoming devours. The politician of this country, who have ruled this country so far, have, hatched a conspiracy against the country. Whether any other wrong can be bigger than this? Nothing is bad about that law. Neither its face is bad nor conduct is bad, the problem is that its intention is bad. The eyes of so called secular people, who have joined hands today, are set on the vote bank. They are following the policy of divide and rule and at the same time maintaining a balance so that their seat is safe. Assam Gana Parishad and All Assam Students Union could recognise only a few foreign intruders between 1985 and 1990. Earlier the demand was raised to repeal this law but when Hiteswar Saikiya of Congress became the Chief Minister of the state with the support of Bangladeshi Muslims, he adopted a casual approach in this matter. Later, Assam Gana Parishad also adopted the same

approach after being elected to power. They also lifted all the restrictions. Sir, one thing I would like to bring to your notice in this respect and that is, the question of repealing the IMBT law has put the United Front Government in the dock. A sword is hanging on its neck whereas its butt is in the hands of Congress. Resultantly they are engaged in a tug of war which has kept everybody, including Devegowdaji and Janata Dal, silent. In addition to this there is threat from Congress that they may withdraw their support in case the law is repealed. Thus, they are playing with the security of the country and encouraging the infiltration of foreign nationals who are intruding and settling themselves down in India. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government lacks the required will power to deal with the foreign intruders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you also lack the will power ? Just three minutes before you promised that you are concluding. Will power means the fulfillment of commitment.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I, through you, want to draw the attention of this House towards the people who are playing with our national security so that they are aware of the situation. Long back, around 30 to 32 years ago, the Union Government had introduced a scheme, namely, PIF i.e. Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners and set-up a Mobile Task Force (MTF). Under that Scheme, 3153 soldiers were recruited in Assam. Where are those soldiers today? I want to know about them. Whether they are working as PIF or MTF soldiers? Whether they are identifying the intruders and sending them back to the country of their origin or performing their duties at border? No, they are not doing this job. Today, they are performing their duties either at the bungalows of Ministers in Dispur and Guwahati or in some police station in Assam. The very purpose of setting-up of those forces have been defeated whereas the money was given by the Central Government to set-up those forces. Every state, including West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura, got the money from the Centre so that those Forces can be set-up but we have failed to achieve the objectives thereof. Today everybody is alleging that whatever money goes to Bihar, is diverted to other purposes you, yourself, while presenting the report of Auditor General, had said it. The Central Government gave financial assistance to Bihar for setting-up of a force but that force exists nowhere. The soldiers of that Force are deployed as orderly at the places of Ministers and highly positioned officers. Resultantly, we could not provide second defence line to the B.S.F. which was the requirement of B.S.F.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that 3153 soldiers in Assam, 165 soldiers in Bengal, 194 soldiers in Meghalaya, 144 soldiers in Tripura who were recruited into those Forces have been discharged of their duties but, on the other hand, several foreign intruders have sneaked and settled in India whose identification and deportation has become very necessary. If we look at the national level and identification move is launched by our Home Ministry, we will find crores of foreign intruders almost in every state of the country.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

The need of the hour, today, is that the Home Ministry should look into the matter seriously. As far as I know, mostly these intruders are settled in Assam, North East States and Kishanganj of Bihar where they are living in majority. Their number have reached to crores in every metropolitan city of the country.

On this important issue and on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year of our independence, I would like to recite the following lines said by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose—

'Kadam-Kadam Badhaye ja,
Khushi ke Geet Gaya ja,
Ye Jindagi hai kaum ki,
Tu kaum Par Lootaye ja.'

Assam Gana Parishad and our other Colleagues should learn some lessons from these lines if they have got any national feelings in their heart. Our freedom fighters used to raise slogans and sing—

'Sarfarooshi ki Tamanna,
Ab Hamare Dil Mein Hai
Dekhana Hai Jor Kitna
Bajue Katil Mein Hai.'

I would urge upon you people to take some inspiration from these lines and let us join hands to identify these foreign nationals and deport them to the country of their origin. We should take up this task immediately. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, through you, vehemently request to deport all these foreign national—be they Pakistani or Bangladeshi or LTTE—to their own country.

I also demand to put barbed wire all along the border and assign this job to BSF and other para military forces and also provide them with mobile vans and wireless sets to check the infiltration at our border lines. Besides, a register should be maintained for containing the names of all Indian citizens.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down. If you have any more suggestions, please give it in writing.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (BARASAT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the Resolution moved by my esteemed colleague, Shri Drona, is concerned, it has got two specific and inter-related issues. One is that the Resolution expresses concern over the increasing, as they say, illegal immigrants and he has also specified a particular deadline, that is, 1975. The second aspect of the Resolution is that appropriate and concrete steps should be taken to deport them to the country of their origin. So far as the intention is concerned, I think, there cannot be two opinions. India should be the country of the Indian citizens; India cannot be a country of foreign citizens; India's Government should be the Government of India; India's Government should not be the Government of the United States or of the United

Kingdom. I think, that kind of patriotism and national sensitivity is existing amongst all of us who have been chosen by the people to come here. Therefore, if this is the genuine intention, I think, neither the Government nor any side of the House would object to the basic objectives of the Resolution. But objections are there on certain valid grounds. One valid ground is, it is not as patriotic as it appears to be.

Sir, all that shines is not gold. Therefore, there are other lurking suspicions on this. These lurking suspicions are on the basis of concrete realities; and we have seen these concrete realities in Assam, we have seen these concrete realities in other North-Eastern States, we have been seeing concrete realities in Delhi and we have been seeing them even today in Maharashtra. Even today's newspaper carries a news item that the Government of Maharashtra has started a campaign against all Bangladeshis. Here, nobody knows who are Bangladeshis. Those who speak in Bengali are taken to be Bangladeshis and as such I am also a Bangladeshi. I speak my own mother tongue, Bengali, which I love more than anything else. To speak in Bengali...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: You won't be considered Bangladeshi.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU: To speak in Bengali, to quote a poem in Bengali, is not a crime. I shall lay down my life than to give up my right to speak in Bengali and to understand my Bengali culture. Therefore, the question would have been different had there been this sensitivity among all sections of the people who are raising this demand for deporting those who are illegal immigrants.

I would now take up a concrete situation and this will be clear. So far as Assam is concerned—I do find my very dear friend Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, who is a well-meaning gentleman—I quite appreciate the position taken by the AGP. But they should also take into account that whatever did take place in the late 80s in Assam, much water has flowed down the River Brahmaputra in politics, in cultural assimilation, in social and economic issues.

The whole point is that this issue of illegal or legal immigrants has stemmed from the ill-conceived suggestion of partitioning the country. I quite agree that realities are realities and they cannot be undone simply by my speech or by my altruistic ideas or philosophical or ideological comments. Pakistan is a reality as India is a reality; Bangladesh is a reality as India is a reality. We cannot deny those realities. I would have been happy had we been able to undo the partition. The partition had been imposed on the people of India.

It is because of, history says, certain political consideration of a group of leaders who were then at the helm of the affairs of the nation. I am not bringing in this point, but the fact is that partition has become a reality. Partition

has given rise to the so-called illegal immigrants. I would like, in particular, to deal with Assam. There is a new demand that IMDT Act of 1983 should be repealed. I only appeal, through you, to the hon. Members to understand what this IMDT is, IMDT only provides a judicial mechanism to identify who are the legal immigrants and who are the illegal immigrants. On the other hand, there are concrete realities in certain parts of the country today. Some group of people go to the police station and submits a list of hundreds and thousands of people or thousands and thousands of people who might belong to the Muslim minority or the linguistic minority and ask the Superintendent of Police to forcibly deport them to the so-called country of their origin, i.e. Bangladesh. Is there no justice? Is there no law? Can there not be a law, can there not be a judicial mechanism, can there not be justice to decide who are the legal citizens and who are the illegal immigrants?

I support IMDT because of the provision of the judicial element. I cannot allow anybody to go to the police station and ask these SPs or any other law enforcing authorities to forcibly deport a section of people belonging to particular community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat for a while?

[*Translation*]

Already one more hour has been allotted than the prescribed time for the purpose but many members have yet to speak and also this is an Important matter. So, shall we extend the discussion for one more hour?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's alright. The discussion will be extended for one more hour with the permission of the House.

[*English*]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): I would like to know whether the next Resolution will be taken up or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First, finish this Resolution. Then, let us go to the next.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I will complete my speech within five minutes. I have no time. I have to attend a meeting.

I, with all humility, would request our friends from Assam not to remove that judicial element. Let the Tribunal decide and deport. I have got the figures to show whether it is effective or not. In the year 1991, as many as 2,913 cases were referred to the Tribunal. In 1993, only 349 cases were found to be of illegal immigrants. There are other very alarming figures. Lakhs and lakhs of cases have been referred to the Tribunal. Ultimately, only a few hundred cases were found to be of illegal immigrants. As

a matter of fact, I have decided to participate in this debate to protect the rights of the linguistic minorities and the religious minorities who are being branded as illegal immigrants, although they are citizens of India, although they have been living in India for generations together for the last thirty years or forty years and although they are living in Assam and in other parts of India, like Delhi, Mumbai etc.

But their only fault is that they speak Bangla. They still have not forgotten their Bengali culture or customs. For that, they are being targeted to be removed. I protest against it and I shall say that this should not be permitted in any way.

So far as the comments made by the Prime Minister are concerned, as is reported in the Press, he did not mean to abolish or to repeal the IMDT Act. So far as the hon. Home Minister of this country is concerned, he said that nothing has been decided on that subject. So, IMDT Act remains and it should remain as a judicial forum for the determination of illegal immigrants. I think that there should not be any opposition from that side unless they are communally motivated and unless they have got the hatred campaign against the Muslims or against the Bengalis.

I would make an appeal to the Maharashtra Government, to the Shiv Sena and to the BJP. In Mumbai proper, there are innumerable number of Bengali artisans who are doing ornaments. They are Muslims from Howrah, from Hoogly and from my own District. They are now being issued notices saying that they are not citizens of India. You may please sympathise with me. Thousands of people are coming to me, asking me to give a certificate to the effect that they are Bengalis and that their original place of residence is in my District or in my area. That certificate is to be produced before the Shiv Sena Headquarters or before somebody else. I do not know what respect they will give to this kind of certificates.

As a Member of Parliament, I seek your protection for this. I cannot allow my kith and kin to be treated that way. I cannot allow my own villagers and I cannot allow my own neighbours to be treated that way in Mumbai which is a part of this country. Therefore, I request that this may be taken note of.

So far as the intention of the Mover of this Resolution is concerned, as far as I know, the Government of India is well aware of the situation. In 1992, there was a Conference of all the Chief Ministers of the country. There were certain decisions taken by them regarding this problem. They have also mentioned certain parties which are collaborating with those illegal immigrants. They should be punished. They suggested the introduction of identity cards. The Chief Ministers Conference also suggested further strengthening of the BSF or mobile task force. The Chief Ministers Conference suggested the creation of public awareness with the help of the Media. They have also suggested that the Indo-Bangladesh relations to be improved and they have also suggested that annually at least

[Shri Chitta Basu]

two times the Chief Ministers of the country should meet to monitor the progress.

My complaint against this Government is that they have not taken effective steps to implement them. For my friends in Assam, I would say with all humility—as you have already pointed out—that the problem of Assam is not the problem of illegal immigrants. The problem of Assam is the problem of its backwardness—economic, industrial and agricultural. I am in complete agreement with him. I am prepared to fight side by side with them, when they fight against the discriminatory policy of the Government of India, so far as development is concerned. I will be with them in the streets, I will be with them in the prison, I will be with them in this Parliament, I will be with them at any place and at any forum to fight for the genuine cause of the development of Assam, for the development of the North-East Asia. My dear friends should realise that the problem of Assam is because of its backwardness and not because of Muslim or Bengali infiltration.

Assam's problem is that you refuse to accept the reality that Assam should be based on pluralism. Assam's language, culture, population and way of life is based on pluralism. If you deny that pluralism, it means that you deny your own culture and your own right to be a part of the main stream of Indian politics. So far as myself and my party are concerned, we should all remain together to defend the unity and integrity of this country and India should be free from non-citizens. Everybody should have the chance to live in India with peace, honour and dignity.

Therefore, in this background, I cannot agree for the adoption of this Resolution because the main principle has already been taken into account and rather, I will urge upon the Government to implement their decisions of the Chief Minister's Conference held in 1992.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for the opportunity offered to speak on this Resolution. I am slightly bemused by the bench-mark provided by Mr. Drona, the hon. Member. The bench-mark is 1975. Perhaps, he has in mind the post assassination period of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman in Bangladesh and the resultant unrest in that country. In this context, I would like to deal with the term 'exodus'.

16.57 hrs.

(PROF. RITA VERMA in the Chair)

Exodus takes place in case of any oppressive, economic, social, political or religious compulsions and exodus invariably leads to immigration. Immigration could be legal or illegal, depending on the attitude of the Government of the State or the country to which the immigrants go. It is a matter of contention; it is a matter of fact as to what the country thinks at that particular moment of time. That is why lot of laws have been framed from time to time, as Shri Chitta Basu was telling about the laws framed and

Mr. Rawat was also telling so. Therefore, from a particular situation one has to think as to what should be the law at that particular moment of time. All these laws relating to foreigners stemmed from the basic Foreigners Act. The Foreigners Act provides that in case of any person coming into the country, the prosecution cannot be taken up without the sanction of the Central Government and in many cases, the Central Government has given the powers to the State Governments, meaning thereby, that it is not necessary to prosecute every person who has immigrated to the country. It may so happen that a country to which they have come, may have been large-hearted enough. You may kindly see the Upanishadic sloka which is there in front of the Central Hall.

"Ayam Nijah: Paroveti, Gan-naam Laghuchestam,
Uddar Charitananu:, Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam"

The entire world is my own house and family. If you think like that, then there is no question of prosecuting anyone. If the country, if the State Government of that day thinks that there is no necessity to prosecute anyone, well, there is no question of prosecuting. Broad-hearted people always think that all should be one. In this context, of course, I would slightly digress.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Other people should also have the feeling that the entire world is my own house and family. But these people are coming to rob the country.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU: Madam, please allow me to continue. I would like to request you to kindly go through the famous novel written by Shrimati Haider.

17.00 hrs.

Shrimati Haider is a famous Urdu novelist. Her novel, 'The Burnig Fire', got the Janapith Award. She has treated on a very simple subject. That simple subject is known to everybody in India. That is transmigration of the soul 'Punrjanam'. She had started during the Buddhist period when Buddha was preaching Buddhism in India. A Brahmin boy went to Taxila for better learning. In those days, the best university was at Taxila.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was Nalanda.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU: No. Nalanda came later. After getting his education, he came back to Varanasi. But he was enchanted by Buddhism, the preachings of Buddha, and embraced Buddhism. Later on, during the Muslim period, the same soul took birth—it is a transmigration of soul—and embraced Islam. But he was an Indian. I will not tell the other things because it will be a very lengthy story. Let us go back to 1946. That youngman of 18 same transmigration of the soul—decided to go to Oxford for pursuing higher studies. While he was pursuing higher studies in 1947, the partition came. In 1949, he had completed his studies. He came to Pakistan. But he could

not stay in Pakistan. He had to come back to Uttar Pradesh because he said, "My soul is here. I belong to this country. The geographical boundary that comes later is immaterial for me. I am bound culturally, ethically, by everything, to this country." He came back. That is a very famous novel. Kindly go through that novel.

I fully agree with the apprehensions of hon. Member, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, from the North-East. It is a fact that large-scale immigration disturbs the ethnic composition, be that religious, economic political or whatever it is. That is the apprehension which comes to mind. In 1975-80, I was Superintendent of Police, Cuttack. I had noticed that many Bangladeshis were being brought by the people of Cuttack for committing dacoities because arms were available in plenty. Many people from Bangladesh, because of shortage of food, were coming in dinghies. A 'dinghy' is a type of a boat which is very sharp at the bottom and it can come through the sea and go through the creeks into the deep interiors. They were coming by creeks and they were taking rice from Cuttack and Balasore areas of Orissa to the East Coast. Some of them settled down. And they are now prosperous people. Some of them went back when the situation became normal in Bangladesh. Some of them, who were born as Brahmins in Bangladesh, came away to Dandakaranaya. You will be amused to find that they became *Namasudras* and they are staying there taking all the benefits of being Schedule Castes. It is quite good. I being an atheist, I was quite amused to find that people change their religion and their caste in order to get some economic advantage out of the situation that is prevailing in the area.

What I wanted to say is that we should not think in a narrow way as to what it means by 'illegal immigration'. It should be left to the people to decide as to what action is to be taken. A resolution should be absolutely broad-based. If a resolution is taken up with a sinister motive, it is very bad. As hon. Member, Shri Chitta Basu has said, if there is any motive behind the resolution, if only a particular group of people are to be attacked, I think, no resolution of that sort should be taken into account. Let us think in that light. It is better to identify the people who have come into the country. But it should be a separate matter to deport them. We are thinking of dual nationality. There are many countries which give work permits also for people to go out and work and all that thing. And if there is any oppression in other neighbouring places, as I said earlier, be that religious, economic, political or social, people are bound to come to our country, and we must accept them.

We must be prepared to accept these type of people who come. Otherwise, what is the use of being the citizens of such a big country, such a country with broad-hearted people? Take stock of the situation, identify them and later on, in case of necessity you could prosecute them; you could deport them; or you could even allow them to continue to stay. I have seen two lakhs of people staying in Baleswar and Cuttack districts of Orissa and they have settled down there. There is no necessity now to rake up

this issue in that area. I do not know about other areas. I do not like to dilate on that. But there is no necessity to rake up that point now.

Now, as I said, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona in part. First there should be identification. But, at the same time, let us think about it. Deporting them is a complicated issue as to when to deport, why to deport and how to deport.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: You are advocating the diagnosis of the disease, not the treatment.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU: It is not a question of treatment. I would come to that later on. I always feel that we should see the world in a grain of sand, the heaven in the wind flower and behold eternity in the palm of a hand. That is what I feel. I am not questioning anything of. You see, a grain could also be a replica of the world. People who have come are also Indians. They were Indians before 1947 also. Why not we accept that in a way? I fully agree with what has been mentioned by him. If there is a disturbance—I do not say religious disturbance because no religion is important and no religion is permanent. Any religious *messiah* or any religious prophet has been a rebel against an established order of that particular day, of that particular age or of that particular period. Once that particular age, that particular period or that particular situation goes, that *messiah* becomes redundant. I am not talking of any one religion, I am talking of all religions. Again, I am saying that I am an atheist and I am not trying to hurt anyone's feelings. Religion is not permanent. It may so happen that one more religion may come one day; some prophet may come and he may propagate another religion and those people belonging to other religions may combine together to form a new religion. So, we should not think of religion as a permanent solution for human problems. We should think of economic problems as the permanent thing on which we should work. That is why I say that there should not be any sinister design in this resolution.

In my humble opinion, identification should be done but the identified persons should not be deported now. Later on, things could improve; the situation may improve and the Government might take a separate view and a separate decision on this.

What has happened in the North-East? It requires a little economic package. Give more money; educate the people; let them stay. There are many other people who have come to India. The Tibetans, the Nepalese, the Bhutanese, the Sikkimese and so many other people have come to India. Even the Sinhalese have come. The Sinhalese had come coming to India from one thousand fifteen years and they have stayed in Orissa. The people from Orissa have also gone to Ceylon and stayed there. What has happened? A composite of culture has emerged. There is nothing wrong in it. People should come and go. The only thing, as has been pointed out by somebody, is that it might lead to subversion. From my experience in the Police Department I could say that if I want to engage an agent of committing subversion I would not engage a

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

foreigner, I would engage my own people—other than engaging a man from outside and commit mischief in my own country—because that is easier to handle. So, subversion is not the question. It is a state of mind for a person. It is not for any religion, it is only for economic considerations, that is, getting more money and doing the work. Tomorrow he might be working for somebody else. That is why I say, again I repeat and I conclude, identify, but do not deport. All the laws that have been framed are not permanent and should not be permanent.

*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (CHENGALPATTU): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on a resolution about immigration moved by Sh. Drona.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maintain some order in the House.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: We find today in three different regions of the country namely North-East Region, North-West Region and Southern Region the issue of the entry of Intruders, Immigrants and Refugees. Many people have thus migrated and settled down in several places. This is not a new phenomenon. This has been there from 1948 or even 1947, as a fall out of Navakali Massacre. During the time when Mahatma Gandhiji was there we had to face this immigration and influx of refugees. Lakhs of people from Pakistan came and settled down in several parts of India including Tamil Nadu. Most of them have been accepted as the citizens of the country. They have settled down and got properties too. Thus all those who have moved out have settled down in their respective countries.

The influx of Chakmas in lakhs in the North-East Region and the arrival of Bangladeshis in the adjoining states are a result of migration of people from across the border. They have settled down in places akin to their culture and traditions. Likewise lot of people of Pakistan have come and settled down in Jammu-Kashmir region.

Similarly in South India, we find the influx of immigrants from Srilanka who have now settled down in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. They are all our people and their descendants who migrated from all these states long back to what is now known as Sri Lanka. Now it is return-back migration and one by one they have come back and settle down here.

This kind of Inland migration and across-the-border migration is not a new phenomenon. People from the neighbouring areas always move over to earn their livelihood in the nearby better pastures. As was pointed out by one of our friends here it would be incorrect to say that they should not be allowed to move and around and live here to earn their livelihood. After all they come in only to earn a livelihood in the absence of any means or any other go in their own places.

In Tamil there is a saying, "YAADUM OORE YAVARUM

KELIR" i.e. 'The whole world is a global village and all of us interrelated like relatives in a big family.' We believe in that philosophy. So we cannot take all those immigrants to be our enemies or bad people. We cannot condemn outright all the Sri Lankan Tamils as bad people.

In 1989-90, when our DMK was in power the migrated Sri Lankan Tamils who came to Tamil Nadu were all screened and segregated from one another. The DMK Government took efforts to find out genuine refugees and kept at bay those who were identified to be otherwise. Those who were suspected to be intruders and infiltrators were barred and put in prison cells as per our Laws. After that during the time when Governor's Rule was there, as it appears to be so the furtherance of possible infiltrators were not properly checked. This alone might have resulted in the assassination of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This is known to all of us. Our Central Government has got various agencies to check the possible infiltrators from among the immigrants.

In 1991, the DMK Government was dismissed. It is only after that i.e. during the Governor's rule the possible infiltrators and intruders might have entered. We all feel that alone had resulted in the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The former Prime Minister and the Jain Commission Enquiry is still going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VIADYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Call all of them into this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, listen to me. A bit of pulling and hauling is O.K. but why are you interrupting him? A bit of pulling and hauling keeps the debate alive. But don't shout like this which will make difficult for listen him.

(Interruption)

[English]

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: It is only after 1991, that is when AIADMK came to power led by Ms. Jayalalitha, there were incidents of fleeing away from prison cells by the intruders who were put behind bars by the earlier DMK regime. In between 1991 and 1996 there were about eight incidents of escaping from the confinement. About eighty people have escaped from the prison cells. All these things happened only during the AIADMK regime. The Union Government has got various agencies like IB, RAW etc. It is their duty to identify the good and the bad from those who have moved in to our land. Such identification done by the appropriate agencies should result in checking intruders and initiating proper action. In the meantime genuine, hapless refugees and migrants should be given all possible help on humanitarian grounds. Bad elements may be deported and innocent people can be allowed to continue in our country.

Let me conclude my speech by opposing this motion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Madam Chairperson, I have listened to the discussions held on this resolution during the last few days and today as well. First, I would like to read the text of the resolution for the information of the House.

"This House expresses its grave concern over the large scale illegal immigration into the country since 1975 and recommends that concrete steps be taken to identify all those illegal immigrants and deport them to the country of their origin."

I am unable to understand as to what is objectionable in this resolution which any person, who has faith in the Constitution of the country can oppose it. It is greatness of Dronaji that he has used '1975' in his resolution. If he would have written 1947 or any date starting from the next day of formation of the Constitution, instead of 1975 even then I think no citizen of India can oppose this resolution.

Madam Chairperson, when we take oath, we affirm to protect and to be loyal/determind towards the constitution. I would like to read two articles of the Constitution before going into this resolution. This Constitution had been accepted by the people of the country. Article 5 of the Constitution describes the features of citizenship.

[*English*]

"every person who has his domicile in the territory of India and—

(a) who has born in the territory of India; or

(b) either of whose parents was born in the territory of India; or

(c) who has been ordinarily resident in the territory of India for not less than five years immediately preceding such commencement."

[*Translation*]

Those who were residing in the country till 1947 or either of whose parents was born in the territory of India or who was born in the Territory of India shall be the citizens of India. I am very sad to say that some of the gentleman from Congress were saying—there was a time when we used to be one, we have been divided. Set those people come here and these people go there. There is a difference between a Nation and a guest house. One can stay and leave the guest house whenever he wants. A Nation do not come into existance on the basis of ancient history only. Law of citizenship is not based upon emotional bondage. The system runs in accordance with the law of the country. Therefore, article 7 of the Constitution says:

[*English*]

"Not with standing anything in articles 5 and 6, a person who has after the first day of March, 1947, migrated from

the territory of India to the territory now included in Pakistan shall not be deemed to be a citizen of India."

[*Translation*]

Those people who have after the first day of March, 1947, migrated from the territory of India shall not be deemed to be a citizen of India. I am not saying this. It is written in the constitution. Even then, these people from Congress, who have ruled the country for 50 years, say that some people have come back to the country 20-30 years back and once upon a time we were culturally one. But Partition took place and constitution of India has been formed.

[*English*]

We the people of India mean, we the citizens of India. We the people of India does not mean any person whose parents or forefathers resided in India some 50 or 60 years ago...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Today, this is not the question. It is not wise to say that they come and go, our law is not stringent and these people shall be deemed to be a citizen of the country. Those members, who are supporting the arguments of this Government are indirectly opposing the Constitution of India. This people, at one hand take oath that they will protect the constitution of India but on the others hand they oppose the same.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I appreciate his enthusiasm. He does not know anything. You go through the Indira-Mujib pact, you go through the Indira-Liyaquat Ali Pact. And you go through the Assam Accord. Section 32 says that those who have come to Assam after 1st March, 1971, after this Pact, will be treated as Indian Citizens. This was done by this Parliament ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: I have not finished yet. Why are you getting so upset? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak when yours time comes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You are naming Congress, that is why, I am replying ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Your people said it ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You go to Assam and say that all Muslims go out and all Hindus stay. This is communalism. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): This is not a question of Hindu, Muslim. Bangladeshis have come here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev, you speak when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, Madam. When a party is named and repeatedly named without any reason or rhyme, I have got the right to take your permission and speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can reply in your time.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I have asked for the permission. What is this? Everybody sitting in the Chair only rebuke the Members. Enough is enough. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, Madam, this is not the way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Maintain some decorum.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: This is highly insulting. ... (Interruptions) It is with her permission that I have spoken, not without her permission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dev, you are a very senior Member. You have spoken without my permission.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Then, I beg my unconditional apology. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, it is all right. You have not asked for permission and I have not given you any permission. You are a very senior Member.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: If you have not given permission, then I beg my unconditional apology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a very senior Member, you set precedent for the junior Members. Is this how you behave?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Kindly recall, Madam, he is our Chief Whip. He is a senior Member... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But he should not shout at the Chair.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Madam Chairperson, when any senior member or leader intervenes, they do so to convince.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's alright. But Everyone should conduct properly.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is over, Let us continue with the business.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: If Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee can intervene, as a leader of a party, I should have got the chance to intervene. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You did not even ask for it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I also represent 140 Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You even did not ask for it. How can I give? How could I give permission? Please Maintain some decorum in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a small thing. You take your own time and put your views to your utmost satisfaction. I don't mind it but let the Business of the House go on.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Madam Chairperson, Shri Dev is my Senior Member. I respect all the members. He made a mention of Atalji. I have high regard for Shri Atalji nevertheless I respect you also. Whenever we talk in this House, Our matters and views differs because we have different Ideology. If I have said something which you do not like then you can express yourself when the time comes. It you do not like anything then there is no use for holding discussions in the House. You are my Senior member so, you please give me opportunity to speak. When your turn comes, you can say what you want I never say that I know everything. I am a new, a junior member, and a lawyer. I want to learn from you and I wish that you should teach me.

Madam Chairperson, it is very sad and unfortunate that a Member of Parliament has to bring in a resolution in this House after 50 years of Independence to the effect that the people who have entered into the country after 1975 are not the citizens of the country they are foreign infiltrators and they shall be repatriated. The present Government and the party supporting it or opposing it and that too without any reasons there is no more unfortunate thing than this. I have listened to the speech of the members. They said that some people come to their

constituency and plead that they are facing difficulties. If they are facing difficulties, then whether the country will have to change the law. In a murder case, 50 persons are arrested, they are put under trial. Out of them 5 are convicted and the remaining 45 escaped the punishment. Then, whether the remaining 45 people should ask to repeal I.P.C. because they have been harassed? Under section 107.(S) of the IPC people are arrested in the cities and they have to undergo trial. Then whether that law should be repealed? If the MPs have to pass through Security checkup while entering the Parliament, then whether the Security check up should be withdrawn? The question is whether we want to permit the foreign infiltrators to stay or we want them to rapatriate. It is said that the whole world was one and united. I want to give an example.

In the other parts of the world, they are very strict. Even when the juror and Head of the *surpanch* have to visit abroad, they face a lot of difficulties in securing visa. You might have read that 200-300 of youth from Punjab who were being carried illegally to other countries were made to sit in a boat after they were driven out of ship in the mid seas and were killed by drowning. Other countries do not allow the entry of illegal immigrants. But in our country their case is being advocated by saying that they should be allowed to remain here.

The number of infiltrators in our country is on increase. They are staying not only in the North-East but in Delhi, Mumbai and Now in my own constituency—Chandigarh and their numbers are increasing. If the Voters-list is checked, we may be surprised. By reading the name itself we will find that they do not belong to our country. The people speaking Bengali language are the Citizen of the country.

No one objects if any person speaks Bengali, Urdu, Hindi or Punjabi but if a foreign speaks the language spoken by the countrymen then it does not mean that the person speaking our language is a citizen of our country. We have people speaking in Bengali and urdu in our country. So also there are such people in Pakistan also. Similarly Pakistan may be having people speaking Punjabi and Hindi. If a Pakistani who can speak chaste Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi pleads that he should be treated citizen of India irrespective of being a foreigner, this argument has no force at all. The question is that whether they have a right to stay in India.

Madam Chairperson, staying of such infiltrators in the country creates a numbers of problems. The first problem is economic problem. When these people infiltrates into the country they work at less wages in order to get shelter. They take shelter some where or else illegally as a result economic crisis arises. Many people among the rickshaw pullers, trolley men and people working on daily wages secure employment through under hand means and creates the employment problem. The other problem relates to population. The whole country is worried about increase in population. The whole country wants a check in increase in population. But most of these people believe in polygamy which is a major cause of population increase and the

increase in population is a major cause for the problems arising in the country. 25000 patients have to take shelter in the hospital meant for 5000 patients. Similarly, 2500 children study in a school, constructed for a 500 students and 8000 students study in the college constructed for 1000 students. In fact, the problem in arising and the rate of crime is also increasing because of these people. In North-East regions, where their population is more, the terrorists activities are on increase and if the intelligence report is studied thoroughly, we would come to know that these people take shelter through under hand means with vested interests for their survival. It poses a grave threat to the security of the country. These people do not have loyalty and commitment towards our country. Some where in their mind/heart, they may have some reserved feelings towards their country. If they are not identified and deported back in time then such a person can create a problem for the country after holding any vital post. I think you have talked about many pacts and agreements. I don't want to go into their details. I do not claim that I have all the information but I can satisfy Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev but today this is not the question. He has referred to the foreigners who came to this country after 1975. You please tell me, which law of the country says that those foreigners who have come into this country after 1975, will not be considered as foreigners and they will be deported. If an agreement or an Act is in violation of the provisions/articles of our constitution then such an Act or agreement will be invalid.

No single Act can violate the provisions/articles of the constitution.

[*English*]

If it is in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of India, then the Act will be invalid, it will not be operative.

With all these arguments, I thank you for giving me time and I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four hours has been allotted for discussions. At 5.48 pm. the time i.e. 4 hrs. will be over. What's the opinion of the House in this regard. Shall we extend it?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Let the time be extended and such members may be allowed to speak whose names are in the list.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, we object to this. I do not allow this time to be increased. I have objections to that from my party. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What's the opinion of the rest of the House?

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: The time should be increased. Discussion should be held on this matter. Many people are ready to speak on this subject.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Names of those who want to speak are given. This is a question of national importance, I don't know why Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is speaking the other way.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: We should be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, you will be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Your Chairman has said that I will not be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Do not say 'Your Chairman'. She is our Chairperson. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Then, she should invite me to answer. I have got the right to answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: That is not the way. She is our Chairperson. She has very clearly said that if you want to speak, you must seek permission and then you would be allowed to do so. She has very clearly said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: This is not the protocol. I am a Member from 1980. This is not the protocol. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: She has very clearly said this. I still remember it correctly and it must be a part of the proceedings also. You kindly check it up. She has said that you are a very senior Member and if you seek permission, then you would be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, you should set an example to other Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: You are talking more than others and even then you are complaining that you are not being allowed to speak.

[English]

SRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, it is the convention of the House that if any particular party is mentioned, the onus is to give an answer. If I would have participated in the discussion, then I would not have intervened.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us leave this matter.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, have I got the right to submit before you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I stood up and wanted to say something. I thought that you had given me the permission. When you have not given me the permission, then I said, 'I beg unconditional apology' because I should not speak without your permission. That I admit as a Member of this House.

Now that the hon. Member has spoken something, I have a right to reply. Personally I am not against this Bill. When he says '1975', I also support it. But when he says that constitutional provisions have not been complied with, I just wanted to point out to him some historical facts. He is right that in 1980 when the IMDT Act came, the same question was raised in this House. If you go through the IMDT Act, it says that the provisions of Liyaqat Ali package was also nullified after that. All these things have been taken care of. This is what I wanted to point out. He said: 'This is unconstitutional'. I said: 'No, the constitutional provisions have been taken care of'. ...*(Interruptions)* He said that all of us are violating our oath. That is what he has said. I wanted to say only that that we have not violated our oath. Probably, the hon. Member does not know the background of the other Bills. That is why, he has said that. Our Party is not against this when he says 'after 1975' because the fact is 1971. I am not disputing that. If there is an Act in respect of any foreigner coming after 1975, then we will support it. We are not against that. He has said that all of us have violated our oath and it is going into the records of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: He never said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Cairman, let me clarify it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (JHANSI): You check the record please. He has said nothing like that.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Let him say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: You can't oppose this Bill, since Deve Gowdaji had said to repeal/withdraw the legislation formed under this Bill and protesting this a delegation under the leadership of Shri Tarun Gagoi had come to express their anger.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, I heard your submission. If you have spoken in such a tenor, there

would not have arisen any problem. You were shouting at the Chair, to which I objected to and I have every right to object to that. You must offer your submission with due respect to the Chair. You are a very senior Member. You should set an example to the other Members. You cannot shout at the Chair. Anyway let us get on.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Madam, are you reprimanding the hon. Member?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not. I am just explaining the case.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: We should extend the time. He also wants to take part in the debate. He is supporting the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What does the Government say to that ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: After the remarks of the hon. Chairman that there is an indisciplined Member, I am saying that I protest it. I do not want any time to speak. You put it to vote.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you start talking among yourself. What is the Government's intention?

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: This is not Government's business. Rather it is a Private Member's Resolution.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's alright. As per the wish of the House, I will extend one hour time for discussion on this resolution.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It will not be lapsed. It will be taken to the next week.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Still 25 minutes' time is left.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You can extend the time but not today. You extend four hours even; I do not mind.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's alright. One hour's time is allotted for discussion on illegal migrants resolution.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: I need 10 seconds to clarify a point.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: One hour has been extended for discussions on this resolution. Today's sitting will last upto 6.00 pm.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: The previous speaker, Shri Satya Pal Jain, has said something and probably that offended the feelings of the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If everybody speaks like this, I cannot manage.

[Translation]

You please sit down. I have allowed next speaker.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: I thought that you had given me permission to speak.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's O.K. what is over is over.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: It has come on record. He has never said that 'you people do not believe in Constitution'. He has never said that. He said, 'we have all taken oath of the Constitution and nobody can oppose this.' That is what he said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall go through the records and decide.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Any body can put the record straight.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pradip Bhattacharya—Absent.
Shri Banatwala.

[Translation]

You please let the next hon. Speaker give his speech.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Madam Chairperson, it is very kind...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: In that case, I accept your ruling. But it should be a precedent. In future, if a Member objects and the Speaker in Private Members' Business, or the Chairman in the Chair, says that it should be extended by one hour, then that is mandatory.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is with the consent of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, I am also a Member of the House. My consent is not there. Either you have to go for vote or you have to go by the consensus.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's alright. If you really want this they tell me that how many Members favour extension of one hour for holding discussions on this resolution.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA: I am on my legs to speak with your permission, you have already allowed me to speak, now why are you changing your orders?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, Mr. Banatwalla, I have given permission to you, but other hon. members are objecting to it. I want that you must speak.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Just now, You have given a ruling that one hour time is being allotted additionally for holding discussions on this resolution. This doesn't implies for today's sitting. That means you have extended the time for the next sitting, when this matters will be taken. Then what's your objection to this?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: That I have accepted.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sontosh, I am also telling the same thing. May be, you could not pay attention. You all opine that one hour time shall be allotted additionally for discussions on this resolution, not for today, but for the next sitting, when the resolution is taken for discussion.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Madam, Chairperson, it is very kind of the hon. Member, Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona, to have raised this question of illegal migrants or infiltration in the country. The Motion moved by him tries to express grave concern over the so-called large scale illegal migrants in the country. It, then, recommends identification and deporting of these illegal migrants to their country of origin.

There are several disturbing aspects of the so-called question of infiltration in our country mentioned in the Motion before the House.

In the first place, I have to say that there are repeated concentrated attempts to paint an unwarranted alarming picture on this question of infiltration of illegal migrants. A bogie is sought to be created that there is a large scale illegal migration into our country as if to say that it is not a migration into the country but almost an invasion on the country by the illegal emigrants under the most incompetent and inefficient Government that cannot control the borders of our country. This, I must say, is an unfortunate political propaganda well-orchestrated for political reasons.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Aren't these people in

India ? Entire Rajasthan Border is full of Bangladeshis.

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: There is a political propaganda behind this.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Recently *heroine* worth Rs. 35. crores has been seized. The entire border of Rajasthan is full of Bangladeshis.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Here in this House itself we are being given all sorts of figures. Some hon. Members come out and say that there are lakhs of people who are illegal emigrants. Others have taken the figure right up to one and a half crores. They themselves do not know what is the extent of illegal migration to the country. Simply, for political benefits they go on giving all sorts of figures. That is the first thing that must be known. I must emphasise that in the process of detection of the so-called emigrants genuine citizens of the country must not be harassed and made victims of untold sufferings.

In Assam, for example, as a result of the political agitation this House enacted a legislation called the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1993. Under the Act lakhs and lakhs of cases were referred to the tribunals. Lakhs of references were made. Lakhs of people were accused of being illegal emigrants over there. This was a judicial forum. It went into those complaints. And then an overwhelming majority of those complaints were found frivolous and hardly a few hundreds were taken and were decided as illegal emigrants by this judicial forum over there. But irrespective of all this, the orchestrated propaganda goes on and a bogie—as I said—is sought to be created for political benefits.

The point that I am making is extremely clear. Let us look at some of the figures that were given to us in the reply to the Unstarred Question No. 2376 dated 17th August, 1995 by the then Home Minister.

And here we are given the number of immigration cases. Several States are mentioned and the number of immigration cases are given for the year 1993, 1994 and 1995. In Jammu and Kashmir, there were 77 migrants in 1993, 264 in 1994 and 154 in 1995. In Punjab, there were 68 migrants in 1993, 54 in 1994 and 36 in 1995. In Rajasthan, there were 208 migrants in 1993, 196 in 1994 and 107 in 1995. In Gujarat, there were 9 migrants in 1993, 12 in 1994 and 6 in 1995. In West Bengal, there were 1713 migrants in 1993, 1954 in 1994 and 863 in 1995; In Assam, there were 113 migrants in 1993, 77 in 1994 and 53 in 1995; In Maghalaya, there were 213 migrants in 1993, 192 in 1994 and 37 in 1995; In Mizoram, there were 2 migrants in 1993, 2 in 1994 and 3 in 1995; and in Tripura, there were 370 migrants in 1993, 299 in 1994 and 76 in 1995.

I am giving the official figures given to us here in the House in reply to an Unstarred Question and nobody had the guts to come forward with the privilege motion against the then Home Minister.

Madam, this is only for political benefits. Then, in the name and in the pretext of identification of the so-called foreigners and infiltrators and illegal migrants, untold hardships, are inflicted upon the innocent victims, genuine citizens, particularly to those belonging to the minority community. We all know as to what has happened in various parts of the country. If you are talking about the North-East, a plethora of complaints are coming from the minority organisations of harassment. The North-East Indian Democratic Organisation has appealed to the present Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda and the hon. Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta to alleviate the miseries of the migrant Indians in the North-Eastern parts of the country, who are being harassed illegally. So, a bogie is being created and harassment is being done for political purpose and without any basis whatsoever, which is divorced from the realities of the situation. For example, in Mumbai, we had the Shiv Sena Pramukh, Shri Bal Thackeray openly calling upon the Shiv Sainiks to come forward for the purpose of detection of the Bangladeshis, the illegal migrants.

There is an open invitation to take the law into one's own hand and the result was that there have been instances of the Shiv Sainiks entering into *masjids* even at the time of *namaz*, for the so-called identification of the Bangladeshis. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam Chairman, I shall request the hon. Member to please yield. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Wrong thing is being said. It is absolutely not like this. This must be expunged from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, Mr. Banatwalla.

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Our delegation met the present Governor, Shri P.C. Alexander. We presented a memorandum to the Governor and placed all the facts before the Governor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, Mr. Banatwalla. Since you have taken a name, he has the right to defend it. Can I give him one minute if you please yield?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: No, certainly not. He can speak when his time comes. I have not taken hon. Member's name. When his time comes, he can certainly speak.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, when Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev could defend his party, why could our party not be defended? ...(*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: He has referred the name of Shiv Sena, but no one among us has taken the name of Muslim League.

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: These are the matters of record. We met the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri P.C. Alexander, and presented a memorandum, giving all these facts and the names of places ransacked by these people. Here, in Mumbai, what happened? In the name of Bangladeshis, a reign of terror was let loose. The Bangladeshi women were afraid to wear *saris* in Bengali fashion. The people were afraid of speaking in Bengali ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: We have heard of Goebbels. But after Goebbels we are hearing it for the first time. It is all untruth which is being used on the floor of the House ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: From the Victoria Terminus railway station, trains full of Bengali people, Bengali Indians ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Madam, I am on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: It seems as if the Muslim League of pre-partition is speaking. He is saying the same thing which Muslim league used to say.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Banatwalla, he is on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You will not be able to listen the truth.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: If you say truth, then we will be able to listen to it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: This is the truth. Face it.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order. Mr. Drona?

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: My point of order is that when reference to a person, who is not a member of the House and who is not present in the House, is made then either it should not included in the proceeding or the party, whose reference has been made, representative of that party, who is very much present in this House, should be given a chance for clarification. The member of that party is in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am already saying that they have a right to give clarification.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: This is not a question of party. He has no right to take my time to express himself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have named the person. He has a right to reply.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: If he takes my time then it is wrong.

[English]

This is a frivolous intervention that is going on here only because the truth hurts them.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: You please give ruling on my point of order.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, he cannot be allowed to speak like that without your giving the ruling. A person who is not present in the House to defend himself cannot be named.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I will see the record and whatever objectionable thing I find the I will see to it.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: It is my right to give clarification. Let me allow.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Not now. I do not yield. The hon. Member is not named.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, you please continue...

(Interruptions)

(Translation)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There would be no clarification to this affect. You will have a right to speak after his speech is conclude.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Madam, he may go on speaking all the untruths that may be there in this world, but the fact remains, they are matters of record, instances after instances are there, that we went to the Governor of Maharashtra and pointed out to them. But then the Government is the Government of BJP-Shiv Sena, with remote control. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Banatwalla, you have already spoken for twenty minutes...

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Madam, that is not fair ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you listen to me?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: With so much of intervention, I have yet to open my mouth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First you listen to me. It is a matter of record. You have spoken for twenty minutes. How much more time do you need?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Out of twenty minutes, fifteen to seventeen have been taken by them in intervening. I must be allowed my share.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long will you take? Please reply to that. Why can't you listen to the Chair?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I shall take the time that is necessary in order to place my views clearly and cogently before the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time do you need now?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I need the time adequate to place my point before the House. ...(Interruptions) And I will not certainly stop.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I am a Member with all responsibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken more time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I have never abused the time of this House. You can pick up the records and see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you not come to your point?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are just wasting your time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Therefore, Madam, let me, at this instance, thank the hon. Mover of the Resolution for giving an opportunity to place these matters before the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not listen to the Chair you will be wasting your time. That is what you are doing.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is unnecessary. I must say that the Chairperson's intervention is rather too much now. Please allow me to go on. I will not abuse the time. Rest assured. This is an assurance I am giving you. ...(Interruptions)

Madam, Chairperson, I have said that even the persons who are migrants from one part of the country to another part of the country and who are citizens are being harassed. Those living here, brought up here and educated here for generations and generations are harassed under the context of being called 'illegal migrants'. Now, Madam Chairperson, I must also draw your attention to the provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985. This Act amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 and according to Section 6-A, it made special provisions as to

the citizens covered by the Assam Accord. Accordingly, all the persons of Indian origin, who came before 1st January, 1996 to Assam from Bangladesh are deemed to be the citizens of India. Then those who came between 1st January, 1996 and 25th March, 1977 are given all the rights except the right to vote. That right they got after 10 years. Now, irrespective of these provisions also, those settled for generations and generations are being harassed as Bangladeshis. There must be certain limits to those things.

A demand is made by these persons who have the orchestrated propaganda of illegal migrants that the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act of 1983 in Assam be scrapped. I strongly oppose it because it would lead to further untold miseries to the innocent citizens of our country, particularly the minorities.

I must also make one or two more suggestions to the Government. It is necessary also to amend the Foreigners Act with respect to the burden of proof. Section 9 says that the burden of proof is to be upon the accused. This is a colonial legacy and under the present political context in our country it is bound to be misused and abused to the hardships of the people. Therefore, the Section needs proper amendment so that the burdened of Proof goes upon the employment the complaining authority. Similarly, under Section 12 of the Foreigners' Act the Central

Government has the power to delegate authority to others. I must appeal to the Central Government that there should be no delegation of authority now because of the political situation that is there in our country and the harassment that comes up to the citizens of our country.

Now, I must point out one more thing, before I conclude, and that is ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Time is over. You may speak later.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Yes, it is your time that is over. Before I conclude, I must say that the Government must not fall victim to all such...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue next time.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 15th March, 1997 at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Saturday,
March 15, 1997/Phalgun 24, 1918 (Saka)*

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