

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. PB-025
Block 'G'

(Vol. XI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. P.K. Sandhu
Joint Secretary

P.C. Chaudhary
Principal Chief Editor

Y.K. Abrol
Chief Editor

A.P. Chakravarti
Senior Editor

P. Mohanty
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XI, Fifth Session, 2000/1922 (Saka)]

No. 5, Friday, November 24, 2000/Agrahayana 3, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 81, 82, 84 and 85	4—26
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 83, 86-100	26—48
Unstarred Question Nos. 915-1143	48—315
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	315—322
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	
Fourth Report	322
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	
Eighth Report	322
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	323—326
CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	326—364
Closing down of various Small and Cottage Industries due to non-revision of the Master Plan of Delhi	
Shri Madan Lal Khurana	326
Shri Jag Mohan	328, 348
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	339
Shri Kamal Nath	341
Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi	344
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	345
Shri Chandra Shekhar	358
MULTI STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL	364
MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL	365—376
Motion to Consider	365
Shri Arun Jaitely	365
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	367

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	369
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	370
Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu	372
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	373
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	375
Clauses 2 to 11 and 1	376
Motion to Pass	376
MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTION	377
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—INTRODUCED	377
(i) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill	377
(ii) Government of Union Territory of Daman Diu Bill	378
(iii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 31)	379
(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 130)	379
(v) Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 10)	379
(vi) Supreme Court of India (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Hyderabad) Bill	418
BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL	386—418
Motion to Consider	386
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	389
Shri Sukdeo Paswan	389
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	390
Shri Kharabela Swain	391
Shrimati Rama Pilot	394
Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan	396
Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen	397
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	398
Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit	399
Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary	401
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	403
Shri Brahma Nand Mandal	405
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	407
Shri Arun Shourie	409
Shri Subodh Mohite	416
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL	
Insertion of New Article 75A etc.	419—420
Motion to Consider	419
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	419

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 24, 2000/Agrahayana, 3, 1922
(Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Muslims were killed in their houses in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. You have given the notice. You can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Six persons were killed. This is a very serious matter. Nobody has so far been arrested people are being killed openly along the National Highway.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given the notice for adjournment motion. We have rejected that. You can raise this matter in the zero hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not got on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will get a chance to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. You should not disturb the 'Question Hour'. If it becomes a daily routine, how will the House run? The Question Hour is disturbed by some or the other party daily.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should not get annoyed. We want solution to the problem....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am cooperating with you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I understand the situation that Members of the party sitting on that side may have to speak. A student of class twelfth was killed....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you can raise this matter during the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are rules of the House and the House should be conducted according to these rules.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We are talking of continuing the Question Hour....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the notice for Adjournment motion.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I am not questioning the seriousness of the matter. What I am telling is that there are certain rules and procedures of the House. Will we raise any issue any time depending upon his wishes....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not quarrel.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: We have also many important matters which we want to raise....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What you said is correct. I am appealing to all the parties not to disturb the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am raising the issue under rules. Please do not teach me rules. We have duly given the notice of Adjournment Motion and only then we are raising this issue. We want that the Question Hour should go on.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this matter during the 'Zero Hour'

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can please raise this matter during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Both of you are disturbing the House.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Rules should apply equally to all parties. We will also start raising issues...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: He has again started speaking...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Who is he to say this...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: When the leader of opposition was raising an issue, you observed how the members of his party behaved. You want us to co-operate in all matters. We have our own prestige...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, please understand that he has given a notice to suspend the Question Hour. I am appealing to all of you to take your seats. I have disallowed the notice and asked him to raise that matter during the Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to fight against the Government. The Government is doing injustice...(Interruptions). A student of class twelve was killed. He was a Muslim.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you can raise it during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of BJP...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Removal of Poverty

*81. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'International Monetary Fund' has attracted the concern of the Indian Government towards the imbalanced growth and high rate of poverty in the country through its report named as 'World Economic Outlook';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government on the criticisms made by the International Monetary Fund; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for improving the situation in respect of imbalanced growth and high rate of poverty?

[English]

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

* Not recorded.

Statement

(a) and (b) In its publications "World Economic Outlook" (May and October, 2000), the International Monetary Fund has described India as amongst the fastest growing economies in the world over the last two decades. "Yet", it goes on to say "despite these gains, poverty rates remain high, with more than a third of the population still living below the official poverty line. This uneven progress raises questions about the impact of the economic and structural reforms implemented since the mid 1980s on growth in India, and what more can be done to make greater inroads into poverty reduction."

(c) The Government of India are fully cognizant of the need for equitable economic growth and speedy reduction of poverty.

(d) Government are implementing a comprehensive strategy for the balanced planned development and eradication of poverty which emphasizes upon:

- (i) accelerated economic growth with a focus on sectors that are employment intensive;
- (ii) human and social development through basic minimum services; and
- (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes - for income generation through self employment, supplementary wage employment and protective social security.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker Sir, it has been about 53 years since the country attained independence. Out of this long period of 53 years the Congress Party has been in power, for almost 44 years and during this period Congress has done politics in the name of poverty alleviation. Late Pandit Nehru ruled the country for 17 years, Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi also remain in power for 17 years and Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ruled the country for five years. Similarly other leaders also ruled over the country but poverty could not be alleviated from the country. Contrary to this the poor become poorer and the rich became richer. Rich people have deposited to the tune of Rs. 3500 crores in the Swiss Banks. The poor people pine for food, clothes, shelter and medicines.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my question is that whether the Government are contemplating to launch a national programme for providing food, clothes, shelter and employment to everyone by conducting survey and to check the imbalanced growth and improve the prevailing situation of higher rate of poverty? If so, by when it will be implemented?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Central theme of the schemes formulated in the country since the very first five year plan has been the poverty alleviation and social justice. The Governments which remain in power from time to time formulated and implemented the poverty alleviation programmes on one hand and on the other hand their endeavour has been to ensure social justice for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have some data with me. The present definition of the poverty line was framed in 1977 on the basis of the figures of the year 1973-74. It is evident from the last twenty years data, which is available with me, that as per the said definition of the poverty line the percentage of the people below the poverty line in 1973-74 which was 54.9 percent has gone down to 44.5 percent in 1983-84 and as per the survey conducted five years ago this percentage has receded to 36 percent. Therefore, it can be said with a firm belief that due to the policies adopted by the Government in the past, the number of persons residing below the poverty line has reduced continuously.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker Sir, my question has not been replied to satisfactorily. My supplementary question is whether any action plan is under consideration of the Union Government to provide houses to the beneficiaries of the general categories under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Housing Scheme instead of the Indira Awas Yojana and to the beneficiaries of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana and issue land lease to the landless and shelterless people? If so, the time by which this programme is likely to be implemented?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a specific question and it is upto you to decide as to how relevant it is to this question. This question is not related to the Ministry of Finance hence I cannot reply to this question immediately.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that basic minimum services like primary education and primary health care to rural population should be given prime importance in order to reduce poverty. In this connection, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has in mind enhanced Budget allocation for primary education and primary health care into the next Budget, besides other basic needs like water supply, roads and housing for rural people. Will there be an increase in the GDP, which I think is much below the desired level? Will there be an increased allocation in the next Budget for primary health and primary education?

MR. SPEAKER: The original Question is about removal of poverty.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have some figures here which I would like to share with the House. It is true and I entirely agree with the Member that the removal of poverty should not be merely confined to removal of poverty at the level of individual or the family. We must take steps to remove the feeling of poverty at the level of communities also. The basic needs which the hon. Member mentioned are essential in order to be able to remove that feeling of poverty. We have various programmes for social services which include health and education. We have rural development programmes. We have a basic minimum services programme which is now known as Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana. I have some figures here. In this I am not including the figures of 1991-92 because that was an exceptional year. The four years of Congress Government from 1992-93 to 1995-96, the total amount spent was Rs. 13,926; in the two years of the next Government it went up to Rs. 22,778; and in the three years that we have been in Office, it has gone up to Rs. 32,682. So, there has been a quantum jump in expenditure on social services and rural development which are primarily meant to make an assault on the problem of poverty especially in the rural areas.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the Finance Minister is good enough to refer, in his answer, to accelerate economic growth with focus on sectors that are employment intensive. The Minister knows full well that agriculture is the most employment intensive sector. It employs more than sixty per cent of our labour force. I do not want to go into the past. I would like to deal with the present. Nor do I want to indulge in the game of blame.

The fact remains that in the agricultural sector, as has been pointed out in the debate the other day, the prices of agricultural produce are crashed. The cost has gone up with the result it has led to unanticipated immiseration and impoverishment of the agricultural sector and decline in employment sector. I am afraid all our poverty figures will be found alright in light of this new development. Will the Minister address himself to this problem?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the problem with poverty is of two kinds; one is a structural problem and the other is cyclical problem. The problems that we are trying to tackle are on both fronts. Structural problems are there because we have inherited the problem of poverty. That is the structural part. Then there are certain cyclical developments from time to time which also impact on the lives of the poor. Immediate steps are undertaken to take care of the cyclical problem also. So, when we are tackling the problem of poverty, the strategy includes both these aspects.

I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the public investment in agriculture over the years has declined because unfortunately, both on the Budgets of the State Governments as well as on the Budget of the Central Government, there have been immediate demands also for agriculture including, for instance, various kinds of subsidies which are counted as current expenditure. They are not creating an asset, therefore, they are not regarded as long-term public investment. That is the reason why there has been some diversion of resources to current expenditure compared to asset creating-expenditure. There has been an increase in the private sector investment in agriculture for asset creation. The terms of trade of agriculture *vis-a-vis* industry has improved over the period of time. There is cyclical problem this year. This House has debated it. My colleague, the Minister of Agriculture has indicated to this House the various steps which are being taken by the Government in order to help the farmers currently. This includes a whole host of measure including price-support operations in various parts of the country for various crops. So, we are alive to the problem and we are trying our best to tackle the problem.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has agreed with the IMF Report, the World Economic Outlook, that though the structural adjustment has started in our country, poverty rates still remain high. Sir, these structural adjustments were initiated during the Congress regime. Since the same policy is now being followed, has any study been made by the Government of India to know how far they are successful in alleviating poverty in our country, particularly since the time we have started the process of liberalisation? The Minister, in his reply, has also said that social investment is coming down. In light of that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the percentage-wise figure if he could give that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Firstly, one or two things have to be corrected. I did not say that social investment or social sector investment is coming down. In fact, the point I was making was that it has gone up. Merely in response to Shri Jaipal Reddy's question I have said, which is a fact, that public investment in agricultural has declined over the period of time but as far as the impact of the structural and the economic reforms programme on the lives of the poor people is concerned, I have mentioned that we have the figures of poverty estimates up to 1993-94. We know that the structural adjustment programme started in 1991-92. I also mentioned that 1991-92 was an exceptional year. So, we should look at the results from 1992-93 onwards.

If you look at the results of 1993-94 it also showed that compared to the last 10 years, poverty ratios had come down. Now, we do not have the current estimates

yet. The quinquennial survey has been completed by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). It is being tabulated by the Planning Commission. In think, in the next few months, the Planning Commission will come out with its assessment of the latest poverty estimates of 1998-99. But Shri Pravin Visaria who is the Director of the Indian Institute of Economic Growth in Delhi and who is also the Chairman of the NSSO — he was in charge of this survey — has on the basis of the survey, written a few articles which are in public domain where he has said that the latest surveys show that poverty ratio has come down drastically from 36 per cent to something like 27 per cent. So, in my reply, I have said that the concern which IMF has expressed is not something which is new to us. India does not need to learn from IMF. We have been completely sensitive to the requirement of poverty reduction. Therefore, since independence, we have followed effective programmes for that. But what has been the impact of structural adjustment programmes and economic reforms programmes is something that we will be able to debate more meaningfully after the latest survey results have become public.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know two things from the hon'ble Minister of Finance. He had said that 27 percent people are living below the poverty line. The figures he is having may be official but as per the figures I have this percentage is near 38 to 40 percent. Just now Shri Jaipal Reddyji has also said that this figure is more than 27 percent. There are 26 to 29 crore people who are above the poverty line but they are dependent on agriculture. These people at times are affected by floods, cyclone, hailstorm or drought. As such these people could not get jobs or their agricultural production declines considerably. These people are also under the poverty line. Have you ever conducted any review in this regard? If so, the outcome thereof and if no review has been conducted whether the Government intend to conduct any such review?

On the other hand per capita income yardstick is there. I want to know as to what is the per capita income of the country? What is the number of people assessed to be living below the poverty line at present. What is the per capita annual income of those people? If any survey has not been conducted in this regard, I may kindly be supplied the figures in this regard later on. But there are about 26 to 29 crores of the farmers and the agricultural labourers who can be treated below the poverty line on occurrence of natural calamity. Whether the Government have carried out any review in this regard? Whether those people have been included in

those people who are living below the poverty line? If they have not been included in the list of the people living below the poverty line what are the reasons?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all I would like say that I am not giving the fabricated figures to the House. The procedure laid down for the collection of data is still being followed. There is no scope of manipulation in figures. Here I would like to quote an article of Shri Praveen Visaria in which he has said:

[English]

"Indian statistical system with all its faults cannot be manipulated."

[Translation]

Because thousands of people are involved in it and therefore it is not possible for any government to manipulate the figures in this regard or add something in them. Besides this several individuals are also privately engaged in collection and analysis of the data. As far as the question of the natural calamity raised by Shri Mulayam Singh is concerned that is right. I have been replying to the question raised by Shri Jaipal Reddy and I have said that such incidents take place due to which the people living above the poverty line may also come below the poverty line. Keeping this in view the government take necessary steps accordingly. Here I would like to say that besides taking into account the per capita income in fixing the definition of poverty line, calorie consumption is also taken into account. In 1973-74 it was decided that people consuming 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas would be deemed above the poverty line and people consuming less calories would be deemed below the poverty line....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: It is just calories.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, it is Kilocalories. Kilocalories is a technical term. I am speaking in the House, therefore, I have to use the technical term. It is commonly known as calories. But, it is actually kilocalories.

[Translation]

I was saying that several measures are taken from time to time, for example the State Governments take measures to deal with the natural calamity and the Union Government also help in it. But these measures are of an immediate nature. But Calories consumption is

deliberated upon from time to time. What sort of review the Planning Commission can carry out in this regard? The Planning Commission can make a review as to what should be the calories consumption as per the prevalent price level and what will be the cost on the said consumption and after that it should be decided. Thus the outcome of the tabulation would be the ultimate definition of the poverty line. As I have said that we tackle the specific situations arising from time to time.

You have mentioned the per capita annual income. I have the figures with me but I don't want to take much time of the House by referring the figures at this point of time. I will send you the figures later on.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: One-third of the Indian population is living below the poverty line even in the 54th year of independence. All the Governments have been formulating schemes for alleviation of poverty. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Union Government is thinking of formulating any concrete scheme or a time-bound programme to alleviate poverty in this country.

Secondly, if any State Government is willing to formulate any scheme to eradicate poverty in that State within a stipulated period, will the Government of India be ready to finance that State Government in the form of incentives?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have already mentioned that the broad strategy consists of firstly increasing the growth rate of the economy. This is a point which I cannot overemphasise. We must grow at a higher level in order to be able to tackle the problem of poverty. For this purpose the Prime Minister of this country has already given us the target. In his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 15th of August this year, the Prime Minister said that the target is to increase the *per capita* income of the people of this country by one hundred per cent, that is to double the *per capita* income, in the next ten years. That is the target for the first decade of the new millennium. This will translate into a rate of growth of nine per cent per annum. We are trying now to work out in the Government a strategy which will enable us to achieve that high rate of growth. This is one part of it. In other words, we must have enough to distribute. We just do not have to distribute poverty amongst one another. We have to distribute wealth amongst one another. Therefore, we must be able to create wealth by achieving a higher rate of growth.

The second part of the strategy is to directly attack the problem of poverty. When I was talking of social

justice, this is what I meant. We must be able to mount a direct attack on poverty through the various schemes that are already in vogue and which might be conceived later. The effort of the Government will be to ensure that this 30 per cent or whatever percentage of our people who are still living below the poverty line are enabled to come above the poverty line by a direct attack on poverty, by creating employment opportunities, employment oriented schemes and by the various community schemes. We will be doing all that....(Interruptions) I missed a part.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: To achieve the Union Government's goal, if any State Government is willing to come forward with a comprehensive plan to alleviate poverty, what role does the Union Government play?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The role of the Union Government to such initiatives by the State Government has always been very positive. According to the formulae which are in operation, the Central Government is trying to help all the State Governments.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BISWAMUTHIARY: Sir, I would like to say something.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Biswamuthiariji, you will get an opportunity to speak. First of all you should change your behaviour. Your behaviour is not good....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister of Finance. Why does he not agree for a full-fledged — not Half-an-Hour — discussion on the anti-poverty programme in the country?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, this Government — let me make it very clear — does not shy away from discussion on any issue at any point of time. It is up to you to decide. We are ready for a discussion on this issue as on other issues at any point of time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Kindly fix a date.

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be a proper notice. Then, the date could be fixed up.

[Translation]

Effect of WTO Agreement

*82 MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States have invited the attention of the Government towards certain provisions of WTO agreement, which have directly affected the Indian farmers and small-scale industries as well as the marketing of domestic agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details of such provisions of WTO agreement towards which the attention of the Government has been drawn;

(c) the details of Indian products which have been affected mostly; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that Indian farmers, industries and products are not affected due to said provisions of WTO agreement?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Some of the State Governments have drawn the attention of the Government of India towards provisions of certain agreements of the World Trade Organisation, in particular, Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Attention of the Government has been drawn, inter-alia, to the trade distorting policies of developed countries in the agricultural sector, denial of meaningful market access, use of SPS measures as non-tariff barriers, adverse impact on the domestic products due to the lifting of quantitative restrictions, farmers' rights, need for flexibility in the grant of compulsory licenses for essential drugs and seeds, protection of bio-diversity, etc.

With regard to possible adverse effect on the domestic products, an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures. The imports are also being closely monitored to work out a package of measures in case domestic products get adversely affected. Government are keeping a close watch over the applied tariff rates of various products in the light of the tariff bindings. It has increased applied Custom duties on a number of items where an increase in imports was noted or apprehended. For instance, the applied customs duties on arecanut and poultry products have been raised from 35% to 100%, on wheat from 0% to

50%, on apples from 35% to 50%, on skimmed milk powder from 0% to 60% (beyond the TRQ of 10,000 tons) on semi-milled or wholly milled rice from 0% to 70%, on millet, jowar, sorghum and maize from 0% to 50%, and on infant use preparations, tea and coffee from 15% to 35%, sugar from 27.5% to 60% on coconut from 15% to 35% and coconut oil from 35% to 45%, on soyabean oil from 35% to 45%, on refined palm oil from 45% to 65%, on sunflower oil from 35% to 45% etc.

Also threat of injury to domestic products is being addressed through anti-dumping action, imposition of countervailing duties and safeguard measures under the relevant WTO Agreements. Due to special circumstances, Designated Authority for Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties, has also initiated suo moto action on some specific goods, i.e., dry batteries, battery operated toys and sports shoes.

India is also actively engaged in WTO on the built-in agenda of mandatory negotiations and reviews and other WTO work programme. Along with like-minded group of countries, India has also sought upfront redressal of inequities and asymmetries in the various WTO Agreements, which are generally described as implementation concerns.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, the reply given is not complete. I had asked whether some States have drawn the attention of the Government towards certain provisions of the World Trade Organization agreement which have adversely affected the marketing of goods produced by Indian Farmers and Small Scale Industries and also domestic agricultural products in the country. It was also asked as to which are these States and what suggestion have been given by them. The Hon. Minister may kindly tell us about the proposals received from these States and whether the Government intend to implement their suggestions or not?

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, as far as the hon. Member's question is concerned, he has asked whether we have received representations from States regarding the issue of WTO Agreement and the provisions of the Agreement and what effect they have had, if any.

In the information that I have supplied to the hon. Member and the House, we have talked about various issues that the Government have brought out. We have asked for information about the Agreement on Agriculture. We have asked for information about the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual

Property Rights and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which is the GATT.

Aside from this, the attention of the Government has also been drawn, *inter alia*, to trade-distorting policies of developed countries in the agricultural sector, denying of meaningful access and use of SPS measures.

Broadly, the concern of the State Governments can be categorised into four sections - the agricultural access, inequity that we face; the removal of QRs and its impact; surge in imports if any; and the impact of such imports on the prices. The Government is constantly monitoring this situation. As and when steps need to be taken to address the concerns of the domestic industry, we do so.

Only today itself, the Ministry of Commerce is going to issue Notifications insisting that all imports coming into the country must qualify to BIS standards. This will cover about 131 products in this order so that sub-standard goods are not allowed to into the Indian markets.

Aside from this, we have also insisted that consumer-backed items that are coming to consumer market, the packaging should contain the MRP printing on it so that the cost to the consumer is known at the Customs' level itself.

Aside from this, the Anti-Dumping Directorate, which is a *quasi-judicial* body, have *suo motu*, decided to initiate anti-dumping procedures against three items for consumer goods. This is the first time that consumer goods have been taken up by the Anti-Dumping Directorate *suo motu*.

They are looking at dry battery cells. They are looking at electronic toys and sports goods. So, from this, what I am trying to explain to the House and to the hon. Member is that the Government is well versed with the situation. We are constantly monitoring the level of imports and as and when decisions need to be taken to give a sense of confidence to the industry, we will not shy away from taking those decisions.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newspapers had reported a few days back that America is trying to export 10 lakh tons of Soyabean. Japan and many countries of Europe have rejected this Soyabean due to the reason that it is of very inferior quality and thus cannot be consumed. So, under these circumstances when the Government are well aware that America is

trying to export it then, what steps are the Government going to take to make the efforts of America ineffective? There are many such substandard commodities the import of which is having adverse impact on the farmers and producers of the country. What steps are the Government taking to stop import of such articles?

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, as far as the import of substandard soyabean which the hon. Member has talked about, I think, it is fair to say that we have not placed very strong sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. We check the quality of products entering the country. In case we find that substandard soya is trying to be unloaded in India, we will not allow the substandard soya to arrive.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, SPS measures are one of the non-tariff barriers that the WTO allows a country to use in order to ensure that substandard materials do not arrive in the country. This is one of the measures that we are constantly looking towards strengthening and we will ensure that substandard seeds, substandard grains and others are not allowed to be dumped into the Indian economy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were told by the hon. Minister in his written reply that with regard to possible adverse effect on the domestic products, an inter-Ministerial group has been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures. Sir, this is something like putting the cart before the bullock. After the restrictions have been lifted on as many as 1429 items, and that also not in the country here, the agreement to that effect was signed abroad, today they are telling the people that they are studying the adverse impact thereof. The first question relates to the impact of the policies, which the Government is recklessly following, has been very adverse on the people of the country. Would it suffice to tell us here that they are studying the adverse impact?

Sir, we would like to know whether the Government really has a vision when it tell us repeatedly that it is the policy, which was initiated by the Congress, and which is being followed is not enough. We initiated policies in a particular situation, in a particular ambience as to that was the need of the hour. What is the Government doing today?

If the steering of the vehicle was handed over to them, does it mean that they drive it recklessly the way

that it is being driven, and havoc is being played with the people? Sir, I would really like to know what concrete steps the Government is taking to ensure that the poorest of the poor do not suffer because of these policies.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, in my initial remarks, I had already addressed some of the steps that the Government has taken, which, as I mentioned, were adherence to BIS standards, printing of MRP on packaging for consumer items. But, Sir, what I would like to do first is really to address the issue of removal of quantitative restrictions because there is a whole lot of misgivings in the House, and in the general economy about the fact that we in the NDA Government have recklessly gone about on a course of removal of quantitative restrictions not because we were forced to but because we wanted to appease certain global powers. Sir, first and foremost, the quantitative restrictions have not been removed over the last few years. It has been a concrete process even before early 1990s. We maintained quantitative restrictions on our imports on account of an adverse balance of payments position, which was allowed to us by the GATT.

It is because of the economic reforms the Congress initiated, our balance of payments position significantly improved and it became impossible for us to justify maintaining quantitative restrictions on our imports. So, we were asked to remove these quantitative restrictions and we gave a date, a commitment that we would remove them by 2003. This date was unacceptable to the United States of America. They took us to the Disputes Settlement Mechanism, which we lost. We went to appeal which we lost again. We were given a date of 31st March, 2001 to remove all quantitative restrictions which we gradually undertook.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Not gradually, you have suddenly done it.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Now, it would be foolhardy on the part of any Government to remove all quantitative restrictions at one go. It would have been an option. We could have removed all quantitative restrictions lock, stock and barrel only on the 31st of March 2001. But the havoc that would have caused in the economy is apparent to everybody. What successive Governments have done is, gradually, in a structured manner, removed quantitative restrictions gradually from the items initially that were of less impact in the economy working up to the ones that, we felt, required the maximum amount of protection, which is why, this year we removed 715 items. Next year, the final 714 items would be removed. But just removing

quantitative restrictions does not mean that we have thrown the Indian economy to the winds. We are constantly, I repeat, constantly monitoring the levels of imports that are coming in. The Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry are working very closely together. We are monitoring the levels of tariffs and seeing whether the levels of tariffs give a commiserate level of protection to the domestic industry while also, I repeat, while also, not harming the interest of the consumers. It is a delicate balance which has to be struck. We are constantly working towards striking this balance. As and when measures are required to give the necessary confidence levels to the industry, you will not find us lagging in this.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have only one request regarding maximum bound rate allowed under W.T.O. The Government despite no restrictions from the W.T.O, has reduced customs duty on some items, viz. Cosmetic, toys etc. So, I want to know whether the Government would re-consider this matter? The second thing that I wish to submit is that the counter-veiling duty on imported items is fixed on the value of imported goods and the Indian Small Scale Industries have to pay the maximum duty, so will the Government take steps to prevent such injustices?

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, as far as ensuring that duties are made applicable on MRP prices, we have insisted, as I said on the printing on the consumer goods so that this anomaly is removed. As far as the bound rates are concerned, due to our own domestic compulsions when the negotiations were taking place on bound rates, a number of bound rates were negotiated either at zero or at very low levels because at that time the country was in dire need of these goods or these products. With the progress that our economy has made, we are now self-sufficient in a number of these items. Gradually, we have begun a process of renegotiating some of our bound rates to give the necessary protection to our industry.

I would like to read out a list of some of the agricultural items in which we have increased the bound rates. Milk powder has been increased from zero per cent to 60 per cent. Poultry meat and chicken legs have been increased from 35 per cent to 100 per cent. Rice in husk and brown rice has been increased from zero per cent to 80 per cent. Semi-milled or wholly milled rice has been increased from zero per cent to 70 per cent. Sugar has increased from 27.5 per cent to 60 per cent. Wheat has increased from zero per cent to 50 per cent.

Similarly, with regard to the consumer items that are coming in from other parts that are causing harm to our domestic industry, we are constantly monitoring the levels of duties and the amount of goods coming in. If we feel that revision of tariffs is the last option available to us to give the protection to the domestic industry, the Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry will work together in this regard to take the necessary steps.

Fiscal Deficits

*84. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken some harsh decisions to control fiscal deficits in view of sharp rise in international oil price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the position of fiscal deficits at present as compared to the last year?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government have taken a series of measures to control growth in non-plan, non-developmental expenditure which include: a mandatory 10 percent cut in the budgetary allocation for non-plan non-salary expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and autonomous institutions; a complete ban on purchase of new vehicles for one year; ten percent cut in the consumption and allocation of funds for expenditure on POL for staff cars; ban on creation of new posts for one year; ban on foreign travel for study tours, seminars etc.

(c) The gross fiscal deficit of the Central Government during the first six months of 2000-2001 (April-September) was Rs. 42,592 crore and was lower by 18.7 percent compared with a fiscal deficit of Rs. 52,395 crore in April-September last year.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Sir, we are happy to note that Rs. 10,000 crore was saved for the six months. In this, I would like to know how much savings the Government have actually made by way of cut in petrol consumption of staff cars during the last six months. We find staff cars in all the markets in Delhi with family members of officials shopping throughout the day.

I would also like to know the figures of cut made on study tours and seminars during the last six months.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The guidelines for expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity have been issued on the 24th of September, 2000 and it is too early to give specific figures of how much has been saved on petrol or on other items of expenditure. Let some time elapse and perhaps after that we will be able to review this.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: No second supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to submit that the Hon. Minister has stated in the reply that efforts made by the Government to check the fixed deposit are not sufficient. Petrol consumption in our country is very high and there are many industrialists who own 20 to 25 cars. So whether the Government are making efforts to check such unnecessary consumption? In the Minister's cavalcade there are 10-12 cars. I would like to know whether any effort is being made by the Government to bring down such unnecessary expenditure?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, so far as the Private Sector is concerned, there the market forces operate. If the prices rise, perhaps the consumption decreases. However, the Government are not doing any rationing and the Government does not even intend to do so. So far as the Government expenditure is concerned, I would like to inform that, in the orders issued by Finance Ministry in September, it has been strictly mentioned that expenditure on all these things may be undertaken very carefully and no wasteful expenditure may be undertaken. However, I have said that the expenditure incurred on petrol is a small proportion of the Government expenditure. We should not presume that the entire amount of Government expenditure viz. three lakh 38 thousand crore rupees is spent on petrol only. Many other types of expenditures are also involved in it.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, in view of the fact that the collection in respect of customs and excise has sharply come down far below the target and on the other hand the target in respect of the fiscal deficit has gone up, what steps the Government propose to take to meet the fiscal deficit in the coming quarters?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as the hon. House is aware, the Budget target of fiscal deficit in this year's Budget is 5.1 per cent of the GDP. While on the one hand we are trying to maintain the strictest control on expenditure, on the other hand, we are making sure that all our revenues are also on target. The hon. Member is right in saying that there is some shortfall as far as the first seven months' figures are concerned in regard to customs collection, but the hon. House is also aware of the fact that we have decided to give up something like Rs. 4,000 crore by way of customs and excise duties on account of petroleum products so that the burden is not on the consumer. We are doing very well on direct taxes' front where we are ahead of the target. On excise collections, we are very close to the target and my estimate, at this point of time, is that keeping both the expenditure trends and the revenue trends in mind, it will be possible for us to keep within the budgeted target of fiscal deficit.

I do not share the scepticism and cynicism of the hon. Member because I see him nodding his head. When I present the Budget, we will know these facts.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Even your IMDA is not going to help in controlling your balance of payments.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Last year also it happened, Sir.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It has been happening since 1980-81...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Despite your assurance, it happened.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, I held out no such assurance. This is the first time that I am able to say confidently on the basis of trends of expenditure in the first six months and revenue collections in the first seven months that it will be possible for the Government to stick to the Budget estimate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his statement to justify his control mechanism to meet the fiscal deficit, has narrated many things. One of them is ban on creation of new posts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the creation of new posts means creation of posts at the officers' level or it is a ban on creation or filling of all vacancies. If the vacancies are not to be filled and there is a ban, then did the Minister evaluate and calculate what would be the number of posts throughout the country for which the deserving people will be deprived of getting their jobs in the Government sector?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, we have in the austerity instructions, clearly laid down the policy and there has been a policy which has been coming from before also. For instance, if a post has remained vacant for over 12 months and it is sought to be filled by any Ministry, then it will be treated as a new post and then the entire procedure for the creation of a new post has to be gone into. At the same time, we have to make exceptions also because there are certain urgencies or there are certain kinds of situations in which creation of posts becomes essential. The general principle, however, that we follow in the Ministry of Finance is to ask the concerned Ministry to locate matching saving if they are asking for the creation of a new post, and it is in very rare cases that an exception to this rule is made.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 85.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important question.

...(*Interruptions*)

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

Eleventh Finance Commission

*85. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations;

(d) whether several State Governments have submitted their comments on the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the Union Government to the proposals of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Eleventh Finance Commission has submitted its Main Report for the period 2000-05 on 7.7.2000 and the Report on the additional Terms of Reference on 31.8.2000. The Main Report together with an Explanatory Memorandum

on the action taken on the recommendations of this Report has been laid on the table of the House on the 27th July, 2000. Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission on the additional Terms of Reference has been received on 31.8.2000 which is under examination of Government.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Some State Governments in their reactions to the recommendations of the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission have expressed views on inter-se allocation of Share of Taxes and Grants-in-aid to the States.

(f) As per (a) to (c) above.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am happy the Shri Sinha has given work to his MOS. He has no grouse now. Is there a union formed of the MOSs that senior Ministers are giving them jobs now?

MR. SPEAKER: It is decentralisation of work.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: That is not the case. We are always given work.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, in view of the fact that the Eleventh Finance Commission has done a fantastic job...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: What is it!

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I am coming to it, Sir. First it observed that the revenue gap in the States is alarming and they should raise more revenues by more taxation. It has reprimanded those States for the lapses which have poor returns. It has also held the States responsible for the fiscal position and acute stress.

It has also suggested strict monitoring by a Chief Secretary.

Sir, it is like re-inventing the wheel. It has also suggested corrective measures and it has suggested a cap of 37.5 per cent of the transfer to the States. In reply to my question in parts (a) to (c) the answer given is 'It is under examination of the Government'. How long will it be under examination? When will it be implemented and whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission or not?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, if hon. Member Shri P.R. Dasmunsi does not mind and with the permission of my Minister of State, I will reply...*(Interruptions)* Sir, like the previous Finance Commissions, this Finance

Commission has also aimed at achieving the objective of fiscal balance at the end of five years which is the duration of the validity of the recommendations of this Finance Commission. Therefore, both for the Government of India as well as for the State Governments they have given various prescriptions and suggested various measures which the Governments have to follow in order to achieve the fiscal balance.

Therefore, the hon. Member should not think that the Finance Commission is preaching or the Finance Commission is sermonising. That is part of the responsibility of the Finance Commission and also they are well within their rights to tell us what we have to do.

The second part of the question related to the supplementary report of the Finance Commission. As we have said in the reply to the main question: "That is under the consideration of the Government". Let me assure this House, through you, Sir, that the Government will take appropriate decision on that very soon, well within this Financial Year, so that whatever becomes due to the State Governments as a result of the supplementary recommendations, also is made available to the State Governments within this Financial Year.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, in view of the fact that the report of the 11th Finance Commission is a report of an expert body, the moment the Government accept it, it becomes a political decision. I would like to know whether as a result of the comments received on the 11th Finance Commission from the State Governments as has been admitted in parts (d) and (e) of the answer — the States of Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa who are all Members of the NDA and West Bengal have, in their comments really criticised the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission because from the First to the Tenth Finance Commissions the rate and the percentage of Central shares to the States has been sought to be reduced by one per cent in the 11th Finance Commission — more so, as far as Orissa is concerned. This is the first time that Orissa has to get a surplus of Rs. 9 crore only when its tax base is low and it has been beset with natural calamities for the last 35 years.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh Deo, the time is very short.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the Chief Minister of Orissa, who is part of the NDA has written a letter and all your own Chief Ministers have come against it. I would like to know — now that it is going to be a political decision — whether it is going to be a normative approach, a gap-filling approach or will the Central Government do something or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister answer.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The 11th Finance Commission has followed a certain principle in making allocations to the various States and in deciding the formula of devolution of taxes, and besides, this they have also estimated the revenue deficits of each State and on that basis they have decided that some of the States in the country will get a revenue deficit grant also. We have studied all the Finance Commissions. The principles and practices of each Finance Commission have been somewhat different from the earlier Finance Commissions. Therefore, I think, as a measure of general rule, we should not take the earlier Finance Commissions as a benchmark.

12.00 hrs.

That should not become the benchmark because every Finance Commission will have a different view and therefore, while we have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission, every State Government is in touch with me and wherever a special situation arises, the Government of India has always gone out of its way to help the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup, please ask a very pointed question.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I would like to know whether the Central Government would take into consideration the widespread criticism emanated from those States which have performed well in various sectors. As per the criteria adopted by the Eleventh Finance Commission, these States get less of the tax revenue from the Centre. So, this is a wrong perception. I would like to know whether the Central Government would correct it, taking into consideration the widespread criticism from the States.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, there is no time left.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I will quickly reply. This is a very important question which has been raised.

Sir, the Eleventh Finance Commission has taken population, income distance from the highest point, area, index of infrastructure, tax effort and fiscal discipline into account in evaluating the performance and needs of the State Government. We have followed the tradition and accepted the Report of the Finance Commission. If the Government sit in judgement over the recommendations of a constitutional body, then I think, we will never be able to reach the end of this process.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: It has been done in the past.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, it has not been done in the past. We have checked up....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kanungo, there is no time left.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, in the last Session, we have informed the House that we have accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over. Hon. Minister, you can send the reply.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Private Sector Bank

*83. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have set up a High Level Committee during 1998 to review the norms for allowing entry of new private sector banks;

(b) whether the Committee have since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(d) the recommendations which have been accepted and implemented so far; and

(e) the time by which other recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the important recommendations made by the committee are:-

- (i) Encouraging entry of new banking institutions in order to increase credit flow and generate competition in banking sector to provide efficient financial services;
- (ii) Enhancement of initial capital requirement from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 300 crore and achieving Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) at 10% from the beginning;
- (iii) Clearly defining 'promoters' and 'promoter group';
- (iv) Validity of in-principle approval for setting up the bank be restricted to one year;
- (v) The current restriction/limit on voting rights of the share-holders to be removed, as it is

restrictive and dampens the interest of corporate willing to bring in required capital for setting up the bank;

(vi) Removing restrictions of three years of operations before new private sector banks can access market;

(vii) Priority sector lending to be brought down from 40% to 32% as for foreign banks;

(viii) Maintenance of arms length relationship by the promoter group with the new bank to be set up etc.; and

(ix) Allowing NBFCs to convert into Banks subject to their fulfilling prescribed criteria.

(d) and (e) RBI is yet to finalise their views on the recommendations. No time frame can be indicated.

Fall in Prices of Agricultural Produce

*86. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the steep fall in the prices of agricultural produce in the country consequent on the immediate removal of quantitative restrictions on imports;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have noted that steep fall in prices have ruined the economic condition and lives of lakhs of peasants, agricultural workers and the common man;

(d) if so, whether the Government would review the EXIM policy to take care of the interest of all sections of the peasantry; and

(e) if so, the details of Government's stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) to (e) In the changes to the Exim Policy, announced on 31.3.2000, no changes were effected in respect of import policy of agricultural products like tea, coffee, rubber, wheat, rice, maize, pulses and edible oils. Import of all major cereals as classified under Chapter 10 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items,

1997-2002 is restricted and canalized through Food Corporation of India. Import of all edible oils excepting coconut oil as classified under Chapter 15 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002, is presently free. Import of all refined edible oil excluding coconut oil, Palm kernel oil, RBD palm oil and RBD palm stearin was made free prior to 1.4.1996. As can be seen from the import data of edible oil furnished below, India has always been a net importer of edible oils.

Year	Vegetable oil (Edible)	
	Qty. (in tons)	Value (in Rs. Crore)
1995-96	1061988	2261.9
1996-97	1415794	2929.1
1997-98	1265753	2764.6
1998-99	2378566	7131.4
1999-2000 (Provisional)	4196000	7983.8
2000-2001 (April-July, Provisional)	1137770	1924.3

To regulate import of edible oils, the Customs duties on these have been revised upwards in order to provide adequate protection to domestic oilseed producers. Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any detriment or injury to domestic farmers. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a number of agricultural items where an increase in imports was noticed or apprehended. For example, the duty on arecanut has been raised from 35% to 100%, on poultry products from 35% to 100%, on wheat from 0% to 50%, on skimmed milk powder from 0% to 60%, on apple from 35% to 50%, on rice from 0% to 80%, on coconut from 15% to 35% and on coconut oil from 35% to 45%. India's tariff bindings at W.T.O. for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates of customs duties can be suitably raised, in case there is any evidence on substantial increase in imports.

Growth in Export/Import

*87. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the overall position of India's export growth in the first half of the current financial year;

(b) the commodities/sectors which have registered positive growth and negative growth separately during the above period and upto what extent;

(c) the extent to which the trade deficit has narrowed down as a result of current export position;

(d) the quantum of trade balance as on date;

(e) whether country's import has also grown during this period;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the details of sectors which have registered growth and the extent thereof;

(g) whether the Government are taking any steps to reduce import; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) and (b) As per the latest provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta for first six months i.e. April-September, 2000, the exports are valued at US \$ 21310.56 million which is 22.04% higher than the level of US\$ 17461.40 million during April-September, 1999-2000. In rupee terms, the exports were Rs. 95483.76 crore, which is 26.67% higher than the value of exports during April-September, 1999-2000.

As per the latest available disaggregated data for April-August, 2000-01, the major commodities/sectors which have shown positive growth in US dollar terms are marine products (15.43%), ore and minerals (49.66%), leather and manufactures (20.71%), gems and jewellery (7.72%), chemicals and related products (23.63%), engineering goods (34.38%), electronics goods (20.23%), textiles (21.98%) and carpets (10.11%). Commodities which have shown negative growth are tea (8.87%), coffee (35.99%), agriculture and allied products (1.96%), sports goods (5.82%), handicrafts (0.24%), cotton raw including waste (22.54%), project goods (76.30%) etc.

(c) and (d) The trade deficit for April-September, 2000-2001 is estimated at US \$ 4673.51 million which is lower than the deficit at US \$ 5012.88 million during April-September, 1999-2000.

(e) to (h) Imports during April-September, 2000-2001 are valued at US \$ 25984.07 million representing a growth

of 15.62% over the level of imports valued at US \$ 22474.28 million in April-September, 1999-2000. The growth in imports is mainly due to oil imports which has shown a growth rate of 86.19% in the same period. In fact, non-oil imports, show a decrease of 1.85%.

The imports are essential to meet our requirements of fuels, raw materials and capital goods for export industries. Other than oil, the commodities which have shown positive growth in imports in US dollar terms for the period April-August, 2000-01 are iron and steel (12.23%), pearls, precious and semi-precious stones (17.66%) and electric machinery (7.72%).

Sale of Modern Food Industries Limited

*88. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious discrepancies were detected in the sale of 74 percent Government equity in Modern Food Industries Limited to Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL) as a result of which the Government will have to give back over Rs. 22 crore to HLL from the sale proceeds;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering a CBI probe into the whole question of valuation of MFL's assets spread across 23 locations in the country;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Newsprint at Subsidised Rate

*89. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing newsprint at subsidised rates to leading newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of newsprint provided to leading newspapers of the country during the last three years;

(d) whether quota of newsprint allocated by the Government is not being fully utilised;

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

(f) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no statutory control over the prices of newsprint. The newspapers are free to use either imported newsprint or indigenously produced newsprint.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Privatisation of Nationalised Banks

*90. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the nationalised banks by reducing its equity holdings below 51 percent;

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

(c) the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) It is proposed to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 with a view to modifying the stipulation of minimum prescribed Government shareholding in nationalised banks from 51% to 33%. Necessary legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced in the current session of the Parliament. As announced by Finance Minister in his budget speech for 2000-2001 in view of budgetary constraints with regard to further recapitalisation of

nationalised banks, the amendment is being made to enable banks to raise capital from the market as and when required in future in order to meet the capital adequacy norms prescribed by Reserve Bank of India. The public sector character of banks will however be maintained. The Government has no proposal to disinvest its equity in nationalised banks.

Export of Wheat and Rice

*91. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to export the surplus stock of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of wheat and rice exported during the last six months, month-wise, and country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have fixed export price for rice and wheat at an abnormally low price;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and amount of loss suffered as a result thereof;

(e) whether some countries have not accepted India's foodgrains;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to export good quality of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has decided to export wheat from the surplus stocks available with it. There has been no export of wheat from the Central Pool during the last six months.

(c) and (d) Wheat will be made available by the FCI for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150 per MT. The export of wheat will help liquidate excess stocks and also save expenditure in terms of carrying cost of stocks, etc.

(e) and (f) Do not arise, as wheat is yet to be exported.

(g) The FCI has been instructed to ensure that wheat meant for export is of good quality.

Export of Marine Products

*92. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to increase the marine export from the country;

(b) if so, the export made during each of the last three years with country-wise break-up;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the marine export record during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to provide necessary assistance to the State Governments to boost marine export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of export of marine products made during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 to major markets are given below:

(Q: quantity in Metric Tonnes; V: value in Million US \$)

Country	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Japan	70955	641.67	67277	549.16	66990	528.18
USA	32914	161.04	34472	147.68	36645	180.17
European Union	34875	113.81	54261	163.78	65402	210.43
South East Asia	218263	314.23	116610	183.27	147749	212.58
Middle East	17618	39.91	17274	35.40	13274	26.75
Others	11193	25.20	13040	27.62	12971	30.03
Total	385818	1295.86	302934	1106.91	343031	1189.09

Source: MPEDA.

(c) and (d) Export of marine products during the first half of the current financial year touched US \$ 672.96 Million (provisional) as compared to US \$ 530.30 Million in the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 26.9%.

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) which implements various export promotion measures, coordinates with Department of Fisheries of various State Governments for undertaking activities like shrimp seed production, development of infrastructure, training of trainers etc. in various States. Government have recently extended to State Governments the facility of subsidy to set up laboratories for the detection of viral/bacterial infection in shrimp/fresh water prawn hatcheries.

[Translation]

Storage Capacity of FC/CWC

*93. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing serious problems due to inadequate storage facility for foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses of foodgrains due to inadequate storage facilities during each of the last three years;

(d) the total capacity of storage available with Food Corporation of India/Central Warehousing Corporation as on date, State-wise;

(e) the storage expenses incurred during the last three years, godown-wise; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR):

(a) and (b) Storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1.10.2000 was 26.64 million tonnes. Further, the State agencies procuring on behalf of the FCI or undertaking decentralised procurement had a capacity of 20 million tonnes. The stock position as on the said date was as under:-

(In million tonnes)

Rice	13.21
Wheat	26.85
Total	40.06

(c) There are no reports of abnormal storage losses during the relevant period.

(d) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

(e) The storage cost incurred by the FCI and CWC during the last three years is indicated in the Statement III enclosed.

(f) Government has formulated a National Storage Policy with a view to harnessing the resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, for augmentation of infrastructure to handle foodgrains.

Statement-I

The State-wise storage capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1-10-2000

(in lakh tonnes)

States/UT	Covered Capacity			CAP Capacity			Grand Total
	Owned	Hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0	0.18	0	0	0	0.18
Andhra Pradesh	11.82	8.7	20.52	2.79	1.20	3.99	24.51
Assam	1.99	0.99	2.98	0	0.00	0	2.98
Bihar	4.36	1.45	5.81	0.28	0	0.28	6.09
Goa	0.15	0	0.15	0	0	0	0.15
Gujarat	4.80	3.98	8.78	2.36	2.08	4.44	13.22
Haryana	7.64	3.93	11.57	2.89	0.24	3.13	14.70
Himachal Pradesh	0.11	0.15	0.26	0	0	0	0.26
Jammu & Kashmir	0.77	0.24	1.01	0	0	0	1.01
Karnataka	2.86	2.11	4.97	1.25	0.04	1.29	6.26
Kerala	5.36	0.16	5.52	0.21	0	0.21	5.73
Madhya Pradesh	8.30	5.89	14.19	1.45	1.75	3.20	17.39
Maharashtra	11.77	4.24	16.01	1.44	0.85	2.29	18.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur	0.18	0.02	0.20	0	0	0	0.20
Meghalaya	0.10	0.07	0.17	0	0	0	0.17
Mizoram	0.18	0	0.18	0	0	0	0.18
Nagaland	0.08	0.13	0.21	0	0	0	0.21
Orissa	2.68	2.13	4.81	0	0	0	4.81
Punjab	21.37	38.94	60.31	4.98	20.37	25.35	85.66
Rajasthan	7.07	2.96	10.03	1.54	1.15	2.69	12.72
Sikkim	0.07	0.01	0.08	0	0	0	0.08
Tamilnadu	5.87	3.18	9.05	1.05	0	1.05	10.10
Tripura	0.17	0.17	0.34	0	0.00	0	0.34
Uttar Pradesh	15.28	5.98	21.26	3.15	0.25	3.40	24.66
West Bengal	8.64	1.93	10.57	0	0	0	10.57
Chandigarh	0.40	0.43	0.83	0.08	0.29	0.37	1.20
Delhi	3.36	0.05	3.41	0.34	0	0.34	3.75
Pondicherry	0.41	0	0.41	0.08	0.50	0.58	0.99
Total	125.97	87.84	213.81	23.89	28.72	52.61	266.42*

*This includes 47.11 lakh M.Ts capacity hired from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) & State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs).

Statement-II

The State-wise Storage Capacity of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) As on 1-10-2000

States/UT	Covered Capacity			CAP Capacity			Grand Total
	Owned	Hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	10.07	1.04	11.11	0.27	0.10	0.37	11.48
Assam	0.44	0.02	0.46	0	0.01	0.01	0.47
Bihar	1.17	0.36	1.53	0	0	0	1.53
Goa	0.17	0	0.17	0	0	0	0.17
Gujarat	2.29	0.63	2.92	1.34	0.04	1.38	4.30
Haryana	1.66	1.05	2.71	0	0	0	2.71
Himachal Pradesh	0.05	0	0.05	0	0	0	0.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.06	0.06	0	0	0	0.06
Karnataka	1.74	0.81	2.55	0	0.44	0.44	2.99
Kerala	0.68	0	0.68	0	0	0	0.68
Madhya Pradesh	5.96	1.50	7.46	0.09	0.07	0.16	7.62
Maharashtra	4.75	1.80	6.55	3.87	0.72	4.59	11.14
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0.02	0	0.02	0	0	0	0.02
Nagaland	0.13	0	0.13	0	0	0	0.13
Orissa	1.36	0.15	1.51	0.02	0	0.02	1.53
Punjab	4.88	1.72	6.60	0	0	0	6.60
Rajasthan	1.47	0.95	2.42	0.13	0.12	0.25	2.67
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamilnadu	5.23	0.58	5.81	0.29	0	0.29	6.10
Tripura	0.24	0	0.24	0	0	0	0.24
Uttar Pradesh	8.46	0.86	9.32	0.11	0.27	0.38	9.70
West Bengal	3.27	1.68	4.95	0.59	0.01	0.60	5.55
Chandigarh	0.10	0.03	0.13	0.02	0	0.02	0.15
Delhi	1.03	0.23	1.26	0.11	0	0.11	1.37
Pondicherry	0.07	0.03	0.10	0	0.03	0.03	0.13
Total	55.24	13.50	68.74	6.84	1.81	8.65	77.39

Statement-III*[English]*

The total Storage cost incurred by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Food Corporation of India (FCI)	Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
1997-98	665.16	185.61
1998-99	730.00	214.54
1999-2000	794.61	228.04

NB: Godown-wise expenditure is not maintained at Central level.

Austerity Measures

*94. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to curb administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, whether some austerity measures are proposed to be adopted for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the date from which these austerity measures are proposed to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Containing and curbing avoidable administrative expenditure has been a continuous priority of Government. Instructions have been issued in the past from time to time in this regard. Government recently issued guidelines on 24.9.2000, outlining a number of austerity measures. These measures relate to 10% mandatory cut in the budgetary allocation for non-plan non-salary expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and autonomous institutions, implementation of instructions relating to 10% cut in posts sanctioned as on 1.1.92 and abolition of posts lying vacant for more than one year, ban on creation of new posts in all Ministries/Departments/autonomous institutions for one year, utmost economy in use of staff cars and official vehicles and 10% cut in consumption and allocation of funds for expenditure on POL for such staff cars, restriction on purchase of new vehicles for one year, foreign travel be restricted to unavoidable official engagements and ban on foreign travel for study tours and seminars etc., size of official delegation involving unavoidable foreign travel to be restricted to the bare minimum, 25% reduction in permissible per diem allowance for travel abroad, austerity in organising conferences/seminars/workshops. For review of the whole gamut of expenditure of Government, an Expenditure Reforms Commission has also been set up.

New Scheme for BPL

*95. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a new scheme "Antyodaya Yojana" to provide foodgrains to people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal could not take off;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps being taken to resolve the matter;

(f) whether now his Ministry is contemplating other ways to solve the problem of excess foodgrains stocks; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (g) The Antyodaya Scheme is meant for the poorest of the poor. It envisages identification of such families out of BPL families and provide them additional foodgrains over and above the normal entitlement of 20 kgs. per family per month. Further, the rates of foodgrains to be supplied to these identified families would be lower than the rates applicable to BPL families. No final decision about the implementation of the Scheme has been taken.

The following steps have been taken to reduce the excess stocks from the Central Pool:

- (i) Open sale of wheat at reduced prices has been started from 11.07.2000.
- (ii) Open sale of rice has been started from 4.9.2000.
- (iii) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice were revised down-wards on 25.7.2000.
- (iv) The CIPs of rice and wheat for APL families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost or the open market sale price decided by the FCI from time to time, whichever is lower. The open market rates being less than the economic cost, the States can avail of this offer and make foodgrains available to APL population at reduced rates.
- (v) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 kg. per family per month is now being made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.
- (vi) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/backward students/Nari Niketans etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.
- (vii) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.
- (viii) Foodgrains at the rates applicable for BPL families will be allotted to the State Governments for undertaking 'Food-for-Work' programmes in the States, as also for the Greening India Campaign.

- (ix) Foodgrains will be allocated at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.
- (x) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150/- per M.T.

Value of Rupee

*96. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of Indian rupee has slipped to its minimum during the current year particularly in the months of August and October, 2000 against the major foreign currencies;

(b) if so, the extent to which the value of Indian rupee has fallen down alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has sold US dollars of certain amount in the month of May, 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives;

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to check the fall of Indian rupees;

(f) whether several industries have been affected seriously due to fall in the value of Indian currency; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save the Indian industries from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The average exchange rate of rupee against the major foreign currencies for the month of August and October 2000 are given below:-

Month	Rupees/ US Dollar	Rupees/ Euro	Rupees/ Pound st.	Rupees/ 100 Jap. Yen
August 2000	45.68	41.38	68.02	42.30
October 2000	46.34	39.71	67.34	42.76

The exchange rate of the rupee in India is largely determined by market forces, and moves in both directions on a day-to-day basis depending upon the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market and other short-term factors.

(c) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India sold US dollars to the extent of US \$ 4.1 billion during May 2000. At the same time, it purchased US dollars to the extent of US \$ 3.2 billion. The net sales by RBI, therefore, amounted to US \$ 0.9 billion during May 2000. The RBI makes both sales and purchases of foreign exchange, the net effect of which may be different at different points of time. The developments in the financial markets in India and abroad are monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, as and when necessary, to reduce excessive volatility in the exchange rate, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop an orderly foreign exchange market condition and to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

(f) and (g) The depreciation of Indian rupee encourages/stimulates industries engaged in production for exports and import substitution activities. However, there are indications of slow down in certain sectors of industry for various reasons, including the sharp increase in international oil prices. Government has undertaken a series of measures to boost investor confidence, including the mobilization of over \$ 5 billion through India Millennium Deposits, rapid reform in key sectors such as telecom and textiles, and sound fiscal management.

[Translation]

Export of Sandalwood

*97. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Sandalwood and Sandalwood Oil exported during the year 1997, 1998 and 1999, country-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned thereby during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of Sandalwood and Sandalwood Oil on a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) (i) Export Data is maintained Financial year-wise. The quantum and value of sandalwood oil exported are as under:

Year	Quantity (in Kg)	Value (in Rs./Crores)
1996-97	5469	6.47
1997-98	8298	12.10
1998-99	7387	8.69

(ii) The quantum and value of Sandalwood chips and dust exported are as under:

Year	Quantity (in Kg.)	Value (in Rs./Crores)
1996-97	887322	31.52
1997-98	237196	12.86
1998-99	679296	18.10

Source: DGCI&S

Country-wise data is available in the DGCI&S publication viz., "Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India".

(c) Normal incentives available to all exporters are available for exports of sandalwood oil and sandalwood products. Moreover, Government is extending Market Development Assistance for exporters through the Export Promotion Councils for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions and for mounting trade delegations.

Outstanding Taxes Against Industrial Houses

*98. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial houses in the country against whom income tax/excise duty of more than Rs. one crore is outstanding;

(b) the reasons for not recovering the above amount; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are 2002 companies against whom income tax of more than Rs. 1 crore each was outstanding as on 30.6.2000. As regards Central Excise, there are 386 parties/assessees against whom confirmed demands of

excise duty of more than Rs. one crore each is outstanding.

(b) The reasons for not recovering the outstanding taxes include cases getting held up in appeals, stay granted by appellate authorities and courts, applications, pending before the Settlement Commission or the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction, and cases pending for verification of payments.

(c) Recovery of tax is a continuous process involving the use of statutory provisions which include charging of interest, levy of penalty, and attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are also made by higher authorities on a regular basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting recovery of the outstanding taxes.

[English]

Participation of Foreign Print Media

*99. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised its policy not to allow foreign print media in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the scheme contemplated in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken views of the Indian Print Media in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the interests of Indian Print Media which is already suffering from the cable television network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Relaxation of FCI Norms

*100. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have relaxed Food Corporation of India quality norms for paddy procurement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some farmers have committed suicide following the failure to sell their crop in the grain market;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard alongwith of the relief package announced by the Government for the States of Punjab and Haryana;

(f) whether any such package has been sought by other State Governments especially those hit by natural calamities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR):

(a) and (b) In order to mitigate the hardship of farmers and to allow the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and its agencies to procure paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Government of India has permitted, in respect of the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, procurement of paddy with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains upto a maximum limit of 8% of instead of 3% provided under the Uniform (FAQ) Specifications.

(c) and (d) According to information available with the Government, no farmer has committed suicide due to failure of FCI/State agencies to buy paddy.

(e) The following concessions have been extended to Punjab and Haryana:

- (i) The specifications of paddy for procurement have been relaxed as indicated above.
- (ii) Paddy conforming to the above specifications will be procured at MSP.
- (iii) Out turn ratio for custom milling of such paddy will be 64% for raw and 65% for parboiled rice.
- (iv) It will be the responsibility of the State Governments to get the paddy milled and deliver rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications well within the current Kharif Marketing Season.

In addition to the above, it has been agreed that the farmers of Punjab, whose paddy had been purchased at

a price below MSP, the State Government would make good the difference. The total expenditure arising out of this differential shall be restricted to maximum of Rs. 100 crores. The Ministry of Finance shall compensate to the Government of Punjab for this expenditure to an extent of 50%.

(f) and (g) Similar concessions have been extended to Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Requests in this regard have also been received from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan. These are under consideration.

Soyabean Production

915. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industries functioning in Madhya Pradesh which are engaged in soyabean production;

(b) the number out of them closed at present;

(c) the number out of them running under loss;

(d) whether the Government are providing any assistance to such sick industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) There are 81 solvent extraction units in Madhya Pradesh which, among the other oil bearing materials, process Soyabean. Of these, 41 units are, at present, lying closed.

(c) to (e) According to available information, 19 vegetable oil industrial units of Madhya Pradesh are registered with the Bureau of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Sick units can seek assistance through BIFR route.

Export Promotion Councils Membership Norms

916. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in Export Promotion Councils membership norms;

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

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the EPCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) to (c) The Committee constituted to look into the aspects of rationalization of election procedures of the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and the criteria to be adopted for restructuring of the EPCs so that they retain their relevance to the national export effort in the context of globalisation and economic liberalization, has made recommendations to streamline and strengthen the functioning of the EPCs. The Government has since accepted the recommendations of the Committee and issued model guidelines to all EPCs for adoption. Guidelines issued concerning membership norms of EPCs and measures proposed to streamline/strengthen EPCs are:

1. **Membership Norms:** With a view to giving the voting rights and right of standing for election to various positions in the EPCs only to such members as are having an established standing over a minimum period of 3 years, it has been stipulated that there will be two categories of members namely; Associate Members and Ordinary Members. A person shall be eligible for admission to the Council as Associate Member on receiving the Import Export Code number from Directorate General of Foreign Trade in respect of the product with which the Council is concerned. An associate member of the Council for atleast three continuous years would be eligible for ordinary membership of the Council provided the company represented by him has to its credit during the three financial years, immediately preceding, average exports in respect of the product of not less than Rs. 10 lakh for SSI and Rs. 25 lakh for other than SSI companies. The ordinary member shall have the right to vote at the meetings of the Council and offer himself as a candidate at elections to various positions in the Council.

2. **Greater attention to Important existing and emerging industry segments:** With a view to giving greater attention to some important segments within an existing industry group and also to provide coverage to commodities or sectors presently not covered by any of the EPCs, creation of a new vehicle viz. Export Promotion Forum (EPF) has been proposed. Permission for creation of an EPF may be considered on fulfilling the prescribed conditions. However, such permission shall be subject to :

(a) The members agreeing to build up a corpus of Rs. 1.00 crore when the society is registered which should increase to Rs. 3.00 crore within 4 years. The principle

amount of the corpus shall be maintained intact and the EPF shall manage its expenses from the interest earnings, membership fees etc.

(b) The members of the EPF shall continue to be members of concerned EPC and shall continue to pay the membership fee to the concerned EPC till such time as the EPF is not converted into an EPC. (This will not be applicable to industry segments not covered under any EPC).

(c) The staffing structure should be purely professional and as far as possible, the staff should be engaged on contract terms. The EPF shall meet its administrative expenses from its own resources. No funding shall be provided to them by the Government for this purpose.

Subject to satisfactory performance on the basis of guidelines to be laid down by the Ministry of Commerce, the EPF will be eligible to be converted in a full-fledged EPC on completion of four years of its registration as an EPF. However, in the case of an EPC for industry segments not covered under any existing EPC, there will be no minimum waiting period. On conversion into an EPC, it shall be eligible for MDA grants for its export promotion activities only. It shall also be entitled to all other benefits/facilities available to the existing EPCs.

3. **Principles to be adopted by existing EPCs:** Guidelines have been issued to the existing EPCs to engage the staff on contract terms as far as possible and to make the staffing structure purely professional over a period of five years. The existing EPCs have also been advised to build up a minimum corpus of Rs. 3 crore over a period of five years as applicable to the EPFs and to maintain the principle amount of the corpus intact and to manage its expenses from the interest earnings, membership fee etc.

4. **Umbrella EPF for service industry:** For important segments of Services Industry, an Umbrella EPF may be constituted. As and when individual service export industry builds up adequate demand and resources for a separate EPF, it may be allowed to break away from Umbrella EPF.

5. **Creation of a Service Cell:** A Service Cell may be created in the Ministry to provide focused attention to the needs of service industries with an export potential. The Service Cell would also, *inter-alia*, advise regarding constitution of EPFs for individual service sectors.

6. **Election:** It shall be responsibility of the EPCs to ensure that the elections for the vacant seats are

conducted well before the expiry of the term of the retiring members. The elected members shall automatically retire on the completion of their tenures.

7. Voting Right: Only elected members of the Managing Committee of EPCs shall have voting rights and the nominated/co-opted members shall not have such rights.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Essential Commodities

917. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to whittle down or abolish subsidy on certain essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of hike effected in the prices of these commodities;

(d) whether the Government propose to slash the implicit subsidy on certain commodities;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any study has been conducted for providing subsidy to the States for the purchase of food product recently;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the amount of subsidy likely to be provided to States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to whittle down or abolish subsidy on essential commodities supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS). However, the Government have decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on kerosene, supplied under PDS will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 33.33% of the import parity price by 2001-2002. The subsidy on kerosene will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

(c) With a view to better targetise the food subsidy, the Government, while doubling the entitlement of

allocation of foodgrains for families below poverty line (BPL) from 1.4.2000, also decided to fix the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains for BPL families at 50% of the economic cost and for families above poverty line (APL) at 100% of the economic cost. However, the CIPs have been revised downward from 25.7.2000 on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission.

The retail issue price of levy sugar was last revised from Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 13.00 per kg. w.e.f. 1.3.2000 which is a very marginal increase.

The price of kerosene for PDS was revised at retail level between Rs. 2.70 to Rs. 2.98 per litre depending upon the local levies etc. w.e.f. 30.9.2000. The Govt. has since reduced the retail selling price by around Rs. 1.00 per litre from 22.11.2000.

(d) and (e) There is no implicit subsidy on foodgrains and levy sugar. The subsidy provided on Kerosene does not form part of the budgetary support and it is met by cross-subsidisation from other petroleum products. The Government have decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on kerosene, supplied under PDS will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 33.33% of the import parity price by 2001-2002. The subsidy on kerosene will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Does not arise.

Setting up of Heavy Industries

918. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up heavy industries in public sector in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) There is no proposal at present, to set up any new heavy industry in the Public Sector under the Department of Heavy Industry.

[English]

Purchase of Computer by NCCF

919. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited is purchasing computers from general order supplies and not from the manufacturers or their authorized distributors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to make purchase from the manufacturers or the authorized distributors of not only the computers but other branded items;

(c) whether the computers do not come to the godown of NCCF but are supplied directly to the indenting Government offices; and

(d) if so, the manner by which the NCCF ensure the supply of genuine material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The NCCF is an autonomous cooperative society having its own Board of Director to decide about its business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that they purchase computers either from manufacturers or from distributors/dealers.

(c) and (d) As per the procedure followed in the NCCF, the delivery orders to their authorized suppliers to deliver the item(s) as per the specific requirement/specifications of the indenting organization are issued by the NCCF. The supply is, thereafter, arranged directly from the godowns of the distributors/dealers. Follow up interactions are held with the user Ministries/Departments to ascertain about the quality of goods and all quality complaints are attended to by NCCF promptly.

A.D.B. Loan for Policy Reforms Programmes

920. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has for the first time decided to Fund Policy Reforms Programmes in various States of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether apart from the changes in lending pattern, the bank also decided to step up lending for the country as a whole from the current level of \$ 600 million to around one billion dollars per annum from 1999; and

(d) if so, the number of States which are likely to be benefited from these fundings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In 1996 Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of US \$ 250 million for the Gujarat Public Resource Management Programme and in 1999 ADB approved a loan of US \$ 250 million for the Madhya Pradesh Public Resource Management Programme.

(c) During CY 2000, ADB has approved loans worth US\$ 730 million and negotiations for two Projects of US\$ 600 million have also been held.

(d) Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have so far benefited from ADB's state-level operations. ADB has in principle identified Kerala as third State for state-level operations.

Film Festivals

921. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the Film Festivals of foreign countries held in India during the last three years;

(b) the film festivals in which India participated in other countries during the last three years; and

(c) the funds spent on each film festival organized by Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The year-wise details of Film Festivals of foreign countries arranged in India by the Directorate of Film Festivals during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The details of Film Festivals in which the Directorate of Film Festivals participated in other countries during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The year-wise details of expenditure incurred by the Directorate of Film Festivals on organizing International Film Festival of India, National Film Festivals, participation in Foreign Film Festivals and festivals organized under Cultural Exchange Programme are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Details of Film Festivals of foreign countries held in India during the last three years

1997-1998

1. Turkmenistan
2. Thailand
3. South Korea

1998-1999

1. Belgium
2. Sri Lanka
3. DPR Korea
4. Uzbekistan
5. Romania
6. European Union Film Festival

1999-2000

1. Finland
2. Sweden
3. Cyprus
4. Italy
5. Netherlands
6. China
7. Australia

Statement-II

The details of film festivals in other countries in which Directorate of Film Festivals participated during the last three years

S. No.	Name of the festival
1	2
1997-98	
1.	Singapore International Film Festival
2.	New Directors/New Films Festival, USA
3.	Media Wave International Film Festival, Hungary

1	2
4.	San Francisco Film Festival
5.	Munich International Documentary Film Festival, Germany
6.	4th Women make Waves Film and Video Festival, Taiwan
7.	Augsburg Film Festival, Germany
8.	Roshd International Film Festival, Iran
9.	Soureh International Film Festival, Tehran, Iran
10.	Cannes International Film Festival
11.	Commonwealth Film Festival, Greece
12.	Zami Manifestation Festival, Sydney, Australia
13.	Minsk Women's International Film Festival, Minsk
14.	19th Annual Mountain Film Festival, Telluride, USA
15.	Tashkent Film Festival
16.	Cinfest' 97, Qatar
17.	Troia International Film Festival, Italy
18.	Munich International Film Festival, Germany
19.	Pisaro Film Festival, Italy
20.	27th Roshd International Film Festival, Iran
21.	Environmental International Film Festival, Pretoria
22.	11th Fukuoka Asian Film Festival
23.	Moscow International Film Festival
24.	Film & Video 97 Film Festival, Italy
25.	UCLA Film Festival, USA
26.	Montreal Film Festival, Canada
27.	Vevey International Film Festival, Switzerland
28.	Venice International Film festival
29.	6th Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia
30.	Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Prague
31.	Napoli International Film Festival, Italy
32.	2nd Aichi International Film Festival, Japan
33.	Films South Asia Kathmandu, Nepal
34.	Focus on Asia-Fukuoka International Film Festival, Japan

1	2
35.	Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada
36.	Films from South, Denmark
37.	Alexandria Film Festival, Cairo
38.	Festival International de Cinema, Portugal
39.	Australian International Film Festival, Australia
40.	5th International Film Festival of First Feature Film, Bratislava
41.	International Women Film Festival, Jakarta
42.	Shanghai International Film Festival, China
43.	Pusan International Film Festival, Korea
44.	Bite the Mango Film Festival, U.K.
45.	Beirut International Film Festival, Beirut
46.	Yamagata Documentary International Film Festival, Japan
47.	Damascus International Film Festival, Damascus
48.	London International Film Festival, U.K.
49.	Hawaii International Film Festival, USA
50.	13th Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Argentina
51.	Festival 3 Continents, France
52.	Womens' Film Week, Tokyo, Japan
53.	4th Hanoi International Film Festival, Hanoi
54.	Cairo International Film Festival, Cairo
55.	5th Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh
56.	Quezon International Film Festival, Manila, Philippines
57.	First International Arts and Crafts Film Festival, Namur, Belgium
58.	Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands
59.	21st Goteborg International Film Festival, Sweden
60.	16th Fair International Film Festival, Tehran, Iran
61.	UCLA International Film Festival, California, USA

1	2
62.	Berlin International Film Festival, Germany
63.	12th International Film Festival of Fribourg, Switzerland
64.	14th International Film Festival of Uruguay
65.	9th International Women Film Festival, Manila
1998-1999	
1.	Hong Kong International Film Festival
2.	Singapore International Film Festival
3.	Istanbul International Film Festival
4.	XVI Festival Cinematografico International del, Uruguay
5.	International Film Festival of Kerala
6.	Chalchitra Film Festival
7.	Dhaka International Film Festival
8.	Cinefest' 98, Doha, Qatar
9.	41st Sanfrancisco International Film Festival
10.	Cannes International Film Festival
11.	Napoli International Film Festival, Naples, Italy
12.	Batlk International Film Festival, Perugia, Italy
13.	Munich International Film Festival
14.	Commonwealth International Film Festival, Athens
15.	5th Roosta International Film Festival, Tehran
16.	33rd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Czech Republic
17.	7th Brisbane International Film Festival, Tel Aviv, Israel
18.	7th International Student Film Festival, Australia
19.	Helsinki International Film Festival, Finland
20.	Montreal International Film Festival, Canada
21.	7th International Animation Festival in Japan, Hiroshima
22.	Bangkok International Film Festival
23.	Alexandria International Film Festival, Cairo
24.	Australian Film Festival, Canberra

1	2
25.	Fukuoka International Film Festival, Japan
26.	Bite the Mango International Film Festival, U.K.
27.	Ottawa International Film Festival, Canada
28.	Pyongyang International Film Festival, North Korea
29.	Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada
30.	Commonwealth International Film Festival, Kuala Lumpur
31.	1st International Film Festival of Zimbabwe
32.	Pusan International Film Festival
33.	27th International Film Festival of Figurira Da Foz, Portugal
34.	2nd Beirut International Film Festival, Lebanon
35.	17th Cinematographic Day of Carthage, Tunis
36.	First Asian Art Film Festival
37.	5th Hanoi International Film Festival, Hanoi, Vietnam
38.	London International Film Festival
39.	Hawaii International Film Festival
40.	Lauderdale International Film Festival, USA
41.	50th Human Rights International Film Festival, Brussels, Belgium
42.	Birmingham International Film and Television Festival, U.K.
43.	Nantes International Film Festival, France
44.	Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece
45.	First Asian Film Festival, Seoul
46.	43rd Asia Pacific International Film Festival, Taiwan
47.	3rd Youth Film Festival, Warsaw
48.	Edinburgh Film Festival
49.	Glasgow Film Festival, U.K.
50.	Nortel Palm Springs International Film Festival, California
51.	Golden Jilee International Film Festival, Philadelphia
52.	Festival of Indian films-Cardiff

1	2
53.	Films from India at Manchester
54.	Fajr International Film Festival, Iran
55.	Dhaka International Film Festival
56.	Berlin International Film Festival
57.	10th Annual International Women's Film Festival, Manila
58.	Friburg International Film Festival, Switzerland
59.	Asian International Film Festival in Thailand (Bangkok)
60.	18th du Ethnographique International Film Festival at Musee De L' Homme in Paris
1999-2000	
1.	California Short Film Festival, USA
2.	Helsinki International Film Festival
3.	Hongkong International Film Festival
4.	Singapore International Film Festival
5.	Women in Indian Cinema Festival, Smithsonian, USA
6.	San Francisco International Film Festival
7.	San Diego International Film Festival
8.	Cannes International Film Festival
9.	Munich International Documentary Film Festival, Germany
10.	Cleveland Cinematheque Film Festival
11.	Cinefest 99, Qatar
12.	Senttimana International Film Festival, Verona, Italy
13.	Benodet International Film Festival, France
14.	Festivals of Festivals, St. Petersburg, Russia
15.	Environ' 99 International Film Festival, Slovak
16.	Cinemanila International Film Festival
17.	Moscow International Film Festival
18.	50th Film and Video Film Festival, Italy
19.	Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Prague

1	2
20.	Montreal International Film Festival, Canada
21.	10th Espoo International Film Festival, Finland
22.	Edinburg International Film Festival
23.	Alexandria Film Festival, Cairo
24.	Films from South Film Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark
25.	Filmotecta Film Festival, Madrid, Spain
26.	Bangkok International Film Festival
27.	Vancouver International Film Festival
28.	4th International Short Film Festival, Iran
29.	Zimbabwe International Film Festival
30.	Fukuoka International Film Festival, Japan
31.	Danish Film Festival, Denmark
32.	SAARC Film Festival, Srilanka
33.	Yamagata Short Film Festival, Japan
34.	Pusan International Film Festival, Korea
35.	Shanghai International Film Festival, China
36.	Festival of Iranian Young Cinema, Iran
37.	Chicago International Film Festival, USA
38.	ECO Film Festival, France
39.	Namaste Film Festival, Tokyo
40.	NY University International Students Film Festival, USA
41.	South Asia 99' Film Festival, Nepal
42.	First South African International Film Festival, Johannesburg
43.	Nantes International Film Festival, France
44.	Hanoi International Film Festival, Vietnam
45.	London International Film Festival, UK
46.	Cairo International Film Festival, Cairo
47.	Damascus International Film Festival, Syria
48.	Birmingham International Film Festival, UK
49.	Roshd International Film & Video Festival, Iran
50.	5th Annual Women in Cinema Festival, Seattle, USA

1	2
51.	Calcutta International Film Festival
52.	44th Asian Pacific Film Festival, Bangkok
53.	16th Agro International Film Festival, Prague
54.	Second International Meeting of Cinema and History, Istanbul
55.	6th Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh
56.	Festival of Film Makers, Milan Italy
57.	Berlin International Film Festival
58.	Fajr International Film Festival
59.	31st Hungarian Film Festival, Hungary
60.	Houston-Pan Cultural Film Festival, USA
61.	Tongues on Fire 2000 Festival, London
62.	Tampere Short Film Festival, Finland
63.	Ethnographic Panorama Film Festival, Paris
64.	Panaisa Film Festival, Paris
65.	National Film & Theatre Festival, London
66.	Fribourg International Film Festival, Switzerland

Statement-III

Details of expenditure incurred by Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) during the last three years

(Figures in Rupees Lakhs)

Year	International Film Festival of India	National Film Festival	Participation in foreign film festivals	Festivals under cultural Exchange Programme
1997-1998	89.19	44.94	3.48	3.35
1998-1999	115.00	64.00	1.36	1.67
1999-2000	136.61	67.16	2.33	5.05

Assets of Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

922. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Management of Burn Standard Company Limited have contemplated to sell the lands and machinery in violation of the BIFR terms and conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Management of BSCL is on way to dispose of a Manitowoc Crane at Rs. 1.11 crore belonging to its Central Project Division;

(d) whether the Crane is now deployed with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. in Haldia and BSCL fetches an annual rent of Rs. 1.32 crore from IOC; and

(e) whether the BSCL can sell its assets at its whims when the Company is now under a revival process with BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) The BIFR sanctioned rehabilitation scheme of the BSCL did not provide for the revival of the Offshore Division of the company at Jellingham Yard alongwith 7 Loss Making Refractory Units (LRUs). The revival scheme also provided for separation of all employees of the unviable units under VRS. The scheme further provided budgetary support of Rs. 18 crore for 2 years, which was to be recouped from sale of assets of the unviable units. Hence, sale of assets like land & machinery is not violative of the sanctioned scheme. The crane in question belongs to the Offshore Division at Jellingham Yard and has earned rent from IOC of and on since 1996, which was much less than the figure quoted.

[Translation]

Tax Holiday to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

923. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

be reflected at the time of the presentation of the budget 2001-02.

[English]

Fraud Cases in State Bank of Indore

924. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fraud cases including opening of bogus accounts reported or detected in Delhi branches of State Bank of Indore;

(b) the details thereof, branch-wise, including the amount involved in each case;

(c) whether responsibility of the staff and officers involved in each case has been fixed;

(d) if so, the details of action taken in each case;

(e) whether C.B.I. has registered cases against the officers involved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (f) State Bank of Indore has reported that no fraud case has been reported/detected in their Delhi branches during the current year. However, Corporation Bank had informed State Bank of Indore regarding suspected defrauding of their bank by one of their employees who had got opened several accounts in the name of his relatives at the Rajouri Garden branch of State Bank of Indore through which certain transactions were carried out. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to whom the matter has been referred by Corporation Bank is investigating the case. The employee of Corporation Bank is reported to have been arrested on 15.9.2000. CBI has not registered any case against any officer of State Bank of Indore in

(b) if so, the number and name of such Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether the said Interim Relief is also proposed to be provided to the Employees of sick units referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and other units running in losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) On 19.8.98, Govt. announced payment of 10% of the then existing basic pay as adjustable Interim Relief to the employees of Central Public Sector enterprises following IDA pattern pay scales, subject to the minimum of Rs. 280/- p.m. and subject to certain conditions. Some of these conditions are:

- (i) The amounts paid as interim relief would be fully adjusted and subsumed in the final pay revision package.
- (ii) No budgetary support would be provided to the PSUs for meeting the liabilities of interim relief payment.
- (iii) The interim relief may be allowed w.e.f. 1.1.97.
- (iv) The management of the PSUs would have the liberty to decide on the grant of interim relief to the officers & workers, to the extent of 10% of basis pay (subject to a minimum of Rs. 280/- p.m.) taking into consideration the financial position of the enterprise and other implications of allowing such interim relief.
- (v) No interim relief should be granted to the employees of sick enterprises referred to BIFR and other loss making enterprises which have not so far revised their pay scales from 1.1.92.

[English]

Salt Commission Land

926. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of

(d) whether the land would be used for re-settlement of slums near the railway line for low income group housing; and

(e) the present position of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The proposal received from the State Government of Maharashtra are under consideration of the Government in the concerned Ministry.

Non-Tariff Barriers

927. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian exports are facing a wide variety of non-tariff barriers under a number of US legislations, some dating back to 1933; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove these barriers so that exports to US can be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The problem arising due to non-tariff barriers are duly taken up with the concerned US authorities with a view to their early resolution to mutual satisfaction. Despite these problems, Indian exports to the US have grown a good pace in recent years and in the period January to August, 2000, our exports have gone up by 24.37%.

Indication of MRP on Consumer Products

928. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory to indicate ex-factory prices on consume products to check rise in prices;

(e) where there is any law to deal with excessive fixation of MRP; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Packaged Commodities rules, 1977 required declaration of retail sale on packaged Commodities.

(c) Under the provisions of the Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977, retail sale price is one of the declarations to be made on pre-packed commodity before sale, packaged commodity before sale, distribution or delivery. The MRP is fixed by the manufacturer/packer and no criteria is prescribed for this under the said Rules as it is outside its scope.

(d) The Government does not charge excise duty on MRP. However in the case of certain excisable consumer goods in respect of which there is a statutory requirement of indication of the retail sale price on the retail packages and notified by the Government is this regard, excise duty is charged on the retail sale price less such abatement towards excise duty, local taxes and trade margins provided thereon. In respect of other goods sold at the factory, excise duty is charged on the transaction value at the factory gate, less taxes payable on such goods.

(e) Under the provisions of the Packaged Commodities Rules, 1997, MRP is fixed by the manufacturer/packer. The said Rules require only declaration of MRP. Determination of the reasonableness of the MRP so fixed is outside the scope of the said Rules.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

FCI Depots in U.P.

929. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permission to open various depots of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Uttar Pradesh is not being granted despite the verdict of Honourable Court in this regard;

(b) the reasons for not implementing the verdict of Honourable Court;

(c) the total number of existing FCI depots in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to open more FCI depots in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The total number of existing FCI owned depots is 83.

(d) to (f) One FCI depot at Simli (hill area) is in the advanced stages of construction.

[English]

Revival of Cycle Corporation of India

930. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival package of Cycle Corporation of India has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. BIFR in its hearing held on 10.7.2000 has passed an order for winding up of CCIL.

Irregularities in New India Assurance Company

931. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints of corruption, payment of fraudulent and fabricated claims, payment on forged cash memos/vouchers, withdrawal of cash from bank by cancellation of crossing on cheques etc. have been received against the officers and subordinate staff of Divisional Officer-310900 of New India Assurance Company Limited during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon against the erring officials;

(c) the system followed in the company in respect of cancellation of crossing on cheques issued by the company;

(d) the details of comparison between the claims paid by the Divisional office during the period 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(e) the reasons for the non-detection of fraud by the Internal Audit Department and other higher Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The company has received a complaint dated 12.10.2000 from the President, All India National General Insurance Employees' Association, Northern Zone. The company has advised the Vigilance Officer of Delhi Regional Office to investigate the matter and submit his report. The investigation is in progress. On receiving the report, necessary action will be initiated.

(c) Generally it is not permitted to cancel the crossing on the cheques issued by the company unless it is signed by two authorised signatories.

(d) The details of comparison of claims are as under:-

Dept.	1998-99		1999-2000	
	Number of Claims	Amount (Rs.)	Number of Claims	Amount (Rs.)
Fire	7	2450705	4	9137735
Marine	37	2962956	25	1302999
Motor OD	953	23689767	926	24788633
Motor TP	24	8000225	19	5070333
Misc.	211	4210802	186	6467324
Total	1232	41314455	1160	46767024

(e) Investigation has already been ordered to detect the alleged fraud and it is premature to ascertain the reasons for non-detection.

Vigilance Department of GIC

932. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7249 on 12 May, 2000 and state:

(a) whether complaints have been received against the Vigilance Department of New India Assurance Company Ltd. from Employees Associations and Members of Parliament for hushing up or delaying investigations of proved cases of fraud and corruption by officials, surveyors and insurers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Vigilance Department of the Company has recently received complaints of corruption by the officers of Divisional Office-310900;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(e) whether the investigations have been completed by the Vigilance Department in the cases pending as on 31.3.2000; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The New India Assurance Company Limited (NIAC) had received a complaint letter dated 6-9-2000 from All India General Insurance Employees' Association (Regd.) which was forwarded by Shri Bherulal Meena, M.P. and also a copy of d.o. letter dated 5.10.2000 addressed to Shri A.P. Pradhan, Current Incharge of New India Assurance Co. Ltd., by Shri Bherulal Meena, M.P. The Complaints were in the nature of allegation against certain officers and employees of Vigilance and other departments of the company.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Vigilance Department of NIAC has received complaints of alleged corruption against certain officers and subordinate staff of NIAC, Divisional Office-310900, from the President, All India National General Insurance Employees' Association, Northern Zone. The Vigilance Officer of Delhi Regional Office has already been advised to investigate the matter and submit his report. The investigation is in progress. On receiving the report, necessary action will be initiated.

(e) and (f) As on 31.3.2000, 78 investigations were pending, out of which, investigations in respect of 40 cases have been completed. Rest 38 cases (out of 78 cases) are at the final stage of the investigation.

[Translation]

Industrial Investment Scheme of IDBI

933. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is considering to launch any Industrial Investment Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its estimated funds reserved for the purpose;

(d) whether IDBI has also set up a separate company, IDBI Infotech for providing information technology related services; and

(e) if so, the details of the services provided by it in this sector so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) IDBI has reported that it has not launched any scheme by the name 'Industrial Investment Scheme'. However, it has launched an 'Equity Investment Scheme' from 1st August, 2000 for extending equity support to deserving companies with a view to improve long term profitability of the Bank through capital gains. IDBI has fixed the target at Rs. 1000 crore to be deployed over a period of two years.

(d) and (e) IDBI has recently launched a new Company viz., IDBI Intech Limited (Intech) to undertake Information Technology related business. The Company proposes to offer products and services for the financial sector in the areas of Internet, E-Commerce and Network Services; Web-based solutions, On-line Portal and Content Offerings, IT Support Services, Project Implementation Consulting, IT Shared Services and Product Customization and Development etc.

[English]

Projects Undertaken by ICAMT

934. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Centre for Advancement of Manufacturing Technology has undertaken certain projects on pilot project basis to upgrade manufacturing practices of Foundry Industry in Agra and Machine Tools Industry in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiatives taken to develop and implement training modules for the benefit of the workers of the Foundry Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The International Centre for Advancement of Manufacturing Technology (ICAMT) has undertaken a project in close co-operation with National Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Agra (NCIC) on pilot project basis to upgrade manufacturing practices of Foundry Industry in Agra. Following activities are envisaged under this project;

- Trainings/Seminars/Workshops on key technologies.
- Deputing National/International Experts to help industry to follow best manufacturing practices.
- To facilitate industry to get exposure to manufacturing practices being followed in developed countries.
- To help industry in identifying and adopting appropriate technologies.

The areas and issues are being identified in co-operation with NCIC for developing and implementing training modules for Agra foundry industry.

[Translation]

Testing of Edible Oil

935. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make testing of all edible oils mandatory;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) All edible oils are required to conform to the standards of quality as laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder. This can be ensured only through testing of relevant analytical characteristics.

[English]

Export of Rubber

936. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to promote the export of rubber and rubber products from the country; and

(b) the production, consumption and export of rubber during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The export of natural rubber is free under the EXIM Policy (1997-2002). Besides, the Rubber Board has been encouraging export of natural rubber through various promotional measures.

In addition to the ongoing efforts to boost the export of rubber products, a number of steps like continuing interaction with the trade & industry to identify and deal with problems related to exports, extension of Marketing Development Assistance to the exporting community for participation in trade fairs/exhibitions and organization of buyer-seller meets and other market promotion activities, are being taken.

The production, consumption and export of rubber during the last two years was as under:-

Year	Production (in Lakh Tonnes)	Consumption (in Lakh Tonnes)	Export (in Tonnes)
1998-99	6.05	5.92	1840
1999-2000	6.22	6.28	5989

Grievances of FCI Employees

937. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representations from the FCI Workers Union/ Association from the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the main grievances of the workers highlighted in their representations; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) A representation was received from the President, Food Corporation of India Loading and Unloading Workers Union (Karnataka).

(b) The main grievances/demands highlighted in the representation were for:

- (i) increase of tender wage rate to the workers working in FCI godowns at Gangavati from 1.5.98 & 12.5.2000 and extending additional benefits as per FCI circular dated 27.7.94.
- (ii) regularizing the godowns workers at K.R. Puram, White Field, Unkal Hubly, K.R. Nagar and Nanjungud with effect from 1.11.90 and payment of the balance money and appointment of 160 workers with their back wages.

- (iii) prohibition of Contract Labour System in different godowns of the FCI in Karnataka State.

The representation also contained allegations against FCI officials for misusing their official position for their personal and wrongful gains by making payment of contractor bills without making deductions of statutory labour benefits and doing benami transactions in the name of workers cooperative societies at FCI godowns at K.G.F. Bangarapet and Hubli — Bommapura and claiming exemption of FCI from the purview of Shops and Commercial Establishment Act. The Union, therefore, demanded for conducting CBI inquiry/constituting a Court of Inquiry for action against the alleged guilty officials of the FCI.

(c) The factual position with regard to each grievance/demand, as reported by FCI, has been conveyed to the Union.

Restructuring of Corporate Debt

938. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI have constituted a Standing Coordination Committee of leading Financial Institutions and Banks to remove differences among lenders on issues of corporate debt restructuring;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the above committee; and

(c) the time by when this committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a Standing Co-ordination Committee (SCC) of Select Financial Institutions and Banks was set up in September, 1999 under the aegis of IDBI with Chairman and Managing Director of IDBI as the convenor of the Committee.

(b) and (c) SCC meets on ongoing basis and discusses the following issues in their meetings:

- Unresolved issues relating to projects assisted jointly by FIs and Banks;
- Matter of concerns of FIs and Banks which needs to be taken up with RBI, Government of India and other statutory authorities.
- Any other matter of common interest.

No report is required to be submitted by the SCC.

Virus in Shrimp Farms

939. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has sent any scientific team to examine the frequent viruses affecting shrimp farms in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which MPEDA team visited various States and the areas visited by said team;

(c) the findings of the MPEDA team;

(d) whether any suggestions have been made by MPEDA team to shrimp farmers of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) MPEDA has undertaken a detailed study of the diseases affecting shrimp farms in the country in association with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Thailand in three phases, under which Scientific Teams visited farms in the following places in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during August-November 2000:

S.No.	Dates of visit	Places visited
1.	26th August, 2000	Mahabalipuram near Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
2.	27-31st August, 2000	Kakinada, Bhimavaram, Nellore and Kandaluru Creek (Gudur) (Andhra Pradesh)
3.	31st October, 2000 and 1st November, 2000	Sirkazhi Taluk, Nagai District (Tamil Nadu)

Also, MPEDA officials visited farms in Kandaluru creek area (Nellore District) and West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh and Nagai District in Tamil Nadu during the period from 15th September - 22nd October, 2000 to collect preliminary survey data. Analysis and the findings of the Scientific Team will be disseminated to the farmers through training and demonstration classes by MPEDA in the third and final phase of the Study.

[Translation]

Merger of TAFCO with Ordnance Factory

940. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. (TAFCO) is proposed to be merged with the Ordnance Factory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

IDBI Loan

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

(a) the number of applications received by Industrial Development Bank of India from the entrepreneurs of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications approved during the said period; and

(c) the financial assistance given by the IDBI to the entrepreneurs of Bihar, year-wise and unit-wise during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As reported by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), number of applications received/sanctioned and assistance sanctioned under direct finance scheme for entrepreneurs in Bihar during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)			
Year	No. of Applications		Amt.
	Received	Sanctioned	Sanctioned
1997-98	14	8	371
1998-99	17	8	674
1999-2000	14	11	241

In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the Banks and Financial Institutions and in conformity with the provisions of Statutes governing the Financial Institutions (Obligations as to fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 the unit-wise information cannot be divulged.

[English]

Money Laundering

942. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check generation of black money and laundering thereof under the existing laws during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken any systematic study during the above period to identify the major areas of generation of black money besides the commonly known areas of extortion, drug trafficking, gun running; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Income-Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at unearthing the undisclosed money and thereby checking generation of black money. These provisions include compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in cases described under sections 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under sections 40A (3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties under chapter XXC, surveys and searches, penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax evaders and investigation in cases selected for scrutiny. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases. Besides that allotment of Permanent Account Number under section 139A to all the assesses and compulsory quoting of such PAN in prescribed transactions has been given top priority along with computerization of work of Income-Tax Department. The provisions of section 139(1) regarding compulsory filing of returns by persons who fulfil one of the six economic indicators, has been extended to 133 cities in the country. This scheme brings on the records of Income-Tax Department, persons owning immovable properties, etc., which have scope for investment of black money.

(b) and (c) No such study has been undertaken during the last three years.

Decline in the Production of Sugar

943. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the over-all sugar production in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the sugar production has reduced as a result of non-payment of arrears to the sugarcane growers during the past few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reduction in sugar production as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The overall sugar production in the country during the last three Sugar Seasons (Oct.-Sept.) was as under:-

Sugar Season	Production (in Lakh tonnes)
1997-98	128.44
1998-99	155.20 (P)
1999-2000	181.41 (P)

(P)—Provisional.

As is evident from the above, the sugar production in the country has not reduced. However, the Central Government have taken the following measures to clear the cane price arrears of the farmers:-

- (i) The levy obligation of sugar factories has been reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 01.01.2000.
- (ii) To restrict inflow of imported sugar in the country Government w.e.f. 09.02.2000 have increased the custom duty on imported sugar to 60% alongwith the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne.
- (iii) The Government have been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of free sale sugar quotas.
- (iv) Advance releases of free sale sugar are being made to needy sugar factories to pay the cane price dues.
- (v) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar to lessen the surplus stocks of sugar held by the sugar factories.

Procurement of Levy

944. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations about discrimination against the farmers of Andhra Pradesh with regard to procurement of levy rice through the Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) if so, whether farmers in the country were hit hardest as a result of the export-import policy being pursued by the Union Government during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the action taken to ensure that the farmers of Andhra Pradesh got the same benefit as that of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of any such representations about discrimination against the farmers in Andhra Pradesh with regard to procurement of levy rice through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). However, the normal system of procurement of rice by FCI for the central pool in Andhra Pradesh is different from that of Punjab. While in respect of Andhra Pradesh, rice is being procured through the levy route from the millers, in respect of Punjab most of the rice has been procured through custom milling of paddy procured by FCI/State Agencies. Certain relaxations in specifications of paddy and out turn of Custom Milled Rice have been extended to Punjab due to unseasonal rains and incidence of blight which affected the crops.

Sale of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL)

945. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell the three units of Indian Petrochemicals Limited (IPCL) at Vadodara, Gandhar and Negothane through international competitive bidding; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government has in practical modification of the previous decision in the matter of disinvestment of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), decided that the Vadodara plant of IPCL, which has synergies with Gujarat Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited will, after proper valuation, be transferred to the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. The rest of IPCL will, as decided earlier, be disinvested through strategic sale of 25% equity.

Misuse of Loan under PMRY

946. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that ambitious scheme of giving loans to the educated unemployed has achieved the target but undeserving persons have taken advantage of this scheme;

(b) if so, whether in some cases, enquiries reveal that corrupt practices are continuing in some of the banks under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the action taken against those held responsible and the total loan provided to each individual under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, the scheme of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) of providing loans to the educated unemployed youths has achieved its target in large measure. RBI has however received some complaints relating to banks under PMRY which are of general nature. These complaints, *inter-alia*, include difficulties in obtention of various documents from different agencies prior to sanction of loan, demand for collateral security by banks, delay in sanction of loan, sanction of lesser amount than the amount applied for, behaviour of bank's staff & delay in disbursement of loan. When specific charges are levied against bank officials, banks initiate inquiry proceedings as per their Staff Regulations. Disciplinary action is taken as per individual Bank's rules. Public Sector banks are required to forward a yearly statement to Reserve Bank of India indicating nature of lapses committed by the employees in lending under priority sector.

The loan provided by banks under PMRY is as under:

Year	Loan Disbursed	
	No.	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1993-94 to 1996-97	6,52,264	3740.78
1997-98 to 2000-01 (up to August, 2000-provisional)	5,36,727	3127.14

Smuggling of Gold Bars

947. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gold Bars smuggling cases detected in Air India flights during each of the last three years;

(b) the cases in which more than 20 kilos gold bars seized during the above period;

(c) the number of cases in which the offenders/culprits were identified, prosecuted and punished during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the preventive steps taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 11 cases of gold bars smuggling cases were detected in Air India aircrafts during the last three years, as per details indicated below:-

Year	No. of cases
1997-98	5
1998-99	1
1999-2000	3
2000-2001 (till Oct., 2000)	2

(b) Out of cases reported in (a) above, in 2 cases, more than 20 kilos gold bars were seized during the last three years.

(c) The number of cases in which the offenders/culprits were identified, arrested and prosecuted during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	No. of cases
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	1-1 person arrested
1999-2000	2-3 persons arrested
2000-2001 (till Oct., 2000)	Nil

(d) All the field formations under the Customs Department including DRI are alert and vigilant to detect & prevent smuggling of contraband goods in general and smuggling of gold in particular.

Paddy and Rice Stock In Punjab

948. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab are holding substantial stocks of paddy/rice for immediate disposal;

(b) if so, the capacity of the Food Corporation of India to absorb a part of such stocks to build its buffer in terms of storage space;

(c) whether FCI propose to directly intervene in the Punjab Paddy/Rice market at the moment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Punjab region is having stocks of paddy and rice with Food Corporation of India as well as State Government and its agencies as on 31.10.2000 as under:

(Figures in lakh MTs)

Agency	Rice	Paddy
FCI	46.69	21.43
State Agencies	—	59.34
Total	46.69	80.77

(b) At preset, FCI has a total storage capacity of 100.99 lakh tonnes (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP) in Punjab as on 1.11.2000 as detailed below:

(Figures in Lakh MTs)

Agency	Capacity	Stocks held
A. Covered Capacity		
FCI owned	21.77	17.35
Hired From		
State Govt.	7.04	5.93
C.W.C.	4.11	3.39
S.W.Cs	12.73	12.56
Pvt. Parties	15.36	11.56
Total	61.01	50.81

(Covered)

B. CAP (Open) Capacity

FCI owned	5.43	6.64
Hired	34.55	29.74
Total (CAP)	39.98	36.38
Grand Total (Covered & CAP)	100.99	87.19

(c) and (d) During the current Kharif Marketing Season in Punjab, FCI and State Government/Agencies are procuring paddy in the State under MSP w.e.f. 21.9.2000. As on 21.11.2000, a quantity of 86.08 lakh MTs of paddy has been procured in Punjab Region (FCI=27.79 lakh MTs. State Govt./Agencies=58.29 lakh MTs). FCI has also procured levy rice in Punjab to the tune of 3.61 lakh MTs and thus, the total procurement of rice and paddy in terms of rice in Punjab stood at 70 lakh MTs against a quantity of 61.54 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Seizure by US Customs

949. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government have reported to the Indian Government on the seizure of several consignments of Indian made CD-ROMS pirated and manufactured by certain Indian companies and allegedly indulging in fraud against the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Payment of Salary by Kamraz Rural Bank

950. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Kamraz Rural Bank of Kashmir have migrated from the valley to Jammu and they have also not received their salaries for the last four months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to settle their salaries and to utilise their services outside Jammu and Kashmir in any of the NABARD offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) 43 Officers/Clerks of Kamraz Rural Bank had migrated from Kashmir Valley to Jammu. As reported by the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. the sponsor bank of Kamraz Rural Bank, salaries upto October, 2000 already stand disbursed by Kamraz Rural Bank to its migrated employees.

(c) Government of India had issued instruction to the sponsor bank advising them to direct the Kamraz Rural Bank to release the salaries of the migrant employees. These instructions have been reiterated from time to time. There is no proposal to utilise their services outside Jammu and Kashmir in any of the offices of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD).

[Translation]

Transmission Facilities in Maharashtra

951. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cities/towns of Maharashtra where "Doordarshan/All India Radio" transmission facilities have not been provided so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish facilities in these places also;

(c) if so, the places identified so far; and

(d) the steps taken to provide this facility at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In the State of Maharashtra, some parts of District Garhchiroli, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur and Sindhudurg are not getting adequate radio coverage at present. Thane, Alibag, Kudal and Latur do not have any Doordarshan Transmitter facility, but all the cities/towns in Maharashtra are getting adequate TV coverage, either by a local transmitter or from a nearby transmitter.

(b) to (d) For further expansion of Radio coverage there is a proposal to set up a 1 KW MW Tr. and a Studio at Oras in District Sindhudurg and to upgrade the power of existing 100 KW MW Tr. at Nagpur to 300 KW MW. Both these schemes are targetted for completion during the year 2001-2002. For further expansion of TV coverage in Maharashtra, 12 transmitter projects (DD1-8, DD2-4) are under implementation at the following places;

(i) DD1 Transmitter:

HPTs - Chandrapur, Jalgaon & Ratnagiri
LPTs - Bhamragad, Dhadgaon & Raver
VLPTs - Ambet & Sakli.

(ii) DD2 Transmitter:

HPTs—Pune & Aurangabad
LPTs—Sholapur & Nasik

The uncovered areas will be taken up in the future plans, subject to availability of funds and infrastructure facilities.

[English]

Rise in Prices of PDS Foodgrains

952. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System has been badly affected by the rise in prices of rice and wheat which are supplied through PDS in all the States especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses suffered by Food Corporation of India due to delay in releasing PDS items to the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) With a view to neutralise the financial burden consequent upon the hike in Minimum Support Price (MSP)/Procurement Price and to contain the food subsidy budget to a manageable level. Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of PDS foodgrains are revised from time to time. The CIPs of foodgrains being distributed under PDS were hiked on 1.4.2000 which have been subsequently revised downwards on 25.7.2000 for all the States/UTs (including Kerala). The prices of PDS foodgrains are still lower than the open market prices, specially for the people living below poverty line (BPL). The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families is now made @ 20 kg. per family per month on the basis of projection of population by Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of earlier projection of population in 1995.

(c) There is no delay on part of FCI to release the stocks. As per the reports received from the State Governments off take of foodgrains from Fair Price Shops in respect of BPL families, has not been affected.

However, the off take of APL foodgrains has been reduced in some States after increase in Central Issue Price (CIP) w.e.f. 1.4.2000. Subsidy on foodgrains for APL population has been withdrawn. Hence there is no loss to the Government of India on this account.

(d) The Government have taken the following steps to reduce the excess stocks from the Central Pool:

- (i) Open sale of wheat at reduced prices has been started from 11.7.2000.
- (ii) Open sale of rice has been started from 4.9.2000.
- (iii) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice were revised down-wards on 25.7.2000.
- (iv) The CIPs of rice and wheat for APL families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost or the open market sale price decided by the FCI from time to time, whichever is lower. The open market rates being less than the economic cost, the States can avail of this offer and make foodgrains available to APL population at reduced rates.
- (v) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 kg per family per month is now being made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.
- (vi) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Government @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/backward student/Nari Niketans etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated under the Annapoorna Scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.
- (vii) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for all welfare schemes

belong to the BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like World Food Programme.

- (x) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150/- per MT.

White Paper on PSEs

953. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any proposal to bring 'White-Paper' on all the Public Sector Enterprises under control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the present status of the white paper and the time by which it is likely to be brought out;

(c) whether efforts have been made by the Government in the past few months to make the weak PSEs self-sufficient; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The white paper on Public sector Enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry is under finalization.

(c) and (d) Efforts made to strengthen and improve the viability of PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry include:

making unviable units and Govt. has approved fresh cash infusion of Rs. 265.10 crores during 2000-01.

- (iii) Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd. (LJMC) has been converted into a Joint Venture company and its management has been transferred to M/s. Murlidhar Ratanlal Exports Ltd. (MREL) on July 4, 2000.
- (iv) Placement of order for 8917.5 FWUs for 2000-01 by the Ministry of Railways on the Wagon Building PSEs which is 60.39% higher than the order of 5560 FWUs placed in 1999-2000.

New NABARD Scheme

954. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has formulated a new scheme for rural artisans and scheduled tribes of Manipur State;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance given by the bank to the State under the various schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons in Manipur benefited under this scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has formulated several schemes for providing loan assistance to rural, tribal and scheduled tribe people in all States of the country, including the State of Manipur.

The amount of NABARD's refinance disbursed to various banks in Manipur under investment credit during the last three years is furnished below:

(c) Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of Sugar Industry

955. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the sugar industry in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the healthy growth and modernization of sugar industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As on 30.9.2000, the State-wise number of sugar mills installed in Public, Private and Cooperative Sectors is given in the enclosed statement. The total production of sugar in the country has gone up to 181.41 lakh tonnes (provisional) during 1999-2000 sugar season as compared to 155.20 lakh tonnes during 1998-99 sugar season.

(b) Loans for modernization/rehabilitation are provided to the sugar mills at a concessional rate of interest from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF).

Besides, the following steps have been taken by the Government for improving the viability of the sugar industry in the country:

(i) The ratio of levy to free sale sugar has been changed from 40:60 to 30:70 with effect from 1.1.2000;

(ii) Duty on imported sugar has been raised to 60%

Statement

State-wise number of sugar mills installed as on 30.9.2000 and sugar mills operated during the sugar season 1999-2000

S. No.	State	Total Number of installed Sugar mills			Number of sugar mills which operated during 1999-2000 sugar season	
		Pub.	Pvt.	Coop.	Total	Total
1.	Punjab	—	6	16	22	21
2.	Haryana	—	3	10	13	13
3.	Rajasthan	1	1	1	3	2
4.	Uttar Pradesh	35	61	32	128	109
5.	Madhya Pradesh	2	4	3	9	7
6.	Gujarat	—	—	22	22	18
7.	Maharashtra	—	6	128	134	124
8.	Bihar	15	13	—	28	10
9.	Assam	—	1	2	3	1
10.	Orissa	—	4	4	8	7
11.	West Bengal	1	1	—	2	2
12.	Nagaland	1	—	—	1	—
13.	Andhra Pradesh	6	17	18	41	35
14.	Karnataka	3	15	19	37	34
15.	Tamilnadu	3	19	15	37	37
16.	Pondicherry	—	1	1	2	2
17.	Kerala	—	1	1	2	1
18.	Goa	—	—	1	1	1
Total		67	153	273	493	424

FM Radio Station at Junagadh

956. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision for setting up of FM Radio Station at Junagadh was taken up long back;

(b) if so, the exact cost and progress made so far in setting up of the FM station; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up FM Radio Station at Junagarh was included in the 9th Plan. Prasar Bharati has informed that the site has been acquired and fenced at a cost of Rs. 16.95 lakhs. It is not possible to give a specific time frame for starting the Station since Prasar Bharati has other on-going commitments, which have to be completed.

[Translation]

Export of Agricultural Products

957. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India in export of agricultural products in international market;

(b) whether the export of agricultural products is still lagging behind;

(c) if so, the details of items exported so far; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to encourage the export of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) and (b) India's share in the export of agro products in the world market is approx. 1%. Exports of agricultural products are dependent on a number of factors such as domestic production and consumption, exportable surpluses, consumer preferences, varieties traded, quality, domestic and international prices, availability of infrastructure to store, process, transport and despatch.

(c) The agro-products exported from the country are rice (basmati & non-basmati), cashew & cashew nut shell liquid, oilmeals, spices, meat & meat preparations, tobacco unmanufactured & manufactured, guar gum meal, pulses, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, processed fruits & juices, miscellaneous processed items, Sesame and Niger seeds, processed vegetables, shellac, groundnut, spirit & beverages, poultry & dairy products, floriculture products, mollasses, fruits and vegetable seeds, other cereals, sugar and wheat. The total value of agro-products including marine, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton exported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were as under:-

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	24626
1998-99	25387
1999-2000 (P)	23823
(P) - Provisional	

Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta.

Quantity-wise and product-wise details of exports are given in monthly/annual number of foreign Trade Statistics

of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(d) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage to the exports of agro products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
3. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
4. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
5. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

[English]

Illegal Transaction of Foreign Exchange

958. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected several cases of illegal transaction of foreign exchange in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange recovered during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal transaction of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 42 cases.

(c) The State-wise information is as under:-

State	Amount of foreign exchange seized
Gujarat	- U.S. \$ 8794.
Maharashtra	- Foreign Currency worth Rs. 33,06,871/-
Delhi	- Foreign currency worth Rs. 88.20 lakhs
Himachal Pradesh	- Foreign currency worth Rs. 4.01 lakhs.
Chennai	- U.S. \$ 3,213 Malaysian \$ 2878 Singapore \$ 4963 Saudi Riyals 9238 UAE Dhin. 617 Italian Lira 8,30,000 Srilankan Rs. 10/- Indonesian Rupia 50,000/-

(d) Action as provided under the law is taken and the guilty is punished by way of adjudication, confiscation of currencies/amount and also penalizing by way of penalty and prosecution whenever any illegal transaction in foreign exchange is noticed.

Cases of Misappropriation in MMTC

959. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the cases referred to the CBI/CVC by the MMTC so far on account of misappropriation of gold, irregularities in exports, non-verification of Bank guarantees and unsecured credit extended to customers etc;

(b) the number of cases in which penalties have been imposed on officials/officers; and

(c) the estimated loss of money to the MMTC on account of various cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Break up of the cases referred to CBI/CVC by MMTC are as under:-

(i) Relating to Gold	24
(ii) Irregularities in exports	3
(iii) Non-verification of Bank Guarantees	1
(iv) Unsecured Credit extended to customers	5
Total	33

(b) Penalties have been imposed in 26 cases so far.

(c) In three cases, losses of about Rs. 2.00 crores were incurred. In the remaining cases, appropriate legal and/or arbitration action is underway. The actual losses can be quantified only after the legal/arbitration action have been completed.

Advertisements Released by DAVP

960. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government owes large amount to some leading daily newspapers by not settling their advertisement dues in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the total amount due to be paid to the various newspapers as on date, newspaper-wise;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to settle their dues at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the expenses incurred for releasing various advertisements by the Government through DAVP in the last three years, Newspaper-wise and year-wise; and

(f) the advertisements released by the DAVP in major Tamil Dailies in the last three years and the due amount payable to these Tamil Dailies as on date?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity owes an amount of Rs. 76.03 crores to various daily newspapers for their advertisement bills, as on 21st November, 2000. Newspaper-wise details of the dues are voluminous and, therefore, it will not be commensurate with the efforts involved in compiling it.

(c) and (d) Settlement of the pending dues of different newspapers, by DAVP, is an ongoing process. As part of the exercise, information of pending bill is provided to newspapers on floppies indicating the reasons for the pendency to enable them to rectify the defects in the bills. In order to avoid the pendency of payment of bills in future, DAVP has enforced the system of releasing advertisements of paying departments only on receipt of funds from them. Departments from whom amounts are outstanding have been reminded.

(e) and (f) The expenditure incurred for releasing advertisements through DAVP during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is available in the Annual Reports of this Ministry which is available in the Parliament Library. The information regarding the advertisements released to major Tamil dailies for the above years is also available in the Annual Reports. The amount due to be paid to Tamil dailies as on 21.11.2000, is to the tune of Rs. 1.02 crores.

[Translation]

Non-Banking Companies in Bihar

961. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-banking Companies functioning in Bihar;

(b) the number of depositors deposited the money in Non-banking Companies between the years 1996 and 1998 and the amount thereof;

(c) the number of Non-banking companies out of the above mentioned Non-banking Companies disappeared after collecting money from depositors and have not invested in Bihar;

(d) the action taken by the Government against those Non-banking Companies which disappeared with the amount deposited by the depositors; and

(e) the measures adopted to stop such malpractices of Non-banking Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank has reported that 507 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which were incorporated in Bihar State have sent applications for Certificate of Registration, out of which 288 NBFCs were in category 'A' i.e. companies accepting deposits from public. As per information available with the Reserve Bank of India which is based on the returns submitted by the NBFCs, the total amount of deposits as on 31st March, 1998 was Rs. 6987.69 lakhs. The details of number of depositors are not available with Reserve Bank of India. Out of 288 applications from NBFCs for Registration under category 'A', RBI has rejected applications of 239 companies who did not respond to RBI's letters. A list of such companies which have been treated by RBI as companies that have disappeared has been sent to the State Government.

(d) and (e) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that Non-Banking Finance Companies function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes *inter-alia* compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI also takes various action against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder.

[English]

Regulation Media Network

962. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to enact a convergence law to regulate media network as it is existing in Malaysia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers on Convergence is considering the issues regarding Convergence. Its recommendations are awaited.

Pending Proposals of Disinvestments

963. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disinvestment proposals pending with the Government which are yet to be cleared as on November 15, 2000;

(b) whether any attempt has been made to further disinvest in the public sector banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment of Government held equity in public sector undertakings is a continuous

process and is being done as per the declared policy of the Government to bring down the Government shareholding to 26% or less in non-strategic PSUs, in the generality of cases. As a part of the disinvestment process, Government considers cases in different departments and then in inter-ministerial fora, before being considered by the Cabinet. Under the circumstances, it is not be possible to compile the precise number of proposals pending with the Government, at different levels.

(b) There is no proposal for disinvestment of Government equity in Public Sector banks.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sick and Closed Units

964. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of sick and closed units in the country as per the latest estimate, sector-wise;

(b) the amount these units owe to banks and financial institutions;

(c) whether any measure is being taken for the revival of these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per data reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) State-wise details of number of units and amount outstanding of closed Non-SSI (Sick/Weak) Industrial units assisted by scheduled commercial banks as at the end of March, 1999 (latest available) is in the statement enclosed.

The Sector-wise data of non-SSI (sick/weak) closed units as the end of March 1999 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)		
Sector	Number of closed Non-SSI (Sick/Weak) Units	Outstanding Amount
1	2	3
Public (Central)	25	145.03
Public (State)	51	126.94

1	2	3
Co-operative	4	3.82
Private	1111	4361.87
Joint	67	195.04
Total	1258	4832.70

The information regarding financial institutions is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(c) and (d) Some of the measures initiated by the Government to assist and revive sick industries, inter-alia, included:

- Establishment of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions), Act, 1985.
- Establishment of State, Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) set up in each State.
- Sick units rehabilitation committee formed by State Governments.
- Refinance schemes for rehabilitation of sick Industrial units operated by SIDBI.
- Rehabilitation, restructuring and one-time settlement of dues by banks and financial institutions for revival of potentially viable sick industrial units.

Statement

State wise closed Non-SSI (Sick/Weak) Industrial Units As at The End of March 1999 (Latest Available)

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	No of units	Outstanding Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127	293.13
2.	Assam	7	7.58
3.	Bihar	39	124.80
4.	Chandigarh	4	16.40
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	8.78
6.	Daman & Diu	3	19.57
7.	Delhi	24	242.69

1	2	3	4
8. Goa		9	12.25
9. Gujarat		116	566.81
10. Haryana		60	308.06
11. Himachal Pradesh		16	13.97
12. Jammu & Kashmir		4	7.56
13. Karnataka		86	398.19
14. Kerala		23	99.14
15. Madhya Pradesh		58	344.60
16. Maharashtra		220	984.85
17. Manipur		1	2.44
18. Mizoram		1	5.31
19. Nagaland		1	5.11
20. Orissa		32	80.22
21. Pondicherry		3	1.24
22. Punjab		44	113.00
23. Rajasthan		45	102.40
24. Sikkim		1	6.35
25. Tamil Nadu		93	279.39
26. Tripura		1	7.43
27. Uttar Pradesh		117	350.17
28. West Bengal		118	431.26
Total		1258	4832.70

[English]

Procurement of Sub-standard Foodgrains

965. SHRI GEORGE EDEN:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India had procured sub-standard foodgrains during the last season particularly from Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total quantity of such foodgrains procured during the said period;

(d) whether inferior quality of foodgrain is supplied through Public Distribution System;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if not, the manner by which such foodgrains is likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No Sir, No relaxed specification/substandard foodgrains has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last season in Punjab.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No Sir, Foodgrains (Wheat rice) free from insect infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act standard are supplied by FCI to the State Governments for Public Distribution System (PDS).

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Export of Potato

966. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Southern States including Karnataka are exporting or planning to export potato; and

(b) if so, the countries to which potato has been exported or proposed to be exported during the current financial year alongwith the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However, from the information available from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), organisation from Karnataka are in the process of exploring the possibilities of exporting potatoes.

(b) The major countries to which potatoes have been exported during the current year (April to August 2000) include Mauritius, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, UAE and USA. A quantity of about 13,866 MTs (Provisional

Figure) of potatoes has been exported during the above period of the current year for which information is available.

Ninth Plan Growth Target

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

(a) whether the manufacturing sector will not be able to meet the Ninth Five Year Plan growth target of 7.1%;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to meet the growth target during the said plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate of Manufacturing Sector, in terms of value added production at constant prices, during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-000 (the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002) had been 4.0%, 3.6% and 8.5% respectively. In the current financial year (2000-01) during the first quarter (April-June 2000), as per CSO estimates, manufacturing value added production recorded a growth rate of 5.5%. There are indications of a slowdown in industrial growth in recent months for various reasons, including the sharp increase in international oil prices, a relatively weak intermediate demand and sluggish investment sentiment.

(c) to (e) Government has undertaken a series of measures to boost investment confidence. These include mobilization of over US \$ 5 billion through Indian Millennium Deposits (IMD), rapid reforms in key sectors such as telecom and textiles and sound fiscal management.

[Translation]

Films on DD

968. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the films being shown on Television are not of that

standard which can be seen by the whole family sitting together; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to promote our culture through Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) Doordarshan telecasts only those films and programmes which are suitable for family viewing. In order to ensure this, Doordarshan preview all its programmes before telecast, in accordance to the provisions of Broadcast and Advertisement Codes, so that they do not contain any undesirable violence and vulgarity. Moreover, only those films that are certified for Universal Screening by Central Board of Film Certification are selected for telecast on Doordarshan.

(b) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to telecast programmes on its different kendras as well as the national network on various themes including Indian culture and heritage.

[English]

Bank Robberies

969. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons including bank employees, killed and injured in robberies in the public sector banks during the last three years, State-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to the persons killed/injured; and

(c) the details of employment provided to the dependents of the deceased by each of public sector banks in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A statement showing the State-wise details of persons killed/injured in bank robberies in public sector banks during the period 1997-99 and details of compensation/reward paid by the banks as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enclosed.

(c) RBI has also reported that during the last three years no person was killed in incidents of robbery/dacoity in the State Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

State-wise number of persons killed/injured in robberies/dacoities in public sector banks and the details of compensation/reward paid during the period 1997 to 1999

Name of the State	No. of persons		Compensation/reward paid
	Killed	Injured	
Andhra Pradesh	—	05	Rs. 1 lakh+medical expenses.
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	03	05	Rs. 6.10 lakh+3 increments to one injured employee+ medical expenses.
Bihar	07	26	Rs. 4.28 lakh+employment to dependent + medical expenses.
Delhi	01	—	—
Goa	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—
Haryana	—	01	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	—
Kerala	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	02	Rs. 50,000/-
Maharashtra	—	03	—
Manipur	01	02	—
Meghalaya	06	05	Rs. 12.5 lakhs.
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—
Orissa	—	06	—
Punjab	—	—	—
Rajasthan	01	—	Rs. 1 lakh+employment to family member.
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	10	23	Rs. 6.4 lakh+ employment to family member+ medical expenses+promotion to injured employee.
West Bengal	—	07	Rs. 50,000/-

[Translation]

Housing Loan to Poor

970. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide loans for the construction of dwelling units to SC/ST persons living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details of loans provided and rate at which the interest is charged from the above persons as compared to that of the general public;

(c) the State wise number of persons to whom such loans have been provided by the banks during last three years particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to provide housing loans at lower rate of interest to the people living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No separate loaning scheme has been formulated to provide loans for the construction of dwelling units to SC/ST persons living below poverty line. However, a scheme known as "Credit-Cum-Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing" has been introduced by Ministry of Rural Development w.e.f. 01.04.1999 for rural people including SCs/STs having income up to 32000/- annually. As per the extant guidelines at least a minimum of 60% of the funds allocated under this scheme as subsidy to each State, shall be utilized in financing the construction of houses for the SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers. Ceiling of subsidy that can be given under this scheme is Rs. 10,000/- per household and the upper limit of construction loan admissible under this scheme is Rs. 40,000/- per household. As per the information furnished by Ministry of Rural Development, during 1999-2000, against central allocation (subsidy portion) of Rs. 207.53 lakhs to the state, Gujarat Rural Housing Board has been released first instalment (50%) amounting to Rs. 103.77 lakhs under the scheme. In Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000 against central allocation of Rs. 582.73 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 400.04 lakhs have been released to the various District Rural Development Agencies in the State. Further funds could not be released due to non-submission of utilisation certificates. During 2000-01 against central allocation of Rs. 874.09 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 172.02 lakhs has already been released to various DRDAs in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House to the extent available.

[English]

Kashmiri Channel on DD

971. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan's Kashmiri Channel launched with the objective of integrating the people of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of the country and to counter the anti-India propaganda by Pak TV has almost become non-functional within a year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to re-start the channel to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Payment of Bank Guarantee for FM Channels

972. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bidders holding Ministry to Ransom" published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated October 16, 2000;

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

(c) whether private licences have not only managed to get the deadline for bank guarantees extended but have also got the terms of the contract altered to their advantage in the event of defaulting annual licence fee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and justification for extending deadline for bank guarantee and altering the terms of contract?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The private FM operators had requested for extending the deadline, as the completion of Banking formalities for such large sums required more than 15 days stipulated in the tenders and also for amending few clauses in the agreement contract as these were inconsistent with the conditions prescribed in the tender document. The requests were examined and necessary changes were made in the agreement proforma to bring it in conformity with the notified tender conditions. No term has been altered to any prospective private Broadcaster's advantage in the event of defaulting annual licence fee. The details of changes made in the agreement/contract are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

- (i) Clause 9, Main agreement—Delete the sentence "On such revocation—and their operations."
- (ii) Clause 13, Main agreement—Add "shall be generally guided by the objective of generating" in place of "is to generate"
- (iii) Clause 15, Main agreement, - Delete "and the programme link." from 1st sentence and "without any prior notice to the Licensee and take possession and control of the Licensee's Service, system and infrastructure with immediate effect." from last sentence.
- (iv) In schedule "C" of the agreement, the following changes to various articles are made:-
 - (a) Article 2.2 - "including programme links" is deleted limiting the ownership to only transmitter.
 - (b) Article 2.3—the word "obtain" is changed to "apply for".
 - (c) Article 4.3 the last portion as detailed below is deleted:-

"Without any prior notice. On such termination, the licensor shall take possession and control of licensee's services, systems and infrastructures with immediate effect"
 - (d) Article 9.1 "at their installations" is inserted between "provide necessary facilities" and "for continuous monitoring" in the last sentence.
 - (e) Article 11.1 — "accounts, estimates, returns" are deleted and "as may be required to check continued eligibility of the licensee" is added at the end of the article, after "etc."

(f) Article 12.4 — Delete "take over of the FM radio broadcast station of the licensee or" appearing between "Broadcast" and "issue Licensee" also delete the last sentence "The licence shall facilitate taking over by the new licensee or the licensor all those assets as are essential for the continuity of the service."

(g) Article 13- Delete - the second sentence. "However, in the case of dispute.....of this Licence."

(h) Article 16.2 - Delete the entire clause.

National Calamity Fund

973. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up the National Calamity Fund as recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay in setting up such fund; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up in order to provide necessary and urgent financial help to flood affected States like West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has recommended for creation of a separate 'National Calamity Contingency Fund' (NCCF) for financing of the relief expenditure in case of calamities of rare nature and extraordinary severe intensity. Based on the recommendations of the EFC, a scheme for constitution and administration of the NCCF is being issued shortly in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture, Controller General of Accounts and C & AG of India. Since EFC has recommended that any drawal from the fund should be recouped by imposition of special surcharge on the Central taxes for a limited period, necessary legislation enabling Central Government to levy surcharge is to be approved by the Parliament. However, in view of the flood situation in West Bengal, Rs. 460.35 crore have been provided by the Central Government through a combination of feasible releases to supplement the efforts of the State Government in relief and rehabilitation works and to keep the State in funds. This is in addition to funds released by the Central Ministries

such as Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Rural Development, etc., towards immediate restoration of essential services and rehabilitation.

More ATMs in Banks

974. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of nationalised banks where automatic teller machine facility are available, State-wise;

(b) whether the nationalised banks propose to install more automatic teller-machines in near future;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Externally Aided Projects

975. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of on-going externally aided projects;

(b) the total amount involved in these projects, State-wise; and

(c) the share of Gujarat and Maharashtra out of the total Externally Aided projects approved from April 1, 1996 till March 31, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Please see enclosed Statement I that shows number of projects and amount involved State-wise in Externally aided projects.

(c) Please see enclosed Statement, Statement-II that shows the share of Gujarat and Maharashtra out of the total amount involved in State EAPs approved from 1.4.1996 to 31.3.1999.

Statement I

Number and Amount involved State-wise in ongoing Externally aided projects

(Figures in Million)

S. No.	State	No. of Projects	Swedish Kroner	US\$	Japanese Yen	UK Pd.	Euro	Dutch Guilder	Nor. Kroner	Danish Kroner	Kuw. Dinar	Deut- che Mark	Can. \$	Indian Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	0	1938	82188	191	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Assam	2	0	126	176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	3	0	269	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Delhi	2	0	3	14760	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	9	0	326	22806	0	0	126	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Haryana	6	0	334	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Karnataka	16	0	188	46801	23	0	0	0	216	0	43	0	86
9.	Kerala	8	0	49	17109	11	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10	0	318	22489	0	0	0	0	149	0	0	0	0
11.	Maharashtra	16	0	487	11498	16	31	0	0	0	0	95	0	0
12.	Manipur	1	0	0	3962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
13.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	1700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Orissa	16	0	717	7760	78	11	0	40	145	0	60	0	0
15.	Pondicherry	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Punjab	1	0	0	6193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	17	220	538	20183	0	45	0	0	0	0	156	15	78
18.	Tamilnadu	16	60	625	30422	0	25	0	0	437	0	2	0	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	21	0	1292	29658	2	35	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	West Bengal	16	0	4	112405	55	0	0	0	0	0	110	0	0
Total		189	280	7223	430109	381	279	146	40	947	0	466	15	164

Statement II

*Share of Gujarat and Maharashtra out of the Total Amount involved
in State EAPs Approved from 1.4.96 to 31.3.99*

(Figures in Million)

S. State No.	US \$	Jap. Yen	UK Pd.	Euro	Dutch Gilder	Danish Kr.	Deutsche Mark	Indian Rs.
1. Gujarat	325.8	0	0	0	125.545	0	0	0
Share of Gujarat (%)	7.37	0	0	0	86.84	0	0	0
2. Maharashtra	183	83.8	0	0	0	0	65	0
Share of Maharashtra(%)	4.14	0.045	0	0	0	0	32.82	0
All States (Incl. Guj. Mah)	4423.44	185846.6	280.663	37.85	144.57	572.78	198	77.84

Figures above are excluding Multi-State, Central Sector and French Protocols/Sub Projects.

Doordarshan Kendras in West Bengal

976. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing Doordarshan Kendras in West Bengal functioning as on date;

(b) the details regarding upgradation of VLPT centres into LPT Centres in the State; and

(c) the time by which the VLPT Centres will be converted into LPT Centres so that local language can be heard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) Three studio centres and thirty two transmitters of varying power are presently functioning in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) One VLPT at Jhalda is envisaged to be replaced by an LPT. The LPT is expected to be installed during 2001-2002. There is no proposal, at present, to convert other VLPT Centres into LPT Centres.

[Translation]

Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme

977. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch any V.D.I.S. (Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme) or any similar new scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Control on Non-Banking Finance Companies

978. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to check the menace of non-banking finance companies and also to regulate their operations;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a legislation in this regard;

(c) if so, the time by which the legislation is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the other measures taken to regulate the operation of NBFCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act was amended in 1997 to enhance powers of regulation over the Non-Banking Financial Companies by Reserve Bank of India and strengthen the measures on protection of depositors' interests and taking effective action against the delinquent NBFCs. A Task force reviewed the regulatory framework after the RBI Amendment Act, 1997 to address short comings in implementation and improve the regulatory framework. The Task Force recommended further changes in the regulatory framework which have been accepted by the RBI as well as Government and a separate legislation for regulation of Non-Banking Financial Companies is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament.

Comprehensive regulatory framework has already been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that Non-Banking Finance Companies function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes *inter-alia* compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering

RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI also takes action against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder.

Supply of Wheat and Rice Under PDS

979. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-procurement of paddy by FCI has compelled the farmers to shift over to other crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand for wheat and rice has considerably come down in Public Distribution System due to supply of inferior quality items compared to open market;

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

(e) the steps being taken by Government to procure more paddy in all the States to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. No such reports have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The procurement operations are carried out by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in association with State Governments and their agencies under price support scheme of the Government. Sufficient number of purchase centres are opened by FCI in consultation with the State Governments, well in advance, before commencement of each marketing season, to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers. The total quantity of paddy procured during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 is 101 lakh tones upto 20.11.2000, as compared to 87 lakh tones during the corresponding period last year.

Sugar Mills Referred to BIFR

980. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Padrauna and Kathkuryain Sugar Mills in East UP, were sold out to M/s Gangotri Enterprises through BIFR in 1998, by reducing the share prices from Rs. 60 to Rs. 2/- per unit, to the detriment of the interests of their workers, the farmers and cane-growers, whose arrears were due from the said two mills;

(b) whether any representation from workers, farmers or other representatives have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) the Government's reaction and response thereto, indicating the arrears of payment towards cost of sugarcane due to the farmers and towards salaries, wages and other dues to the workers of the Padrauna and Kathkuryain Sugar Mills, as on the date of transfer, the dues so far cleared and the arrears thereof at present; and

(d) the steps are being taken to ensure clearance of such arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a), (c) and (d) No, Sir. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that scheme for rehabilitation of M/s Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd. (CSWL) was sanctioned by the Board on 23rd December, 1998 including modernisation/balancing of Padrauna and Kathkuryain Sugar Mills Ltd. The scheme envisaged takeover of the company as a running company along with all the units of CSWL by M/s Gangotri Enterprises Ltd. from M/s British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC).

While sanctioning working capital facilities for starting the factories, State Bank of India had put a condition that the shares of CSWL pledged by BIC would be released at a price of Rs. 8.41 per share, which was the average market price of the last ten years. The company did not agree to the share exchange price of Rs. 8.41 but insisted on a price of Rs. 2 only. The SBI was agreeable to this condition provided shares bought by the new management were re-pledged to the Bank.

The case was last heard by the Board on 28.9.2000 in which the rehabilitation scheme sanctioned in 1998 was declared as failed. IFCI Ltd., the operating agency was directed to issue advertisement for change in management. During the discussions the workers representative had offered to submit the proposal and propose to run the mill on their own.

(b) Yes, Sir. BIFR has reported that number of representations had been received from workers, trade unions regarding arrears of salaries, statutory dues etc.

Foreign Print Media

981. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities extended to the foreign print media in the country;

(b) whether our print media also enjoy the similar facilities in the developed and developing countries of the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the safeguards taken to protect the country's interest in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Accreditation at the headquarters of the Government of India is granted to the representatives of foreign print media. Accredited journalists are extended the following facilities:

- (i) Customs Duty exemption on import of professional equipment up to c.i.f. value of Rs. one lakh.
- (ii) 50% concession in Rail fare except on Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express subject to limit of distance up to 30,000 kms per year.
- (iii) Telephone connection on priority.
- (iv) Supply of press material.

(b) and (c) Facilities extended to Indian print media in developed and developing countries vary from country to country. Ministry of External Affairs have informed that in some countries, they are given nothing more than accreditation, while in some other countries, they are equated with non-diplomatic India-based staff of our Missions and thus allowed duty-free import of goods. The following facilities are extended to Indian print media in some countries:

- (i) Issue of identity cards.
- (ii) Opening of Press Centres at the time of major Summits.
- (iii) Arrangement of meetings with Government officials.
- (iv) Membership of 'Foreign Correspondents Associations'.

(d) Accreditation is granted to the Members of foreign media after due scrutiny and recommendation of the M/o Home Affairs and of the External Publicity Division of the M/o External Affairs.

[Translation]

Export of Tobacco

982. CH. TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco is being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the names of countries where demand of Indian tobacco is more; and

(c) the quantum and value of tobacco exported during 1997, 1998 and 1999 alongwith names of the countries to whom tobacco was exported during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Tobacco is being exported from India to Russia, U.K., Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, Yemen, U.A.E., Nepal, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan.

(c) Total exports of tobacco for the last 3 years are given below:-

(Qty. in tonnes; Value in Rs. Crores)						
Year	Unmanufactured Tobacco		Manufactured Tobacco		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1997-98	134,072	917.48	10,625	152.76	144,697	1070.24
1998-99	77,298	591.00	13,825	188.11	91,123	779.11
1999-2000	123,185	800.12	14,837	192.80	138,022	992.92

Source: DGCI&S

The country-wise details, quantum and value of tobacco exported during 1997, 1998 and 1999 are available in the monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Export of Diamond

983. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is much scope for the export of diamond;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum and value of diamond exported during the last two years, country-wise; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned thereby during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Diamond is one of the most important export commodities of India. Exports of diamonds at US \$ 6647.82 Million during 1999-2000 constituted 17.71% of the overall Indian exports of US \$ 37538 Million during the same period. The Quantity and Value of diamonds (in foreign exchange in US dollars) exported during the last two years, country-wise is as under:

Country	Exports in 1998-99		Exports in 1999-2000	
	Quantity (in lakh carats)	Value (in US \$ Million)	Quantity (in lakh carats)	Value (in US \$ Million)
1	2	3	4	5
USA	122.53	1900.18	138.03	2440.28
Hongkong	57.21	1219.69	84.40	1803.37
Belgium	37.63	872.59	41.31	915.98

1	2	3	4	5
Japan	17.50	345.82	20.42	452.76
Israel	8.13	242.28	11.34	368.65
Others	24.99	445.55	35.67	666.78
Total	267.99	5026.11	331.17	6647.82

Source: Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai.

[English]

Fiscal Discipline

984. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the components/indicators of fiscal discipline and how much are these followed in the country;

(b) the values of these at present and projection for next five years;

(c) whether there is a short-term/long-term policy for these components/indicators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The main indicator of Central Government's fiscal performance is the gross fiscal deficit (GFD). It is the difference between the revenue receipts plus certain non-debt capital receipts and the total expenditure including loans, net of repayments. GFD indicates the total borrowing requirements. GFD as a percentage of gross domestic product is budgeted at 5.1 per cent for 2000-2001. During the first six months (April-September) of 2000-2001 fiscal deficit was Rs. 42592 crore which was lower by 18.7 per cent compared with fiscal deficit of Rs. 52,395 crore during April-September, 1999. The Government recognises the need for effective management of public finances and policies are formulated keeping in view the economic situation and need for appropriate balance between revenue and expenditure consistent with policy objectives. On the taxation front the basic approach has been to move towards a tax structure which is simple, follows sound economic principles, relies on moderate tax rates and places emphasis on wider base and better enforcement.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units in Maharashtra

985. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundred percent export oriented units has already been established in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to establish some more such units in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 184 Export Oriented Units (EOUs) were operational in Maharashtra as on 31.3.2000.

(c) to (e) EOUs are set up by private promoters. However approval for setting up is obtained from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. As on 30.10.2000, 41 proposals were under consideration for setting up export oriented unit in the State of Maharashtra.

[English]

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

986. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities of Indian Institute of Mass Communication is under scrutiny of his Ministry and all other Centres of this institute other than Delhi are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor particularly in regard to Dhenkanal branch in Orissa;

(c) whether the General Body and Governing Body of IIMC has become non-functional during the last many months;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to eradicate mismanagement; and

(e) the time by which the Chairman and Managing Director of IIMC is likely to be full-fledgedly appointed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) and (b) The activities being undertaken at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication are reviewed on a regular basis in the Ministry. There is no proposal at present to close down any of the Centers of the Institute.

(c) and (d) The term of Indian Institute of Mass Communication Society and the Executive Council of the Society expired on 5th July 2000 both these bodies have been reconstituted on 9th November, 2000.

(e) The Chairman of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication Society has been appointed on 9th November, 2000. For selecting the Director of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, the matter will be considered by the newly constituted Executive Council of Indian Institute of Mass Communication Society.

Retirement Age of Bank Employees

987 SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Banks' Association has submitted a report to the Government seeking approval of implementation of two VRS Schemes by the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken to implement the recommendations of Indian Bank Association panel to streamline staff strength and reduce the retirement age of 58;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from All India Bank Employees' Association in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) A Committee comprising representatives of Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Public Sector Banks and Ministry of Finance set up in June, 2000 for making recommendations on all aspects of Human Resource Management in Public Sector Banks in its interim report, recommended introduction of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme and a Scheme for Sabbatical.

(b) The salient features of these schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) IBA sought Government's no objection to circulating two schemes amongst the Public Sector Banks for their consideration and adoption. Government gave its no objection to IBA on 29.8.2000. Thereafter, these two schemes have been circulated to banks by IBA for consideration and adoption by their boards. In its final report, the Committee, *inter alia*, recommended that Government may consider rolling back the age of retirement from 60 to 58 years. The recommendations of the Committee are yet to be examined.

(d) and (e) IBA received a notice for a day's strike from the United Forum of Bank Unions, including All India Bank Employees' Association, *inter alia*, against Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Public Sector Banks and recommendation of the Committee relating to reduction in retirement age from 60 to 58 years. While the conciliation proceedings were pending, the unions went ahead with the strike on 15.11.2000.

Statement

Salient Features of Voluntary Retirement Scheme & Scheme for Sabbatical Leave

Eligibility	All permanent employees with 15 years of service or 40 years of age.
Ineligible:	Specialists officers/employees who have executed service bonds and have not completed it, employees/officers serving abroad under special arrangements/bonds, will not be eligible for VRS. The Board of Directors may however waive this, subject to fulfillment of the bond/other requirements.

Eligibility	All permanent employees with 15 years of service or 40 years of age.
	Employees against whom Disciplinary Proceedings are contemplated/pending or are under suspension.
	Employees appointed on contract-basis.
	Any other category of employees as may be specified by the Board.
Amount of Ex Gratia	60 days' salary (pay plus stagnation increments plus special allowance plus dearness relief) for each completed year of service or salary for the number of months service is left, whichever is less.
Other Benefits	I. Gratuity as per Gratuity Act/Service Gratuity, as the case may be. II. Pension (including commuted value of pension) bank's contribution towards PF, as the case may be. III. Leave encashment as per rules.
Other Features	1. It will be the prerogative of the bank's management either to accept a request for VRS or to reject the same depending upon the requirement of the bank. 2. Care will have to be taken to ensure that highly skilled and qualified workers and staff are not given the option. 3. There will be no recruitment against vacancies arising due to VRS. 4. Before introducing VRS banks must complete their manpower planning and identify the number of officers/employees who can be considered under the scheme. 5. Sanction of VRS and any new recruitment should be only in accordance with the manpower plan.
Funding of the scheme	(a) Coinciding with their financial position and cash flow, banks may decide payment partly in cash and party in bonds or in instalments but minimum 50% of the cash instantly and remaining 50% after a stipulated period. (b) Funding of the scheme will be made by the banks themselves either from their own funds or by taking loans from other banks/financial institutions or any other source.
Periodicity	The scheme may be kept open up to 31.3.2001.
Sabbatical	An employee/officer who may not be interested to take voluntary retirement immediately can avail the facility of sabbatical for five years which can be further extended by another term of five years. After the period of sabbatical is over, he may re-join the bank on the same post and at the same stage of pay where he was at the time of taking sabbatical. The period of sabbatical will not be considered for increments or qualifying service for pension, leave, etc.

*[Translation]***Import of Consumer Goods**

988. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to give permission for the import of selective consumer goods;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some terms and conditions have been fixed by the Government for the import of such goods;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the likely effect on the domestic production and small scale sector; and

(f) the steps taken to protect the interest of domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) and (b) India has been following a consistent policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 was free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Import restrictions on 714 tariffs lines were removed on 31.3.2000. Some of the items on which import restrictions have been removed are consumer goods.

Import restrictions have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy being followed since 1991 and also in accordance with the country's commitment to multilateral trading regime.

(c) to (f) However all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, order, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic industry.

Government is aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

Further, Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff and other mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry due to import restrictions removal. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a number of items where a surge in imports was noticed or apprehended.

[English]

Violations of FERA by Indian Olympic Association

989. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether violation with regard to foreign exchange regulations have been committed by the Indian Olympic Association for the Sydney Olympics 2000;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against the Indian Olympic Association for the alleged violation; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange that has been misappropriated, and also the amount originally sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Nothing adverse has come to the notice of Directorate of Enforcement.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 64,40,175/- to the Indian Olympic Association for participation in Sydney Olympics. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 58 lakhs was released as first instalment to meet out of pocket allowance, cost of ceremonial dress and charges for hiring of boats. Consequently, an amount of U.S. \$ 1,61,150 was taken to Sydney partly through passports of 8 officials and 14 athletes and partly through Bank remittance. Permission of Reserve Bank of India was not required for this purpose.

I.T. Raids on Film Stars

990. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities have raided at film personalities in the month of September this year;

(b) if so, the details of raids conducted and also the details of incriminating documents, cash etc., seized during raids;

(c) whether there is any proposal to assess minutely the income tax returns of film personalities for the last three years and match the same with the outcome of the recent raids conducted on them recently by the IT authorities;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether black money in Bollywood industry have increased in the past few years; and

(f) if so, the steps or efforts made by the Government to check menace of black money in Bollywood industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assets of value Rs. 488.73 lakhs along with foreign currencies and papers & documents showing investment in assets have been seized. The details of seizure are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) After the completion of the search, assessment proceedings covering a period of ten years, ending with the month in which the search was completed are initiated according to the provisions of law. The undisclosed income is determined and brought to tax in the block assessment for the period of ten years.

(e) and (f) On the basis of specific and reliable information about undisclosed income in the cases of assesseees in the Bollywood industry, survey and search actions have been carried out to bring such unaccounted income to tax.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of film personalities	Date of Search	Details of Cash	Seizure (Rs. in laks)		Total
				Jewellery	Other Assets	
1.	Aishwarya Rai	26.09.2000	4.95	10.22	0.76	15.93
2.	Salman Khan	26.09.2000	-	4.77	-	4.77
3.	Salim Khan (Father of Salman Khan)	26.09.2000	1.20	18.27	-	19.47
4.	Yash Chopra & Yashraj Films	26.09.2000	8.50	2.58	-	11.08
5.	Yash Johar & Karan Johar	26.09.2000	-	53.38	-	53.38
6.	Rani Mukherjee	26.09.2000	22.50	13.05	-	35.55
7.	Urmila Matondakar	26.09.2000	-	2.56	302.70	305.26
8.	International Film Distributors Pvt. Ltd. (M.N. Savani)	26.09.2000	15.00	18.29	-	33.29
9.	Amrish Puri	26.09.2000	10.00	-	2367 US Dollar 740 UK Pounds 860 French Francs 360 UAE Dirham	10.00 2367 US Dollars 740 UK Pounds 840 French Francs 360 UAE Dirham
		Total	62.15	123.12	303.46 + 2367 US Dollars 740 UK Pounds 860 French Francs 360 UAE Dirham	488.73+. 2367 US Dollars 740 UK Pounds 840 French Franchs 360 UAE Dirham

Outstanding Taxes

991. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Income Tax and Corporate tax outstanding against Central Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) the comparable outstandings against similar large industrial houses and multinational corporations respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Income Tax and Corporate Tax outstanding against Central Public Sector Undertakings as on 30.6.2000 is Rs. 2507.56 crores.

(b) The outstanding arrears against other Corporate assessee (excluding the above stated central PSUs) is Rs. 19,576 crores.

Revival of Sick Industrial Units

992. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from some State Governments for revival of sick industrial units during the last three years, State-wise;

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

(c) the proposals cleared so far and proposals likely to be cleared during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Transportation Charges

993. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are allowing transportation charges to the retailers on levy sugar of various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount paid to the retailer during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government allows transportation charges to retailers of levy sugar of various States. As per the revised guidelines, effective from 1.4.96 the transportation charges are to be allowed at a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure duly approved by the State Government concerned, incurred for previous year.

(c) and (d) Government of India fixes the margins for various items of costs payable to retailers of sugar on receipt of the proposals from the respective State Governments. Government of India does not maintain the data relating to total amount paid to the retailers of sugar. Further, the efforts to collect this information may not commensurate with benefits that may accrue from it.

[Translation]

New Income Tax Scheme

994. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated income tax payee friendly scheme with a view to establish an atmosphere of mutual confidence among the tax payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Two new Schemes, 'Suvidha' and 'Sahayata' (Helpline-Income Tax) have been introduced from 1st August, 2000.

(b) and (c) Under the 'Suvidha' scheme all the computerised branches of the nationalised banks in 133 towns and cities covered by one by six scheme, have been authorised to received direct tax payments, with effect from 1st August, 2000. Simultaneously, 'Helpline-Income Tax' has started functioning in Delhi as a focal point for bringing to the Department's notice urgent and serious problems of individual and corporate tax payers for immediate action. This scheme is working under the supervision of an officer of the level of Commissioner of Income tax. 'Helpline-Income Tax' will be extended to

other stations in due course. These schemes are part of Government's efforts to make tax administration more tax-payee friendly.

[English]

Relief to Flood Victims

995. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ordered release of foodgrains from FCI stocks to families of flood victims in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the quantum of such stock released; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down by the Government for such release of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) An additional allocation of 87080 (Eighty Seven Thousand Eighty) tonnes of rice has been given to the Government of West Bengal at below poverty line families (BPL) rate for distribution to the flood affected families (both BPL & APL) at the rate of 20 kg per affected family per month. Besides this, an additional allocation of 65,000 (Sixty Five Thousand) tonnes of rice (Grade 'A') has also been given to Government of West Bengal at rate applicable for above poverty line families (APL) for distribution to the flood affected families, as demanded by the State Government.

III-Effects of TV Serials on Children

996. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that recently school going children have developed an aggressive attitude on viewing T.V. programmes relating to W.W.F. where in Boxing and Wrestling are shown to children;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study on the adverse impact of these T.V. Programmes on children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to

(c) Government has not conducted any such study but UNESCO had conducted a global study on media violence in 1996 and 1997. This was followed by a monitoring study of TV programmes in India, by Centre for Advocacy and Research under the aegis of UNESCO in 1998. UNESCO has published a report titled "The Killing Screen" summarizing conclusions of both these studies.

The report has suggested that there is a strong correlation between the accessibility of modern media and the predominant values and orientations. It mentions that children's aggressive behaviour patterns and perceptions are a mirror of what they experience in their real environment. The report has noted with concern the worldwide adverse impact of violence in TV programmes on children's psyche and personality. The report has suggested:

- Public debate and common ground talks between politicians, producers and teachers;
- Development of a professional code of conduct and self-discipline for producers;
- Innovative form of media education to create competent and critical media users.

Regulatory framework for broadcasting in India has so far been weak because there is no broadcasting law for setting up such a regulatory system. The TV programmes are not subject to jurisdiction of Film Censor Board also. However, the situation is not totally unregulated. Advertising on Doordarshan is regulated by its code for commercial Advertising. The private satellite channels uplinked from India are required to follow the same code, under conditions of Government permission. Under the amended Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder, all satellite channels uplinked from outside India are subject to advertisement code specified under this Act. The amended Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, prohibits advertisements, which endanger safety of children or create interest in unhealthy practices.

Budgetary Support to Nationalised Banks

997. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary support provided to nationalised banks, bank-wise and year-wise from April 1, 1997 to March 31, 2000; and

(b) the deposits and advances of nationalised banks, bank-wise and year-wise from April 1, 1997 to March 31, 2000 and the credit deposit ratio in percentages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and
(b) Information regarding deposits, advances and CD Ratio

and Government support to nationalised banks (bank-wise)
for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given in the
enclosed statement I, II and III.

Statement-I**1997-98**

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Name of the Bank	Deposits	Advances	C/D ratio	Capital Contribution
Allahabad Bank	13540.76	5723.92	42.27	0
Andhra Bank	7920.73	3296.27	41.62	0
Bank of Baroda	39125.73	19803.49	50.62	0
Bank of India	39338.62	22020.72	55.98	0
Bank of Maharashtra	9134.3	3620.46	39.64	0
Canara Bank	38045.02	16824.68	44.22	600
Central Bank of India	26373.49	10677.94	40.49	0
Corporation Bank	9351.56	4302.79	46.01	0
Dena Bank	10115.28	5147.24	50.89	0
Indian Bank	15422.73	7260.43	47.08	1750
Indian Overseas Bank	19328.64	8667.18	44.84	0
Oriental Bank of Commerce	13058.02	6318.46	48.39	0
Punjab & Sind Bank	35173.56	16042.64	45.61	0
Punjab National Bank	7609.56	3186.42	41.87	0
Syndicate Bank	17816.15	6959.98	41.39	0
UCO Bank	23055.63	10276.19	44.57	350
Union Bank of India	12037.56	3371.45	28.01	0
United Bank of India	14462.46	5610.54	38.79	0
Vijaya Bank	8215.82	3225.1	39.25	0
Total for Nationalised Banks	359125.6	162335.9	49.33	2700

Statement-II**1998-99**

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Name of the Bank	Deposits	Advances	C/D ratio	Capital Contribution
1	2	3	4	5
Allahabad Bank	15510.36	6984.8	45.03	0
Andhra Bank	10438.74	4523.93	43.34	0

1	2	3	4	5
Bank of Baroda	44614.04	21091.53	47.28	0
Bank of India	44430.23	24327.02	54.75	0
Bank of Maharashtra	10928.52	4061.84	37.17	0
Canara Bank	41958.61	19530.11	46.55	0
Central Bank of India	30649.31	12799.84	41.76	0
Corporation Bank	12601.43	6286.19	49.88	0
Dena Bank	11795.35	6395.7	54.22	0
Indian Bank	17155.92	7496.52	43.7	100
Indian Overseas Bank	21914.31	10117.47	46.17	0
Oriental Bank of Commerce	16804.88	7707.56	45.87	0
Punjab & Sind Bank	40777.12	19047.37	46.71	0
Punjab National Bank	9496.6	4099.93	43.17	0
Syndicate Bank	19914.34	9312.83	46.76	0
UCO Bank	28135.65	11308.77	40.19	200
Union Bank of India	14516.28	3844.32	26.48	0
Union Bank of India	16251.21	6222.21	38.29	100
Vijaya Bank	9690.23	3767.2	38.88	0
Total for Nationalised Banks	417583.1	188925.1	45.24	400

Statement-III**1999-2000****(Amount Rs. in Crore)**

Name of the Bank	Deposits	Advances	C/D ratio	Capital Contribution
1	2	3	4	5
Allahabad Bank	17642.1	8240.06	46.71	0
Andhra Bank	14417.95	5573.6	38.66	0
Bank of Baroda	51308.19	24392.91	47.54	0
Bank of India	47743.89	25231.05	52.85	0
Bank of Maharashtra	13406.55	5252.21	39.18	0
Canara Bank	48001.36	23546.73	49.05	0
Central Bank of India	35871.71	15804.92	44.06	0
Corporation Bank	14279.63	7777.47	54.47	0
Dena Bank	13286.62	7117.88	53.57	0

1	2	3	4	5
Indian Bank	19113.5	8203.4	42.92	0
Indian Overseas Bank	24317.75	11573.2	47.59	0
Oriental Bank of Commerce	22095.21	9325.53	42.21	0
Punjab & Sind Bank	47483.23	22571.72	47.54	0
Punjab National Bank	10555.98	4764.82	45.14	0
Syndicate Bank	23655.42	12206.31	51.6	0
UCO Bank	31105.36	14613.23	46.98	0
Union Bank of India	16787.68	4562.78	27.18	0
United Bank of India	18359.95	7630.26	41.56	0
Vijaya Bank	11592.88	4687.61	40.44	0
Total for Nationalised Banks	481025	22307.57	46.38	0

Income Earned by DD

998. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned by Doordarshan from telecast the various serials and advertisements from 1998-99 to till date, year-wise; and

(b) the serials from which Doordarshan earned maximum profit during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per figures furnished by Principal Accounts Office of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, actual receipts of Doordarshan for the period 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as follows:

Year	Amount (in Rs.)
1998-1999	419.99 crores
1999-2000	496.23 crores

For the period April 2000 to 20-11-2000, Prasar Bharati have intimated that commercial revenue earned by them was to the tune of Rs. 370.74 crores.

(b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the maximum revenue was earned from the telecast of the serial 'Jai Hanuman'. (Rs. 24.53 crores).

Export of Iron Ore

999. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export orders received by the Government to export Iron ore from the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum and value of the iron ore exported from the country during the above period; and

(c) the mines from which the iron ore are procured for exports and their quantity sent through various ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Details of exports orders received by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), Kudremukh Iron Ore Corporation Limited (KIOCL), National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC), on behalf of the Government as Government agencies during the last three years are as follows:

Name of the Agency	(Qty. in Lakh Tonnes)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
MMTC	116.50	113.00	120.95
KIOCL	63.0	61.0	63.20
NMDC	—	—	1.27
Total	179.5	174.0	185.42

(Source: MMTC/KIOCL/NMDC)

(b) The quantum and value of Iron ore exported from the country by the Government agencies viz. MMTC, KIOCL, NMDC and private exporters during the last three years is as follow:

(Qty. in Lakh Tonnes, Value in Rs. Crore)

Year	Qty.	Value
1997-98	363.51	2372.56
1998-99	316.74	2316.39
1999-2000	333.03	2296.41

(Source: MMTC/NMDC/KIOCL)

(c) Port-wise details of Iron ore export and details of mines from which Iron ore is procured for export by the Government agencies are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(The statement does not include the details in respect of mines owned by Private exporters)

State	Name of the Mines
1	2
Orissa	Jajang, Jilling, Unchbali, Gunrubeda, Jurudi, Surugutalia, Baitarani, Balita, Murgabeda, Chamakpur, Daitari Mines (Orissa Mineral Corp.), Jalhari, Gandhamardhan, Sanindpur,

1	2
	Noagaon, Putulupani, Roida, Thakurani, Nadidih, Raikela, Kasia, Oraghat
Bihar	New-Karampada, Bijoy, Baraiburu, Taiba, Ghatkur, Noamundi, Iron ore Mines (TISCO), Bihar iron mines (Noamundi)
Karnataka	Siddapuram iron ore mines, Vibhuti gudda iron ore mines, Blegai mines, Janikunta, Vyasankere iron ore mines, Swamimallai iron ore mines, Jambunathana Halli iron ore mines, SVK iron ore mines (Vyasankere), Neb Jaisingpur iron ore mines, Ramgad mines, Doni Malai mines (National Mineral Development Corporation), Dharmapuri mines, Navalatti mines, Rajapur mines, Ubbaiangandi mines, Appena Halli mines, R.K. Block mines (Rajapura), Etina Hatti mines, Nandi Halli mines, Ram Durg mines, Mala Golla mines, Sanna Jogi Haravu mines, Kartikeswara mines (Devagiri), Harigani Domi, Kwae Gudda, Karadi Kolla, Sankalapuram, Ingaligi, Timmappan Gudi, Kudremukh Mines (Kudremukh Iron Ore Corporation Limited (KIOCL)
Goa	Codli mines, Velguem mines, Tollen mines, Cuddegal mines, Oddamal mines, Sallipho Pale mines, Bimbol mines, Maina mines
Madhya Pradesh	Bailadila mines (National Mineral Development Corporation)

The Port-wise details in respect of quantity of iron ore exported.

Item		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Provisional)	
Port		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MMTC							
Vizag		37.57	303.74	37.94	338.58	38.10	307.73
Paradeep		9.94	63.63	6.29	46.66	9.45	64.41
Chennai		56.71	392.53	47.53	389.35	48.72	362.78
Goa		10.37	70.70	11.46	82.81	19.88	121.71
Total		114.59	830.60	103.22	857.40	116.15	856.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
KIOCL							
	New Mangalore	61.46	587.16	50.26	543.26	50.54	620.46
	Total	61.46	587.16	50.26	543.26	50.54	620.46
NMDC							
	Goa	—	—	—	—	0.67	4.70
	Chennai	—	—	—	—	0.60	3.60
	Total	—	—	—	—	1.27	8.30
Private exporters							
GMOEA							
Panjim							
	Sesa Goa	182.45	906.11	155.85	864.12	142.17	721.18
	Chennai	2.07	20.12	2.80	19.50	6.46	44.99
MSPL							
	Chennai	2.94	28.57	4.61	32.11	6.44	44.85
	Total	187.46	954.8	163.26	915.73	155.07	811.02
	Grand Total	363.51	2372.56	316.74	2316.39	333.03	2296.41

Consumer Welfare Funds

1000. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Welfare Fund constituted in each State;

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

(c) the number of Non-Government Organisations who have been given help from this fund, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to provide benefit to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Governments.

Deposits in Nationalised Banks

1001. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited in nationalised Banks in different States especially in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on the development of concerned State along with the ratio of the amount spent on it;

(c) whether Government proposed to increase the amount to be spent from the amount deposited in the Nationalized Banks on the development of concerned State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) State-wise deposit, credit and credit deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks including nationalized banks for the last three years for all States including Bihar are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Banks have been taking steps for improving the flow of credit in the States where credit deposit ratio is low and position in this regard is monitored in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings of the respective States. In respect of Bihar a special Task Force on the industry related problems in the State

and a sub-committee on the operational problems of stepping up credit flow were set up. Both the committees have submitted their report in January 2000. The progress in implementation of the recommendations made by the above committees are being monitored in the SLBC meetings from time to time.

Statement

Credit, Deposit and CDR of Scheduled Commercial Banks

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	(Amount in Rs. Lakh)						Credit Deposit Ratio (%)		
		March 1998		March 1999		March 2000		March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
		Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3161864	2280970	3797128	2600492	4646470	2955095	72.1	68.5	63.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41276	5420	48444	6814	53694	8896	13.1	14.1	16.6
3.	Assam	602158	197824	703501	221405	847803	266890	32.9	31.5	31.5
4.	Bihar	2566789	706127	3089358	777394	3687126	830442	27.5	25.2	22.5
5.	Goa	455606	112019	547574	137124	620494	149913	24.6	25.0	24.2
6.	Gujarat	3482337	1679161	4121596	2016489	4751767	2368755	48.2	48.9	49.8
7.	Haryana	1218827	522769	1433682	605009	1705250	706138	42.9	42.2	41.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	437348	94471	525499	115437	617464	141372	21.6	22.0	22.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	580584	216888	716853	277217	865785	350738	37.4	38.7	40.5
10.	Karnataka	3188243	2175261	3782054	2440479	4580860	2794913	68.2	64.5	61.0
11.	Kerala	2720087	1204461	3326318	1365676	3893263	1646501	44.3	41.1	42.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2329851	1198607	2679079	1296571	3078797	1513435	51.4	48.4	49.2
13.	Maharashtra	11755138	8497704	13570826	9883276	15299610	12820100	72.3	72.8	83.8
14.	Manipur	28343	16657	40622	18923	46073	16780	58.8	41.7	36.4
15.	Meghalaya	101934	15459	114704	19131	140917	22148	15.2	16.7	15.7
16.	Mizoram	21356	4949	30476	6278	31801	7732	23.2	20.6	24.3
17.	Nagaland	54490	9986	73939	11607	76733	11845	18.3	15.7	15.4
18.	NCT of Delhi	6133932	3796259	7450792	5485385	8870874	6822604	61.9	73.6	76.9
19.	Orissa	881754	398440	1023954	435259	1273396	506215	45.2	42.5	39.8
20.	Punjab	2751761	1062823	3279786	1269168	3857207	1506296	38.6	38.7	39.1
21.	Rajasthan	1684276	798791	2053196	925990	2378442	1110506	47.4	45.1	46.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Sikkim	27991	5788	34227	6857	51068	7049	20.7	20.0	13.8
23.	Tamil Nadu	3925861	3772299	4614525	4290899	5594317	4922967	96.1	93.0	88.0
24.	Tripura	83225	28267	105061	30910	126599	32603	34.0	29.4	25.8
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5875993	1680530	7079994	1924476	8196036	2253840	28.6	27.2	27.5
26.	West Bengal	4440122	2047208	5235580	2294225	6059339	2737058	46.1	43.8	45.2
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	23727	3583	28008	4648	33431	5604	15.1	16.6	16.8
28.	Chandigarh	497499	288739	516787	433275	629712	331111	58.0	83.8	52.6
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10015	2141	13513	2874	16824	3648	21.4	21.3	21.7
30.	Daman & Diu	24536	5054	28779	5071	36630	5787	20.6	17.6	15.8
31.	Lakshadweep	3224	319	5254	407	6137	474	9.9	7.7	7.7
32.	Pondicherry	96661	34733	116006	39235	139359	45716	35.9	33.8	32.8
	All India	59206807	32863710	70187116	38946002	82213277	46903171	55.5	55.5	57.1

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs

1002. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seizures of narcotic drugs made in Gujarat during the current year till date;

(b) the reasons for Gujarat State being vulnerable to drug trafficking; and

(c) the steps taken to check drug trafficking in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir, During the year 2000 (upto October) 108 cases of narcotic drugs trafficking have been registered in the State of Gujarat as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) by the various drug law enforcement agencies.

(b) Gujarat State is vulnerable to drug trafficking mainly because of its extensive coastline and geographical proximity to the major opiate producing regions in South-West Asia.

(c) Significant steps taken by the Government to check drug trafficking in the State include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic

drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings in which representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies are present and stringent action against all persons arrested for drug trafficking under the NDPS Act.

Merger of Subsidiaries of GIC

1003. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all unions and associations of four independent companies of GIC are pressing for a merger into a single company in order to avoid competition among themselves and face it from private insurers so as to increase the net profit of the merged entity;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the reports of Consultants and Poddar Committee appointed to look into the issue have not been made public; and

(d) if so, by when these are likely to be made available to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Government have received representations only from Officers and Employees Associations of General Insurance Corporation and National Insurance Co. for merger of

four subsidiary companies of GIC into a single insurance company.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government regarding merger of the four subsidiaries of GIC.

(c) and (d) Government has not appointed any consultant to look into the structure of insurance companies. An internal committee under the chairmanship of Shri A.N. Poddar, the then Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Insurance Company was constituted on 30.8.2000 to work out modalities of the co-ordination mechanism after GIC is de-linked from its subsidiary companies. The Committee has since submitted their report. The Poddar Committee was only an internal committee and its report is for internal use.

Funds Allotted to Orissa

1004. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Orissa Government during the current Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether proposal to sanction a special economic package for Orissa is under consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The approved Ninth Five Year Plan outlay at 1996-97 prices for the State of Orissa is Rs. 15000 crores out of which the allocation of Central assistance is Rs. 8022.31 crores.

The Central Government has been taking various measures from time to time to supplement the efforts of the Government of Orissa (a) in the direction of fiscal reforms undertaken by them, (b) when they are faced with imbalances on their cash account and (c) in relief and rehabilitation works in the wake of calamity.

Sufficient finances have been ensured through a combination of feasible releases, rephasing of repayment of loan and payment of interest and through an increase in their Ways and Means Limit with RBI, for a limited period. Additionally an amount of Rs. 300 crores was also made available to the State Government during 1999-2000 as medium term assistance under the Fiscal Reform Facility for enabling them to achieve fiscal stability through the process of fiscal reforms initiated by them.

[Translation]

Mini-Tool Rooms and Training Centres

1005. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for the establishment of 'Mini-Tool Rooms' and Training Centres is in operation in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the places where these 'Tool Room' and Training Centres have been established till date, State-wise;

(c) whether any proposal for the establishment of 'Mini-Tool Room' and Training Centre in some more places particularly in Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the location-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such scheme has yet been finalised.

(c) and (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals for setting up of Mini-Tool Rooms at Gwalior, Jabalpur, Raipur and Bhopal. These proposals will be taken up for consideration after Government finalises the scheme for financial assistance for setting up Mini-Tool Rooms.

[English]

Labour Engaged in Tobacco Industry

1006. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have statistics of labourers engaged in Tobacco Industry and the number of farmers growing tobacco in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Health Organisation has submitted detailed statistics in this regard in Geneva during October, 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for furnishing the wrong information to WHO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Indian tobacco is in the private sector. This sector provides employment to about 7.5 million families. In India, about 63056 farmers grow Flue Cured Virginia tobacco (FCV). Farmers growing Non-FCV tobacco types are estimated around 4 lakhs.

(c) to (e) Statistics on the number of labourers workers engaged in the tobacco industry and the number of farmers growing tobacco in India have not been furnished to the World Health Organisation during October, 2000.

Backlog vacancies for SCs/STs

1007. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon since 1993 by his Ministry in respect of backlog vacancies concerning his Ministry and the result thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remain unfilled as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under his Ministry and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Sir, Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee has recommended that in situations where backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs are more in number and adequate number of candidates from the reserved communities with the prescribed qualifications are not available, minimum qualifications may be relaxed. However, the Department of Personnel and Training, nodal Department for reservation in services for SCs & STs have observed that it would not be possible to give relaxation in the basic academic qualification/minimum qualification as it would be against the spirit of Art. 335 of the Constitution.

(d) The number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV is as per enclosed statement-I.

(e) The number of backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997 is as per enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

The unfilled reserved vacancies of SCs/STs as on 1.1.93 in Class I, II, III and IV

Class	Category	
	SC	ST
Class I	08	03
Class II	31	22
Class III	51	68
Class IV	10	11

Many unfilled reserved vacancies for SC/ST have subsequently been filled up.

Statement-II

The Backlog of Vacancies of SCs/STs As on 29th August, 1997 in Class I, II, III and IV

Class	Category	
	SC	ST
Class I	03	04
Class II	39	20
Class III	58	67
Class IV	01	03

[Translation]

Excise Duty concession to Flood Affected Victims in H.P.

1008. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for concession in excise duty has been received by the Government on cement, steel and tin sheets for construction of houses by the flood affected people in Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of cyclone affected people in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the request along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Requests have been received from:-

(1) Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh; and

(2) Shri Maheshwar Singh, M.P. (Lok Sabha).

The requests are under examination by the Government.

Wheat at Reduced Rates

1009. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made announcement to the effect on making available wheat at the reduced rates for the Above Poverty Line cardholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed different rates for various States; and

(d) if so, the reason for this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat for the Above Poverty Line families have been fixed at 100 percent of the economic cost, or the open market

sale prices decided for each Zone by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from time to time, whichever is lower. The difference in such rates is due to the difference in economic cost of wheat in various Zones, which also takes into account the freight charges from producing States to consuming States.

[English]

Import of Natural Rubber

1010. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of latex of natural rubber imported during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the details of price and country from which the import was done;

(b) whether Director-General on Foreign Trade had lifted the ban on import of natural rubber;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) The required information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) With effect from 22.5.2000, import of natural rubber latex was made permissible for holders of Advance Licences for export purposes. However, with effect from 24.10.2000 direct import of latex has been disallowed. Advance licence holders with natural rubber of all kinds as one of the inputs are therefore required to procure the same through STC.

Statement

Import of latex of natural rubber during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto November, 99)

Item	Year	Country	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Cr.)	Price Per Unit (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Natural Rubber	1997-98	Malaysia	6495.43	24.28	37.39
Latex not		Nigeria	134.40	0.48	36.17
prevulcanised		Singapore	482.20	1.65	34.42
and prevulcanised		Sri Lanka	1460.80	6.15	42.15
		Thailand	8398.22	29.66	35.32

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Others	974.76	4.11	42.19
		Total	17945.81	66.33	
	1998-99	Malaysia	2657.39	8.53	32.12
		Mayanmar	1362.51	3.63	26.67
		Singapore	1349.09	3.96	29.36
		Thailand	6170.16	18.34	29.72
		Sri Lanka	564.45	2.16	38.43
		USA	566.89	1.54	27.27
		Others	497.58	1.80	36.35
		Total	13168.07	39.96	
	1999-2000 (upto Nov. 1999)	Malaysia	894.54	2.44	27.29
		Mayanmar	539.73	1.25	23.33
		Sri Lanka	514.90	1.36	26.42
		Thailand	2768.35	7.61	27.49
		USA	388.20	1.12	28.92
		Others	204.88	0.71	34.68
		Total	5310.60	14.49	

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

[Translation]

Security to Customs and Excise Officers

1011. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made necessary Security arrangements for personnel of Central Excise and Customs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether in the absence of proper security arrangements the officers are unable to nab tax-evaders;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide adequate security arrangements for such officers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Department takes adequate measures for security of Customs and Central Excise officers, when deployed in anti-smuggling and enforcement activities. The officers of Customs and Central Excise Department involved in enforcement activities are lent service pistols/revolvers to be used for personal security, on requests made by the officers. Officers involved in anti-smuggling and preventive activities are also issued service revolvers/pistols/rifles from the armoury provided to various Commissionerates, for being carried for personal security during particular searches/raids. Adequate Police assistance is also sought, whenever considered necessary before carrying out searches/raids of sensitive areas/localities as a measure of security for the officers of the Department undertaking searches/raids.

Tobacco Board

1012. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Tobacco Board was constituted alongwith the purpose thereof;

(b) the manner in which Tobacco Board is helping the tobacco producers in the country particularly in Bihar;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close the Tobacco Board and to allow the private parties to trade in tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Tobacco Board was constituted by an Act of Parliament, Tobacco Board Act, 1975 (4 of 1975) and it came into existence from 1.1.1976 with the objective of the development, under the control of Union, of the tobacco industry by regulating the production and curing of virginia tobacco.

(b) FCV is not produced in Bihar.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Human Resource Management Committee

1013. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Human Resource Management Committee for Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the terms of reference to the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the Government's reaction to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A Committee comprising representatives of Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Public Sector Banks and Ministry of Finance set up in June, 2000 for making recommendations on all aspects of Human Resource Management in Public Sector Banks, presented its report to the Finance Minister on 9.10.2000.

(d) A statement indicating the gist of the recommendations made by the Committee is enclosed.

(e) Recommendations are yet to be examined.

Statement

Gist of the Recommendations made by the Committee on Human Resource Management in Public Sector Banks

1. With a view to right-size the manpower, Public sector Banks may introduce a scheme for Voluntary Retirement, Sabbatical and Government should take steps to roll-back the age of retirement for officers from 60 to 58 years.
2. Disciplinary action should be taken against functionaries engaging casual / temporary employees against recruitment rules.
3. Support services like maintenance/cleanliness may be out-sourced.
4. Norms for allocation of work and productivity of staff be reviewed.
5. The age for direct recruitment of officers be reduced from 30 years to 28 years and candidates with higher academic qualifications be recruited in Middle Management Grade.
6. 50% of the vacancies in JMG Scale I and 25% in Scale II be filled up by direct recruitment instead of only 25% in Scale I as at present.
7. Test of local language (qualifying) be introduced for clerical cadre.
8. The maximum qualification for recruitment to subordinate staff be raised from non-matric to matric/SSC or its equivalent.
9. Reducing the time-span for career progression from Junior Management Grade Scale I to Top Executive Grade Scale VII from 25 years to 20 years and curtailing the number of scales in officers' grade from seven to five.
10. Introduction of Fast Track Channel for promotion and making rural service as incentive oriented.
11. Providing additional services/facilities to customers for achieving optimum use of manpower.

12. Reviewing the training needs and strategy to make it attuned with modern technology and requirement.
13. Formulating a transfer policy for performance linked rewards/incentives and deterrent for non-performance.
14. Providing suitable monetary benefit/ex gratia to the family members of a deceased employee instead of compassionate appointment.
15. Making policies concerning transfers and placement more broad-based.
16. Reviewing performance appraisal system and forms.
17. Quick disposal of disciplinary cases.
18. Linking allowances and perquisites to bank's profitability and capacity to pay.
19. Payment of a lump sum amount instead of reimbursement based on bills for perquisites like LTC, medical aid, etc.
20. Allowing banks to have more than one Executive Director.
21. Making changes in the service conditions of Chairmen/Executive Directors so as to ensure that each appointee should have sufficiently long tenure for the sake of continuity in the policies and programmes.
22. Enhancement of special ad hoc incentives payable to officers posted in N.E. Region and ceiling for House Building Advance.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism

1014. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast serial films about tourism on television regularly in order to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to include films of Sirdi-Singmapur, Chand Bibi Ka Mahal in Ahmed Nagar and other places/monuments of tourist interest; and

(d) if so, the time by which the action is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Food Corporation of India

1015. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to split Food Corporation of India into smaller units;

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

(c) the nature of such new entities and source of funding;

(d) whether the Government have sought the views of the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Share Capital of IFCI

1016. DR. C. KRISHNAN:
SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Share capital of IFCI as on date;

(b) the actual loss/profit of IFCI during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any dividend was declared during last years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the Non-Performing Assets of IFCI during each of the last three years;

(f) whether NPA is coming down or going up as per provisional figure;

(g) whether there is any proposal to revamp or restructure IFCI in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Paid-up Share capital of IFCI as on 30th September, 2000 is Rs. 1096.45 crores comprising of Equity share capital of Rs. 639.53 crores and Preference Share Capital of Rs. 456.92 crores.

(b) The Profit of IFCI during the last three years is as under:

Year	Net Profit (Rs. in crores)
March 1997-98	370.50
March 1998-99	23.50
March 1999-2000	59.37

(c) and (d) During the year ending 31st March, 2000, no dividend was declared by IFCI on equity shares only dividend on preference shares was paid on the applicable rates.

(e) and (f) The Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of IFCI during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
As on 31st March, 1998	2663.28
As on 31st March, 1999	4257.58
As on 31st March, 2000	4102.55

The NPAs as on 31st March, 2000 have been marginally lower as compared to NPAs as on 31st March, 1999.

(g) and (h) A Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of D. Basu, former Chairman, State Bank of India on the restructuring plan and future strategies of IFCI.

Import of Maize

1017. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of maize imported during the current year till date;

(b) whether the maize farmers have been affected due to large scale import;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to impose ban on import of maize into the country to protect the farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The quantity of maize imported during the current year (April to June 2000) has been 28656 tons.

(b) to (d) Import of seeds of maize (corn) is restricted whereas maize of other categories is canalized for imports through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and PEC Limited. Imports of maize is permitted to manufacturers of poultry or animal feed without licence subject to Actual Users Condition and registration of Import Contract/Letter of Credit with NAFED who shall also monitor actual imports. With a view to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers the Government has increased the applied rate of Customs duty on import of maize from 0% to 50%. In view of this and in view of our international commitments Government is not considering any proposal to ban the import of maize.

[Translation]

Procurement Centres for Purchasing Foodgrains

1018. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement centres for purchasing foodgrains on the support price announced by the Union Government are not actually opened in that numbers;

(b) if so, the number of procurement centers actually opened all over the country during the last three years; and

(c) the number of cases where cheques issued to farmers were dishonoured during the last one year at procurement centers and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of procurement centers opened all over the country during the last three years is given below:

Year	Rabi Season	Kharif Season
1997-98	7615	4803
1998-99	7980	5432
1999-2000	8276	5937
2000-2001	8110	

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

Anomalies in Duty Exemption Pass Book Scheme

1019. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any anomalies have been detected in Duty Exemption Pass Book Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow purchase of inputs from Export Oriented Units and Export Promotion Zones in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The objective of the DEPB Scheme is to neutralise the incidence of customs duty on the import content of the export product. Certain instances have come to notice where some exporters have tried to over invoice the export product or utilise excess of CIF value of imports than FOB. To take care of these instances, value caps have been imposed on certain products. Restriction has also been imposed that CIF value shall not exceed FOB value.

(c) and (d) No Sir, the DEPB entitlement is to be used for payment of Customs duty on imports and therefore the same cannot be used for offsetting the excise duty on purchase of inputs from Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zone.

[Translation]

Production Capacity of Sugar Mills

1020. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some sugar mills of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have sought the approval of the Union Government to increase their production capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of sugar mills; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The sugar industry has been de-licensed from 11.9.1998. The entrepreneurs are free to carry out expansion of their existing sugar mills by filing Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM).

As on 31.10.2000, 28 IEM has been filed from the State of Maharashtra for expansion of the existing units whereas no IEM had been filed from the State of Madhya Pradesh. A statement indicating the names of the sugar mills in the State of Maharashtra which have filed the IEM is enclosed.

Statement

Names of the sugar mills in the State of Maharashtra which have filed I.E.M. for carrying out expansion in their existing capacities after delicensing of sugar industry with effect from 11.9.98

(Position as on 11.10.2000)

S. No.	Name of the factory
1	2
Maharashtra	
1.	M/s. Manganga SSK Ltd., Atpadi, Distt. Sangli
2.	Shree Chhtrapati Shahu SSK Ltd., Kagal, Distt. Kolhapur
3.	Shri Satpuda Tapi Parisar SSK Ltd., Sahada, Distt. Dhule

1	2
4.	Shri Sant Eknath SSK Ltd., Paithan, Distt., Aurangabad
5.	Shree Changdeo Sugar Mills Ltd., Shirala, Distt. Sangli
6.	M/s. Mula SSK Ltd., Sonai, Distt. Ahmednagar
7.	M/s. Bhogawati SSK Ltd., Barghi, Solapur
8.	M/s. Hutatma Kisan Ahir SSK Ltd., Walva, Distt. Sangli
9.	M/s. Ajinkayatora SSK Ltd., Shendre, Distt. Satara
10.	Shree Wama SSK Ltd., Waranagar, Distt. Kolhapur
11.	M/s. Vishwasrao Naik SSK Ltd., Chikhali, Distt. Sangli
12.	Shree Datta SSK Ltd., Asurle Purle, Distt. Kolhapur
13.	Gadhinglaj Tk. SSK Ltd., Gadhinglaj, Distt. Kolhapur
14.	Shri Datta Shetkari SSK Ltd., Shirol, Distt. Kolhapur
15.	M/s. Niphad SSK Ltd., Niphad, Distt. Nashik
16.	The Sanjeevani Takli SSK Ltd., Kopargaon, Ahmednagar
17.	The Kadwa SSK Ltd., Malegaon, Distt. Nashik
18.	Sangamner Bhag SSK Ltd., Sangamner, Distt. Ahmednagar
19.	M/s. Malegaon SSK Ltd., Baramati, Distt. Pune
20.	M/s. Indapur SSK Ltd., Indapur, Pune
21.	Shree Jagadamba SSK Ltd., Karjat, Ahmednagar
22.	Shree Gajanan SSK Ltd., Gajanan, Distt. Beed
23.	M/s. Rajarambapu Patil SSK Ltd., Walva, Sangli,
24.	Pravara SSK Ltd., Pravaranagar, Ahmednagar
25.	M/s. Jawahar Shetkari SSK Ltd., Hupari, Distt. Kolhapur
26.	M/s. Chatrapati Rajaram SSK Ltd., Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur
27.	M/s. Adinath SSK Ltd., Karmala, Solapur
28.	M/s. Pandurang SSK Ltd., Shreepur, Solapur

Procurement of Paddy

1021. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paddy procured by various Government agencies in each State during the year 1999-2000 and 2000 -2001 so far;

(b) the quantity of paddy lying in various godowns procured more than two years back as on 31 October 2000;

(c) the quantity of paddy lying in the open instead of the godowns as on 21 October, 2000; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the storage system of paddy and to improve the procurement system of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) A statement showing State-wise procurement of paddy by various agencies during Kharif Marketing Seasons 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (as on 21.11.2000) is enclosed.

(b) As on 31st October, 2000 a quantity 2.32 lakh MTs of paddy procured more than 2 years back is lying in various godowns of Punjab and Haryana.

(c) As on 31st October, 2000, 23.46 lakh MTs. of paddy lying in open godowns in Punjab and Haryana.

(d) FCI constructs its own godowns at strategic locations depending upon the budgetary allocations made in the Five Year Plans. Storage facilities for the increased procurement are generally met by hiring storage capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporation, State Governments and private parties.

Statement

State-wise procurement of paddy by various Government agencies during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Kharif Marketing Seasons

(Figures in MTs)

Central Account	Procurement of Paddy	
	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Upto 21.11.2000)
1	2	3
1. Punjab	82,70,373	86,05,710
2. Haryana	3,47,958	13,33,689
3. U.P.	61,582	57,228
4. Rajasthan	24,439	30,232
5. Chandigarh (U.T.)	17,179	24,547
6. Himachal Pradesh	—	636
7. Andhra Pradesh	—	1,509
8. Madhya Pradesh	4,66,928	49,756

1	2	3
9. Maharashtra	123	6,072
10. Bihar	1,407	—
Total	91,89,989	101,09,379
STATE ACCOUNT		
Tamil Nadu	13,72,125	5,41,200
Grand Total	105,62,114	106.50,579

[English]

VLPT/LPT, Kerala

1022. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of VLPT/LPT centres which are under construction in Kerala State;

(b) the number of Centres where work have not yet started;

(c) the reasons for its delay in completion; and

(d) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Four LPT/VLPT projects are under implementation in Kerala.

(b) to (d) While installation of transmitter at one centre has been completed and construction work is in progress at two other centres, construction work at the fourth centre is expected to begin shortly. These projects are expected to be completed during 2001.

[Translation]

Assets of Super Bazar

1023. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether assets worth crores of rupees belonging to Super Bazar New Delhi are lying unutilised and some of them have been encroached upon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to evict these encroachments;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to sell these assets of Super Bazar which have not been encroached upon in near future to improve its financial condition; and

(f) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (f) The assets of Super Bazar *inter-alia* fall in various categories such as ownership, lease/licence basis, occupancy on token consideration etc. Reportedly, two plots situated at Rajendra Place and at Narela measuring 677.61 sq. mts. and 1453.40 sq. mts. respectively are lying unutilized at present. The plot at Rajendra Place is presently under litigation but have not been encroached. Super Bazar Cooperative Stores Limited have its' own Board of Directors is competent to take appropriate steps regarding eviction of encroachments, if any, and for disposal of assets as well as for taking suitable steps to improve its' financial condition.

Credit Deposit Ratio of Banks in Bihar

1024. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level central team had visited Bihar to hold discussion on the issue of the credit deposit ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the credit deposit ratio of Bihar is lowest in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A Special State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting for Bihar was held in January 1999 to discuss credit related issues. Union Finance Minister was also present. At this meeting, it was decided to set up a special Task Force on the industry related problems in Bihar and a sub-committee on the operational problems

of stepping up credit flow in the State. Both the Committees have submitted their reports and the banks are implementing the recommendations made by them.

(c) No Sir. Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of scheduled commercial banks in Bihar is not the lowest in the country.

(d) The banks have been making earnest efforts for improving the flow of credit in Bihar and progress is being monitored in the SLBC meetings from time to time.

[English]

Facilities to Private Channels

1025. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan propose to provide infrastructure facilities to three private channels free of cost;

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

(c) whether the private channels have agreed to transfer their programmes in exchange of infrastructure facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Doordarshan is likely to gain the viewership on the basis of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Rating on Standard and Poor's

1026. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rating agency "Standard and Poor's" has lowered its outlook for India's long-term foreign currency issuer rating from 'Positive' to 'stable';

(b) if so, the details of statement cited by the said agency in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Standard & Poor's, USA (S&P) reviewed India's foreign currency sovereign credit rating in October, 2000 and revised the outlook on the long-term foreign currency rating from positive to stable while retaining the rating at "BB".

S & P stated that "the change in outlook is based on the Government's inability to accelerate the pace of economic reform". It was further stated by S&P that while continued reform including liberal foreign investment rules should sustain momentum behind GDP growth, a better credit standing depends on reducing fiscal deficits.

This revision in outlook should not have any material impact on the Indian economy.

Branches of National Cooperative Consumers' Federation

1027. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of National Cooperative Consumers' Federation functioning in the country;

(b) the number of employees working therein, grade-wise;

(c) the transfer policy followed in National Cooperative Consumers' Federation for its employees;

(d) the employees who had not been transferred on completing of one year; and

(e) the details of the sale and purchase policy of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF) is an autonomous cooperative society having its own Board of Directors to decide about its business and other administrative matters. According to the information furnished by the NCCF, they are running 16 Branches, 14 Sub-Branchees and 2 Industrial Units, which are located in various parts of the country. The total number of employees working in the NCCF category-wise are as under:-

1. Manager and above	14
2. Dy. Manager & Asstt. Manager	136
3. Field Officer/Upper Division Clerk/ Lower Division Clerk	356
4. Driver, Daftary, Peon etc.	98
Total	604

(c) and (d) NCCF does not have a specific transfer policy. Transfer of employees in NCCF is made on administrative requirements and business consideration. NCCF does not transfer its employees on yearly basis.

(e) The NCCF has different policies for making purchases in respect of the commodities handled by them. The broad categorization of the commodities handled by NCCF is Grocery, General Merchandise, Textiles, Confiscated Goods, items procured for export and utilization in the Processing Units. The NCCF has to sell these commodities at competitive rates. Its margin on the purchase price vary from 1% to 5% or on the cost structure as approved by the Government in respect of distribution of levy sugar.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Projects in Bihar

1028. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to seek the World Bank water assistance for drinking water projects in Bihar.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. No proposal has been received by the Union Government from Bihar seeking World Bank assistance for drinking water projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

World Bank loan for Infrastructure Development

1029. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned some amount for the development of infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the States for which the fund has been sanctioned;

(c) whether the World Bank has sanctioned aid for the development of infrastructure in Karnataka State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement various projects related to infrastructure development with the World Bank aid in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. In all 13 ongoing infrastructure projects with a total loan value of US \$ 2577.02 million have been approved by the World Bank.

(b) The States involved are AP, UP, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Bihar.

(c) and (d) No. However, Karnataka is included in the technical assistance project for road infrastructure development alongwith 13 other States and the allocation for Karnataka is US \$ 3.9 million.

(e) Government executes and monitors various infrastructure development projects in the Central Sector and State Sectors in accordance with the established mechanism and procedures. The World Bank assistance is one of the sources from which programmes of infrastructure are implemented. The projects sanctioned for the States mentioned at (b) above with World Bank assistance are in various stages of implementation.

Disinvestment of State Owned Oil Companies

1030. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finally failed to mobilise Rs. 2000 crore through restructuring and equity sale in State-owned oil companies to wipe out the fiscal deficit during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the main points of the restructuring plan proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. The restructuring and equity sale exercise in state-owned oil companies are at various stages of implementation in accordance with decisions taken by Government from time to time.

(b) In order to improve the long-term viability of the stand-alone refineries and strengthening the business synergies among Public Sector Oil Companies under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG), the Government has, in September 2000, approved the following restructuring of the PSUs in petroleum and natural gas sector through strategic alliances:

- (i) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) would buy the entire shareholding of Government of India (GOI) of 55.04% in Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL) and make KRL its subsidiary;
- (ii) Indian oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) would buy the entire shareholding of GOI of 52.5% in Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) and of 74.46% in Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) and make them its subsidiaries;
- (iii) BPCL would buy 19% of equity of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) from IBP and make NRL its subsidiary;
- (iv) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) would buy 10% of the NRL equity from the unsubscribed portion of NRL equity capital; and
- (v) The valuation of shares for the sale of Government holdings in KRL, CPCL, BRPL and NRL shall be done by MoP&NG in consultation with Ministry of Finance. The process of determination of prices has been taken up.

Role of APEDA in Disposal of Paddy

1031. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the role being played by the APEDA in easing the pressure on paddy farmers of Punjab;

(b) whether a part of the present risk stock lying with farmers of Punjab can be utilised for crash export programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The functions of APEDA are basically to undertake the development and promotion of export of its scheduled products and other agricultural products assigned to it. APEDA therefore has a negligible role in arranging for lifting of stocks/disposal of rice in the domestic market thereby easing the pressure on the paddy farmers of Punjab.

(b) and (c) As per EXIM Policy, export of rice is free subject to registration with APEDA. The export of rice would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, and varieties traded. There is, however, no crash programme for export of rice.

[Translation]

Dumping of Agro Products

1032. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to protect the products like natural rubber, coconut and other cash crops keeping in view the new Export-Import Policy, 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to avoid dumping of foreign agro products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) In the changes to the Exim Policy, announced on 31.3.2000, no changes were effected in respect of import policy of agricultural products like rubber, coconut oil, cereals, pulses, tea and coffee. Import of rubber is restricted and allowed against surrender of Special Import Licence (SIL) since 1996. Import of coconut other than desiccated coconut is restricted from countries other than SAARC. Import of copra and coconut oil is canalized

through State Trading Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited.

Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any detriment or injury to domestic farmers. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a number of agricultural items where an increase in imports was noticed or apprehended. For example, the duty on arecanut has been raised from 35% to 100%, on poultry products from 35% to 100%, on wheat from 0% to 50%, an skimmed milk powder from 0% to 60%, on apple from 35% to 50% and on rice from 0% to 80%. To regulate import of edible oils, the Customs duties on these have been revised upwards on 21st of November, 2000. This should provide adequate protection to domestic oilseed producers. India's tariff bindings at W.T.O. for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates of customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports.

Dumping of Chinese Goods

1033. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic goods made by China are being sold in the Indian markets at cheaper prices as compared to indigenous goods;

(b) if so, whether business community of India is compelled to make imports of Chinese goods legally or

illegally in view of the heavy demand of such goods in domestic market;

(c) if so, whether domestic industry is on the verge of closure due to dumping of cheaper Chinese products;

(d) if so, whether China is exporting goods legally or illegally to India despite not being a member of World Trade Agreement Organisation;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the items exported/being exported to India by China for the last three years, their values and the impact of the same on Indian industries;

(g) the action taken/being taken against traders/importers involved in import of such cheaper goods from China; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to taken to safeguard the interests of Indian Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
(a) to (c) Information has been received by the Government concerning unfair trade practices leading to imports of cheap consumer goods from China causing injury to the domestic industry.

(d) and (e) The fact that China is not a member of WTO does not debar it from trading with India.

(f) The major categories of commodities imported from China since 1998-99 are given below:

S.No.	Commodity Category	Value in Rs. (Crore)		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Apr.-Jul.)
1.	Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals & Petrochemicals	1405.13	1412.52	507.46
2.	Machinery, Electronics & Other Equipment	1104.15	1202.81	454.64
3.	Metals, Minerals & Ores	228.25	1210.00	379.01
4.	Fabrics & Related Items	500.10	672.90	165.62
5.	Agricultural Products	63.49	290.54	64.02
6.	Others	391.53	252.28	147.28
Grand Total		4424.70	5041.05	1718.03

(g) and (h) The Designated Authority appointed by the Government conducts Anti-Dumping investigations in India under Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1995. According to the Anti-Dumping Rules, initiation of Anti-Dumping investigations is undertaken when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with prima facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. However, under Rule 5 (4) of the Customs Tariff Rules of 1995, the Designated Authority may initiate investigations suo-moto, if it is satisfied with the information received from the Collector of Customs appointed under the Customs Act, 1962 or from any other source that sufficient evidence exists regarding dumping of the foreign goods material injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the two.

The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties has recommended final duty in 25 cases against China. Provisional duty has been recommended in 3 cases against China and 6 cases initiated against China are under investigation for Preliminary findings. Of these six cases the Designated Authority has initiated suo-moto investigations in 3 cases. Dry Battery, Toys and Sports Shoes.

[English]

Duty Structure on Textiles Export to USA

1034. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE;
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duty structure on export of textile to United States of America is very complex at present;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to review the duty structure and make it simple;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present rate of duty on various fabric exported to United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. Export of textile products does not attract any export duty.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Launching of New DD Channels

1035. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to launch some new channels apart from the existing DD-I, DD-News and DD-World;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be commissioned; and

(c) the other steps being taken to improve the quality of Doordarshan programmes so that Doordarshan can compete with other foreign TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has five principal channels—DD-1, DD-2, DD (News), DD(Sports) and DD(World). Besides this they have 15 Regional Language Channels and one Education Channel (Gyan Darshan). There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to launch new channels apart from the existing ones.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The content, treatment and production values of programmes are regularly previewed and changes required are carried out. Each programme is previewed also for ascertaining quality before telecast. Daily review of telecast quality is done and corrective measures taken whenever any flaw is noticed.

Foodgrains to Under Developed/Developing Countries

1036. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to offer surplus foodgrains in the godowns of the country to other food deficient under developed and developing countries of the world; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Government has decided to export wheat from the surplus stocks available with it.

(b) Wheat will be made available by the FCI for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150/- per MT.

[Translation]

**Closure of Hindustan Vegetable
Oil Corporation Ltd.**

1037. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the profit earned and losses suffered by the company during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of employees working in the company at present;

(e) whether the Government have decided to offer Voluntary Separation Scheme to the employees of the above company;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken to safeguard the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation (HVOC) has been incurring losses since 1991-92. The Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR), has declared HVOC a sick industrial company. The Government has informed the BIFR that it does not consider it feasible to attempt revival/rehabilitation of HVOC and a Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) has been offered to the employees of HVOC.

(c) Details of loss for the last three years are as follows:-

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	28.23
1998-99	07.69
1999-2000	26.30 (Provisional)

(d) As on 15.11.2000, 1391 employees were in the Company.

(e) to (g) The Government has decided to offer a Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) to the employees of the Corporation on the pattern notified by the Department of Public Enterprises. A non-plan loan amounting to Rs. 75 crores would be made available to the HVOC for the purpose.

[English]

Import of Palmolein

1038. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of palmolein imported during each of the last three years alongwith the names of countries and the reasons for such import;

(b) whether there is resentment among the oil producers of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and other States on the import of Palmolein oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation against imposition of high tariff on the import of Palmolein to safeguard the oil producers and coconut growers in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (f) The total quantity of Palmolein imported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is estimated to be 14.70 lakh MT, 26.77 lakh MT and 22.14 lakh MT respectively. Malaysia has been the major exporter of Palmolein to India. The basic reason for the import is the shortfall between domestic production and demand of edible oils.

There were representations from various quarters for upward revision of import duty on edible oils. Keeping, *inter-alia*, in view these representations, the import duty on edible oils has been revised on 20th & 21st November, 2000.

Corruption in Super Bazar/NCCF

1039. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in each case against DGM, Super Bazar;

(b) the action initiated against the DGM;

(c) whether some cases of corruption in National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF) have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action the Government propose to take to break the nexus between suppliers and officials of NCCF;

(e) whether it is the policy of NCCF not to allow suppliers to make supplies of branded items who are not in possession of authorization certificates from manufacturers and also not to sell these items at MRP;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there is any proposal to withdraw the Government order authorizing NCCF to make suppliers to the Government departments of items of stationery and others; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) In one case, after completion of the enquiry, it has been decided to impose the penalty of recovery of loss suffered by Super Bazar. In two other cases, enquiry is in progress.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The NCCF by its Vigilance Cell, out of which three cases have since been finalized. However, there is no material available that bring out any nexus between suppliers and officials of NCCF.

(e) and (f) NCCF now purchases all major branded items from the manufacturers/distributors/dealers registered with NCCF. The distributors/dealers registered with NCCF have proper authorization to deal in/supply the concerned branded items. NCCF supplies a large number of items to the Government Deptt., out of which a few could be sold at MRP even though NCCF's policy is to supply goods at reasonable and competitive rates, NCCF's rates are for supply of goods at destinations with facility to avail credit period up to 30 days.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Telecast of News In Regional Language

1040. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the languages in which news bulletins are telecast in Delhi Doordarshan at present;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to telecast news in regional languages in Delhi Doordarshan also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to telecast news in each and every regional language?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The languages in which news bulletins are telecast from Delhi Doordarshan are Hindi, English, Urdu and Sanskrit.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All out efforts are made to telecast News in Regional Languages from Doordarshan Kendras located in State Capitals for that State.

[Translation]

Commissioning of TV Towers

1041. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of T.V. towers constructed at several places are yet to be commissioned;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) whether the Low Power Transmitters in Vidharbha relay the telecast for 4 to 5 hours only and this telecast cannot be carried on for the whole day; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Twenty four transmitters are technically ready for commissioning after completion of installation. State-wise break up of these transmitters are as follows:

Andhra Pradesh-6; Bihar-1; Chattisgarh-1; Jammu and Kashmir-2; Jharkhand-1; Kerala-2; Mizoram-1; Orissa-1; Rajasthan-2, Tamil Nadu-2; Tripura-2; Uttar Pradesh-2; West Bengal-1.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that efforts are being made to post necessary staff and commission these transmitters.

(d) All Low Power Transmitters in Vidharbha region are relaying full transmission.

(e) Does not arise.

Impact of New EXIM Policy on Exports

1042. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the New Exim Policy on our exports;

(b) the value of exports made in the various sectors from 1 April, 2000 to till date;

(c) whether there has been an increase in exports to the countries having uniform currency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to bolster the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) The revised EXIM Policy (RE-2000), 1997-2002 was notified on 31.3.2000 wherein, the Government had announced various measures to promote exports. These include setting up of Special Economic Zones rationalisation of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG & Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplification, decentralisation of decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of application at several port offices. The exports have registered a growth of 22.04% during April-September, 2000 in Dollar terms and 26.67% during April-Sept. 2000 in rupee terms over the corresponding period last year.

(b) to (d) As per the available data, there has been increase in exports in some of the major sectors during April-March, 2000 over April-March, 1999 which is as follows:

Product	April-March, 1999 (In US\$ million)	April-March, 2000 (In US\$ million)
1	2	3
Chemicals and related products	4164.81	4734.63
Engineering goods	3804.83	4372.55

1	2	3
Textiles	8322.77	9253.36
Gem & Jewellery	5929.35	7636.04
Handicrafts	633.11	670.29
Carpet	543.54	606.39
Marine products	1038.39	1180.11

(e) The Government proposes to take various steps to reduce transaction time and cost of the exports and bring about procedural simplifications through introduction of Electronic Data Interchange.

[English]

New EXIM Policy

1043. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a new EXIM Policy;

(b) if so, the details of basic characteristics of the policy;

(c) the details of our commitments/agreements with World Trade Organisation, sector-wise;

(d) the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to fulfil the commitments/agreements;

(e) its impact on our industry/economy; and

(f) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of our industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The revised EXIM Policy (RE-2000), 1997-2002 was notified on 31.3.2000 wherein, the Government has announced various measures to promote exports. These include setting up of Special Economic Zones, rationalisation of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG & Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplification, decentralisation of decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and

government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of application at several port offices.

(c) to (e) Following the Uruguay Round negotiations and the signing of the final Act embodying its results, India become a party to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO and several associate agreements including those on agriculture, textiles, services trade related investment measures and Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights.

Follow-up measures have been taken to implement the various agreements. Wherever required, laws have been enacted or are in the process of being considered to fulfil our commitments. In certain cases, the implementation period goes up to 2005.

The Uruguay round agreement represent a balance of rights and concessions agreed to by WTO members. Increased market access, further trade liberalisation, greater disciplining of trade measures and enhanced predictability are some of the features of the Uruguay Round Agreement.

(f) The imports into the country are subject to applicable rates of Customs duties and are covered by domestic laws, rules, order, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. These measures should provide adequate safeguard to the domestic industry. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that the imports do not cause a serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry.

Delay in Payments

1044. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Prasar Bharati to publish a list of companies who owe money to it and are still being awarded programmes;

(b) If so, the actual outstanding amount payable by each company and since when these dues remain unpaid, programme-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in making the payments;

(d) the loss suffered by the Public Broadcaster as a result of these defaulters; and

(e) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has not issued any instructions to Prasar Bharati to publish a list of defaulting Companies. Prasar Bharati on its own has made such a list for the purpose of monitoring of recovery of dues. A copy of such lists in respect of DD and AIR are given in the enclosed statement-I & II respectively.

(c) The reason generally given by the agencies for delay in making the payment is that they have not received the payments from their clients.

(d) Prasar Bharati expects to recover the outstanding dues. Hence no loss to Prasar Bharati can be assigned as of now.

(e) Steps taken by Prasar Bharati to recover dues include regular monitoring of dues, suspension of normal credit period, insistence on advance payment, deaccreditation of defaulting companies, legal and arbitration action.

Statement-I

Dues of Doordarshan Against Various private producers/agencies as on 15.11.2000

S. No.	Name of Agency	Outstanding Principal amount (as on 15.11.2000 Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
1.	Aaliya Productions	60
2.	ABCL	1982
3.	Ad Factor Advtg.	7
4.	Advance TV Network	248
5.	Anand Advertising	140
6.	APCA	57
7.	BY Padhya	13
8.	Balaji Telefilms	16

1	2	3
9.	BAG Films	16
10.	Bidhan Advertising	11
11.	Chaitra Advertising	3
12.	Cinema Vision	18
13.	Clarion Advertising	17
14.	Concept Advertising	208
15.	Contract Advertising	10
16.	Copy Desk	20
17.	Corrum Communications	21
18.	Crayons Advertising	6
19.	Creative Eye	539
20.	Dawnmod Advertising	506
21.	Drishti India	350
22.	Enterprise Advertising	20
23.	Everest Advertising	20
24.	Film Craft	239
25.	First Option Telefilms	36
26.	Future Communications	14
27.	Global Entertainer	51
28.	G N Communications	25
29.	Guruji Advertisers	150
30.	HTA	50
31.	Hansa Vision	108
32.	Innovision Film & TV Dist.	25
33.	Jatiyaar Pub.	25
34.	Jaya Advertising	54
35.	Joslin Comm.	42
36.	Kine Scope	70
37.	Kli	19
38.	Lehar Publicity Service	24
39.	Maa Bozell	7
40.	Magna Vision	108

1	2	3
41.	Market Movers	329
42.	Magic Box	14
43.	Maya Entertainment	140
44.	MBM	222
45.	Media Asia	146
46.	Multi Channel	1500
47.	National Saving Organisation	2
48.	Moulis Advertising	14
49.	NCYP	11
50.	Neerja Films	40
51.	NFDC	6303
52.	Nimbus Comm.	612
53.	Numero Uno	219
54.	PNC	250
55.	Pas International	73
56.	PEN 'A' Trait	4
57.	Plus Channel	1205
58.	Prominent	72
59.	Prime Time Media	52
60.	Radha Publicity	18
61.	R. K. Swamy	10
62.	Reasonable Advertising	30
63.	Sagar Enterprises	244
64.	Samvaad Video	31
65.	Shree Madhav	1230
66.	Stracon	48
67.	Triton Comm.	68
68.	Universal	88
69.	Uranus	30
70.	UTV	45
71.	Vigyapan	12
72.	W D Consumer	25

1	2	3
73.	World Media	128
74.	Worldcom M/M	58
75.	Fame Comm	169

Statement-II*List of Defaulting Agencies of AIR as on September 2000*

S. No.	Name of Agency	Outstanding amount (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
	Central Sales Units:	
1.	M/s Musirecca Cassettes Inc.	14.03
2.	DAVP	127.95
3.	M/s Ranukay Advtg. Co.	32.55
4.	M/s Profad Advtg.	13.72
5.	M/s. Maa Commns. & Bozwell Pvt. Ltd.	15.28
6.	M/s Suchandra Ad. Media	2.71
7.	M/s. Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd.	53.37
8.	M/s. R.K. Swamy Advtg. Ltd.	11.01
9.	M/s Radio TV Commercial CBS, Chennai	68.19
10.	M/s Ad-air Advts. Coimbatore	7.33
11.	M/s Mantralaya Mahan Ads., Coimbatore	8.01
12.	M/s Rayer Communications, Coimbatore	13.02
13.	M/s Sree Advertising Coimbatore	9.07
14.	M/s Sree Raghavandra, Coimbatore	18.93
15.	M/s VRG Agencies, Chennai CBS, Bhopal	13.05
16.	M/s Swastik Advertising, Ahmedabad	5.96

1	2	3
	CBS, Jaipur	
17.	Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Jaipur, Government Deptt.	5.29
	CBS, Trivendrum	
18.	M/s Jellitta, Kottayam	7.44
	CBS, Calcutta	
19.	DAVP	6.57
	CBS, Hyderabad	
20.	M/s Hindustan Thompson, Associates, Mumbai	5.58
	CBS, Mumbai	
21.	M/s. Hindustan Thompson Associates	25.21
22.	M/s. Notre Advertising	5.69
23.	M/s. Arms Communications	5.15
24.	M/s. Twin Advertising	7.33
25.	M/s. RTVC	10.01
26.	M/s. Musirecca Cassettes	17.90
27.	Jt. Director, Health Service, Pune	20.65

Export Processing Zones/Special Economic Zones

1045. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to convert Export Processing Zones into Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and locations of Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones established in the country as on March 31, 2000;

(d) whether the Government intend to set up more EPZs and SEZs other than the existing ones;

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

(f) whether the working of existing EPZs and SEZs have been reviewed during the last three years;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof, EPZ/SEZ-wise alongwith the reasons for tardy performance; and

(h) the action plan formulated for restructuring/re-oriented the working of EPZs and establishment of new EPZs and SEZs during 2000-2001 alongwith other policy initiatives proposed to boost up exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Four Export Processing Zones (EPZs) at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat) have been converted into Special Economic Zones on 1.11.2000.

(c) As on 31.3.2000, there were seven EPZs in the country set up by the Government at Kandla (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

In addition, a private EPZ has been set up at Surat. No SEZ was established as on 31.3.2000.

(d) and (e) It was decided in 1992 not to set up any new EPZ under Government of India. Similarly, there is no proposal to set up any new SEZ by the Central Government. However, EPZs/SEZs may be set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments.

(f) to (h) The working of the EPZ scheme is being reviewed from time to time to improve the efficacy in the light of the experience gained. Some of the measures introduced in the Export and Import Policy during the last three years to improve the performance of EPZs include rationalisation and reduction of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning as Percentage of export (NFEP) and export performance requirement, stipulation of positive NFEP for capital intensive units, liberalisation of subcontracting, facility to sell upto 50% of FOB value of exports in the domestic market and further deregulation of activities of units.

Exports from EPZs have been encouraging and the export figures for the last three years are given below:

Year	Export (Rs. in Crores)	Percentage increase Over last year
1997-98	4817.30	11
1998-99	5252.48	9
1999-2000	6707.92	28

Government Equity in STC

1046. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divest Government equity in the State Trading Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether any offers have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether STC has many duplicatory functions as MMTC; and

(e) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to rationalise the activities of STC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items earlier canalised through STC and MMTC, both the Corporations have reoriented their trading strategies in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and competitive environment in the international market. The two PSUs therefore, in an endeavour to increase their turnover and profitability do undertake trading activities in a few common areas, which are more in the nature of supplementary to each other.

Import and Export of Sugar

1047. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of sugar imported and exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the losses incurred as a result of import and export of sugar during the last three years and as on date;

(c) the foreign exchange spent and earned during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have allowed export of sugar to Pakistan recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any policy has been chalked out by the Government for export of sugar and other commodities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The quantity and value of sugar imported and exported during each of the last 3 financial years country-wise are given in enclosed statement-I & II respectively.

(b) the exports and imports of sugar are being undertaken by the private parties/public sector undertakings as per their commercial judgement and as such, there is no question of loss to the Government.

(c) Since there are no exports and imports of sugar on Government account, the details of foreign exchange spent/earned are not available with this Ministry.

(d) and (e) The exports of sugar are being undertaken to various countries including Pakistan. During the current financial year, i.e., 2000-2001 (upto 17.11.2000), Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCAC) have been issued for export of sugar to Pakistan for a quantity of about 1.72 lakh tonnes (Prov.). However, physical export is under progress.

(f) and (g) The policy of the Government to permit exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. Export policy is being constantly updated and export regime in respect of agricultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings.

Due to surplus production and stock of sugar in the country, the Government had released a quantitative ceiling of 10 lakh MTs for export during the current year and placed at the disposal of APEDA for issuing RCAC. As on 17.11.2000, APEDA has issued RCASs for a quantity of 4.29 lakh tonnes (Provisional) and the release orders for the same have also been issued by the Directorate of sugar.

Government have decided to export wheat from the surplus stock available with it. Wheat will be made available by the FCI for export at a price not lower than the Central Issue Price (CIP) for BPL category which, at present is Rs. 4,150/- per MT.

Statement-I

Country-wise import of sugar on financial year basis (Source DGCIS, Calcutta)

Sl. No.	Name of Country	1997-98 (Final)		1998-99 (Final)		1999-2000*	
		Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs./Cr.	Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs./Cr.	Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs./Cr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Australia	97	0.17	—	—	—	—
2.	Belgium	2021	3.16	3743	4.76	4161	4.56
3.	Brazil	175936	235.12	106645	116.78	542296	519.27
4.	France	30291	41.80	—	—	—	—
5.	Canada	—	—	27	0.08	43	0.11
6.	China PRP	—	—	8666	10.95	135741	145.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Denmark	—	—	Nil	Nil	86	0.08
8.	Ecuador	—	—	Nil	Nil	344	0.29
9.	France	—	—	35078	45.73	8133	6.87
10.	German F Rep.	7790	10.87	12316	15.48	9053	8.48
11.	Indonesia	96	0.21	72	0.35	607	1.44
12.	Iran	—	—	430	0.49	Nil	Nil
13.	Korea RP	—	—	5	0.05	27400	26.83
14.	Malaysia	—	—	1526	1.89	Nil	Nil
15.	Mexico	6250	8.35	38927	49.28	21727	21.37
16.	Myanmar	2099	2.62	—	—	—	—
17.	Nepal	—	—	22	0.03	822	1.11
18.	Netherland	—	—	539	0.69	215	0.22
19.	Pakistan	33226	47.71	596402	749.64	56955	55.07
20.	Philippines	476	0.41	—	—	—	—
21.	Singapore	5215	7.22	3525	4.27	1562	1.38
22.	Saudi Arab	423	0.55	—	—	—	—
23.	South Africa	16497	23.14	234	0.35	6335	5.72
24.	Sudan	—	—	8500	12.37	Nil	Nil
25.	Thailand	20600	27.42	35817	39.66	206576	204.41
26.	U Arab Emts	29333	39.45	39062	47.14	77938	89.18
27.	UK	2281	3.25	8935	11.23	11138	10.26
28.	Ukraine	—	—	Nil	Nil	2149	1.77
29.	USA	14274	18.81	Nil	Nil	1659	1.47
Total		346905	470.26	900471	1111.22	1114940	1105.84

*Provisional.

Statement-II*Country-wise export of sugar on financial year basis (Source DGCIS, Calcutta)*

Sl. No.	Name of Country	1997-98 (Final)		1998-99 (Final)		1999-2000*	
		Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs./Cr.	Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs./Cr.	Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs./Cr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Australia	33	0.06	3	0.00	16	0.03
2.	Austria	—	—	27	0.06	23	0.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bahrain	39	0.08	350	0.71	14	0.02
4.	Bangla Desh	99	0.12	60	0.07	283	0.33
5.	Barbados	—	—	3	0.00	33	0.06
6.	Belgium	9	0.03	20	0.04	Nil	Nil
7.	Bhutan	2429	2.58	2040	2.30	891	1.23
8.	Brazil	—	—	300	0.37	Nil	Nil
9.	Canada	344	0.55	132	0.24	146	0.22
10.	Chinese Taip E	—	—	185	0.23	Nil	Nil
11.	China PRP	—	—	50	0.07	Nil	Nil
12.	Egypt ARP	—	—	191	0.25	—	Nil
13.	Fiji IS	—	—	21	0.03	Nil	Nil
14.	France	10032	27.79	11	0.06	Nil	Nil
15.	German F Rep	14	0.11	34	0.06	69	0.17
16.	Guinea	72	0.10	—	—	—	—
17.	Indonesia	—	—	Nil	Nil	92	0.15
18.	Ireland	9	0.03	—	—	—	—
19.	Israel	3	0.01	—	—	—	—
20.	Italy	8	0.01	58	0.18	Nil	Nil
21.	Japan	9	0.03	20	0.03	Nil	Nil
22.	Kenya	16	0.06	18	0.04	1	0.01
23.	Korea RP	—	—	61	0.16	44	0.09
24.	Kuwait	42	0.09	85	0.21	81	0.15
25.	Malawi	22	0.03	3	0.01	Nil	Nil
26.	Malaysia	2689	3.15	5142	5.36	2358	2.99
27.	Mayanmar	2550	2.98	—	—	—	—
28.	Mali	—	—	Nil	Nil	438	0.55
29.	Mexico	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Nepal	45	0.10	145	0.23	297	0.33
31.	Nepal	52	0.05	7	0.01	Nil	Nil
32.	Netherlands	41	0.09	62	0.08	51	0.10
33.	Oman	61	0.12	139	0.27	168	0.30
34.	Pakistan	103250	132.70	351	0.39	Nil	Nil
35.	Peru	—	—	Nil	Nil	22	0.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
36.	Portugal	10500	16.19	148	0.22	85	0.12
37.	Qatar	42	0.08	21	0.04	4	0.01
38.	Russia	12500	18.15	—	—	—	—
39.	Reunion	—	—	2	0.01	5	0.01
40.	Saudi Arab	54	0.11	135	0.24	189	0.37
41.	Seychelles	—	—	30	0.04	12	0.02
42.	Singapore	157	0.25	121	0.20	19	0.10
43.	South Africa	10	0.02	46	0.10	44	0.10
44.	Spain	49	0.07	—	—	—	—
45.	Sri Lanka	9633	10.73	62	0.15	39	0.08
46.	Switzerland	—	—	200	0.54	Nil	Nil
47.	Tanzania	—	—	84	0.16	Nil	Nil
48.	Turkey	—	—	Nil	Nil	18	0.04
49.	U Arab Emts	568	1.08	1166	1.83	695	1.25
50.	U.K.	681	1.36	329	0.58	299	0.60
51.	Ukraine	—	—	50	0.09	Nil	Nil
52.	U.S.A.	17160	25.43	540	1.20	500	1.11
53.	Vietnam SOC Rep	—	—	10	0.05	Nil	Nil
54.	Yemen	55	0.09	273	0.45	103	0.14
55.	Zimbabwe	—	—	Nil	Nil	4	0.01
56.	Other Destinations	5	0.02	—	—	—	—
Total		173282	244.45	12735	17.36	7043	10.77

*Provisional.

Task Force to Review Cases of Defaults in Gold and Diamond Deals

1048. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted task force to review the cases of default and evaluate the progress made in recovering the default under various schemes dealing with gold, diamonds etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of observations/suggestions made by the task force in its report; and

(e) the further action proposed to be taken by the Government against the defaulters and also to recover the defaults?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
(a) to (c) The Government of India, Department of Commerce vide Office Memorandum no. 12/23/97-EP

(G&J) dated 7th July 2000 has constituted a Three Member Task force consisting of a representative each from Department of Commerce and Department of Revenue and Chief Vigilance Officer, MMTC Ltd. to *inter alia*, examine whether MMTC has put in place a foolproof system to ensure prevention of recurrence of defaults in payments for the gold supplied by them to exporters and others, and also whether all necessary steps have been taken by MMTC to recover their outstanding dues. The Task Force has also to examine and report if a proper review system has been put in place by MMTC for the effective follow up of all the recovery cases and also whether the departmental enquiry has been initiated against all the delinquents. The Task Force has not yet submitted its report.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) MMTC has already initiated arbitration proceedings and legal action for recovery of their outstanding dues in all cases and have also referred the default cases to various enforcement and investigating agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Directorate of Enforcement and Director General of Foreign Trade, for taking necessary action against the defaulters. The action taken by MMTC for the recovery of their outstanding dues is being reviewed by the Government from time to time.

Deepak Parekh Committee Report on UTI

1049. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee to revamp/reorganise UTI and UTI-64;

(b) the recommendations which have been implemented so far;

(c) the time schedule for implementing the remaining recommendations of the committee;

(d) whether the Government propose to amend the UTI Act to bring all the schemes of UTI under the purview of SEBI; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Details are provided in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has already voluntarily brought all its schemes (except US-64 and GCGIP) under the regulatory purview of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Further, UTI has constituted a Corporate Positioning Committee which will, *inter alia*, cover issues, which require amendments to the UTI Act.

Statement

Recommendations already implemented

- Initial contributors to infuse permanent funds of at least Rs. 500 crore.
- Create a Special Unit Scheme 99 (SUS99).
- Transfer PSU stocks & Government subscribes to SUS 99, by issuing dated GOI securities.
- Remove tax on income distributed by US 64 and schemes investing more than 50% in equity.
- Launch of a new UTI scheme for investing in the equity of growth stocks in IT, Pharma and FMCG sectors.
- Trustees to assume higher degree of responsibility and exercise greater authority.
- Chinese walls to be created by appointing separate and independent fund managers for each scheme.
- Inter-scheme transfer to be effected based on independent decisions and requirements of concerned fund managers and at market determined prices.
- Independent fund manager for US-64 with full responsibility and accountability.
- Fund manager should be helped by strong research team and research capability should be strengthened.
- Investment/disinvestments decisions to be based on research analysts' recommendations—analysis to have authority and responsibility.
- Fund manager to have final authority and responsibility in decision making based on his perception of the market and research inputs.
- Dividend distribution policy to be thoroughly revamped to ensure that the scheme is responsive to changing market conditions. Needs

to follow a more conservative approach to build up sufficient reserves during periods of good performance. As a rule, dividend needs to be curtailed when there is inadequate income.

- The rate of return offered to investors to be reviewed on a periodic basis.

Recommendations already considered for implementation

- Strategic sale of significant equity holdings by negotiation to the highest bidder, where ever feasible.
- Increase in remuneration of Trustees and publication of attendance record of Trustees in Annual Report.
- Focus on small investors to be strengthened and towards corporate investors reduced.
- Spread between sale and repurchase prices be gradually increased to deter short term investors.
- Portfolio composition to be changed to provide for more weightage to debt in US 64 portfolio consistent with Scheme objectives.
- Operations of US 64 be brought under SEBI purview at the earliest. This would ensure transparency to unitholders and would significantly enhance investor confidence.
- To commission an independent professional firm for detailed review of asset management processes including back office, inter scheme transfer and investor servicing.

Recommendations which are yet to be implemented

- Increase size of UTI Board to 15, with additional 5 members begin co-opted by the Board. Needs amendment to UTI Act.
- Separate Asset Management Company for US-64 with an independent Board of Directors. Needs amendment to UTI Act.
- Make US-64 NAV-driven in three years—UTI is taking steps to make US-64 NAV driven within the specified period.

Growth of Trade

1050. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to trade analysts, India can achieve 18 percent rate of growth of trade this year;

(b) if so, the projections of the Government in this regard for the current financial year; and

(c) the actual figures for the first quarter of current year and how they compare with the annual projections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The Government has set a target of 18 percent growth in exports during the year 2000-01 in US \$ terms, over the provisional estimates of last year.

As per the provisional DGC&S estimates exports grew by 22.04 percent in US \$ terms during April-September, 2000 as against the provisional estimates of the same period last year. For the remaining months we have to achieve a growth of only 14.5 percent.

Inflation Rate

1051. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate has gone up alarmingly during the last three months;

(b) if so, the weekly rate of inflation during the above period;

(c) the factors responsible for this rise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to contain the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Inflation rate based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the last three months is listed below:

	WPI based	
	Annual Inflation (%) (Point to point)	52 week average (%)
1	2	3
05.08.2000	6.3	4.6
12.08.2000	6.3	4.7

1	2	3
19.08.2000	5.7	4.7
26.08.2000	6.2	4.8
02.09.2000	6.2	4.9
09.09.2000	5.7	4.9
16.09.2000	5.6	4.9
23.09.2000	6.1	5.0
30.09.2000	7.6	5.1
07.10.2000	7.0	5.2
14.10.2000	6.9	5.2
21.10.2000	6.8	5.3
28.10.2000	6.9	5.4
04.11.2000	7.3	5.4

(c) The rise in prices during 2000-01 is largely attributable to the increase in the administered prices of fuel products first in March 2000 and then again in September this year. This adjustment in the administered prices of energy products was absolutely necessary in view of the rising international prices of crude oil.

Inflation remained a little over 6 percent level till September this year, when a further hike in administered prices of Kerosene, Diesel, petrol and LPG pushed up the inflation rate to over 7 percent. The latest rate of inflation for the week ended November 4, 2000 is 7.27%. The fuel group currently accounts for 70% of the inflation, but the stability in the prices of primary and manufactured products groups have had a sobering effect on the inflation rate.

(d) The Government keeps a close watch both on the demand and supply sides of inflation. While the situation on the supply side is closely monitored to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains and other items of mass consumption at reasonable prices, measures on the demand side include greater fiscal discipline, and regular monitoring of monetised deficit and broad money (M3) growth.

Cement and Paper Industry

1052. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated new schemes to encourage the cement and paper industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production and sale of these industries in the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received proposals for establishment of such new industries in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Government have announced construction of 4/6 lane express ways/highways connecting North-South and East-West covering a distance of 6000 kms and 7000 kms of highways connecting the mega metros. In the case of Paper, induction of technology is allowed through Foreign Direct Investment and through Foreign Technology Collaboration. Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute is assisting in the Paper Industry through Research and Development areas like Chemical Recovery System.

(c) State-wise production of Paper is not centrally maintained. Production of Paper and Paper Board during the last three years is given below:

Year	Prod. (in lakh tonnes)
1997-98	29.22
1998-99	31.38
1999-2000	34.57

The production and sale of cement during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Cement and Paper Industry have been delicensed and decontrolled. Entrepreneurs are required to file Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum with Secretariat for Industrial Assistance in the Ministry. During the year 1999 and upto October, 2000, ten Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memoranda has been filed in respect of Tamil Nadu for manufacture of Paper. In the case of Cement, eight Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memoranda have been filed during the said period.

Statement*The Production and Sale of Cement During the last three years*

(000' Tonnes)

Region/State	1999-2000		1998-99		1997-98	
	Cement Prodn.	Cement Desp.	Cement Prodn.	Cement Desp.	Cement Prodn.	Cement Desp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NORTHERN REGION						
Punjab	1474.26	1459.54	1163.49	1172.34	1135.42	1135.28
Delhi	Nil	1.60	10.74	9.71	20.34	23.90
Haryana	Nil	0.14	0.01	0.21	1.27	2.11
Himachal Pradesh	3410.42	3401.59	3146.94	3150.39	2884.21	2864.53
J&K	96.14	96.44	112.03	112.36	75.08	75.46
Rajasthan	14851.53	14829.58	12667.12	12695.94	10868.61	10778.80
Uttar Pradesh	1510.34	1507.88	692.57	694.35	747.02	749.04
Total North	21342.69	21296.77	17792.90	17835.20	15731.95	15629.12
EASTERN REGION						
Bihar	3002.02	3002.33	2484.33	2479.38	2845.28	2857.92
Orissa	2080.07	2071.76	1952.71	1949.54	2054.45	2063.25
West Bengal	864.45	864.20	673.56	670.72	697.66	700.16
Assam	118.32	112.70	127.02	126.68	138.37	143.14
Meghalaya	114.71	114.85	107.15	108.12	101.50	102.72
Total East	6179.57	6165.84	5344.77	5334.44	5837.26	5867.19
SOUTHERN REGION						
Tamil Nadu	7859.73	7846.83	7291.62	7324.78	6544.86	6504.81
Andhra Pradesh	14316.54	14291.16	11742.04	11789.31	10577.78	10530.77
Karnataka	6290.54	6292.03	5445.48	5451.81	5689.31	5669.23
Kerala	436.44	429.69	359.96	361.49	381.17	379.82
Total South	28903.25	28859.71	24839.10	24927.39	23193.12	23084.63
WESTERN REGION						
Maharashtra	6028.32	6026.87	5564.80	5566.42	6083.45	6093.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	9286.71	9256.82	9071.57	9061.47	7407.19	7392.55
M.P.	22466.49	22392.49	19053.89	19108.87	18482.55	18500.61
Total West	37781.52	37676.18	33690.26	33736.76	31973.19	31987.15
Grand Total	94207.03	93998.50	81667.03	81833.79	76735.52	76568.09

[*Translation*]

Disinvestment in Air India and Indian Airlines

1053. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to divest its equity in Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter so far including the modalities of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Advisors for the transactions have been appointed. The drafts of the requisite transaction documents are at various stages of preparation. The Expressions of Interest from prospective investors have been obtained through advertisements published in the major newspapers/journals.

[*English*]

Sugar Mills

1054. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up sugar mills in the country in public, private and cooperative sectors during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise in each State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Central Government do not set up sugar mills in the country. The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.9.98. The entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 Kms. from the existing sugar factories.

Division of LIC Into Four Separate Companies

1055. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of policy holders with the Life Insurance Corporation of India in the country as on date;

(b) whether there was a proposal in the Mittal Committee report to divide the LIC into four separate companies;

(c) if so, the status of this proposal;

(d) whether there would be better administration if the LIC was divided into more manageable units; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to induce better management of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that as on 31st March, 2000 there were 8.31 crore policy holders.

(b) The LIC have further informed that they are not aware of any Committee named as Mittal Committee having submitted a report on LIC or recommending division of LIC into four separate companies.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration for dividing the LIC into separate companies.

(d) For better administration, LIC has 7 Zonal Offices which operate under the guidance of the Central Office. Substantial administrative and financial powers have been delegated to the Zonal/Divisional/Branch Offices.

(e) The Board of Directors of LIC is being strengthened by induction of experts from professional fields as Directors. Adequate autonomy has been given to LIC to enable it to effectively function as a Board managed Corporation.

Screening of Hindi Films

1056. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati Board have decided to drop the regional language feature films and show only Hindi films with mass appeal on its DD-1 National Network;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against such move; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the decision taken by Prasar Bharati Board, the telecast of regional feature films was stopped on National Network of Doordarshan from 15.10.2000, in order to accommodate entertaining sponsored programmes for increasing Doordarshan's revenue as well as to retain wider viewership.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view a number of representations received from various quarters, Prasar Bharati Board has now reviewed the earlier decision and has decided that Doordarshan would acquire multiple telecast rights (terrestrial and satellite world-wide) of award winning regional feature films for three years for

telecasting on various channels of Doordarshan including National Channel. The royalty rates have also been increased.

[Translation]

Housing Scheme of UTI and HDFC

1057. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Unit Trust of India propose to start a Housing Scheme with the cooperation of Housing Development Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the above scheme;

(d) the States where these houses are to be built;

(e) the number of houses likely to be built; and

(f) the income groups likely to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Disinvestment in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited

1058. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited during the last three years;

(b) whether the process of disinvestment has already been initiated in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Vizagapatnam;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to revamp the above company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The net loss during the last three years is as under:

Year	Net loss in Rs. crore
1997-98	177.00
1998-99	457.00
1999-00	568.00

(b) to (d) The Disinvestment Commission, in its XII Report of August 1999 recommended that the Govt. should write off the entire accumulated losses of the company against its entire Share Money Pending Allotment and Preference Share Capital and Equity Capital, to clean up its balance sheet and to simultaneously, initiate the process of disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity holding in RINL to a strategic buyer. Government has not taken a decision on the recommendations of the Commission.

[Translation]

Loan From FFIs

1059. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has taken loan from a number of foreign financial institutions;

(b) if so, the amount of such loan received by the end of December, 1999 which was to be repaid in American dollars;

(c) whether the said amount of foreign loan has automatically increased due to the decline in the value of rupee in comparison to the American dollar; and

(d) if so, the percentage increase in this loan as on date during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The external debt outstanding as at the end of 31 December 1999 in terms of US \$ on Government account was US \$ 43179 million (Rs. 188091 crore).

(c) and (d) The requisite information is as under:

<i>External Debt</i> (in terms of)			
	Rupee (Cr.)	US \$ (Mil.)	Exchange Rt.
As on 31.12.1999	188091	43179	Rs. 43.56 per \$
As on 30.6.2000	189755	42451	Rs. 44.70 per \$
% Change	0.9% (+)	1.69% (-)	

Thus, on 30.6.2000 as compared to 31.12.1999, the external debt in US \$ terms has come down by 1.69% and has increased in Rupee terms by 0.9%.

[English]

Transfer of HMT, Kalamassery

1060. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to handover administrative control of Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMT), Kalamassery to Defence Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of restructuring plan of HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Kalamassery Unit caters to not only defence requirements, but also to requirements from other sectors.

(d) Salient features of the turnaround plan are as under:

(i) Government of India loan of Rs. 39.70 crore has been converted into equity and interest accrued thereon of Rs. 12.74 crore has been written off.

(ii) Fresh equity of Rs. 250 crore has been provided.

(iii) Notice for closure of five unviable units has been given and Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) extended to their 454 employees.

(iv) Government has guaranteed issue of bonds by HMT to raise Rs. 469 crore for funding VRS for retiring 6493 employees within 2 years and will provide interest subsidy of 50% along with guarantee fee waiver.

(v) The Machine Tools and Watch Business Groups would be converted into subsidiaries by 31.12.2000. These subsidiaries and the Tractor Business Group would be disinvested in upto 74%.

- (vi) Watch Factory, Srinagar would be constituted as a subsidiary and be provided, for a period of three years, annual budgetary support to meet wages and salary outgo.
- (vii) Besides, Government has extended guarantee to avail of working capital loan for the Watch subsidiary from banks and Rs. 15.10 crore for capital expenditure.

Safeguarding the Interests of Shareholders

1061. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has given any right to SEBI to take action against the companies which have indulged in not sending the shares to shareholders and non-payment of Dividend;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made to safeguard the interests of shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) SEBI has intimated that Department of Company Affairs has authorised certain officials of SEBI to launch prosecution in terms of Section 621 of Companies Act, 1956 in cases of *inter alia*, non-delivery of share certificates within the time stipulated under Section 113 of the said Act and also in case of non-payment of dividend within 42 days of declaration thereof.

(c) SEBI has intimated that the following are among the measures that have been taken to safeguard the interests of shareholders:-

- (i) With a view to keep shareholders informed regarding utilisation of funds, stock exchanges have amended Clauses 32 and 43 of the listing agreement whereby: (a) listed companies are required to file with the stock exchange concerned cash flow statements along with balance sheet and profit and loss accounts every year, (b) listed companies are required to furnish on yearly basis, a statement to the stock exchange showing the variations between projected utilisation of funds and/or actual profitability. Such statements should be published in newspapers simultaneously with the unaudited/ audited financial results. If there are material variations between the actuals and projections, the Company shall furnish an explanation in the

advertisement. This comparison is also to be provided in the Directors' Report.

- (ii) As regards buyback of securities, a public announcement containing all material information has to be made by the company before the buyback of shares. The Buyback Regulations provide for extensive disclosures such as whether the promoters intend to offer their shares, price of buyback, pre and post holding of buyback etc. in the letter of offer and the notice for the General Meeting.
- (iii) To ensure transparency in preferential allotments, SEBI has stipulated various disclosures such as the object of the issue through preferential offer, intention of promoters/directors/key management persons to subscribe to the offer, shareholding pattern before and after the offer, proposed time for completion of the allotment and identity of the proposed allottee etc., in the explanatory to the notice for the general meeting in terms of Section 173 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (iv) Under SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeover) Regulations, 1997, a mandatory offer is to be made to acquire a minimum of 20% shares from the shareholders in case of acquisition of 15% or more shares on voting rights or creeping acquisition of more than 5% by an acquirer holding between 15% and 75% or acquisition of control in the target company. Offer price is to be determined based on parameters such as market price, returns on networth etc. Highest acquisition price is to be paid to all shareholders.
- (v) In the secondary market steps have been taken to protect and safeguard and interests of investors by promoting greater transparency in stock exchanges, speeding up transactions and improving safety in secondary market transactions.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for North-Eastern States

1062. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an assistance of 6.49 crore dollars from the World Bank has been sought for the economic development of North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir State and Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

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

(c) the manner in which this amount is likely to be utilized in the said States;

(d) the details of the third Technical Education Project; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. An Agreement has been signed with the World Bank for providing assistance of \$ 64.9 million for the Third Technician Education Project to assist the North Eastern States as well as Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the capacity expansion, quality and efficiency improvement of the Technician Education System.

(b) The State/Union Territory-wise estimated expenditure under this project is as below:

State/UT	Estimated Expenditure (Rs. million)
1. Andaman & Nicobar	216.48
2. Arunachal Pradesh	235.61
3. Jammu & Kashmir	647.46
4. Meghalaya	531.91
5. Mizoram	349.31
6. Nagaland	466.96
7. Sikkim	573.39
8. Tripura	123.47

(c) to (e) The project seeks to establish 6 new polytechnics and develop 12 existing polytechnics. The Third Technician Education Project will be implemented over a period of 6 years. The total cost is estimated at \$ 80.10 million out of which the World Bank (IDA)'s interest free assistance will be \$ 64.9 million. The project will have 3 major components; (i) developing/expanding capacity to provide increased access to technician education; (ii) enhancing quality of education to produce better trained technicians; and (iii) improving efficiency through better planning, administration and utilization of the system and increasing its responsiveness to emerging labour market needs.

[*Translation*]

Circulation of Fake Note of Rs. 500

1063. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the circulation of counterfeit currency notes of Rupees 500 has suddenly increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gifts to Players

1064. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to enact a law to make it mandatory for the players to declare the gifts received from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Chairman/M.D. in PSUs

1065. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of ad-hoc Chairmen and Managing Directors working with Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the number and details of cases in which the previous Chairman/Managing-Director has been asked to continue;

(c) the details of formal orders issued in each case; and

(d) the details of Chairmen/Managing Director who are functioning without formal order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Insurance in Agricultural Sector

1066. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the LIC to explore more possibilities of insurance in agricultural sector;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken so far in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) LIC has reported that the new scheme titled "Janashree Bima Yojana" which was launched on 10.8.2000, cover people living below the poverty line in urban and rural areas including agricultural sector.

The Scheme would provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons living below poverty line as well as marginally above poverty line if they belong to an identified occupational group. Under the scheme, annual premium is Rs. 200/- out of which Rs. 100/- would be met from "Social Security Fund" and balance from the member/nodal agency.

The benefit of the scheme would accrue as follows:

- (i) Rs. 20,000/- on natural death.
- (ii) Rs. 50,000/- on death/total permanent disability due to accident.
- (iii) Rs. 25,000/- on partial/permanent disability due to accident.
- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Foodgrains

1067. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attempt to export foodgrains have turned out to be a damp squib;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether several countries have refused to import Indian foodgrains;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As per EXIM Policy, export of wheat is free subject to quantitative ceilings as may be notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) from time to time and Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate issued by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). For the year 2000-01, ceiling of 2 million tonnes of wheat and unlimited quantity of wheat products have been announced. The exports of wheat would depend upon international demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences and varieties traded.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Valuation of Goods

1068. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in their Report for the year ending March, 1999 on pages 44-46 pointed out incorrect valuation of goods cleared by the Central Excise authorities to sister units resulting in loss of revenue to the State in crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the provisions of the Central Excise Act properly and to the detriment of the States;

(c) whether the Government enquired into the matter and identified the officials responsible for causing loss to the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Audit para No. 8.3 of the CAG Report for the period ending March 1999 pointed out 6 cases where excisable goods were cleared to sister units on incorrect valuation, resulting in substantial loss of revenue to the Government. Central Excise duties on goods cleared outside factory of production had to be self-assessed by the manufacturer and paid before clearance to sister units. The value is to be determined by the assessee taking note of the cost of production and reasonable profit margin if value of comparable goods is not known. The duties so assessed and paid were accepted by the Department taking note of the declarations made by the assessee about the cost of production etc., in 5 cases. In the 6th case the assessments were still provisional. Audit during scrutiny of records of these assessee had pointed out certain elements of cost not having been considered for duty payment and alleged substantial loss. On investigations, the Department found that there was suppression of facts and misdeclaration by the assessee. In all the cases, appropriate show cause notices were issued for recovery of the duty short levied and imposition of penalties under Central Excise Act.

In four cases, duties amounting to Rs. 4.79 crores have already been confirmed and Modvat credit of Rs. 1.29 crore has been ordered to be reversed and penalty of Rs. 3.90 crore has also been imposed. Other cases are under adjudication.

Investigations do not show any lapse on the part of the jurisdictional excise officials requiring action against them, as in all these cases, the assessee had suppressed facts and wilfully misdeclared the assessable values for duty purposes.

Privatisation of Institutions

1069. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatize Satyajit Roy Film Institute of Calcutta;

(b) whether the Government are also planning to privatize various other Departments/Institutions under his Ministry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are planning to handover the Children's Film Society to a Voluntary Organisation; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present to privatize any Department/Institution under this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Industrial Recession

1070. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured the captains of Indian industry recently of the full support of the Government to overcome industrial recession;

(b) if so, the other subjects discussed at the meeting of Finance Minister with industrialists of the country;

(c) whether the need for higher customs duties and anti-dumping measures to check the flooding of cheap imports also figured in the discussions; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government are considering to help the industrial sector to overcome the present industrial slowdown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Finance Minister took a meeting with selected associations of industry and Commerce on 9.10.2000 to discuss the current state of Indian economy, particularly performance of industry and infrastructure sectors. The Finance Minister requested the participants to suggest specific measures which need to be taken in the short and medium term to improve industrial production and overall economic growth.

(c) and (d) The Industry Associations have submitted their suggestions which include need for the higher customs duties and anti-dumping measures to check the flooding of cheap imports. The suggestions made by industry associations and others are kept in view by the Government while undertaking appropriate policy measures.

Classification and Valuation of Banks Investments

1071. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to issue new guidelines on classification and valuation of banks' investments in corporate bonds and capital markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the new guidelines are likely to be issued; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the RBI for development of the debt market in India in order to ensure greater flow of funds in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has issued revised guidelines for classification and valuation of investments by banks which have come into effect from the half year ended September 30, 2000. The highlights of these guidelines are given below:

- (i) The banks are required to classify their entire investment portfolio as on September 30, 2000, under three categories viz. 'Held to Maturity', 'Available for Sale' and 'Held for Trading'.
- (ii) The investments under the 'Available for Sale' category should be marked to market at the year end or at more frequent intervals and individual scrips under 'Held for Trading' categories should be valued at monthly or at more frequent intervals.
- (iii) The investments under the 'Held to Maturity' category need not be marked to market as in the case of 'Permanent' securities at present.
- (iv) Classification of investments, shifting of investments among the three categories, valuation of the investment, methodology for booking profit/loss on sale of investments, should be in accordance with guidelines issued.
- (v) The risk-weights assigned to the various securities at present, including those for 'market risk', would remain unchanged.

(vi) The investments in debentures/bonds are to be segregated into those which are deemed to be in the nature of an advance and those in the nature of investments for the purpose of classification and valuation appropriately.

(vii) The classification of the existing investments among the three categories may be done at the book value of the respective securities as on September 30, 2000.

(d) RBI has announced special liquidity support for dedicated gift funds. Banks have been allowed to freely buy and sell Government securities on an outright basis and retail Government securities to non-bank clients without any restriction on the period between the sale and purchase.

World Bank Loan

1072. SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan India owes to World Bank as on date indicating the interest payable therefrom;

(b) the time schedule for repayment of those loans including interest;

(c) the quantum of loans utilised in various projects for eradication of poverty during the last three years, project-wise and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any diversion of funds or their mis-utilisation have taken place particularly in the poverty eradication schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Total Amount of outstanding principal loan from the World Bank as on 31.10.2000 is US \$ 26.150 billion. IDA credits do not involve interest payment. In so far as interest on outstanding IBRD loans is concerned, it is estimated at US \$ 330.141 million for the year 2000-01.

(b) The IDA credits are repayable over a period of 35 years with a grace period of 10 years (pre 1987 credits were for 50 years including grace period of ten years) and IBRD loans are repayable over a period of 20 years with a grace period of 5 years. The current

rate of interest per annum on IBRD loans ranges between 5.11% to 7.18% depending upon the currency mix of loan and year of negotiation.

(c) Two IDA credits agreement have been signed on 12.5.2000 and 19.5.2000 for District Poverty Initiatives Projects (Andhra Pradesh: US \$ 111 million, Rajasthan: US \$ 100.5 million) directly aimed at poverty eradication. The outcome of these projects is yet to be known as these have been effectuated recently.

(d) No such instance has come to notice.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

1073. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserves of the country as on 31 October, 2000 as compared to last year;

(b) the reasons for the decline in Foreign Exchange Reserves of the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the Foreign Exchange Reserves of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) amounted to US \$ 34,899 million as on October 31, 2000 as compared to US \$ 33,805 on October 31, 1999. This implies an increase of foreign exchange reserves by US \$ 1094 million during the period from 31st October, 1999 to 31st October, 2000. The movements in foreign exchange reserves reflect demand-supply gaps in the foreign exchange market emanating from India's international transactions both on the current and capital accounts of balance of payments. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India monitor closely the developments in the balance of payments and in the financial markets at home and abroad and take such measures as considered necessary from time to time to increase exports and invisible receipts, including remittances, to enhance the flows of capital, particularly foreign direct investment and to maintain orderly conditions in the foreign exchange market.

[English]

Nationalised Banks in Orissa

1074. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branches of nationalised banks in Orissa, bank-wise;

(b) the amount deposited in these banks during 1999-2000;

(c) the loan sanctioned by these banks during the above period;

(d) whether the target fixed by these banks for the above period has been achieved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Bank-wise number of branches of public sector banks functioning in Orissa as on March 31, 2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The outstanding aggregate deposits and gross bank credit of public sector banks in Orissa as on March 31, 2000 stood at Rs. 11,009 crore and Rs. 4,255 crore respectively.

(d) and (e) Under Annual Credit Plan for the year 1999-2000, a target of Rs. 1549.59 crore was fixed for lending by banks in Orissa. Of this, achievement of banks stood at Rs. 1386.78 crore constituting 89.5 per cent of the target which is higher as compared to the achievement of 84.0 per cent made during the corresponding period of the previous year. The banks are making earnest efforts to achieve the target under Annual Credit Plan.

Statement

Number of branches of public sector banks in Orissa as on 31.3.2000

Sl No.	Name of Bank	Number of Branches
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	2
2.	State Bank of Hyderabad	5

1	2	3
3.	State Bank of India	468
4.	State Bank of Mysore	1
5.	State Bank of Travancore	1
6.	Allahabad Bank	53
7.	Andhra Bank	75
8.	Bank of Baroda	34
9.	Bank of India	113
10.	Bank of Maharashtra	1
11.	Canara Bank	39
12.	Central Bank of India	49
13.	Corporation Bank	5
14.	Dena Bank	3
15.	Indian Bank	46
16.	Indian Overseas Bank	73
17.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	7
18.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2
19.	Punjab National Bank	51
20.	Syndicate Bank	28
21.	UCO Bank	159
22.	Union Bank of India	47
23.	United Bank of India	95
24.	Vijaya Bank	7

Rubber Stock with STC

1075. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of Rubber at present with STC;

(b) whether STC is purchasing rubber from the market at present; and

(c) if so, the manner in which STC propose to utilize/dispose of the present stock of rubber lying with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
(a) to (c) The State Trading Corporation of India has

been procuring rubber from market since 1997. The total quantity of 49,000 MT of rubber procured by STC during the first three phases of market intervention operation of the Government of India has already been disposed of to Advance Licence Holders (ALHs).

Since 20,000 MT of natural rubber is being procured presently by the STC against indents placed by the ALHs with the Corporation, there is no question of holding stocks of rubber by the STC now.

[Translation]

Film on Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

1076. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the assistance of Government of Maharashtra and the Union Government any film on Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allocate funds for dubbing this film in regional languages;

(d) whether the Government have received memorandum/representations from various organisations and public representatives in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government on these representations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The film on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has been jointly financed by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Government of India) and the Government of Maharashtra with National Film Development Corporation as the executive producer.

(c) The Government of India has allocated Rs. 60 lakhs for dubbing this film in six regional languages.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Foreign Debt

1077. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foreign debts as on 31 July, 2000 on India along with details of the countries and institutions from whom these loans have been taken;

(b) the details of debt during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount of interest being paid by the Government on foreign debts every year; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to reduce the debt burden of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the statement enclosed.

(c) The amount of interest paid on the Government Account from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are as follows:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Interest paid (in US \$ billion)	1.10	1.04	1.04

(d) The improvement in India's External Debt position since early 1990's is due to conscious debt management policy followed by Government that focuses on high growth rate of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total commercial debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt and encouraging non-debt creating flows.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per latest information available, the total outstanding external debt of India as on March 31, 2000 was US \$ 98.44 billion. The composition of debt by major creditor sources for last three years (As on March 31, 1998 to March 31, 2000) is given below:

(US \$ billion)

	As on 31.3.1998	As on 31.3.1999	As on 31.3.2000
1	2	3	4
1. Multilateral:	29.55	30.54	31.32
of which*			
IDA	17.54	18.30	18.70
IBRD	8.34	8.11	8.03
ADB	3.15	3.63	4.09
2. Bilateral:	16.97	17.46	18.06

1	2	3	4
of which*			
Japan	6.93	8.05	9.59
Germany	3.45	3.46	2.99
USA	1.69	1.57	1.44
France	1.01	0.98	0.84
3. IMF	0.66	0.29	0.03
4. Export Credit	6.53	6.89	6.65
5. Commercial Borrowings:	16.99	21.04	19.37
6. NRI & FC (B&O) Deposits:	11.91	12.34	14.58
7. Rupee Debt:	5.87	4.73	4.39
8. Short Terms Debt	5.05	4.39	4.04
Total	93.53	97.68	98.44

*On Government and non-Government Account.

[English]

Export of Commercial Vehicles

1078. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various types of vehicles including commercial vehicles exported during 1998, 1999 and 2000, till date;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost the export of such vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The exports of various types of vehicles including commercial vehicles have been 38230 (Nos.), 38,331 (Nos.) and 17791 (Nos.), excluding 2/3 wheelers, during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (April-September, 2000) respectively. (Source: SIAM)

(b) A statement indicating the country-wise exports of vehicles including commercial vehicles, excluding 2/3 wheelers, in value terms is enclosed.

(c) There is no exclusive scheme for promotion of export of vehicles. However, promotion of export of vehicles, including commercial vehicles, like other items in the Engineering Sector has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures being provided to boost exports of vehicles, including commercial vehicles, consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Duty Drawback Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc.

Statement

*Value of Export of Complete Vehicles
During 1998-99 to 2000-2001
Source: DGCI&S
(FOB Value in Lakh Rs.)*

Country	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-2001 (April-June)
1	2	3	4
Afghanistan	—	—	6.02
Algeria	415.77	100.07	127.34
Argentina	1880.41	188.36	233.28
Angola	508.23	—	24.05
Australia	2611.71	554.53	286.01
Austria	337.91	332.54	3.36
Bahrain	170.1	144.9	39.61
Bahmas	4.72	—	—
Bangladesh	6406.62	10501.14	2255.22
Barbados	—	5.36	5.15
Belgium	823.35	1840.55	373.36
Bermuda	169.55	51.72	—
Bhutan	77.46	86.84	—
Botswana	12.44	—	—
Brazil	—	—	3.83
Bolivia	48.67	20.5	89.84
Bulgaria	—	61.33	69.14

1	2	3	4
Cameroon	8.4	—	—
Canada	6.61	29.63	—
Chile	1110.66	1093.94	543.67
Colombia	—	404.65	2.13
Congo	273.82	—	28.55
Cuba	—	9.11	—
Cyprus	108.8	131.36	32.88
Denmark	2086.07	5831.83	1.71
Djibuti	51.39	68.34	10.94
Dominic Rep.	270.95	—	—
Egypt	2091.18	1201.56	232.14
El. Salvador	42.98	—	22.87
Ecuador	251.74	—	0
Ethiopia	1.03	4.12	9.4
Fiji	153.13	—	—
Finland	—	143.58	484.74
France	493.46	101.15	245.83
Gabon	43.06	11.33	—
Gambia	—	—	326.25
Germany	7293.67	3094.8	621.45
Ghana	1143.04	83.85	183.35
Greece	387.02	2370.4	559.27
Guinea	200.51	—	—
Guatemala	25.5	97.1	—
Honduras	—	8.84	53.37
Hongkong	—	248.22	16.8
Hungary	249.71	122.32	98.19
Indonesia	65.66	16.22	—
Ireland	191.39	342.25	172.52
Iran	1766.44	137.59	—
Iraq	—	780.75	—

1	2	3	4
Israel	69.97	295.13	3.54
Italy	8712.48	10570.59	4727.34
Ivory Coast	406.13	43.02	—
Japan	126.02	318.86	40.2
Jordan	855.62	62.24	1.61
Kenya	914	191.97	233.55
Korea DP	26.18	7.15	6.01
Korea RP	—	188.83	—
Kuwait	1023.52	3191.13	324.7
Lebanon	585.26	162.19	74.46
Luxembarg	5.13	21.5	—
Maceornia	—	244.58	31.74
Malagasy	94.51	—	—
Mali	8.48	—	—
Malawi	—	567.02	—
Maldives	—	47.51	—
Malta	681.81	1561.58	268.97
Malaysia	12.05	1320.91	634.42
Mauritius	1020.05	733.81	707.08
Mexico	—	—	15.4
Morocco	—	1.73	—
Mozambique	1399.12	1076.77	150.4
Myanmar	3.26	0.09	—
Nambia	226.27	159.31	53.84
Nepal	4467.93	85895.38	667.74
Netherland	11531.11	6819.79	3834.32
Newzealand	9.47	6.22	—
Nicaragua	—	—	57.62
Nigeria	1316.84	246.45	29.51
Oman	488.31	536.13	158.04
Panama	316.32	104.67	—

1	2	3	4
Papua N G	—	33.23	—
Paraguay	559.25	219.64	174.33
Peru	347.91	8.75	1.3
Poland	—	1.29	—
Portugal	332.71	2640.82	842.84
Portu Timor	—	—	720.18
Qatar	360.26	116.8	227.32
Romania	192.23	6.39	—
Russia	7.42	1.69	—
Saudi Arabia	104.51	510.51	7.14
Senegal	135.7	104.09	49.38
Seychelles	168.98	10.86	18.17
Singapore	124.71	16.43	247.7
Slovak Rep.	9.28	—	—
South Africa	2276.5	132.52	83.32
Spain	11109.17	7542.66	2022.56
Srilanka	14887.09	14158.07	6969.63
St. Louis	2.04	18.93	7.5
St. Vanatu	53.72	—	—
Sudan	165.4	155.58	—
Surinam	71.75	—	—
Sweden	—	1067.22	1159.64
Switzerland	98.37	638.6	—
Syria	20.93	22.13	—
Taipei	—	5.21	—
Tanzania	979.22	557.87	45.48
Thailand	—	16.95	—
Togo	47.26	—	—
Trinidad	32.94	48.94	19.25
Tunisia	—	1.49	—
Turkey	98.64	1548.47	2207.99

1	2	3	4
U.A.E.	4904.18	3624.8	1335.41
U.K.	9336.94	5891.79	4507.57
Uganda	672.25	151.67	147.93
Uruguay	984.96	222.67	88.11
USA	346.87	433.15	51.8
Uzbekistan	20.47	—	—
Venezuela	21.6	—	—
Vietnam	4.62	—	—
Wallis	—	4.34	—
Yemen Rep.	1.3	21.52	—
Yugoslavia	50.36	—	22.2
Zaire	57.02	34.95	—
Zambia	568.54	414.71	106.69
Zimbabwe	10.53	—	—

Disinvestment in Oil Companies

1079. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment of Public Sector Oil Companies was on the agenda and was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the opinion of global advisors appointed by the Government in the matter of disinvestment in various oil sectors have been obtained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The consideration of proposals for disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings including Public Sector Oil Companies is a continuous process. The Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment had, therefore, considered from time to time various proposals regarding Public Sector Oil Companies. In order to improve the long-term viability of the stand-alone refineries and strengthening the business synergies among Public Sector Oil Companies under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP & NG), the Government has, in September 2000, approved the following restructuring of the PSUs in petroleum and natural gas sector through strategic alliances:

- (i) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) would buy the entire shareholding of Government of India (GOI) of 55.04% in Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL) and make KRL its subsidiary;
- (ii) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) would buy the entire shareholding of GOI of 52.5% in Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) and of 74.46% in Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) and make them its subsidiaries;
- (iii) BPCL would buy 19% of equity of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) from IBP and make NRL its subsidiary;
- (iv) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) would buy 10% of the NRL equity from the unsubscribed portion of NRL equity capital; and
- (v) The valuation of shares for the sale of Government holdings in KRL, CPCL, BRPL and NRL shall be done by MoP&NG in consultation with Ministry of Finance. The process of determination of prices has been taken up.

(c) to (e) The Advisors for the transactions are appointed normally after a decision in regard to a particular Central Public Sector Undertaking is taken by the Government. The Advisors are mandated to advise the Government in the matter of implementation of specific decisions only.

Upgradation of Tea

1080. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to initiate quality upgradation programme for tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tea Board has already launched a Quality Upgradation Programme on pilot basis with effect from 11.7.2000 in the Nilgris district of Tamil Nadu. The programme launched with help of United Planters Association of South India (UPASI) aims at creating awareness among the Small Growers and the manufacturers of tea regarding importance of adopting finer plucking standards and improvement of manufacturing process of tea for realisation of remunerative prices for their end product. The other salient features of the programmes include, Quality awareness campaign in different villages, publicity, including advertisements, films, posters, notices etc. and organising quality awareness seminars/conferences/farmers meet etc. for growers as well as factory managers.

Non-Governmental organisations, Assam Agricultural University and North Bengal University have also been associated in implementing the programme in the other tea growing areas of Assam and West Bengal.

Internal Audit Department of GIC Subsidiaries

1081. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the organisational set up of the Internal Audit Department in the New India Assurance Company Limited and the United India Insurance Company Limited;

(b) the officials working in the Department for more than fifteen years and reasons thereof;

(c) the recoveries pointed out by the Internal Audit Department and the Government Audit Department of the respective Companies during the last three financial years;

(d) whether huge money is pending for recovery in the respective Companies' Audit Reports for the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the respective companies for effecting recoveries pointed out by the Internal Audit/ Government Audit Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The

Internal Audit Departments of both New India Assurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited have a two tier system located at the Regional and Head Office level.

(b) The information is as under:-

	Total No. of Officials	No. of officials working in the Department for more than 15 years
New India	88	14
United India	148	Nil

(c) and (d) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The two Insurance companies have reported that following steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken for the recoveries pointed out:-

- (i) Regular audit review meetings are conducted in each Region where there is one to one interaction between the Audit Officials and the Heads of the operating offices.
- (ii) There are Board Sub Committees on Audit which review the pending recovery position on a regular bases and issue necessary instructions to the Regional Chiefs concerned.
- (iii) The Boards of the respective Companies are kept informed of the pendency position of both the Internal Audit and the Government Audit.
- (iv) As regards CAG Audit Paras, there is system of constant monitoring and interaction with the CAG Office for disposal of pending queries. Audit Committee Meetings with Principal Director of Commercial Audit are also held for resolving long pending Audit Paras.

Statement

New India Assurance Company Ltd.

Financial Year	Internal Audit Queries		CAG paras* Number
	Number	Amount (Rs. in lacs)	
1997-98	11597	955.66	122
1998-99	9539	2213.52	155
1999-00	8795	1207.97	193

United India Insurance Company Ltd.

Financial Year	Internal Audit Queries Number	Amount (Rs. in lacs)	CAG paras* Number
1997-98	14760	353.11	338
1998-99	18203	1158.46	208
1999-00	14382	1292.06	81

* The amount involved in the CAG paras is not ascertainable.

Financial Year	New India		United India	
	Number	Amount (Rs. in lacs)	Number	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1997-98	4030	956.01	41315	3305.79
1998-99	4199	784.42	44557	3358.81
1999-00	22722	5520.91	47913	4070.44

FM News Channels

1082. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to launch round the clock FM news channels in some selected cities;

(b) whether the proposal in this regard has been cleared by the Government;

(c) if so, the cities which are likely to be covered under the FM news channels from 2000-2001;

(d) whether the news channels will contain news in regional languages also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Government has not received any proposal in this regard from Prasar Bharati. However, information is being collected from Prasar Bharati.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cement Production

1083. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any change in its policy regarding cement production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of production in Cement Corporation of India;

(d) the number of dumps available for sale of cement in Cement Corporation of India and the details regarding the sale made by these dumps; and

(e) the details of its profit and loss during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and first-half of 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of Cement Corporation of India since 1998-99 is given below:

1998-99	-	9.47 Lakhs MTs
1999-2000	-	6.56 Lakhs MTs
2000-01 (upto Oct.)	-	1.75 Lakhs MTs

(d) The number of dumps available for sale of cement in Cement Corporation of India are 72 and the details are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) Net profit/loss	(Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99	(-) 18494.33
1999-2000 (Prov.)	(-) 21691.36
2000-2001 (upto Sept. 2000) (Prov.)	(-) 10852.00

Statement*Details of Dumps Available for Sale of Cement in
Cement Corporation of India*

Zone	No. of Dumps	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Upto Sept. '00)
North	22	115256	98306	23945
East	12	57199	42131	25705
West	23	254949	122679	21940
Hyderabad	4	69744	55005	9038
Chennai	11	194930	64365	2992
Total	72	692078	382486	83620

*[English]***Setting up of Port based Industry**

1084. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to set up some port-based industries at Paradeep and Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under consideration at various stages; and

(c) the steps taken to implement those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Shipping (Ports wing), the Central Government has currently no proposal to set up any port based industry at Paradeep or Gopalpur in Orissa.

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

Sydney Olympic Games

1085. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on 15 Member D.D. team during its 15-day stay in Sydney to cover Olympic Games;

(b) the amount spent on visit of Senior Officials to Sydney to secure telecast rights of the Olympic Games;

(c) the amount spent on visit publicity in this regard;

(d) the profits anticipated and the profits made by Doordarshan on this venture; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fix the responsibility on the officers for causing financial loss to the Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that an amount of Rs. 62.25 lakhs (approx.) was incurred on the deputation of 15 member team to Sydney during 3rd September, 2000 to 3rd October, 2000 for coverage of the Olympic Games, 2000.

(b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that no official was deputed exclusively to Sydney to negotiate TV Rights of Olympic Games, 2000. Doordarshan being a member of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), a 4-member delegation headed by CEO, Prasar Bharati, had visited Sydney to attend the 36th ABU General Assembly meeting held from 28th October to 5th November, 1999 where the matter of ABU collectively obtaining the TV Rights of the Olympic Games on behalf of its members was also discussed. A total sum of Rs. 8.46 lakhs (approx.) was incurred on the deputation of these officials.

(c) Approx. Rs. 1.20 Crores was spent on publicity of Sydney Olympics.

(d) M/s. Prithvi Nandy Communications were awarded the contract for marketing of Sydney Olympics on a Minimum Guarantee of Rs. 15.01 Crores. However, since they withdrew from their commitment, their Bank Guarantee of Rs. 7.505 Crores was encashed. Midway through the event, Prasar Bharati had to make its own efforts to market the event. Accordingly, advertisers were contacted but not many were willing to advertise on the Olympics in view of the fact that nearly one week of the event was already over. Due to these efforts, Doordarshan earned revenue of Rs. 1.08 crores.

(e) Does not arise.

Creation of Welfare Corpus Fund

1086. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create Welfare Corpus Fund for journalists who were killed, maimed or injured on duty while covering war, terrorism and violence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have explored the sources from where such funds are proposed to be provided;

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the total amount of the corpus; and

(e) the time by which the proposed Welfare Fund is likely to become effective?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) This matter is being examined.

(e) The time-frame cannot be stated at this stage.

Employees Stock Option Plan

1087. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed some selected companies to issue Employees Stock Option Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the names of companies; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued guidelines for Employees Stock Option Schemes and Employees Stock Purchase Schemes on June 24, 1999. These guidelines apply to any company whose shares are listed on any stock exchange in India. There is no requirement under the guidelines for companies to seek permission/approval of SEBI to issue Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) or to file copies of their ESOP schemes with SEBI.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Social Development Fair, 2000

1088. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Social Development Fair, 2000 under India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was organised in New Delhi from May, 15 to 21 this year;

(b) if so, the aims of said fair and the extent to which these have been achieved;

(c) whether wide range of products manufactured by socially under-privileged were on display and for in the fair; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these products have got business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Social Development Fair, 2000 was organised to integrate the endeavours of the Government, multilateral agencies, non-governmental organisations and others on issues relating to social development and community welfare. More specifically, the aim of the fair was to bring under a single umbrella, the multiple issues of social and community development, such as, empowerment of women, gender equality, health concerns including reproductive and child health, youth and adolescence, literacy and education, urban growth and poverty, local self-government and rural development, street working children, population stabilization and development, HIV and AIDS, drugs and narcotics, environmental issues etc. viewed within the context of economic liberalization and sustained human development.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the quantum of business generated in the fair. However, about 95% of participants expressed satisfaction on the results achieved at the fair.

Procurement of Maize from Karnataka

1089. SHRI H.G. RAMJULU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the prices of Maize in Karnataka has crashed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought relaxation of norms for procurement of maize;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Food Corporation of India has procured maize from the farmers in Karnataka;

(f) if so, the total metric tonnes of maize procured so far by Food Corporation of India; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to procure the entire stock of maize from Karnataka, particularly from Koppal district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government of Karnataka have reviewed the matter and identified 22 centres for purchase of maize stocks. 8,859 MTs. maize has been procured by the FCI upto

20th November, 2000. All arrangements have been made by the FCI and the State Government for procurement of maize in Karnataka.

All stocks conforming to Fair Average Quality Specifications have been procured. At Koppal, as against market arrival of 11,143 MTs. so far, 871 MTs. of maize conforming to specification has been procured.

The State Government's proposal for relaxation in the specifications of maize is under consideration of the Government.

Quality of Rice

1090. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from All India Ration Dealers Association, Kerala regarding quality of rice, which is not fit for human consumption; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes Sir, a representation has been received from the All India Ration Dealers Association, Kerala which, among other issues, talks about the supply of poor quality foodgrains. However, rice being issued by FCI to Kerala for TPDS is fit for human consumption and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act standards.

(b) The supply of rice procured under relaxed specification (URS rice) of 1997-98 by FCI to Kerala has been stopped. Necessary instructions have also been issued to FCI to ensure supply of good quality conforming to PFA standards for distribution under TPDS.

Appointment of CMD In CCI

1091. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Enterprises Selection Board has selected any candidate for the post of Chairman/Managing Director for Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is a normal practice to recommend 10 names for the appointment of CMD for selection in Public Sector Undertakings;

(d) if so, the reasons for recommending only one name for the appointment of CMD in CCI;

(e) whether the present CMD is facing corruption charges by the Vigilance Commission;

(f) if so, whether the Government have not got the clearance from the Vigilance Commission in the present case; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) has recommended one candidate for appointment to the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Cement Corporation of India Ltd.

(c) and (d) PESB normally recommends one or two names in order of merit for appointment.

(e) to (g) The final recommendation of the Vigilance Commission is awaited on the matter.

Income Tax Relief

1092. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received recommendations from C.V.C. to provide income tax relief on funds provided to political parties by corporate bodies and individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The suggestion is that funding of the elections and the contribution to political parties by individuals or corporate bodies must be freely permitted and such contribution must be eligible for tax deduction under the Act. Secondly, political parties must get their accounts audited properly so that there is absolute transparency in the funding process. These measures, if adopted, would eliminate spectre of black money haunting the country.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government. The Government's response, if any, would

be reflected in the budget proposals contained in the Finance Bill, 2001.

Improvement of PDS

1093. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take measures to bring about improvement in the Public Distribution System at the Union Territory/State level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rests with State Governments/UT Administrations. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities in PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government also have advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

State Governments have been regularly requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1995.

The Government of India have set up Public Grievances' Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department's functioning including the Public Distribution System.

The Government of India has appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the function of Public Distribution System including the complaints of diversion. The observations made by Area Officers are sent to the respective States/UTs for taking appropriate action.

Government has had discussions with State Governments under the aegis of Advisory Council on Foodgrains Management and Public Distribution wherein issues relating to better targeting, rationalisation of prices, effective monitoring system as well as other related issues on PDS have been deliberated upon at length.

[Translation]

Problems of Rice Exporters

1094. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice exporters have been facing the legal problem on obtaining patent in foreign countries because the standards of Basmati rice have not been notified;

(b) if so, the countries where the Indian rice exporters have been facing such problems and the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Committee was set up by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received the recommendations from this Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government to solve the problems of the rice exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Aid by Foreign Financial Institutions/Countries

1095. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total aid received by the country from various foreign financial institutions/countries during the last three years;

(b) whether the aid granted by these FFIs was fully utilised during the above period;

(c) if not, the details of aid which remains unutilised till March 1999;

(d) the commitment charges paid by the Government during the above period to various foreign financial institutions/countries; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for proper utilisation of aid in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The following was the amount of aid, from foreign financial institutions/countries, received during the last three years;

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
8498.38	9924.92	11101.22

(b) and (c) Since Projects are implemented over a period of time, there is at any given point of time, an inevitable stock of undisbursed funds. The unutilised loans and grants as on 31.3.1999 were Rs. 47700 crores and Rs. 6428 crores respectively.

(d) The commitment charges paid during the last three years are as under:

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

1997-98	1999-99	1999-2000
49.65	47.59	41.79

(e) Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, quarterly review with Executing Agencies, setting up of a Project Management Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs, strengthening Project Management Units/Project Monitoring Cells in nine States and five Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officer for the States and regular review of projects with respect to quality at entry. A system of monitoring the projects on the basis of quarterly milestones of important activities has also been introduced.

Surplus Food For Malnourished Population

1096. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 80 percent of all malnourished children in the developing world live in countries which are having food surplus;

(b) if so, the percentage of malnourished children in the country;

(c) the percentage of surplus food in the godowns of the country; and

(d) the steps being taken to distribute surplus food amongst malnourished population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No such specific information is available.

(b) The National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) had revealed the following percentage of under weight children of under nourished three years of age:-

Under weight (weight for age)	46.7%
Stunting (Height for age)	44.9%
Wasting (weight for age)	15.7%

(c) As per the buffer stocks norms 65 lakh tonnes of rice and 116 lakh tonnes of wheat is required to be maintained on 1st of October, each year. Against this 132.14 lakh tonnes of rice and 268.50 lakh tonnes of wheat was available in the central pool as on 1.10.2000.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government for increase availability of foodgrains to the poor at subsidised rates:-

- (i) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System, Government has increased the allocation to Below poverty line (BPL) families from 10 KG to 20 Kg of foodgrains per family per month from April, 2000. The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has now been determined on the basis of population projections of Registrar General as on 1.03.2000 instead of earlier base of projected population of 1995.
- (ii) The Government has also recently taken following decisions:
 - (a) To allocate foodgrains at BPL rates to State Government @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/backward class students/homes for nariniketans etc. sponsored by the State Government and the concerned administrative Ministry of Government of India.
 - (b) To allocate foodgrains under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.
 - (c) To allocate foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of Government of India.
 - (d) To allocate foodgrains at the rate applicable for BPL families to the State Governments for undertaking 'food-for-work' programmes in the State, as also for the Greening India Campaign.
 - (e) To allocate foodgrains at BPL rates to development schemes, where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category, implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and the administrative Ministry in Government of India, as also by the International organisations like the World Food Programmes.

Surplus Stock of Foodgrains

1097. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
 SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDLWAL:
 SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
 SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
 SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
 SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
 SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI:
 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
 SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years;
- (b) the quantum of foodgrains stock with Food Corporation of India alongwith quantum of foodgrains stocked in excess with value as on date;
- (c) the stock lifted from FCI under Public Distribution System during each of the last three years;
- (d) the manner in which the Government propose to dispose of excess stock of foodgrains;
- (e) the criterion fixed for selling of these foodgrains in open market and to the Below Poverty Line families;
- (f) whether the Government are considering a downward revision of prices; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The production of foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years is as under:

Figs. In Million Tonnes		
1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (advance Estimates)
192.26	203.04	205.91

(b) The buffer norms for stocks of foodgrains to be maintained in the Central Pool are fixed by the Government on quarterly basis i.e. on 1st January, 1st

April, 1st July and 1st October every year. On 1st October, 2000, the stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool was 40 million tonnes against a buffer norm of 18.1 million tonnes. The surplus stocks of around 22 million tonnes is valued at Rs. 17230 crores.

(c) The stocks lifted under PDS/TPDS during each of the last three years is as under:

Figs. in Million Tonnes		
1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
16.8	18.4	15.7

(d) The following steps have been initiated to dispose of the surplus foodgrains:

- (i) Open sale of wheat and rice has been started from 11.07.2000 and 4.9.2000 respectively.
- (ii) The CIP of rice and wheat for APL families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost or the open market sales price decided by the FCI from time to time, whichever is lower.
- (iii) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 Kg. per family per month is now being made on the basis of population projections as on 01.03.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.
- (iv) Foodgrains will be allocated at BPL rates to (i) welfare institutions catering to the needs of destitute men, women and children at the rate of 5 Kg. per head per month and (ii) for all welfare schemes of Government of India including "Food for Work programme".
- (v) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150/- per MT.

(e) Sale of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) is open to any consumer, trader, Roller Flour Mill, Chakki, Co-operative, Super Bazar, Civil Supply Corporation etc. subject to purchase of minimum quantity of 10 MTs. The prices have been fixed separately for each Zone.

(f) and (g) No, Sir.

Credit Schemes

1098. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks in Bihar are not providing credit facilities to the people under Golden Jayanti Sahri Rozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Samekit Gramin Vikash Karyakaram;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the credit made available to the beneficiaries under the schemes during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Reserve Bank of India and Bank of India, the convenor Bank of State Level Banker's Committee for the State of Bihar, all Public Sector Banks in the State of Bihar are providing credit facilities to people under the centrally sponsored schemes viz. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Swarnajayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana and Integrated Rural Development Programme renamed as Swarnajayanti Gram Swaroggar Yojana which is in operation from 1st April, 1999.

(c) The details of loan disbursed by banks during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise is given in the statement I, II & III enclosed (for two years only as available).

Statement-I

The State-wise loan Disbursed under Swarnajayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Year					
	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	No. of Families Assisted	Amount Disbursed	No. of Families Assisted	Amount Disbursed	No. of Families Assisted	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	67	15.99	450	74.38	2295	481.18
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	—	—	33	10.51	157	24.21
Bihar	7	2.28	277	45.75	1322	201.39
Chandigarh	—	—	10	1.74	179	49.16
Goa	—	—	15	5.14	179	82.27
Gujarat	92	16.28	2481	570.32	3676	907.24
Haryana	—	—	170	51.4	1355	340.28
Himachal Pradesh	10	1.15	21	4.7	309	89.46
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	990	364.05	1115	442.72
Karnataka	62	18	146	18.09	3746	591.39
Kerala	4	1.15	58	6.56	1879	311.24
Madhya Pradesh	892	167.18	13663	3062.87	10537	2663.19
Maharashtra	74	11.67	1796	373.47	8844	1726.32
Manipur	—	—	—	—	11	2.2
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	45	8.65
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	6	2.85
Orissa	—	—	1300	131.97	2505	427.5
Punjab	6	0.64	102	36.91	2215	693.39
Rajasthan	75	9.04	1763	315.29	4436	920.06
Sikkim	—	—	4	0.5	21	5.04
Tamilnadu	33	2.85	71	8.65	3130	376.97
Tripura	—	—	—	—	46	7.5
Uttar Pradesh	12	3.61	17902	4805.16	16969	5530.17
West Bengal	—	—	192	25.64	924	101.18
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	1	0.1	5	0.65
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	1	0.2	1	0.2
Daman & Diu	—	—	11	4.59	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	79	7.07	87	6.04
Not Specified	—	—	219	62.09	79	10.18
Total	1334	249.84	41755	9987.15	66144	15987.89

Statement-II

The State-wise loan Disbursed under Swamajayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Year					
	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	No. of Families	Amount Disbursed	No. of Families	Amount Disbursed	No. of Families	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	20546	11552.90	12151	6788.24	7857	4513.01
Assam	7437	5301.39	4273	3055.08	2004	1118.41
Arunachal Pradesh	178	124.56	178	144.10	21	14.00
Bihar	12137	9104.18	6927	5298.99	3772	2790.19
Goa	251	180.85	263	183.71	331	307.18
Gujarat	7110	3159.71	9882	4251.10	8509	3952.30
Haryana	4918	2634.58	4120	2240.97	3445	1971.98
Himachal Pradesh	2009	1160.11	1478	953.54	1436	953.12
Jammu & Kashmir	1969	1349.41	1076	827.80	744	603.36
Karnataka	14021	8095.53	8655	5062.79	3641	2137.28
Kerala	11541	6473.51	9543	5154.32	6958	3663.21
Madhya Pradesh	22205	13922.62	12365	7441.48	8029	5616.25
Maharashtra	30497	15954.03	21977	11793.76	15556	9078.24
Manipur	658	339.77	364	151.17	40	12.30
Meghalaya	377	211.66	256	133.15	99	60.68
Mizoram	334	252.68	210	126.00	1	0.95
Nagaland	335	249.21	110	91.58	16	12.85
Orissa	4903	2938.73	1623	875.35	308	168.80
Punjab	7549	4586.24	5975	3489.04	6078	3755.65
Rajasthan	9681	4691.04	5817	2828.82	6578	3542.41
Sikkim	58	27.89	58	29.84	27	19.16
Tamilnadu	12741	6512.99	8028	4067.71	5931	3019.79
Tripura	211	114.98	49	22.66	41	25.57
Uttar Pradesh	31472	18469.93	28275	16696.83	25166	15634.33
West Bengal	4014	2525.01	2168	1340.64	1568	964.48
Andaman & Nicobar	61	42.85	85	142.78	72	50.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh	114	85.56	56	40.30	43	28.93
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	67	45.30	28	18.61	26	15.32
Delhi	755	423.95	376	205.90	429	265.55
Daman & Diu	23	13.71	21	14.05	11	5.82
Lakshadweep	40	31.47	31	25.59	9	7.27
Pondicherry	308	127.49	207	75.87	136	47.85
Total	208520	12170.3	1465257	83571.77	108882	64356.66

Statement-III

The State-wise Loan Disbursed Under Integrated Rural Development Programme—IRDP—(Renamed As Swarnajayanti Gram Swa-Rozgar Yojna (SGSY) w.e.f. 1st April, 1999) for the years 1997-98 & 1998-99

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Year			
	1997-98		1998-99	
	No. of Families Assisted	Amount Disbursed	No. of Families Assisted	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	162117	15572.83	140880	14251.22
Arunachal Pradesh	12799	263.65	12432	221.72
Assam	39585	3089.93	47264	3964.16
Bihar	196685	20884.97	176213	24021.30
Goa	897	62.24	895	78.55
Gujarat	41822	4870.71	39598	4986.64
Haryana	10853	1651.54	15743	2797.42
Himachal Pradesh	5548	1143.21	7331	1925.59
Jammu & Kashmir	13643	1115.76	13992	1372.08
Karnataka	94688	9220.74	88007	9116.76
Kerala	44191	6885.80	39836	6607.76
Madhya Pradesh	138810	20452.89	126617	19899.41
Maharashtra	147640	18837.23	145667	21551.25
Manipur	4258	18.00	1638	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
Meghalaya	5167	220.81	4219	268.83
Mizoram	2876	35.25	3138	22.82
Nagaland	835	—	3502	189.47
Orissa	75343	10216.58	105008	12792.84
Punjab	6107	903.71	10357	1647.07
Rajasthan	60819	13238.95	62922	15305.21
Sikkim	1792	226.88	1937	250.23
Tamilnadu	180696	14498.18	142813	14169.69
Tripura	4911	811.93	18816	1800.63
Uttar Pradesh	351146	47201.04	391832	53469.03
West Bengal	91733	7480.25	71134	6480.70
Andaman & Nicobar	628	41.07	604	41.34
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	179	26.37	119	11.49
Daman & Diu	188	19.17	71	7.92
Lakshadweep	27	2.94	9	2.43
Pondicherry	1107	74.88	1317	83.81
Total	1697090	199067.51	1674911	217337.37

Cost of Production of Tea

1099. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production of tea has increased;

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

(c) whether the tea industry in Southern region has been facing a serious threat due to sharp increase in the cost of production; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to extend necessary assistance to the planters in Southern region to reduce the cost of production and prevent the adverse impact on the economy of the planters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. the cost of production of tea has increased by Rs. 4.25 per Kg. during the current year over 1999 due to various factors such a increase in labour wages, increase in indirect labour cost in the form of subsidised food grains to workers, partial withdrawal of fertilizer subsidy, increase in the cost of furnace oil, electricity, fuel, etc.

(c) and (d) Tea Industry in Southern Region has been facing problem due to unremunerative price realisation for tea at the auction centres. In order to arrest the decline in prices Tea Board under this Ministry has taken the following steps:-

- A scheme is being implemented from 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy is provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg. The extent of such subsidy is limited to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg. of tea.

- A Quality Upgradation Programme has been launched by the Tea Board in the Nilgiris district of Tamil nadu for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers.
- Basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 15% to 35%.
- Sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) has been banned.

Restructuring of FCI

1100. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to restructure the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the proposal mooted in that regard and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to make the FCI more efficient so that it is able to cater to the needs of the people in the matter of procurement, storage and transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India issued broad guidelines on 20.4.2000 to Food Corporation of India on organisational restructuring with specific reference to manpower management, cadre management and career progression to tackle the problem of acute stagnation among the employees of the Corporation. On the basis of the guidelines, the FCI management has signed a "Memorandum of Settlement" with the FCIESU on 29.4.2000.

(c) Improvement in the Organisation is continuous exercise on the part of Ministry and the Corporation so as to enable the Corporation to fulfil the food policy objectives of the Government. For the said purpose, the Government is already resorting to decentralised procurement in certain identified States in consultation with the State Governments, concerned. Similarly, efforts are on to enlist the participation of Private Sector in the storage and transportation sector specially with reference to the bulk handling of foodgrains. In addition, the Government has already given necessary clearance to the Corporation to shift the sanctions as well as men-in-position to the needy places on the basis of current volume of operations in the recent exercise of man power planning.

Bank Lending Rates

1101. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of credit to the banking system has been reduced due to hike in lending rates by banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ASSOCHAM and several financial experts have suggested the Reserve Bank of India to lower the lending rates of banks and Cash Reserve Ratio;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir. In fact the outstanding credit from scheduled commercial banks during the financial year 2000-01 upto October 20, 2000 has increased by Rs. 43,519 crore (10.0 per cent) as compared to an increase of Rs. 23,615 (6.4 per cent) during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) to (e) The ASSOCHAM have made the following suggestions:

- RBI should reduce Bank Rate and CRR by at least 1 per cent.
- The thrust of the monetary policy should be to lower the lending rates in the long run by at least 2.0 per cent. Reserve Bank of India have reported that these suggestions are examined by them and considered in the light of the extant policy stance, domestic and external economic environments and monetary and liquidity conditions.

Diversion of PDS Foodgrains

1102. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that atleast one-third of the foodgrains and sugar marked for sale through Public Distribution System does not reach the intended beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of the system;

(c) the approximate cost of rations so diverted in each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such diversion of foodgrains and sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Following a recommendation of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution made in their 2nd Report on the Demands for Grants (1996-97), a study to ascertain the extent of diversion of PDS commodities was commissioned. The Tata Economic Consultancy Service (TECS) was engaged in the year 1997 for a study to assess the extent of diversion of foodgrains, sugar and edible oil from Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country. At the national level, the diversion is estimated at 36% in case of wheat and 31% in case of rice.

(b) The major causes for diversion cited in the study are bulk diversion from godowns, bogus units in ration cards, underweighment at various levels, illiteracy of consumers, low profit margins for Fair Price Shops (FPS) owners, floating, populations, fictitious distribution agencies, non-availability/irregular supply and variation in entitlement and inferior quality with foreign particles.

(c) The percentage of diversion with reference to the targeted groups in respect of each PDS item for whom there are different Central Issue Prices is not available from the study which was conducted around the time Targetted PDS was introduced. It is, therefore, not possible to quantify the loss of subsidy in monetary terms.

(d) Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair

Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. in implementation of PDS. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Government of India have set up Public Grievances' Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department's functioning including the Public Distribution System. The Public Grievances' Redressal Cell has been provided with independent telephone, fax and e-mail facilities in addition to a facilitation counter to receive the public complaints. In order to attend to public complaints on priority, the Department has also designated the senior officers of the Department as members of flying squad for conducting immediate and prompt enquiry whenever the need for it is felt. The Government of India also has appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of Public Distribution System including the complaints of diversion.

News Gathering Station at Vijayawada

1103. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has a full fledged news gathering station at Vijayawada;

(b) if so, whether this station has all necessary technical equipments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to tone up this station?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Doordarshan Kendra, Vijayawada is not a news originating station. However, the station has the necessary equipment for field coverage.

(d) Augmentation and modernization of facilities at Doordarshan stations is a continuous process. A scheme for setting up of playback facility at the High Power Transmitter at Vijayawada is presently under implementation. A High Power Transmitter for DD-2 service is also being set up there.

Claims/Debts Cases in MMTC

1104. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of claims/debts of over Rs. 1 crore in MMTC brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases on which the arbitration is in progress;

(c) the number of cases on which the criminal action has already been initiated by MMTC as on October 31, 2000; and

(d) the steps taken by the MMTC to have transparency in gold operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) to (c) Details of claims/debts of Rs. 1 crore in MMTC brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years showing cases under arbitration, as also investigated by CBI/CVC, as on 31-10-2000, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Steps taken by MMTC to have transparency in gold operations cover *inter-alia* supply of gold to bonafide exporters/domestic customers against 100% security inclusive of cost of gold, interest, customs duty and taxes; sale at internationally accepted London Bullion Market rates; and monitoring the entire purchase/sale transactions including exports obligations period, validity of bank guarantee, etc. through a web enabled information system being commissioned shortly. The system will also give on-line information of gold inventory held location-wise, supplies made to each customer, age-wise analysis of exports made as well as outstanding obligations.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Party	Commodity	Amount (in Rs. Crore)	Remarks
1997-98				
1.	M/s. J.M. Baxi, Kandla	Fertilizer & Packing Material	2.82	Arbitration-Party suggested amicable settlement. Proposal of the party under examination.
2.	M/s D.S. Shipping, Mumbai	Sulphur	1.31	Pending before court.
3.	M/s Virdhishri Marketing and Services Ltd, Patna	Fertilizer	1.98	Arbitration and criminal case in progress.
4.	Domestic sale of rice-Kandla	Rice	4.45	Under Investigation.
5.	M/s Balaji Exports	Gold	1.72	Under Investigation/arbitration.
6.	M/s Electra (India) Ltd.	Copper	2.04	Under Investigation. Civil/Criminal action in progress.
1998-1999				
7.	M/s Shakti Clearing Agency, Bedi	Soya	6.01	Arbitration commenced.
1999-2000				
8.	M/s Makan Gold Overseas Ltd.	Gold	1.63	Under Investigation. Decreed in favour of MMTC.

Monitoring Cell to Protect the Investors

1105. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to form monitoring cell within the Ministry to protect the interest of the small investors;

(b) if so, the details about such cell;

(c) whether the multiplicity of regulatory bodies to hear and handle the small investors' grievances would be simplified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up an Investors' Grievances Redressal Cell in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The staff and other infrastructure required for operationalizing the Cell are being worked out by the Department.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Department of Company Affairs redress investors' grievances according to the subject matter under their purview. It is felt that once the Investors' Grievances Redressal Cell is set up it would help coordinate the efforts of the regulatory agencies.

Growth of Public Sector Enterprises

1106. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of the Public Enterprises, specially Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Hindustan Engineering Corporation (HEC) during the last six months;

(b) the reasons for the negative growth rate, if any, in each of the Public Sector Enterprises, separately;

(c) the year-wise details of the steps taken by the Government to make the growth rate positive and to make PSEs competitive in the world stage; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government during the year 2000-2001 and year 2001-2002 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per provisional information available from 222 Central Public Sector Enterprises out of 235 in operation, the overall growth in terms of turnover and profitability has been positive during 1999-2000 as compared to the previous year. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has also registered a positive growth rate in net profit in 1999-2000 as compared to previous year. However, BHEL's growth rate has been negative in turnover and net profit during the last six months (1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

There is no Hindustan Engineering Corporation as such in the Public Sector. However, there is Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) which has registered a negative growth rate in production, sales and profitability during the last six months (April 2000 to September 2000) as compared to corresponding period of last year.

(b) Major reasons for negative growth in HEC are poor order book position; low realization; and tight working capital situation. In case of BHEL the negative growth is due to delay in receipt of anticipated orders planned to be completed for turnover and non-materialising of orders from certain sectors due to deferment of projects.

(c) and (d) Enterprise specific measures are taken by the Government/PSUs for performance improvement from time to time which is a continuous process. The steps taken/proposed to be taken for performance improvement include financial and business restructuring; formation of joint ventures; technology upgradation; modernization of plant and machinery; enhanced capacity utilization; improved marketing strategies; cost control; optimization of inventories; rationalisation of manpower; etc.

Rs. 1000 Denomination Currency Note

1107. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued Rs. 1000/- denomination currency notes recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of this note, indicating the precautions and safeguards adopted to prevent forging of such notes;

(c) the total value of the notes issued in the first batch; and

(d) the reasons for prompting issue of such high denomination notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The overall colour scheme of the note is generally pink. The portrait of Mahatma Gandhi is printed in grey colour which is in contrast to the general background colour scheme. Besides, the following special security features have been incorporated to make forgery difficult:

- (1) Colour shift feature on the numeral '1000' obverse due to which numeral '1000' appears green in colour when the note is held flat and changes to blue when the note is held at an angle. The photo-copiers and scanners cannot copy the alternate colour.
- (2) Anti-copier features developed by 22 Note Issuing Authorities and Central Banks have been incorporated on the obverse and the reverse of the note, which is in the form of clusters of small circles. These anti-copier features are not intended to interact with the colour copiers so that copies of bank notes cannot be made using post-1997 design photocopiers.
- (3) It has a readable window security alternately visible on the obverse but totally embedded on the reverse. The security thread when exposed to ultra-violet light will fluoresce in different colours, viz., orange, blue, yellow & red, and carries the inscription, भारत, 1000 and RBI.
- (4) Embedded optical fibres in blue, green, yellow and red lie scattered on the obverse and reverse of the note, which will fluoresce when exposed to ultra-violet light.
- (5) The numbers at the top right are printed in blue and in red colour at the left lower portion which will fluoresce when exposed to ultra-violet light.

(c) The total value of notes issued, as on 14.11.2000, is Rs. 623.80 crores.

(d) The Rs. 1000 denomination note was issued in order to contain the high volume of notes in circulation and to facilitate transactions.

Recruitment in Regional Rural Banks

1108. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken with regard to withdrawal of ban on recruitment in Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The matter is under examination in the light of the report of the Working Group on Manpower Planning in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

External Commercial Borrowings

1109. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has encouraged the prepayment of External Commercial Borrowings by Indian borrowers;

(b) if so, the impact of prepayment of ECBs on Indian economy, in particular on the foreign exchange value of the Indian rupee;

(c) whether RBI monitors the prepayments of ECBs;

(d) if so, the details of prepayment made on ECBs during the last three months; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken to carefully monitor the foreign exchange management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As of now, Reserve Bank of India processes prepayment proposals at the request of borrowers as per existing External Commercial Borrowing policies.

(b) Any prepayment of External Commercial Borrowings adds to the demand for foreign exchange. Therefore, prepayments would contribute to the demand for foreign exchange and to that extent may have an impact in the foreign exchange market.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of prepayment of outstanding ECBs during the last three months are as under:-

Months	Amount in USD million
August 2000 end	0.17
September 2000 end	5.00
October 2000 end	1.20

(e) The Reserve Bank of India monitors developments in financial markets and takes such steps as may be necessary in the area of foreign exchange management.

Post Based Rosters

1110. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOPT has introduced 'Post Based Roster' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reservation policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organizations, Attached/Subordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/96-Estt. (Res) dated July 2, 1997;

(d) if so, the indicate excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997; and

(e) the reasons for 'Post Based Roster' being introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' without completing the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any, as prescribed under the above referred O.M.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Post Based Reservation Roster system was implemented in compliance with the Supreme Court Judgement in the cases of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab and J.C. Mallick Vs. Ministry of Railways, where the Hon'ble Court had held that the reservation of jobs for the backward classes SC/ST/OBC should apply to posts and not to vacancies. The Court had further held that the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time as the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories, in a cadre, reaches the prescribed percentages of reservation.

(c) The instructions contained under para 5 of DOPT O.M. No. 36012/96-Estt. (Res) dated July 2, 1997 have been scrupulously followed in the main Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Information from the Autonomous/Statutory organisations, Attached and Subordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry is being collected.

(d) The information in respect of Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Stenographers Service, Central Secretariat Clerical Service and Group 'D' category of services of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as on 2nd July, 1997, is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Excesses/shortfall in respect of CSS, CSSS, CSCS and Class IV of Main Secretariat of the Ministry as on 2.7.97

	Excesses		Shortfall	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Class II	Nil	Nil	8	33
Class III	Nil	Nil	8	25
Class IV	9	1	Nil	Nil

[Translation]

Administrative Cost of PDS

1111. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of administrative cost incurred on Public Distribution System annually;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to streamline the system by reducing the number of Government agencies involved therein and thereby reducing financial burden of the consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rests with State Governments/UT Administrations.

Information about the quantum of administrative cost incurred on PDS is not maintained. However, the administrative cost incurred by FCI and administrative cost incurred on procurement operations by State agencies for the last three years are as under:

(Fig. in Rs. crores)

Year	Incurred by FCI	Incurred by State agencies for procurement operation only	Total
1997-98 (Prov.)	979	87	1066
1998-99 (Prov.)	1076	107	1183
1999-2000 (RE)	1100	180	1280

(b) and (c) In view of the huge volume of foodgrains to be procured, procurement operations have to be undertaken by many agencies as the stocks are to be received and accounted for during a short period. It is difficult for one agency alone to cope with the heavy volume of foodgrains procured in Punjab and Haryana etc. Therefore State agencies have to necessarily incur administrative costs. However, under the de-centralised procurement scheme in some States, the State Government themselves would procure and issue foodgrains within the State and it is expected that administrative charges per quintal of operation will be reduced.

Under the scheme of decentralised procurement of foodgrains West Bengal started procurement of rice during kharif marketing season 1997-98 and Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh started procurement of wheat from the rabi marketing season 1999-2000. State Government of Uttar Pradesh has also commenced procurement of paddy/rice under this scheme with effect from the kharif marketing season 1999-2000. The amount of saving in food subsidy, in this regard are given below.

Rice

(Rs. per quintal)

State	Year	Economic Cost of FCI (Actual)	Economic Cost of State Govt.	Subsidy saving (per quintal)
West Bengal	1997-98	939.33	824.35	114.98
	1998-99	974.86	868.40	104.46
	1999-2000	1075.45	946.30	129.15

Wheat

(Rs. per quintal)

State	Year	Economic Cost of FCI (Actual) 50 kgs. Bag	Economic Cost of State Govt. 50 kgs. Bag	Subsidy saving
Uttar Pradesh	1999-2000	820.00	779.01	40.99
Madhya Pradesh	1999-2000	820.00	751.91	68.09

[English]

Disinvestment of PSUs

1112. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT of pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have prescribed any criterion with regard to the disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and names of Public Sector Undertakings in which the disinvestment has been made so far or proposed to be made;

(d) the amount earned through disinvestment, PSUs-wise;

(e) the number of persons rendered unemployed or likely to be rendered unemployed as a result thereof;

(f) the amount spent or likely to be spent to provide retirement/post retirement benefits to the employees made to retire as a result of this disinvestment;

(g) whether some Ministries have objected for the disinvestment of shares of Undertakings coming under them;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The disinvestment policy is to bring down Government equity in all non-strategic CPSUs to 26% or lower in generality of cases. In cases of Public Sector Enterprises involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding.

It has also been decided that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

- (1) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships
- (2) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries)
- (3) Railway Transport Further, for the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises, the reduction of Government share to 26% would not be automatic and the manner and pace of doing so would be worked out on a case to case basis. A decision in regard to the percentage of disinvestment i.e., Government share going down to less than 51% or to 26% would be taken on the following considerations:
 - (i) Whether the Industrial sector requires the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration of power in private hands, and
 - (ii) Whether the Industrial sector requires a proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

(c) A list of the companies in which disinvestment has been carried out so far is given in the enclosed

statement-I. As a part of the disinvestment exercise, Government keeps considering proposals of disinvestment in different Public Sector Enterprises. At present, Department of Disinvestment is taking action in about 29 PSUs/ subsidiaries of PSUs where the Government decisions for disinvestment/locating Joint Venture partners have been taken. Out of these companies, advisors have been appointed for Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., HTL Ltd., Bharat Leather Corp. Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, India Tourism Development Corporation, RBL Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Madras Fertilisers Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd., Jessop & Company Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Bharat Pumps & Compressors, Hindustan Salts and Tungabhadra Steels Ltd. The companies where the Government decisions for disinvestment are available include IBP Ltd., Minerals and Metal Trading Corp. Ltd., State Trading Corp. Ltd., Metal Scrap Trading Corp. Ltd., Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. and Mineral Exploration Corp. Ltd.

The process of disinvestment is in various stages of implementation in these companies.

(d) A chart showing the amount earned through disinvestment, PSU-wise, is enclosed as statement II.

(e) and (f) All decisions of the Government relating to disinvestment do not automatically have a direct impact on the jobs of the employees of the concerned Public Sector Company. When the decision involves the transfer of management and control of the company, the issues relating to employees assume importance. In such cases, these concerns are appropriately addressed in the terms and conditions of sale. In view of the above, it is not possible to work out, in advance, the number of employees likely to be affected. For the same reason, it is not possible to estimate the amount likely to be spent on retirement/post retirement benefits. The policy on disinvestment includes protection of the interests of employees.

(g) to (i) Before a final decision on disinvestment in a PSU is taken, the views of all the concerned departments/ministries are obtained and considered through inter ministerial consultations at various levels. The final decision is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment — in the meetings of which concerned Administrative Ministry invariably participate.

Statement-I

Public Sector Enterprises wherein disinvestment has been carried out till 31/10/2000

S. No.	Name of the PSE
1	2
1.	Andrew Yule
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochem. Ltd.
7.	CMC Ltd.
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.
9.	Container Corp. of India Ltd.
10.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.
11.	Engineers India Ltd.
12.	Fertilisers & Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.
13.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
14.	HMT Ltd.
15.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.
16.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.
17.	Hindustan Organic Chemical Ltd.
18.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.

1	2
19.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
21.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.
22.	Indian Petro Chemicals Corp. Ltd.
23.	IRCON International Ltd.
24.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.
25.	India Tourism & Development Corp.
26.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Comp. Ltd.
27.	Madras Refineries Ltd.
28.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.
29.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corp. Ltd.
30.	Modern Foods Industries Ltd.
31.	National Aluminium Ltd.
32.	National Fertilisers Ltd.
33.	National Minerals Development Corp. Ltd.
34.	Neyveli Lignite Corp.
35.	Oil & Natural Gas Corp.
36.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.
37.	Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.
38.	State Trading Corp.
39.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
40.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
41.	BALCO (Financial Restructuring)

Statement-II

Year Wise PSUs-wise details of amount realised through disinvested since 1991-92

(Amount in Crores in Rupees)

S. No.	Name of Company	1991-92	1992-93	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andrew Yule	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	**	—	48.270	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.	**	—	47.169	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	**	8.21	301.336	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	**	331.18	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Bongaigaon Refineies & Petrochem. Ltd.	**	45.40	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	CMC Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Fertilisers & Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.	**	1.30	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	HMT Ltd.	**	23.38	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	—	8.07	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Hindustan Organic Chemical Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.	**	331.85	563.111	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Hindustan Zinc Limited	**	81.55	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Indian Petrochemicals Corp.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Indian Railway Cosntt. Company Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	**	15.63	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	**	—	1322.168	135.899	—	910.00	—	—
23.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corp. Ltd.	**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	National Aluminium Ltd.	**	244.20	0.096	—	—	—	—	—
25.	National Fertilisers Ltd.	**	0.72	0.283	—	—	—	—	—
26.	National Mineral Development Corp. Lto.	—	17.88	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Neyveli Lignite Corp.	**	70.43	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	**	30.36	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
29. Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.	**	—	28.076	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. State Trading Corp.	**	2.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Steel Authority of India Ltd.	**	700.10	22.661	13.303	—	—	—	—	—
32. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	**	—	—	—	379.67	—	783.68	75.00	—
33. Container Corporation of India	—	—	99.714	14.118	—	—	221.65	—	—
34. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	—	—	1033.646	—	—	—	1208.96	162.79	—
35. Oil & Natural Gas Corpo.	—	—	1051.516	5.156	—	—	2484.96	296.48	—
36. Engineers India Ltd.	—	—	67.527	—	—	—	—	—	—
37. Gas Authority of India Ltd.	—	—	194.120	—	—	—	671.86	945.00	—
38. India Tourism Dev. Corp.	—	—	51.985	—	—	—	—	—	—
39. Kudremukh Iron Ore Comp. Ltd.	—	—	11.399	—	—	—	—	—	—
40. Modern Food Industries Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	105.45	—
41. BALCO (Financial restructuring)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	244.52	—
Total		3038.00	1912.51	4843.077	168.476	379.67	910.00	5371.11	1829.24

** As in 1991-92 the shares were sold in bundles the amount realised PSU-wise is not available.

Financial Assistance to Sugar Mills

1113. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation has agreed to extend financial assistance to sugar mills in Maharashtra for electricity generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be provided by the IFC;

(d) the details of sugar mills who have sought such assistance; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) IFC have agreed "in-principle" to extend financial assistance for co-generation, bagasse based power projects with sugar mills in Maharashtra provided a viable

and credit worthy arrangement for purchase of power exists.

(c) to (e) IFC usually takes 3 to 4 months to grant financial assistance after appraisal of projects. IFC have not yet approved any financial assistance as they have yet to appraise the projects.

Economic Slow Down

1114. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had declared a slow down on GDP growth rate at 5.8 per cent;

(b) whether the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) had also commented that it could still be lower;

(c) if so, the main causes for the same;

(d) whether the inflation is expected to rise to 8% in terms of wholesale Price Index and that agricultural and industrial growth also likely to slow down; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to effect a turn-around in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in their Mid Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2000-2001 has placed the growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 per cent for 2000-2001 as against a projected growth of 5.8 per cent for 2000-01 made by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). As per the latest Quarterly Estimate of GDP released by the Central Statistical Organisation for the first quarter (April-June) of 2000-01, overall GDP growth is estimated at 5.8 per cent with GDP originating from agriculture (including forestry & fishing) and manufacturing showing an increase of 2.5 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively. As on November 4, 2000 the inflation rate measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index on a point-to-point basis was 7.3 per cent. About three fourths of the current inflation is due to rise in prices of fuel, power, light and lubricants. Otherwise, prices of most of the primary and manufactured products are stable and do not show any significant uptrend. The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate measures taken in the light of emerging trends as and when necessary. The various economic reforms measures undertaken by the Government are expected to have a favourable impact on the economy.

Entrance of SBI in Insurance Sector

1115. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has been given permission by RBI to enter into the Insurance Sector;

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

(c) whether SBI is in search of a Foreign joint venture for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the other Banks/Financial Institutions and Companies which have been given permission/licence to enter in Insurance Sector; and

(f) the time by which these Companies are likely to start their business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has given "in-principle" approval to State Bank of India (SBI) for entering into insurance business on risk participation basis through a subsidiary in which it will hold 74% of the paid-up capital.

(c) and (d) SBI has advised RBI that it has engaged the services of M/s Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, New York to identify a suitable joint venture partner.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Foreign Technical and Economic Cooperation

1116. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have nominated approximately 550 consultative firms related to Foreign Technical and Economic Cooperation;

(b) if so, the number of them from U.S.A., Australia, France and Germany; and

(c) the total revenue received by the Government from these firms during the year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Motor Claims on Net Salvage Basis

1117. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6092 on May 5, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information asked for since has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by when the information is likely to be collected by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details thereof is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) whether subsidiary companies of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) are settling motor claims on net of salvage basis;

(b) if so, the details and numbers of claims settled and the total amount paid during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, company-wise;

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Company-wise details of motor claims settled on net salvage basis are as under

Company	1998-99		1999-2000	
	No.	Amount (Rs. Crores)	No.	Amount (Rs. Crores)
National	624	8.87	798	10.82
New India	Nil	Nil	1310	15.64
Oriental	15	0.52	24	1.18
United India	1002	12.68	1207	14.84

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) whether complaints of corruption by officials and surveyors in collusion with the buyers of salvage have been received by the Insurance Companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to curb the corrupt practices in the settlement of motor claims?

Patent on Basmati Rice

1118. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have failed to defend India's interest in the Basmati rice patent case in the U.S.;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the further steps being taken by the Government to save the Indian products being patented by foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are of commercial interest to India and which in our views do not satisfy the criteria of patentability, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged. On collection of sufficient material a challenge petition is filed for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patent in that country.

Malpractices in Clearance of TV Serials

1119. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some malpractices have been observed in clearance the TV serials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals of serials received during the last three years;

(d) the number of proposals cleared and the criteria adopted for giving clearance to them;

(e) whether Prasar Bharati encourages new artists and gives priority in permission for telecasting the serials produced by them;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Outstanding I.T.

1120. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the top hundred companies/persons against whom the maximum amount of income-tax is still outstanding; and

(b) the action being taken against them to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The

names of top hundred companies/persons against whom the maximum amount of income-tax is outstanding is given in enclosed statement.

(b) Appropriate action, as provided for under the Income Tax Act, is taken for collection of arrears. Such action includes charging of interest and levy of penalty for non-payment and attachment of movable and immovable assets etc.

Statement

List of Top Hundred Companies/Persons As on 30.6.2000

Sl. No.	Name
1	2
1.	Sahara India Financial Corp. Ltd. (SISICOL)
2.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
3.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission
4.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.
5.	Ganapati Exports Ltd.
6.	I.F.C.I. Ltd.
7.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
8.	Tata Chemicals Ltd.
9.	Growmore Research & Assets Management Ltd.
10.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.
11.	The Peerless General Financial & Inv. Co. Ltd.
12.	The Premier Automobiles Ltd.
13.	Asia Satellite Telecommunication Co. Ltd.
14.	Canara Bank
15.	Tata Sons Ltd.
16.	Gujarat State Fertilizer Co. Ltd.
17.	Ganapati Combines Ltd.
18.	Tata Power Co. Ltd.
19.	Dhanraj Mills P. Ltd.
20.	East West Travel & Trade Links Ltd.
21.	Cascade Holding P. Ltd.

1	2
22.	Mideast India Ltd.
23.	Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd.
24.	R.E.P.L. Engg. Ltd.
25.	Indian Petrochemicals Corpon. Ltd. (IPCL)
26.	N.E.P.C. Micon Ltd.
27.	Larson & Toubro Ltd.
28.	Kedia Castle Delion Industries Ltd.
29.	Rajendra Steels Ltd.
30.	R.M. Machines (P) Ltd.
31.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.
32.	Caribjet Inc.
33.	Sabre Group
34.	Lucent Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
35.	Growmore Leasing & Invst. P. Ltd.
36.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.
37.	Ericsson Radio Systems A.B.
38.	Nokia Network
39.	Tata Engg. & Locomotive Co. Ltd.
40.	Asea Brown Boveri Ltd.
41.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
42.	Mahanadi Coal Fields (P) Ltd.
43.	Andhra Valley Power Supply Co. Ltd.
44.	Shaw Wallace & Co. Ltd.
45.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.
46.	Essar Steels Ltd.
47.	Metropolitan Co-op. Bank Ltd.
48.	Northern Coal Fields Ltd.
49.	Asian Consolidated Industries Ltd.
50.	C.R.B. Capital Market Co. Ltd.
51.	Tata Finance Ltd.

1	2
52.	Indian Hotel Co. Ltd.
53.	Bombay Burmah Trading Corpn. Ltd.
54.	Orson Electronics Ltd.
55.	Rushabh Capital & Finance Ltd.
56.	Spectrum Power Generation Ltd.
57.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board
58.	Tata Hydro Electric Power Supply Co. Ltd.
59.	Gujarat Electricity Board
60.	Arvind Mills Ltd.
61.	Apollo Tubes & Steel Industries Ltd.
62.	Okara Agro Products Pvt. Ltd.
63.	J.V.G. Finance Ltd.
64.	Trident Steel Ltd.
65.	I.D.B.I.
66.	Patel India P. Ltd.
67.	Western Coal Field Ltd.
68.	Pathija Forgings & Auto Parts Mfg. Co. Ltd.
69.	Chinar Cigarattes P. Ltd.
70.	ANZ Grindlays Bank (Foreign Bank)
71.	Amedeus Marketing
72.	Allied Signal Inc.
73.	Essar Projects Ltd.
74.	Airport Authority of India
75.	Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.
76.	Wipro Finance Ltd.
77.	Harshad S. Mehta
78.	Hiten P. Dalal
79.	Bhupendra C. Dalal
80.	Ashwin S. Mehta
81.	S. Ramaswamy

1	2
---	---

82. Jyoti H. Hehta
83. Sudhir S. Mehta
84. Subrato Roy
85. Harshad S. Mehta (W.T.)
86. J.P. Gandhi
87. Niranjana J. Shah
88. Pallav S. Sheth
89. P.K. Sharma
90. Uday M. Acharya
91. Surendra M. Khandar
92. Shirish C. Shah
93. Kalpesh L. Thakkar
94. S.K. Jain (Director of B.E.C. Ltd.)
95. Bimal S. Gandhi
96. A.D. Narottam
97. Lt. Col. Bhawani Singh & Others (Indl.) W.T.
98. Pratima H. Mehta
99. Super Cassettes Industries Ltd.
100. Deepika A. Mehta (Smt.)

Narcotics Smuggling

1121. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a strong nexus between narcotics smugglers and those dealing with prawn culture along the coast of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in to curb this nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir, There is no information or intelligence to suggest that there is a strong nexus between the narcotics smugglers and those dealing with prawn culture along the coast of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pilferage of foodgrains

1122. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Hindustan (Hindi) dated September 1, 2000 under the caption "Prati Varsh Sade Teen Hazar Crore Ka Anaj Chori";

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

(c) whether the Union Government have taken or propose to take any concrete measures to check the pilferage of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The facts reported therein are correct.

(c) and (d) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. in implementation of PDS. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Government of India have set up Public Grievances' Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department's functioning including the PDS. The Public Grievances' Redressal Cell has been provided with independent telephone, fax and e-mail facilities in addition to a facilitation counter to receive the public complaints. In order to attend to public complaints on priority, the Department sends officers as members of flying squad for conducting immediate and prompt enquiry

whenever the need for it is felt. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS.

Money Deposited By Indians In Foreign Banks

1123. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "Swiss Banko Mein Jama Bhartiyaon Ka Dhan Swadesh Aaane par Videshi Rin se Chhutkara" published in 'Punjab Kesari' dated October 21, 2000;

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

(c) the estimated money deposited by Indians in the Swiss and other foreign banks; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government so far to bring back this money to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Whenever any specific information comes to the notice of the investigating agency about FERA violation including holding of illegal bank accounts in foreign banks, investigation is conducted in accordance with provisions of Law.

(c) and (d) Some cases relating to money deposited by Indians in such Banks have been detected and it has been found that a sum of approximately U.S.\$ 52,82,150, Pound 44,40,242.90, S.\$ 10,90,000 and Belgium Francs approximately 27 Lakhs were lying with such Banks. Adjudication Proceedings against such persons have been initiated as provided under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. In one of these cases, a complaint has also been filed in the Court under Section 56 of FERA.

[English]

Procurement Price of FCI

1124. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement price of different varieties of wheat and rice fixed by Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the yearly per tonne subsidy on wheat, rice and sugar provided to Food Corporation of India during the above period;

(c) the per quintal handling charges paid to Food Corporation of India on wheat, rice and sugar during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the increasing expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Procurement price of wheat and rice as fixed by Government of India during the last three years for different States is shown in the enclosed statement I, II & III.

(b) Per tonne subsidy given to Food Corporation of India on wheat, rice and sugar during the last three years was as under:-

(Rs. per tonne)			
Year	Wheat	Rice	Sugar
1997-98	2353.00	2341.40	1895.70
1998-99	3638.50	3142.40	1473.80
1999-2000	3506.80	3790.90	1639.30

The rate is provisional pending final audited accounts of Food Corporation of India.

(c) Per quintal handling charges incurred by Food Corporation of India in the distribution of wheat, rice and sugar during the last three years were as follows:-

(Rs. per qtl.)			
Year	Wheat	Rice	Sugar
1997-98	118.42	140.72	200.31
1998-99	151.13	161.84	199.28
1999-2000	137.73	170.88	201.28

(d) Steps taken by FCI to reduce/contain the increasing expenditure/handling cost of foodgrains include the following:-

- (i) Achieving average capacity utilization of 75% to reduce storage cost even though the procurement of grains is seasonal.
- (ii) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norms of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Government of India to reduce the expenditure on freight.

- (iii) Making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains.
- (iv) Making efforts to reduce the incurrence of railway demurrage charges.
- (v) Issuing of old stocks, disposing of C & D category of stocks and introducing direct supervision on movement of foodgrains to control the incidence of transit and storage shortages.
- (vi) Machine stitching of gunnies and handling of food grains in 50 Kg. bags to reduce the storage and transit loss.
- (vii) Ensuring strict quality control measures during procurement storage.
- (viii) Efforts to reduce damages.

Statement-I

Procurement Prices for Levy Rice (Raw & Parboiled) During 1997-98, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 K.M.S

Region	1997-98				1998-99				1999-2000			
	Common		Grade 'A'		Common		Grade 'A'		Common		Grade 'A'	
	Raw	P. Boiled	Raw	P. Boiled	Raw	P. Boiled	Raw	P. Boiled	Raw	P. Boiled	Raw	P. Boiled
Punjab	736.60	740.20	786.00	788.80	788.40	791.20	838.00	840.10	870.90	872.50	920.40	931.30
Haryana	729.40	753.10	778.20	781.20	780.70	783.60	829.80	831.90	861.20	865.90	913.30	914.20
Uttar Pradesh	707.20	711.20	754.50	757.80	757.20	760.40	804.60	807.20	838.00	840.10	885.50	886.80
Rajasthan	720.20	724.00	768.40	771.50	767.70	770.80	815.90	818.20	849.70	851.60	897.90	899.10
Delhi	729.40	733.10	778.20	781.20	780.70	783.60	829.80	831.90	864.20	865.90	913.30	914.20
Chandiarh	716.50	720.40	764.40	767.60	763.70	766.90	811.60	814.10	845.30	847.30	893.20	894.50
Andhra Pradesh	735.10	738.70	784.40	787.20	783.40	786.30	832.70	834.80	867.30	868.90	916.50	917.40
Karnataka	679.40	683.80	724.60	728.80	724.30	728.10	769.60	772.60	801.40	804.00	846.70	848.60
Madhya Pradesh	679.40	683.80	724.60	728.80	724.30	728.10	769.60	772.60	802.90	805.50	848.20	850.10
Maharashtra	680.50	684.90	725.70	729.40	725.50	729.20	770.60	773.70	802.50	805.10	847.70	849.60
W. Bengal	676.30	680.70	721.30	725.00	721.00	724.80	766.00	769.20	797.80	800.40	842.80	844.80
Pondicherry	673.20	677.70	717.90	721.80	717.80	721.60	762.50	765.70	794.10	796.80	838.90	841.00
Orissa	710.30	714.30	757.80	761.60	757.20	760.40	804.60	807.20	838.00	810.10	885.50	886.80
Assam	691.80	696.00	737.90	741.40	737.50	741.00	783.60	786.40	816.10	818.50	862.50	863.90
Bihar	704.20	708.20	751.20	754.50	*	*	*	*	830.70	832.90	877.70	879.20
Gujarat	*	*	*	*	721.00	724.50	766.00	769.20	792.80	800.40	842.80	844.60

*Not fixed.

Statement-II**Procurement Price of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) (Raw & Arboiled) During 1997-98 to 1999-2000**

Region	Variety	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Raw	Par Boiled	Raw	Par Boiled	Raw	Par Boiled
Punjab	CoGrade-	797.21	785.82	860.39	914.99	873.64	869.27
Haryana	Ammon	850.95	837.81	848.59	901.41	925.09	919.53
	Common	773.12	762.24	776.01	773.04	862.32	858.12
	Grade-A	825.46	812.85	826.75	822.53	913.04	907.66
Uttar Pradesh	Common	729.46	726.47	764.91	762.21	823.33	811.3
	Grade-A	778.91	774.72	814.93	810.98	871.95	859.2
Madhya Pradesh	Common	693.39	691.57	732.88	730.96	840.19	836.22
(All Prov.)	Grade-A	740.16	737.22	780.57	777.49	890.15	882.77
Orissa	Common	713.66	711.81	748.78	746.44	*	*
(all. Prov.)	Grade-A	762.73	759.35	797.85	794.32	*	*

Note: Above rates are without gunny depreciation, cost of gunny & Double line machine stitch.

Note: During 1998-99 incidentals rates only for Punjab are final.

*Not fixed.

Statement-III**Procurement Prices of Wheat w.e.f.
1990-91 to 2000-2001**

Marketing Year	Rate Per Qtl.
1	2
1990-91	Rs. 215/- per quintal
1991-92	Rs. 225/- per quintal
1992-93	Rs. 250/- per quintal
	+Rs.25/- as Bonus from April to June, 1992
1993-94	Rs. 305/- per quintal
	+Rs. 25/- as Bonus from April to June 1993
1994-95	Rs. 350/- per quintal
1995-96	Rs. 360/- per quintal
1996-97	Rs. 380/- per quintal
1997-98	Rs. 415/- per quintal

1	2
	+Rs. 60/- as Bonus from April to June 1997
1998-99	Rs. 455/- per quintal
	+Rs. 55/- as Bonus upto 30.06.98
1999-2000	Rs. 550/- per quintal
2000-2001	Rs. 580/- per quintal

Minting of Coins

1125. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 percent to coins of Re. 1/-, Rs. 2/- and Five are being minted abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the minting capacity of indigenous mints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) It is a fact that a part of our requirements of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomination coins is met by coins minted abroad.

(b) and (c) As a consequence of Government of India's decision to coinise the Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomination, the printing of notes of these denominations has been discontinued from November 1994, February 1995 and November 1995 respectively. Therefore, to bridge the gap between increased indent of coins of above denominations and the capacity to mint the coins indigenously, the Government has resorted to import.

However, the mints are being modernised to increase the indigenous production of coins.

[Translation]

VRS in CCI

1126. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) of the Union Government has been implemented in Cement Corporation of India (CCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of employees opted for VRS in CCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) based on the model Scheme framed by the DPE was introduced in Cement Corporation of India w.e.f. 23.3.92.

(c) Since introduction of the Scheme, 605 employees have been released on Voluntary Retirement till date.

[English]

Autonomy to Public Sector Undertakings

1127. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to give greater autonomy to Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the autonomy includes commercial freedom; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Government have already allowed the Public Sector Undertakings greater autonomy from time to time by providing delegated powers to incur capital expenditure. In addition Navratna and Miniratna enterprises have been given additional financial and operational autonomy, subject to certain conditions. The grant of autonomy on greater measure is a continuous process.

Public Sector Undertakings enjoy commercial freedom in their day to day functioning.

Broadcast of Punjabi Programmes

1128. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of Punjabi transmissions as compared to the Pakistan oriented Urdu transmission by the external service division of All India Radio in view of the considerable interest evoked again in the Punjabi language in the Western Punjab; and

(b) the proportion of the cultural programmes in the Pakistan oriented Punjabi programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the proportion of broadcast in Punjabi vis-a-vis the transmission in Urdu, by the External Services Division of All India Radio, is 1:6.

(b) The proportion of cultural content in the West Punjab (Pakistan)-oriented Punjabi programmes is half of total Punjabi transmission broadcast per day.

[English]

Shares of Public Sector Undertakings

1129. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings units shares have crashed heavily in stock market during the last two years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for fall in prices; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Out of 40 central PSUs where disinvestment has taken place, the trend of share price is available in respect of 29 PSU shares for the past two years. The price movement of the 29 PSU shares for which the trend is available, indicates that there are more declines than advances. As such there is a general down trend amongst the PSU share price during the last two years.

(c) and (d) The share price movement in the capital markets cannot be attributed to any single factor and it is not possible to identify the precise reason for the decline in the share prices.

[Translation]

Import of Coconut/Coconut Oil

1130. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that reduction in prices of Coconut and Coconut Oil due to large Scale import of these products has adversely affected the domestic coconut producers;

(b) if so, whether coconut producers from all over the country have requested the Government to impose ban on import of these products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Representations have been received regarding imposing restriction on import of coconut and coconut oil from various producers' associations and public representatives. Presently import of coconut other than desiccated coconut is restricted from countries other than SAARC. Import of copra and coconut oil is canalized through State Trading Corporation of India Limited and

Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited. Total imports of coconut and coconut oil for the last year and for this year upto August are as follows:

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. Item No.	Value of Import (1999-2000)	Value of Import (April-August, 2000-01)
1. Coconut	0.52	13.28
2. Coconut (copra) Oil	1362.4	432.2

Provisional, Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

As can be seen with present import policy and the present level of imports, the decline in prices of coconut and coconut oil, if any, cannot be attributed to imports.

However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications and environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic producers.

The imports are being closely monitored and Government would strive to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

[English]

Insurance Ombudsmen

1131. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently created office of the Ombudsmen is rendering help to aggrieved consumers in regard to their disputes with insurance companies;

(b) if so, the places where the offices of these Ombudsmen are located;

(c) the financial and other powers entrusted to Ombudsmen; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to apprise common consumers through media who face problems with their insurance companies regarding the benefits of the services of the Ombudsmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Centres for the offices of Ombudsmen are located at twelve places namely Delhi, Lucknow, Chennai, Chandigarh, Calcutta, Bhopal, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Cochin, Gauhati, Bhubneshwar & Hyderabad.

(c) Notification of Government of India GSR No. 670 dated 11.11.1998 published in part (II) - Section 3 - Sub-section (i) contains the details of the powers of the Ombudsman. These powers, *inter alia*, include the following:

- (i) The Ombudsman may receive and consider any partial or total repudiation of claims by an insurer, any dispute in regard to premium paid or payable in terms of the policy, delay in settlement of claims and non-issue of any insurance document to customers after receipt of premium.
- (ii) The Ombudsman have the powers to award any compensation amount not exceeding rupees twenty lakhs including ex-gratia and other expenses.

(d) The offices of the Insurance Ombudsman at all the centres have issued prominent Press Notices immediately upon their commencing operations. Government has also been informing the complainants from time to time, about the availability of the services of Ombudsman for redressal of grievances.

Bilateral Aid

1132. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Countries with which India held discussions during the last one year for the resumption of bilateral aid;

(b) if so, the details of countries which have resumed bilateral aid to India;

(c) whether the resumption in bilateral aid to India from these countries is free from any precondition; and

(d) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

[Translation]

Infrastructural Development Project in Rajasthan

1133. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructural Development Project is pending despite a loan sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank in January 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have given its share for the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) A loan of US \$ 250 million for the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project approved by Asian Development Bank has become effective on 29th February 2000. The loan of ADB is passed on to the State Government by Government of India over the project implementation period till June 2005 in the form of additional Central assistance on reimbursement basis against the expenditure incurred from time to time by Government of Rajasthan. The loan is scheduled to close on June 30, 2005.

Participation of MNC in Broadcasting Sector

1134. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Multi National Companies are keen to invest in the broadcasting sector and have offered to participate in this sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have shown interest in their investment proposals; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Export of Tea to Russia

1135. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian tea export to Russia has been adversely affected during the last few months due to huge discriminatory difference between the wholesale and packed tea import structure;

(b) whether the businessmen of some countries stationed at Russia have been importing tea on wholesale basis in Russia and the same tea is packaged and sold in the local market for which they are paying only five percent import duty;

(c) if so, whether the Indian tea exporters have no such facilities there and are forced to pay 15% import duty on the packed tea exported from our country;

(d) if so, whether this issue was raised with the Russian President during this visit to India;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the effective steps being taken by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) No Sir. Indian Tea is exported to Russia mainly in the form of bulk tea, packet teas and tea bags. A very small quantity of instant tea is also exported to Russia. Since 1998, Russia has been imposing import duty of 5% on tea in bulk form and an import duty of 20% on tea in packet form. On account of the duty differential between bulk tea and packet tea, many Russian importers have started setting up blending and packaging factories within Russia to take advantage of the lower import duty on bulk teas. There has been a marginal decline in export of tea from India during the current year as compared to the previous year. The total quantity of tea exported during April to August, 2000 was 34.45 mn. kgs as compared to 35.23 mn. kgs. during the corresponding period of 1999.

(d) to (f) yes Sir. The Russian side has agreed to consider the matter. The Government of India is also following up this matter.

[English]

Commission to Review Expenditure of Government

1136. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Commission to review its expenditure;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and Composition of the Commission;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the Government's response thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to implement recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Expenditure Reforms Commission are as under:

- (1) Keeping in view the evolving role of Government, the need to foster convergence and avoiding overlap in the functions of different Central Government Ministries, Departments and attached organisations and the role of the State Governments, suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government.
- (2) Review the framework of all subsidies, both explicit and implicit, examine the economic rationale for their continuance and make recommendations for making subsidies transparent and suggest measures for maximising their impact on the target population at minimum cost.
- (3) Review the framework for determination of user charges of Departmental and commercial entities and suggest an effective strategy for cost recovery through user charges.
- (4) Review the adequacy of staffing under Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions and suggest measures for rationalising the staff and cadres of different services. In this context also review the existing arrangements for re-deployment and re-training of surplus staff to ensure that any additional manpower for new areas of Government activities are met by re-deployment.
- (5) Review the procedure for setting up Government funded autonomous institutions and their pattern of funding and suggest measures for effecting improvement and reducing budgetary support for their activities; and

- (6) Consider any other relevant issue concerning expenditure management in Government and make suitable recommendations.

(c) to (f) The Commission has made two reports so far. The first report deals with Food Subsidy and the second report deals with the following issues:

- (1) Rationalizing Fertilizer Subsidy.
- (2) Optimizing Govt. staff strength - Some General Issues.
- (3) Rationalizing of the Functions, Activities and Structure of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- (4) Rationalizing of the Functions, Activities and Structure in the Ministry of Coal.

While the recommendations in the first report regarding modification of economic cost of wheat and rice has been implemented, the other recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Power Tariff of Andhra Pradesh

1137. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU:
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether being a borrower state Andhra Pradesh State Government had to restructure its specifically the power tariff at the direction of the World Bank as claimed by its Chairman;

(b) if so, whether the action of the Chairman of World Bank is a direct intervention in the internal matters of an Indian State and also violation of the economic sovereignty of the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Anti-Dumping Duties on Steel by Foreign Countries

1138. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have imposed anti-dumping duties on Indian Steel;

(b) whether such kind of trade disputes between India and other countries are on the increase; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to resolve these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) European Union, USA, Canada and Indonesia have imposed anti-dumping duties on import of Indian Steel products such as Stainless Steel round/bright bars, Carbon Steel Plates, flat rolled products of non-alloy steel. Hot Rolled Coils/Plates, Stainless Steel Fasteners and parts, Stainless Steel Fine Wires, Steel Stranded Ropes and Cables, Wire rods.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Indian industry, with the active support of the Government of India, have been defending the anti-dumping and countervailing cases initiated by these countries against the import of Indian steel products. The Government have also taken up the matter with these countries at various forums.

Performance of BHEL

1139. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has been selling power related equipment in the country and also abroad;

(b) if so, the performance of BHEL in respect of production, sale and export of the above equipment during each of the last three years;

(c) whether BHEL has set any target for production and export during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of performance of BHEL for the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Parameter	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Turnover			
Power Sector (including Transmission)	4050	4352	4537
Industry Sector	2421	2443	2097
Total	6471	6795	6634
Physical Export	213.69	71.32	355.11

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indicative projections for production during the Ninth Five Year Plan were made in 1996-97 for BHEL. The year-wise projection and actuals of production during the relevant years were as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Projections for Production (Ninth Plan)	Actuals
1997-98	5850	6158
1998-99	6700	6380
1999-00	7650	5984
2000-01	8750	—
2001-02	10000	—

No separate projections for exports were made for the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, order booking for exports is one of the items of memorandum of understanding (MOU) and achievement of export order booking by BHEL against MOUs during the Ninth Plan period was as below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Export order Booking MOU Target	Achievement
1997-98	150	91
1998-99	140	250
1999-00	200	703
2000-01	300	—
2001-02	—	—

BHEL has taken steps for strengthening monitoring procedures, reducing cycle time & costs, improving quality, integrating information technology in its manufacturing processes and modernisation of facilities at various units to improve performance.

Filling up the Posts of SC/ST TV Newsreaders

1140. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee has recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of news readers on Television/ Doordarshan appointed during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the total number of persons from SC/ST community among them and their percentage as compared to the total appointments during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for not implementation the recommendation satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Action was taken to fill up backlog vacancies through special recruitment drive.

(c) No regular appointment in the category of Newsreaders was made during the relevant period.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Backlog Vacancies

1141. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee has recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, action taken thereon since 1993 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in respect of backlog vacancies concerning this Ministry and the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on January 1, 1993 in class I, II, III and IV category under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its autonomous/Statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) furnish backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in class, I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (d) The information regarding number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs remaining unfilled as on 1st April, 1993 is available and is given in the statement enclosed. The Ministry had initiated special recruitment drives to fill up backlog vacancies and the vacancies were also intimated to respective recruitment agencies like UPSC, SSC and Employment Exchanges.

(c) Does not arise.

(e) The information is being collected.

Statement

Number of Backlog vacancies as on 1.4.93

	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
Class I	17	50
Class II	94	87
Class III	150	283
Class IV	23	41

Adequate Representation of SC/ST Community

1142. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 having demanded posting/appointment of adequate

number of persons from SC and ST community as Heads/CMD and Official/Non Officials Members of Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Board of Autonomous, Statutory, Sub-Ordinate and Attached Offices of various Ministries and Departments;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) total number of posts in the rank of Head/CMD, Official/Non-official Members of Board of Management/Governing Council of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC);

(d) total number of persons from SC/ST community working against such post such as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts; and

(e) reasons, if the demand of SC and ST Parliamentarians is not met satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) This Ministry has not received any such representations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to Article 78(1) of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Corporation a maximum of 15 and a minimum of 5 Directors may be appointed on the Board of the Corporation. The number of Government Directors should be restricted to 2 persons according to the instructions issued by Department of Public Enterprises from time to time. The Managing Director and the Director (Finance) of the Corporation are functional Directors on the Board of NFDC.

(d) Since 1993, non-official Directors have been appointed on the Board of NFDC. As on 1.1.96 and 1.1.2000, Government officials have functioned as part-time Directors on the Board of the Corporation. The position with regard to Functional Directors is as follows:

As on	Name of Post	No. of Posts	No. of posts filled	Whether SC/ST
1.1.96	Managing Director	1	1	No
1.1.96	Director (Finance)	1	Vacant	—
1.1.2000	Managing Director	1	Vacant	—
1.1.2000	Director (Finance)	1	Vacant	—

(e) Reply as given against (a) above.

Deputation of SC/ST Officers

1143. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the DOPT order No. Gi Dept. of Per & AR OM No. 36012/7/77-Est (SCT) dated 2.1.1978 all the Ministries/Depts, are directed to duly consider the candidates belonging to the SCs/STs while filling post/assignments by way of deputation;

(b) if so, the total staff sent on deputation to man various post/assignments belonging to class I, II, III & IV category in various foreign assignments from the Ministry of Heavy Industries;

(c) the total number of persons belonging to SCs/STs out of them;

(d) the percentage of such SC/ST persons as compared to the total staff in the above categories; and

(e) reasons if the persons belonging to the SC/ST categories have not been given adequate representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the inception of this Ministry, no staff has been sent on deputation to man various post/assignments belonging to Class I, II, III & IV category in various foreign assignments.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 710 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2000, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the

Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2398/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 719 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2000 rescinding the Notification No. G.S.R. 597 (E) dated the 20th August, 1999 issued under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2399/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub section (7) of section 9A of the Customs and Tariff Act, 1975:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 667 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on six specified forms on oxo-alcohols, originating in or exported from Poland, South Korea, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iran, USA and European Union, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 681(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw final anti-dumping duty on Dead Burnt Magnesite originating in or exported from China by rescinding notification No. 98/96-Cus., dated the 20th December, 1996.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 688(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 696(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty at revised

- rates on Sodium Ferrocyanide originating in or exported from China PR, on the basis of the review findings of the designated authority.
- (v) G.S.R. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 97/96-Cus., dated the 20th December, 1996.
- (vi) G.S.R. 698(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on the metronidazole, originating in or exported from China PR, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (vii) G.S.R. 699(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 44/2000-Cus., dated the 17th April, 2000.
- (viii) G.S.R. 722(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin C, originating in or exported from Russia, and European Union, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (ix) G.S.R. 723(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 28/2000-Cus., dated the 16th March, 2000.
- (x) G.S.R. 732(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 46/99-Cus., dated the 29th April, 1999.
- (xi) G.S.R. 751(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on Ethylene propylene diene rubber originating in or exported from Korea RP, and imported into India as recommended by the designated authority.
- (xii) G.S.R. 752(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 70/2000-Cus., dated the 19th May, 2000.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 762(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 37/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 763(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Hydroxyl Amine Sulphate, originating in or exported from the USA, Japan and the European Union, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xv) G.S.R. 722(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Aniline, originating in or exported from Japan and the United States of America, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 773(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 41/2000-Cus., dated the 10th April, 2000.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 785(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce/modify the basic customs duty on specified varieties of the fabrics in accordance with the Indo-EU and Indo-US MOUs on textiles.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 793(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (xix) G.S.R. 794(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide for concessional rate of export duty on specified varieties of leather.

- (xx) G.S.R. 797(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on trimethoprim, originating in or exported from China PR at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 845(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 40/97-cus., dated 29th April, 1997.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 856(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 159/95-Cus., dated the 14th November, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2400/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R. 678(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 32/99-CE, dated 8th July, 1999.
- (ii) G.S.R. 679(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 62/95 CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (iii) G.S.R. 680(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 64/95 CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (iv) The Central Excise (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 686(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) G.S.R. 703(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein.

- (vi) G.S.R. 734 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two notifications mentioned therein.
- (vii) G.S.R. 764(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 64/95-CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (viii) G.S.R. 767(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2000-CE, dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (ix) G.S.R. 801(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2000-CE, dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (x) G.S.R. 803(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to supersede Notification No. 41/2000-CE, dated the 26th May, 2000 and also seek exemption from payment of Central Excise duty to all Excisable goods when procured by a Unit in the Special Economic Zone.
- (xi) The Central Excise (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 669(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xii) The Central Excise (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 684(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 855(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 2000 seeking to amend the Notification No. 32/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2401/2000]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R. 687(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with

an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.

- (ii) G.S.R. 700(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (iii) G.S.R. 725(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend 11 existing customs Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iv) G.S.R. 766(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
- (v) G.S.R. 771(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt copper cathodes, wire bars and wire rods recovered from toll smelting or toll processing abroad of copper reverts earlier exported from India from the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.
- (vi) G.S.R. 792(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17 October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st May 2000.
- (vii) G.S.R. 795(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind three notifications mentioned therein.
- (viii) G.S.R. 796(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 100/89-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1989.
- (ix) G.S.R. 804(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum to supersede Notification No. 79/2000-Cus., dated the 26th May, 2000 and also to seek exemption

from payment of Customs duty to all Excisable-goods when imported or procured from a private/public bonded warehouse by a unit in the Special Economic Zone.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2402/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Public Debt (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 670 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2000 under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Public Debt Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2403/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 798(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from payment of foreign travel tax to members of the Italian delegation, under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2404/2000]

[Translation]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Fourth Report

4. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

12.31½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Eighth Report

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants—2000-2001 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals'.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 27th November, 2000 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from the Revised List of Government Business for Friday, the 24th November, 2000.
2. Consideration and passing of the Company (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999.
3. Consideration and passing of the Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Children) Bill, 2000.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:-
 - (a) The Passport (Entry into India) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
 - (b) The Forfeiture (Repeal) Bill, 2000
 - (c) The Coal (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000
5. Consideration and passing of the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, 1998 after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
6. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills seeking to replace these Ordinances:-
 - (a) The Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000
 - (b) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000
 - (c) The Central Road Fund Ordinance, 2000.
7. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (91st Amendment) Bill, 2000.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have given an Adjournment Motion regarding the difficulties being faced by the coconut farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after 'submissions by Members', and not now.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I request the following items may be included in the Business of the House for the next week:-

1. Discussion on dumping of Chinese goods in India.
2. Women's Reservation Bill.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he is going to present Women's Reservation Bill in this session or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can only make your submission.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I request the following items may be included in the Business of the House for the next week:-

1. Discussion on continuous campaign against the Aligarh Muslim University by the anti-minority elements, affecting the University adversely and the need for positive response by the Government in protection of the University;
2. The framework for a new National Curriculum for Schools is most ill-conceived and it needs to be discussed.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Sir, well considered contemplation is needed for removing the regional imbalance and economic disparity pervading the country. In regard to removing industrial backwardness specially from Bihar and north eastern States and to find the solution for their existing problems and for the better utilization of the ample natural resources and skilled human resources of these regions. I request to include debate on it in the list of business for the next week.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, kindly include the following matters in the list of business for the next week in public interest:

1. The need for special efforts to provide employment in the famine hit regions of Gujarat for handling the frightening situation of drought there.

2. Need for making proper arrangements for combating increasing unemployment in rural areas.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Sir, the river Yamuna flows in Delhi along the bank of which there are many jhuggi clusters which are increasing pollution. If the 15 Kms. long belt along its bank is developed by planting trees then people can stroll there in morning and evening.

Through you I would like to demand from the Union Minister of Environment and Forests to start this scheme at the earliest so that it can provide the citizens of the vicinity a healthier environment and stop pollution.

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): Sir, I request the following items may be included in the Business of the House for the next week:-

1. Need to generate more electricity in Maharashtra in view of acute shortage of electricity.
2. Need to convert 'OUDH' station at Nasik into full-fledged railway station in view of oncoming Kumbamela in 2003.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, kindly include the following items in the list of business for next week:

1. In regard to establishing new fertilizer unit as proposed by Krishak Bharati Cooperative (KRIBHCO) in place of Gorakhpur unit of Indian Fertilizer Corporation Limited which is lying closed for the last 10 years.

2. In regard to, starting air services between Delhi-Gorakhpur, for Gorakhpur is a prime religious, cultural and industrial city of Uttar Pradesh and in view to the lakhs of local and foreign tourists visiting the city every year.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I request the following items may be included in the Business of the House for the next week:-

1. Need to allocate adequate funds from Textiles Technology Fund to Handloom Industry with a view to protecting the industry as lakhs of families are engaged in it in Tamil Nadu alone.
2. Need to grow 'Amla' and other items in drought-prone areas as 'Amla' and certain other items grow on alkaline resistant and drought-prone areas.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of unemployment and starvation in the country should be considered which arised due to entry of foreign capital along with foreign capital baseu technique in the field of industry in country which resulted into the country's labour based technology becoming outdated.

The new agriculture policy announced by the Government is unable to find the solution of agricultural problems and warning. Therefore, a debate should be undertaken for comprehensive amendment in agriculture policy.

12.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Closing down of various small and cottage industries due to non-revision of the Master plan of Delhi

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation towards the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard:

"The law and order situation which came to standstill as a result of the closure of various small and cottage industries due to not amending the Master Plan of Delhi and the steps taken by the Government in this regard."

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion regarding the coconut growers...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received any notice for your Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway, the officers of the Secretariat are ascertaining the position. Give some time to ascertain the position.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, please hear me...(Interruptions) I cannot just sit down like this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise it now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention is an half-an-hour business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is already listed in today's List of Business. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, the 'Zero Hour' is taken up immediately after the Question Hour....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We would take up the 'Zero Hour' after completing this Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, it is a convention that 'Zero Hour' is taken immediately after the Question Hour....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today is the last day of the week. I have received 44 notices for 'Zero Hour' today. We would finish the list of notices that we have received.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, what about my notice for Adjournment Motion?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, I have already answered your question. I have not received any notice for Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, it is a very urgent matter....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention is also an urgent motion. We would take up the 'Zero Hour' immediately after that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, the Zero Hour is taken up immediately after the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Zero Hour would be taken up after the Calling Attention is over. Please do not waste his time now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, the Zero Hour is taken up immediately after the Question Hour....(Interruptions) There are many important issues...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention is already listed in the List of Business today. This is also an important issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the Calling Attention can be taken up after the Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention is only for half an hour and after that we would take up the Zero Hour. It is because we have also called the concerned Minister for this purpose...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, first you can allow half an hour for the Zero Hour and then you could take up the Calling Attention...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It was not decided in BAC...(Interruptions) It could be taken up on Monday also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have called the hon. Minister concerned for this. It has to be taken up today only.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 14th November, 2000, the Supreme Court issued the following orders:

"In the first instance, we, therefore, issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Delhi and also to the Commissioner, MCD to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt for the continued inaction on the part of the NCT, Delhi and for the non-compliance of the various orders passed by this

Court starting from 1996 and including the orders dated 8th September, 1999, 30th August, 2000 and 12th September, 2000 regarding the closing of the pollution units situated in the residential areas."

Thereafter, the officials of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Municipal Corporation started sealing polluting as well as other industries in residential areas. This led to unrest involving roadblocks leading to traffic jams, burning of buses etc.

12.16 hours

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

To facilitate understanding of the present position, it is necessary to recount the developments that have taken place from 2nd February, 1996, that is, the date from which the Court started passing orders regarding closure/relocation of industries from the residential areas. The order of 2nd February, 1996 reads:

"Learned counsel agree that a high power Committee be constituted which can examine as to which type of industries can be permitted in residential areas. We therefore, direct the Chief Secretary, NCT, Delhi to constitute a Committee consisting of one Member each from NCT, Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU). The Chairman of the Committee shall be representative of NCT, Delhi Administration. The Committee shall be constituted by the Chief Secretary, NCT, Delhi Administration within two weeks of the receipt of this order by the Chief Secretary."

On 4th October, 1996, the Court noted that the then Principal Secretary to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had filed an affidavit intimating the progress of the High Powered Committee set up by the Court. It was stated that out of 45,000 applications received, after deleting duplicate applications, 43,045 applications were scrutinised. Of these, 39,166 applications did not qualify for grant of necessary permission under the Master Plan. The remaining 3,879 units/applications were inspected by a Committee constituted of MCD, Department of Industries, Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and Delhi Pollution Control Committee. This Committee found only 376 units to qualify for grant of permission to run the units in the residential area.

On 18th December 1996, the then Principal Secretary to Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

assured the Court through an affidavit filed on 18th December, 1996, that possession of 1300 acres of land would be taken by the NCT and forms for allotments were being supplied to the industries. In its order of 18th December, 1996, the Court observed:

"We reiterate that we are satisfied that the NCT, Delhi Administration is seriously processing the project of relocating the industries operating in residential/non-conforming areas of Delhi. We are further satisfied that the industries are also cooperating.... It has taken quite some time for the Delhi Administration to realise the importance of the matter and to get into the grip of the matter. The Government having now taken up the matter seriously it is time for this Court to step aside as at present and leave the field for the Government to act on its own and relocate the industries in accordance with the plan formulated by this Court. ... The NCT, Delhi Administration shall file progress reports in this Court every three months."

Subsequently, however, since no progress was noted by the Court, it had started making adverse comments on non-compliance of its orders.

The present situation has arisen due to failure of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to develop pots for relocation of industries in Bawana and other such areas. In this connection, it needs to be underlined that the Supreme Court started passing orders from 2nd February, 1996 and up till 9th December, 1999, no one talked of amending the Master Plan.

Government are aware of the problems that are being faced by the industries functioning in the residential areas as well as of the house-owners and occupiers who are using their property for residential purposes in the residential areas. Government are keen to find a solution which would be just and fair to all concerned. Government have agreed, in principle, subject to observance of safeguards in respect of pollution norms, to redefine household industries in terms of the recommendations made by a Committee known as the Jagdish Sagar Committee. These norms pertain to the number of persons who can work in household industries, the power can be sanctioned and the area that can be used etc....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please take your seat. Let him make his statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the statement by the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. Let him answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat. You will have the opportunity to ask clarifications.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please resume your seat. Do not interrupt like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, there is a limit. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, you also resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, what is this? It is a Calling Attention. You just cannot stand up and say anything. Take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, Government would also amend the Master Plan, if necessary, to acquire more lands for relocation of industries in industrial areas.

Government would also request the Supreme Court to give a little more time for relocation. The matter, at present, rests with the Supreme Court.

I would also invite attention of this august House to a larger question: in what type of Delhi do we want to live, and what type of legacy do we wish to bequeath to posterity and to our children and grand children? Do we want our city to become a junk-yard of unauthorised constructions, mirroring civic and moral chaos, or an orderly and disciplined capital of a Resurgent Republic, embodying values of justice and honesty on the basis of which we have often claimed a pre-eminent position for our culture and civilisation.

Presently, in our cities, the pollution levels are increasing and health costs escalating. About 40,000 premature deaths, 17 million respiratory hospital admissions and 1.2 billion restricted activity days are occurring annually due to polluted air. Three cities — Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta — account for 44 per cent of these deaths. New and more virulent forms of diseases are appearing. The present unhealthy conditions are estimated to cause an annual loss of 30.5 million 'Disability Adjusted Life Years' which is equivalent to Rs. 36,600 crore.

Delhi has already earned the dubious distinction of having becoming the third worst polluted city in the world. Fifty million gallons per day of industrial waste is going into the Yamuna and what is seen flowing in it today is nothing but sewer and industrial waste. In Okhala alone, for instance, during March-April, 2000, the biochemical oxygen demand level in the river was about 70 milligram per litre as against a standard of 3 milligram per litre, that is, 25 times more than the permissible level.

If the present attitudes and practices persist, Delhi would run the risk of having as many as 30 million people in the next few years and becoming an ugly, unhealthy, unworkable and unliveable city. In the process, a fatal blow would also be dealt to the development of the National Capital Region, which comprises a substantial part of three important neighbouring States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

In the context of these stark realities, should we rest our outlook on short-termism? Our thinkers always had an expansive view of time and space. We may be well advised not to reduce everything to the immediate, see things in their entirety and project our vision into the future. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given a notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you were a Speaker in the Kerala Assembly. You know what a Calling Attention is.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am a Member of the Lok Sabha; I am not the Speaker....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should know the procedure. Please do not disturb now. I have called Shri Madan Lal khurana.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have given a notice to raise an important matter....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Calling Attention has already been taken up. Please do not interrupt now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I was told by the hon. Speaker that I could raise it in the 'Zero Hour'. I may be permitted to speak about the difficulties of the coconut growers....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you resume your seat now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Calling Attention has already been taken up and the hon. Minister has answered. Hon. Members have to seek clarifications. Why are you interrupting the proceedings now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you are interrupting the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want it to go on record that Shri Radhakrishnan is interrupting the proceedings of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the same statement was given in the Rajya Sabha....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Calling Attention Motion has been taken up now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.28 hrs.

At this Stage Shri Tufani Saroj and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have already taken up Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please help me in conducting the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singhji they belong to your party. Please call them. They should not come to the well of the House in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Muslims are being harassed in Uttar Pradesh. They are being oppressed. Muslims are being killed. The marriage parties of Muslims are being harassed. Number of Muslim Community joining the marriage party are being harassed. The day before yesterday maternal grandfather and maternal uncle of a Muslims bridegroom were beaten by the police. Many persons are missing and several persons were arrested by the police. Mr. Speaker had assured me during the Question Hour that he will allow me to raise it during the Zero Hour but you are not allowing me to raise it....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singhji please tell your party Members to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, it is unfortunate that a senior Member who is also a leader of a party is behaving like this. This is too much. I am sorry to mention this. You are asking your Members to parade into the well of the House. Is this the way?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: OK, you please go back to your seats.

12.30 hrs.

At this stage Shri Tufani Saroj and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? The Speaker has already taken up this item. Now you are asking the Members of your party to parade here. This is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: People are being killed there....(Interruptions)

Please protect them....(Interruptions) The Minister of Home Affairs should give statement on this issue....(Interruptions) Their houses are being looted. They are being killed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Madan Lal Khurana. Let us finish off this item. We can take up the 'Zero Hour' also after that.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, had assured me. Why are you crossed with me?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am crossed because the Members of your party are interrupting the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Then will our Members surrender to their plight?...(Interruptions) People are being looted there....(Interruptions) They are being killed....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is this the way? I am not the only one to get angry. Anybody sitting here will get angry. This is too much.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Sir, is the procedure changed? There should be 'Zero Hour' first....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But this is decided by the BAC.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the similar statement was given in the Rajya Sabha two days back. The people of Delhi were very much agitated....(Interruptions) Yesterday I had met some important high officials of the Central Government. I was expecting that some sort of statement regarding the solution to the problem will be issued today but today again you repeated the same statement. It has been reported in today's newspaper that 38 thousand industrial units in Delhi are going to be sealed and a large number of paramilitary forces have been called. When these two statements will be published in the newspapers then it will be very difficult to control the people of Delhi, so my submission is that today Delhi....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, this is not the way. You are a senior Member of the House. Is this the way to behave in the House? By sitting there, you are passing running commentary. I am trying to finish off this item as early as possible so that the 'Zero Hour' could be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Through you I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should not give any message to the people of Delhi that may lead them to the sense of insecurity that they are being led to destruction. So my request is that you should find out some amicable solution to the problem.

Secondly, in your statement you have clearly stated that as per the order of the Supreme Court, industries creating pollution should only be sealed and the other non-polluting industries are exempted from such action. When no any action was taken by the Delhi Government or its authorities since 1996 till date, the Supreme Court took the cognizance of the matter and issued a so cause notice to the Chief Secretary and the corporation Commissioner of the Government of Delhi that why they should not be punished for the contempt of Court. Meanwhile a statement on behalf of the Chief Secretary of Delhi was published in the newspaper that all the small scale industries of Delhi, total of 1 lakh 26 thousand will be sealed. I would like to explain the way these industries were sealed. Purani Sabji Mandi falls in my Parliamentary Constituency, Delhi Sadar. Their venders roast peanuts and sell. The so cause notices were also served to them that why not they should not be fined....(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It seems Jag Mohan Saheb does not like poor people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may ask clarification.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to know whether the inquiry will be conducted against the Chief Secretary of Delhi and those officers who had given such orders without consulting their political heads or if so then who had given them permission to do so. Whether the inquiry will be conducted regarding whatever happened in Delhi...?(Interruptions) Just now you have asked that who is responsible for converting Delhi into dustbin, slum or dirty city. I would like to know as to who was in power in Delhi when during the emergency period all jhuggi clusters were relocated in rehabilitation colonies who was in power in Delhi between 1980 and 1990 when all the unauthorized colonies settled till 1997 during Janata Party were authorized. Who was responsible for all the dirt of Delhi?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please ask question.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It is a serious issue. I have got this opportunity after a much effort.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone has opportunity. It must be finished within half-an-hour.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): You cannot fix any time limit for this issue. It is a serious issue that you will have to take into account.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Half-an-hour has been allotted for calling attention motion.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: We both have participated on discussion calling attention motion for the last twenty years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ten minutes will be given to him and the rest of Members will be given five minutes each.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Why is there any scope of discrimination in it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kamal Nathji, you have made this rule.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: You too know how it is conducted.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Why was the Master Plan required. Delhi was facing three problem—First, more than one thousand unauthorized colonies had settled in Delhi. second, when the people did not get employment in residential areas they opened shops and the third one was the problems of industries. When the BJP came to power in Delhi and I was elected as Chief Minister then I assured the people through an affidavit that we will bring about changes in the Master Plan of Delhi. I did not say this on my own behalf; rather it was in the manifesto of BJP that if the BJP comes to power in Delhi then we will change the Master Plan. So those who are talking about changing the Master Plan are not doing so on their own behalf.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Sir, it is a very important issue, let him speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But there is a time limit. One should stick to the time schedule.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The figure that have been given today about the pollution were very much in existence some ten to fifteen years back. Is Delhi getting polluted only today? I do agree that the polluting industries must be relocated from Delhi, however I feel that it is not appropriate to relocate the small industries which are

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

non-polluting and where fifteen lakh people are employed and to threaten people of using paramilitary forces to remove them, as it will adversely affect the economy of Delhi. I am talking about the Master Plan simply because it was in the manifesto of BJP and Sahib Singh and I have filed affidavits in this regard. Therefore, some via media should be found out by way of amending the Master Plan of Delhi. If it is not done then I have no option left before me except to lead the people's movement of Delhi against the relocation of industries.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: They are the enemy of the poor people, they are working against the interests of the poor people...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, I have to name you. You are fomenting trouble in the House. You are getting up every time.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, you are not expected to say anything and everything. There is a limit. There is a rule to be followed in this House.

[*Translation*]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): It is all because the Junior Members are made senior.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now what are you doing?

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: It is my third term.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court had served a so cause notice on 14th instant to the Government of National Capital Region regarding the Contempt of Court. It is not a new problem. It has been persisting since a long time. The controversial statements are constantly coming in this regard. While Shri Jag Mohanji is not ready for amending the Master Plan, it has been published in the newspapers that Shri Madan Lal Khurana has met the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs and both are willing to effect amendment in the Master Plan. The Government have created a new controversy. It is strange that Shri Madan Lal Khuranaji will remain in the ruling party and will also lead agitation. It would have been better if the hon'ble Prime Minister were here and would have clarified the controversial position of the Government. I allege that the Bhartiya Janta Party has further complicated the matter.

It is a very important matter as health and life are complementary to each other. On the one hand it is a question of pollution and on the other hand it is a matter of livelihood of those poor fellows who have migrated to Delhi from Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in search of their livelihood and got employed in small scale industries. They are not rich people. They are going to stage a demonstration in front of the Parliament on 27th and in front of the Supreme Court on 28th. Only 20 lakh people are not affected on account of the closure of one lakh twenty six thousand industrial units. Rather the small scale industries of Delhi have an impact on the industries located in Aligarh, Khurja, Muradabad, Ahmedabad and Jamnagar. The goods which are casted in Aligarh are processed in Delhi. The pots of China clay of Khurja, the menthol oil of Muradabad, China clay of Ahmedabad for making pots and brass and copper parts from Jamnagar are vital inputs for the industries in Delhi. Overall crores of people are going to be affected on account of the closure of these industries in Delhi. So this issue is not concerned with Delhi alone.

A report has been published revealing that 98 percent industries do not cause any pollution. Recently Shri Jag Mohanji's remark about the Government of Delhi was that it is not a State. The Chief Minister of Delhi cannot dismiss even a constable. The Government of Delhi do not possess even an inch of land. It is DDA that gives land. For this purpose four to fifteen thousand acres land will be required. The papers of the land are not with the Delhi Government. I would like to ask the Government to furnish information in this regard. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have also amended their Master Plan. After all if there can be a way out then it must be found out. You do not have the right to play with the lives of lakhs and crores of people without providing any alternative arrangements. It would have been better if the Government would have made alternative arrangements. I allege that this Government did not make any alternative arrangements. It is not only the question of livelihoods of only 20 lakh people, rather crores of people have been affected on account of this and this Government is playing with the lives of those people. The Government is not at all serious about this issue. Even today they were not ready to do anything if the Supreme Court would not have indicted them to act. The law and order situation in Delhi has deteriorated and three persons have been killed. Those who have lost their livelihood may go to any extent. I would like to ask two questions to the Government. In view of the controversial position of the Government, the statement of Shri Jag Mohan in total contrast to the stand of Madan Lal Khuranaji and the assurances of Shri Advaniji and the hon'ble Prime Minister that they are ready to amend the Master Plan, I would like to ask whether the alternative

arrangements are being made in the event of closure of the industries in Delhi? We will not tolerate it at any cost and will strongly oppose this more unless any alternative arrangements will be made.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may go through today's List of Business. I am calling the names of only those Members who have given notices to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: A serious situation has arisen. I should be given a chance to speak about the position of coconut growers. I have given a notice also to move an Adjournment Motion....(Interruptions) I would like to speak on the position of coconut growers...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Adjournment Motion has not been received by the Secretariat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has not been received.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, Delhi has been witnessing for the last several days a sight which has seldom been seen before. I do not want to get into politics. I do not want to get into what happened after 1996 or who was responsible and who was not.

Sir, I want to start with the statement which the Minister has made. He asked, "What kind of Delhi would you like to live in?" Sir, I do not stand for hazardous industries and polluting industries. The Minister also mentioned that in a few years we will have 30 million people in Delhi. He asked, "What kind of Delhi do you want in the future?" Sir, the Delhi I want and I think that every one in this House wants is a Delhi which sees the reality and sees the pressures of population, and the pressures of Development. Shri Jag Mohan was the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. He was heading the DDA. He understands Delhi. When he was the Vice Chairman of DDA, he set up NOIDA and Trans-Yamuna colonies. What was the necessity for it? It was because at the time Shri Jag Mohan saw the stark realities of the future. Today, the situation in Delhi has entirely changed. Several years ago, the UNDP report talked of migration from rural centres to urban centres. The pressure of population

and pressure of development had become so profound that they dictate a new look and new direction to urban planning.

We have talked of industries closing down. Sir, I think this is being confused. I am going to the extent of saying that even the facts which are being put to the court are sometimes not being presented correctly. There are two issues, namely, conforming areas and non-conforming areas and polluting industries and non-polluting industries. A dry-cleaning shop or a bakery cannot be a polluting unit. Are they not the need of the society? But that is non-conforming so that is illegal. It is because the Master Plan says that it is non-conforming. So, let us not confuse between conforming, non-conforming, polluting and non-polluting units.

What is pollution? I do not think I need to learn from Shri Jag Mohan what pollution is. Sir, water coming out of your bathroom is the cause of pollution under Water Act. Shri Jag Mohan, it depends on the receiving body. If the same water which is coming out from your bathroom, goes to a pond, it is pollution but if it goes to sewage, it is not pollution. So, let us not also misunderstand what pollution is. Pollution from a factory on the outskirts of Delhi which adds to the pollution load of Delhi is pollution. But the same factory situated 50 miles away does not pollute the ambient air. So, on the basis of this misunderstanding let us not head towards the wrong direction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear the questions from you now.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I am just trying to make them understand. Sir, this issue first came up when I was the Minister of Environment. If you look at the records, there was no Delhi Pollution Control Board at that time. The Supreme Court had asked what are these units. I had said that there are petrol pumps, etc. Is not petrol pump polluting? There were bakeries, *chakies*, dry cleaning shops, etc. I had said that it is not possible to close these units. They may be non-conforming. The Master Plan was made 20 years ago when Delhi was different, when the country was different and at that time Shri Jag Mohan himself was very different. At that time, there were certain perceptions.

I would like to bring to the notice of Shri Jag Mohan that the question is of carrying capacity. It depends on the carrying capacity of the area about which we are talking. Carrying capacity of two floors where 50 people are living is urban pressure. But two floors with five people living is not urban pressure.

[Shri Kamal Nath]

So, we need to look at the carrying capacity of that area. If 70 per cent of that area is industrial, but non-conforming, we say throw out industries and make it residential. One has to be practical on this issue. Today the situation dictates, the development of the last 20 years dictates, and the population increases in the last 20 years dictates us to be practical. Shri Jagmohan himself says that thirty million is going to be the population of Delhi. If thirty million is going to be the population of Delhi shortly, what was the population of Delhi when we made this Master-Plan 20 years ago? What will we do with this Master-plan now? This Master-plan is not fit for the garbage. We need to review this Master-plan which will be in vogue till 2001.

The Master-plan is not a static concept. Master-plans world over are a dynamic concept. We should be able to face this stark reality. I looked at what Shri Jagmohan said in his statement - that is, stark realities. This is what exactly I am also saying. I am repeating what he has stated. It is in pursuance of this stark reality that I stand here. I urge him to please not look at industries alone. Some of these industries serve the populace. They serve the economy of Delhi. If there are going to be no industry, what will happen to the economy of Delhi? Take the example of all the major capitals of the world. Take the latest capital. When Berlin was made the capital of Germany after the reunification of the two Germanys, what did they do? Did they throw out all the industries?

I would only like to urge Shri Jagmohan in conclusion to please look at the reality. The Master-plan is to be reviewed on 2001. How far are we away from 2001? Let us set into motion the review process. Let there be a Parliamentary Committee or a Select Committee. There are members from Delhi in this House, there are Members from the National Capital Region in this House. All of them should be involved in this process.

It is not that just that Shri Jagmohan wants a Delhi of tomorrow. We all want a Delhi of tomorrow. We all are going to spend much of our time in and around Delhi. I am not looking at just a change in the Master-plan to accommodate some industries which are closing down. I am looking at a radical change in the Master-plan. Is he going to set into motion a Committee or a body of experts to start reviewing this Master-plan? I do not want a Delhi which lives in terror—whether it is the industry or housing. I do not want to read in the newspapers that Delhi is being run by bulldozers. I do not want to live in a Delhi where people are in terror where somebody says that this is illegal, this is non-conforming or this is polluting. That is not the Delhi any one of us wants to live in.

I would like to ask him a specific question. What steps is he going to take to review the Master-plan which expires in the year 2001? Until that time, would he stop that he has embarked upon? He has embarked upon spreading this feeling of uncertainty and terror in Delhi.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): I do not want to delve upon what the earlier speakers have already said. I come from a place called Vizag which is also polluted. I was involved in making a Master-plan for that city when I was the Chairman of the Urban Development Authority there for quite a long time.

Master-plan is not a very hard and last rule. It should be modified from time to time to suit our needs. It has to be reviewed periodically by making necessary amendments to it to suit the present needs. When the pollution part comes, you must deal with it with a human face. The present situation in a country like ours is such that you cannot throw out overnight tiny industries and small industries. What will be their livelihood? How will they live? So, you must have a human face.

Then you must segregate what is polluting and what is not polluting. A blanket throwing out of industries would result in the type of agitation that we have seen in Delhi. It is a very sad incident. It should not have occurred. It is a black mark in the history, I should say.

The other thing is that pollution is not coming from the industrial units alone. What about the automobile industry? How many twenty-year old cars are running on the roads of Delhi?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: What about the Badarpur Thermal Power Station?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Yes, There are big Thermal Power Stations which are there. I now come to my point. How many old cars, including the cars of many hon. Members are presently running on the roads of Delhi? Are they conforming to the Euro-II standard at least if not the Euro-III standard? Then, why do you not stop those cars from running? The most polluting industry in Delhi today is the automobile industry, I mean, the cars and not these industries. What action have you taken? So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to take these things into consideration. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to take steps to stop old cars from running which are polluting Delhi.

There is air pollution. Some industries in general and the automobile industry in particular create smokes. Smokes are only creating air pollution. Of course, there is water pollution which is a different thing. But to stop

the air pollution, which these industries are creating as also the water pollution, Mr. Minister, you must have a segregation. A time-bound programme should be taken up. Now, the small and tiny industries are suffering very much.

India is a very poor country. Today, if you want to close down these industries, lakhs of people would suffer. All these chemical industries have been dumped into India by the developed countries. If you want to stop pollution, these chemical industries have to be closed down first. Are you taking those steps? You are not taking those steps. India became a dumping-yard for the chemical industry today. It is the most polluting industry. It is not that the our developed industries cannot make bulk drugs. India can make it. But we are prone to these things.

Our country is a poor country. The Government should have a human face and deal with the situation amicably so that our small and tiny industries do not suffer. These non-polluting small and tiny industries can be accommodated in the Master Plan. There is no blanket Master Plan for ever to be implemented.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to take these facts into consideration and amend it accordingly to suit the needs. I would request him to come back to this House with that Master Plan so that we can all approve it.

With this, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have a lot of respect for the Urban Development Minister Shri Jag Mohan for his courage, conviction and, sometimes, for the work which he does, without caring about the party line though I differ with his approach and other things. He is caring for the good of the country. But I am very much shocked to hear that before the Supreme Court could pass a judgement, Shri Jag Mohan, possibly under the compulsion of the party, passed a judgement in his reply saying that the present situation has arisen due to the failure of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to develop plots for relocation of industries in Bawana and such other areas. I do not say that by saying so he is meaning our party Government here. I am taking into consideration the entire Delhi Government. Is it a reality? Is it the truth? Delhi is our Capital. The image of Delhi is the image of India to the international community, to a great extent. I do not like to talk in terms of party line on this very serious issue which concerns all of us who stay in Delhi, especially the Delhi-ites. The hon. Minister has found a reason that the present situation is due to the failure of the Government. I do not have to take much of the time

of this House in narrating all the court orders. Is it only the Delhi Government which is responsible for this? Is it not the DDA, the MCD which are responsible? Is it not due to the judgement of the Supreme Court that the nodal agency, the Urban Development Ministry is doing this? Mr. Minister, I agree with you as far as the part of the reply about your dream for Delhi. I fully share the concern with you. We want that type of a Delhi. On such matters, do not go by political compulsions. Please rise above everything. If Khuranaji feels that he can solve the problem at one stroke, we should all be happy. If Shri Vajpayee could remove you, put Shri Khurana in the chair and give him the power, we should all be happy. It is not our problem. It is your problem. Not only in his own power but also let Shri Khurana get some other power to demolish the Government of Shrimati Sheila Dixit. Let him get some more power. I do not mind it. But, Mr. Minister, can you solve the problem in that direction? The first question is this. Do you have the land readily available in your possession? The answer is 'no'.

13.00 hrs.

The second question is this. Do you have an answer to relocate all these industries which are polluted within one or two or three months? The answer is 'no'. What have you to do? I agree that the axe of the Supreme Court is on our head. I do not like to question the judgement. Sometimes courts pass judgements which help us; sometimes they dictate as to how the legislator should have behave and move. I think that the time has come where we should apply our mind as to in which direction we shall act in implementing our policies.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the last four days, what is going on in the media is whether Shri Madan Lal Khurana was responsible in 1996 or whether Shrimati Sheila Dikshit is responsible in 2000. This is not the answer. I represent a constituency where villages are there. I know the load of Delhi. More than six thousand people of my constituency are working in Delhi. When the hon. Minister says that it would be more after a few years and that the pressure on Delhi would be too much, I agree with the hon. Minister.

Yes, I support the changes to be made in the Master Plan. Changing the Master Plan can be a slogan to convince the people who are victimised now. What kind of a Master Plan would you like to bring? The borders of Delhi are limited. Uttar Pradesh gave us Noida which has helped us to try to get rid of some suffocation. Would Haryana give us Sonapat or Gurgaon? There, the people are still suffocated. Where do we go? Therefore, I appeal, through the hon. Deputy-Speaker, to Shri Madan Lal Khurana and especially our hon. Minister that on this

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

point, let us not play politics. What is the power left to the Government of Delhi? Shri Khurana was the Chief Minister of Delhi. Did he enjoy the power of Chief Minister the way Shri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, enjoyed under the Constitution? The answer is 'no'. The Constitutional power of Delhi Government is such that even if a Chief Minister keeps awake in the night, he does to know that the Lt. Governor got a diktat from the North Block. Be it a Congress Government or be it a B.J.P. Government, that is the administrative and Constitutional structure of the Delhi Government. Therefore, I appeal that at least on this one issue let this Parliament, cutting across party lines, not score points as to whether Shri Madan Lal Khurana has failed or Shrimati Sheila Dikshit has failed. The reality is this. To implement the court order in such a short span with lack of land, is difficult.

13.02 hours

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, I conclude by saying only one thing. If my father is suffocating with in asthma or some serious kind of cough and if my doctor says that my father's coughing is too much, or is poisonous to my son... ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It seems you are not seeking any clarification, you are just making a speech.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Does it mean I would kill my father? I should treat my father in a different room and also create space for my child.

The situation of Delhi is like that. We have got to plan for both. When the bulldozers go and demolish, Shri Jag Mohan, I know that you carry with you your conviction to make a clean Delhi. After all what for we have Parliament? It is for the people. After all, we cry for whom? We cry for the people who elect us. Yes, he might have done something a little irregular, he might have placed these industries somewhere but they are earning. We have got to tell them. Look, we want to change this place providing this order to you. The bulldozer can bulldoze but people look up to Parliament as to how we look to them.

I have four questions only. Firstly, Shri Jag Mohan, we take an attitude free from partisan lines, involving the DDA, the MCD, Delhi Government to comprehensively approach the issue for the changes in the Master Plan, even involving the Delhi MPs, MLAs as to in what manner we can address the issue for the future.

Secondly, will you please for the time being till we do not get the land, try to further pleased before the Supreme Court, to give us some more time till we relocate them in the appropriate place, not to keep the order for demolition or for relocating the industries in force? The authority for licensing and delicensing is the MCD. I do not want to say that because it was done by BJP that is why we are doing it. I do not say that the DDA is under it, that is why you are doing it. I would have said that. But I took a decision that this issue cannot be addressed on the political lines to score points. It is a different issue.

Thirdly, I appeal to you that you, on your own, evaluate the industrial units which are suffering from pollution, whether they could get anti-pollution devices while they are being relocated. With the help of banks or financial institutions they can get this equipment. I know this because I represented once one of the polluted industrial cities called Howrah.

When the anti-pollution measures were implemented, they had no money to buy the anti-pollution equipment and instal them. Finally, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will look at this issue without having any political angle and call a meeting involving the Government of Delhi, the Members representing Delhi both in Parliament and Assembly and the representatives of the associations for a joint operation in future where each one should be a partner without involving politics.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a two days discussion on Delhi should be held. You are not understanding the gravity of situation today. Roads have been blocked in Jaunpur and Ghazipur. Poor muslims are being killed and arrested. You are not understanding the gravity of situation. Therefore, let there be a two-three days discussion on Delhi. Tension is prevailing in Jaunpur-Ghazipur. Six dead bodies are missing, houses are being looted and you say that it is not a question of any significance. It is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister is giving reply. Zero hour will start after the reply of the hon. Minister is over.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank all the distinguished Members who have raised various questions and sought clarifications. I think they are very much needed, because I personally feel that we must

be very clear about the facts first. We must be clear about the fundamentals first. What are the facts? The Master Plan has not been prepared now. This is not 30 or 40 years old. This is the second Master Plan notified in 1990. So, let us be clear about this fact first.

Secondly, how was this Master Plan formulated? It was formulated after inviting all public objections. It was formulated under the statute. It was formulated after taking into account what the former Environment Minister had prescribed under the environment law. These were all placed before Parliament. The DDA Act had been passed by Parliament. The second Master Plan itself had been approved by it in 1990. All agencies concerned had participated in that and approvals had been sought by everybody.

So, what I am trying to say is, so far as this case is concerned, these are the orders of the Supreme Court. I do not want to make any comments about it. But, let us be very clear about the facts. What is the Master Plan and what is the procedure? In my statement, I have already indicated that we are prepared to be very fair and just to all the parties concerned, the industrialists, the residents and also the general public. What do the general public say? You just look at the Opinion Poll conducted by *The Times of India* and *The Hindustan Times*. The result says that 87 per cent of the people who have entered the poll support what is being done now. Then, you look at the petitions filed by the residents in the Supreme Court. They say that they are being suffocated to death and they plead that these illegal industries should be removed. They are not legal industries. They are all illegal industries. Even then I have indicated that wherever there are hardships involved... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: You are talking about phones but the poor do not talk on phones. People of the Jama-Masjid do not make phone calls. Talk about the poor.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way. When the Minister is replying, making a running commentary is not good. If you are not satisfied with the Minister's reply, you can say it later, not now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): How many times the constitution has been amended?

[*English*]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I am coming to that point also.

MR. SPEAKER: You must have some patience to listen to the Minister. Whenever the Ministers speak, there is a running commentary from this side. This is not correct.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, there are also other difficulties involved. I have given the facts and figures. I said that if the present trends and practices continue and if we do not take a firm and fair stand, then not only Delhi would be ruined, but also the National Capital Region about which Shri Ramji Lal Suman has spoken here.

The National Capital Region is a part of India. It is a national commitment. There is a commitment of this very Parliament that we will develop it. How are you going to develop the National Capital Region — Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana — if everything is allowed to come to Delhi and every illegality is regularised? Is National Capital Region not a part of India? It is in the interest of the National Capital Region. What I have stated in my statement is that if the present attitudes continue, if the present trends continue, if the present practices continue, then, not only will Delhi be ruined but the National Capital Region will also be ruined and the process of development will also be affected.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has been speaking there. It is the progress of Uttar Pradesh that is involved. I have gone to all those States. I have found 8,000 industrial plots lying vacant in Rajasthan—developed for the people of Delhi in accordance with the concept of the Master Plan, in accordance with the assurances given by this Parliament that the National Capital Region will be developed. The National Capital Region Board was made. An Act was passed. Now, we are forgetting all this in the heat of the moment. Prudence requires that we should not forget in the heat of the moment what are the fundamentals of the issues involved and what are the actual facts.

The second point that I would like to say is this. Where have I stated that I will not amend the Master Plan? I have laid down principles that the Master Plan can be amended and would be amended provided it is in the interest of planning, provided it does not subvert the very purpose of the Act, provided it does not support the very soul of the Environment Act. Are we going to amend it in a manner which will ruin the Master Plan, which will ruin the environmental law, which should be against the statutes, and which will be against the rulings

[Shri Jag Mohan]

given by the Supreme Court? What has the Supreme Court said? The Supreme Court has said that their orders have consistently been disobeyed since 1996 and this has been done primarily to force them to agree to, *in situ*, regularisation. It is not my issue. It is the Supreme Court which has been considering this case.

I entirely agree with Shri Dasmunsi when he said that it is not a political issue. I am not apportioning the blame 'x', 'y' or 'z'. What I saying is, let us recognise the facts as they stand today and also keep in view the observations that have been made by the Supreme Court. I am not saying about anyone. For two years, they have been giving assurances. They have not developed a single plot. It is only on 14th September, 2000 that the Supreme Court, having got exasperated by the local authorities, said: "We appoint the Ministry of Urban Development to be the nodal agency to secure implementation of the Master Plan."

In the next hearing, we went to the Supreme Court and said, "If they are not listening to you, would they listen to me?" So, the first thing I did was to go to Narela and other areas was there. Six thousand plots have been allotted to the water-polluting industries and to the other polluting industries. I had also submitted for giving more time to the industrialists. In the Supreme Court, we had filed an affidavit pledging give them time so that all the polluting industries can go there and resettle. It was mentioned. Why I am saying that the polluting industries should go to Narela is because I have gone there. I have been with the Department of Industry and there is an arrangement. When the Industries go there, their effluents will be treated and these will become non-polluting industries so far as their impact on the human beings is concerned because there will be technical devices. One industry cannot afford that device. But a group of industries will be able to afford that.

I have given you the figures of the industries waste. Let us not cheat mathematics. This is what I am saying. All this thing is being looked into. Plots have also been allotted in the other areas. Narela has been the GNET since 1989.

Shri Kamal Nath, I think, is a young man. He has better memory than I have. But he should not forget, in 1982, what was the condition during the Asiad? What was the condition during the NAM? What was the condition during the CHOGM? Delhi was a bright city. Now, the question is that if you plan properly, if you implement your plans effectively, if you be fair and just to everybody, then only, the issues can be solved and not otherwise. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me explain it. What I am saying is that the Master Plan can be amended if

there is a public interest involved in it, if it serves the cause of justice, fairplay and equity. It is not like this. What is being asked for? I am giving three concessions.

The total number of demands is four. Seventy-five per cent is being conceded to. What is that I am not agreeing to is that if you have set up an industry in a residential area, which is polluting, then it would not be. The issue is that you have a residence, you live in New Friends Colony and if I go and set up an industry by your side, the suggestion is that you regularise, make that area as an industrial area, and the wrong-doers should be rewarded and the person who is living in that area should be asked to move out....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: That is not the suggestion. You have either misconstrued or you have misunderstood it. I have asked you: "What is a bakery, what is a petrol pump, and what is a dry-cleaning place?"...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I am not raising this issue. What I am saying is whether the interest of justice lies in this fact that you should be asked to move out because I have now decided to declare it as an 'industrial area'. That is the only fundamental issue involved in it.

Sir, you look at the petition. It is not only the industrialists but also the residents who have gone to the Supreme Court. I will read it out to you if you like and if you have got time what the residents of Vishwas Nagar have said. I do not want to waste the time of the House. There is a petition with me coming up on the 28th. It was filed by the residents of those very colonies. It says: "How is it that the illegality is being condoned and the legal persons are being punished?" I have with me a petition addressed to the Human Rights Commission by one Shri Rajinder Singh, who said: "My wife has died because of pollution". He had said in his petition that a gentleman had set up an illegal industry beneath his house and because of the fumes, his wife suffered from asthma and she died. Therefore, the issue is not this. Now, if you go to any school in Delhi, one out of every fourth or fifth child is getting inhaler with him and having respiratory diseases. But I have said: "Be patient. All those industries which are running in the residential areas have to fulfil the Jagdish Sagar Committee's recommendations." This is what the local Members of Parliament met me and said. This is what they want and this is what has been agreed to.

As has been suggested, I am prepared to meet anybody, I am prepared to speak to anybody, and if there is any justice anywhere, I will look into it....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: What I am asking is that when the meeting is going to be held? An assurance was given to the effect that a meeting would be held in which the Chief Minister of Delhi, industry areas, all the MPs of Delhi would be called and a discussion would be held as has to thrush out a middle way for the master plan. Will the Minister be pleased to state as to what has happened to that?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that when they are not listening to the Supreme Court, how can they listen to him? I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any action has been taken against the people and bureaucrats who are responsible for coming up of all these industries. I have been repeatedly saying this thing in the meetings of the Constitutive Committee. It is in the interest of officers that industries come up illegally. I will again say that if you take any action, do take action against those officers in connivance of whom these industries have come up...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, sir, what is all this happening? What does it mean that on the one hand they are running government and playing the role of opposition, on the other. What is this conspiracy?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Should we not talk about the thing which is of the public interest?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We will ask and Khuranaji will give a reply. It is concerned with public or politics? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: We are talking about the public and it has no political overtones.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It do have political overtones. First they victimise the people and then show their concern for them, then what is the role left for us. What is this?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, what is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people who are responsible for it, action should be taken against them.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, I will speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI JAG MOHAN: What I was submitting in this...*(Interruptions)* Let me make it very clear ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to complete. All your points will be answered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, please.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: So far as the issue of action against officials is concerned, I can assure you, action is already on and a number of cases have been referred to the CBI. Shri Vijay Goel knows some of them. The rest I will make a note. The other point is that Shri Madan Lal Khurana has suggested two things. One is about this inquiry. Whether I will hold the inquiry about the lapses that have resulted to that, I am very much prepared to do so. Whether the Supreme Court order was implemented in letter and spirit, whosoever bungled, well, it will come to light. The second point is whether I am prepared to meet anybody, I am prepared to meet any of them. I am prepared to meet all our friends and we will consider. I would call a meeting. There is no question of that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, he is ready to call a meeting.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN: What I am suggesting is, I am prepared. I have an open mind. I have not said that I will not meet anyone. I am prepared to meet anyone. I have only indicated....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, please take your seat. Nobody is following the rules here. I am not giving permission. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not giving permission. You please take your seat.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I will call any meeting. I will accept any suggestion for consideration but what I am saying is, let us be very clear about facts and fundamentals. The second point which I must make it very clear to this House is this. I am not the final authority to amend the DDA Act or the Master Plan. The Master Plan is amended after the Cabinet approves a particular principle. Then, a notification is issued inviting public objection. After public objection is invited, then the matter is considered again by the Government and notification is issued....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jag Mohan, is there any objection to have a meeting?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any objection to have a meeting with the MPs?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: He has agreed to call a meeting. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody except the Minister please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Nobody is making an attack on the poor. Those who have ruined them have gone away. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rashid Alvi, you are disturbing the House time and again.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I would only remind....*(Interruptions)*

13.24 hours

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Rashid Alvi, Shri Hannan Mollah and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, much has been said.

MR. SPEAKER: Unnecessarily, the Treasury Benches are also provoking the other side. You must also keep this in mind. You are also provoking them.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Are they saying about poor? What I am saying is who is the sufferer of this or the scorer of this thing which has happened.

Just imagine what happened in Lal Kuan in 1999. Fifty persons died because there was an industrial unit above the house.

13.25 hours

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

Fifty persons died! Who were the people who died? I am talking of the poor, not of the rich. Who were the persons who died? Delhi has the highest incidents

because of the proximity of the industries. In 1999, 50 people died. They were burnt to death because there was a unit behind and also because there was a unit beneath.

My friend was talking of Calcutta. Delhi today has 15,000 fire incidents, which number is more than that for Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai put together and 300 persons die every year because of fire incidents. Who are the people that die? It is the poor.

So, what I am saying is that all the polluted industries have to go, all hazardous industries have to go. So far as the other industries are concerned, I have already conceded in my statement that in terms of the Jagdish Sagar Committee which was the main demand earlier, we have agreed to re-consider that and re-define them, so far as the schedule is concerned. I have said it in my statement also. I have also said that if need be we will acquire more land to resettle them.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Delhi Government have sealed 38 thousand industrial units in Delhi. But the Hon. Minister has said nothing about reopening them....(Interruptions)

SHRI JAG MOHAN: There is no mention of it in the order of 15 September. The Delhi Government is sealing them on its own. I do not have any such direction of the court. The Court has clearly said that this is their job and we have simply requested them....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: That is not correct. I am not talking of it. (Interruptions) I am talking of the letter from the Chief Minister about the amendment of the Master Plan.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Show me the letter which the Chief Minister of Delhi has written to me for amendment of the Master Plan.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: You have said here that till December 9, 1999 no one talked of amending the Master Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: You have said there is no change in the Master Plan. I want to ask where the reference of Master Plan was made in that. Please show me that....(Interruptions)

[English]

What I am saying is the Chief Minister has not even talked of it up to the 9th of December....(Interruptions)

That is what I am saying. Why should I write to her?

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir 38 thousand industrial units of Delhi have been closed. First get them reopened....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, industrial units in Delhi have been closed down. Kindly get them reopened....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, when the hon. Minister is giving the reply, why are you intervening? Please take your seat.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I will just sum up by reiterating what I have said in the concluding paragraph of my written statement. Let us not be guided by 'short-termism'. Let us take a broader view and a larger view in the interests of Delhi, in the interests of the society, in the interests of the NCR, in the interests of the country as a whole and the type of values which we want to cherish, whether we want to encourage urban indiscipline or we want to encourage a culture of discipline, civic respect for law, both for environment as well as for this.

Whatever commitments we have made at the international fora we have also to agree to this. No one is going to be penalised. Our job is to find a constructive and creative solution of the formidable problem that has been put in our lap.

So, this is what I am saying. Let us see what the Supreme Court says on the 28th because the case is coming on the 28th. After the Supreme Court's ruling I am prepared to sit with all of you, any one of you and we will find out a solution. I will call a meeting. I will give that assurance.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to indulge in this controversy, the language which is being used here. I will request

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

you.* Is all these keep on going in the House, how can we run on the debate? The newspaper reporters write Jag Mohan is such a person, so on and so forth. But I want to say that we have nothing to do with Jag Mohan. Shri Jag Mohan is discharging his duties. Khurana Sahib will feel happy at the thing that Shri Jag Mohan is calling a meeting. Our colleague Shri Kamal Nath delivers a speech at an international forum and then delivers his second speech in the Parliament. Please sit down. First listen to me.

Since we are to oblize people coming from villages. How many people would settle down in Delhi migrating from villages? Ten thousand people are coming to Delhi daily. If all the people of the country come here at this rate, then what would happen? Jag Mohanji has said why the capital Region has been created? This was not created by Jag Mohanji rather it was created by Late Smt. Indira Gandhiji. I was also there then. And its objections were also expressed at that time. Today Khurana saab says that it was in their agenda and manifesto. This Parliament is not guided by your manifesto. We are not guided by it nor your NDA as well. *(Interruptions)* Anyway the person who are sitting that side in the Government also do not give significance to your manifesto. So, please don't made a mention of that manifesto time and again. We want to throw that manifesto in a dustbin....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Do you want to say that you will throw the agenda in a dustbin which propesses amendment in the Master Plan.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Yes, Sir.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We will rather light it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You are the persons who flare up passions in the country. You people have flared up passions all over the country....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am saying that Shri Jag Mohan is also from his party....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Using such words does not behave of you.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Jag Mohanji is a member of his party and a Cabinet Minister. He said what were the rules or procedure for changing the master plan. Without following the laid down procedure if you say that Jay Mohanji could change the master plan, it is not so. Jag Mohan is not a dictator nor Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee an autocrate. Rules are there for the purpose and nothing could happen without following these rules. Besides, even a single member can oppose to it in the House. I would like to request that making such a irresponsible demand in the House and to create disbelief in the minds of people of Delhi and to incite them is neither in the interest of the country nor in the interest of the public of Delhi.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to consider as to how to change the Master Plan by convening a meeting....*(Interruptions)* We have said this only that you just call a meeting....*(Interruptions)* will you say like that....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Zero Hour, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry that I have to speak on an unfortunate incident because a former chief was killed in Jaunpur....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You'll be allowed two minutes because everybody has to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I will speak on this subject and one or two members of our party would also speak....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a twelfth class student named Zahiruddin, aged 18 years was murdered on 9.11.2000 and in turn former block Chief Shri Kailash Nath Singh was slain yesterday at 9.30 P.M....*(Interruptions)* You know it already, still you are talking like that....*(Interruptions)* I condemn both the murders. Sringent action should be taken against the murders. I agree with this. But thereafter, it happened that when six people alongwith a driver were going to attend a marriage procession, three of them who were non-muslims were spared and the remaining three who were muslims Haji Cheddi, Mustafa and Mushtaq aged 15 years and two of them were maternal grandfathers of the bridgeroom and the third one was bridgeroom's maternal uncle were picked up stabbed many times with a knife and their bodies were thrown some 200 metres away in a river. Thereafter, it was told that meanwhile some motorcyclists who coming from the direction were non muslims were allowed to go.

The muslims were slain and thrown in a river, buried. It has been published in newspapers. Another serious issue following this incident is that the houses of muslims are being looted. Muslims alone are being arrested. Seventy to eighty muslims have been arrested as per the latest news. Whereas, no action is being taken against

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the murderers. As a result, the movement of muslims in Banaras, Badohi, Ghazipur and Jaunpur has been completely thwarted. They are not allowed to travel across to attend even a function or a ceremony. It is a pity that if the Government wanted this incident would have never happened. The U.P. Government has not taken any action so far, nobody has been given compensation. Looting of houses has not stopped and the arrests are still being made. We do not want riots but it is the Government's conspiracy. We want the Home Minister to come and give a reply. We want him to take action against the looters. How many people were killed, how many post mortems were conducted, how many were buried, it should be categorically stated in the House. The relatives of the people who have been killed should be immediately given compensation be it a Hindu or a Muslim. We want Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to announce Rs. Five lakh as compensation from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The people who have been looted should be given compensation. Our demand is, that action should be taken against the looters, even if they are policemen or belong to P.A.C....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir an atmosphere for riot is being created in entire Uttar Pradesh. Bhartiya Janata Party is losing miserably in the elections to the local bodies....(Interruptions) Similar situation is being created in district Hathras also....(Interruptions) The Chief Minister of U.P. is visitng all the districts to guide the officers....(Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak about our problem in Maharashtra....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramjilal Suman, you have given a notice and you have not yet spoken, but your leader has already spoken....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Only what Shri Dhikale says, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: The farmers in Maharashtra are facing power problem for the last so many days....(Interruptions) The State of Maharashtra does not have required quantum of power. Thus load shedding is taking place in Maharashtra.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way to raise matters during Zero Hour?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramjilal Suman, please try to understand. You have given a notice and your leader has spoken on the same subject. You can also associate yourself with him. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Dhikale Says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Load shedding is not being done merely for two to three hours but it is being done for two to three days....(Interruptions) All the farmers of Maharashtra are quite worried as far as power is concerned. Dissatisfaction is pervading....(Interruptions) Coupled with it is the drought in certain areas owing to shortage of rains in Maharashtra....(Interruptions) All the dams are without water. There is problem of drinking water....(Interruptions) There is no water for the field. Thus two problems have cropped up before us. On one side there is water crisis coupled with shortage of power. What the farmers will do. 'Rasta Roko' protest is being staged at several places....(Interruptions). Maharashtra which should get 1700 Megawatt of power from the National Grid is only getting 1400 Megawatt. Uran Project of Maharashtra which has a capacity of generating 900 megawatt of power out of that 400 megawatt should be allotted to Maharashtra. This is my request to the Union Government....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Therefore, I will request the Union Government that the farmers of Maharashtra be given electricity...(Interruptions) They are agitating and blocking the traffic as they are not getting power....(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this is a State matter. How can you compel the Government to respond?

...(Interruptions)

13.39 hrs.

[Translation]

At this stage Shri Tufani Saroj and some other hon. Members came and stood near the table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You leader has raised the matter. Are you not allowing others members to raise their matters? Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please conclude now.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I would request the Union Government that Maharashtra is not getting its quota of 1700 megawatts from the National Grid....(Interruptions)... Maharashtra is getting only 1400 megawatt therefore further 300 Megawatt of power should be given to Maharashtra from the National Grid....(Interruptions) The Uran project of Maharashtra has a capacity to generate 900 Megawatt of power, but due to non-availability of gas 400 Megawatt of power cannot be generated....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Uttamrao Dhikale is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Maharashtra would get relief if additional power is sanctioned....(Interruptions) Projects should also be started in Valuj, Sannar, Maha, Rajnandgaon, Chincholi, Baha so that the common man

is relieved...(Interruptions) I am sorry to state that whenever I rise to speak everybody starts interrupting. It happens everytimes. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dhikale, please conclude now.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I will request the Union Government to help Maharashtra and make efforts to sanction power to Maharashtra....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Kindly summon the Home Minister....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.40 p.m.

13.42 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock

14.52 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty-two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up legislative business. Shri Nitish Kumar to move for leave to introduce a Bill.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to cooperative societies, with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State, to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of cooperatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid and to enable them to promote their economic and social betterment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

* Not recorded.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.11.2000.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to cooperative societies, with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State, to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of cooperatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid and to enable them to promote their economic and social betterment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I introduce** the Bill.

14.54 hours

MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Arun Jaitley to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993, first came as an ordinance in the year 1992 and was finally legislated by this hon. House. The object of this was to provide the shipping carriers with a communication system where goods would be transported from one place to the shipping carrier. The goods would require several modes of communication, could be road or rail, before they reached the shipping carriers as such. Instead of expecting the shippers to rely upon different agencies, a multimodal agency was conceived which has come into place since then. It has been functioning effectively. Further to it, seeing the functioning of the system in the last seven to eight years, some shortcomings have been noticed. There have been different suggestions which have been accepted worldwide. In India also consultations have been held with financial institutions, banks and others involved in this particular trade.

There have been model regulations, which have been framed by the UNTAC and also by the International Chambers of Commerce. Now, based upon that experience, some changes are being suggested to the existing Act in order to effectively ensure that this trade can go on well because it is an important trade which is a communication between the importer and the shipping carrier. The importer gives the goods only at the one point. So, by roads, rail and other methods of transportation, the goods would then be shipped with the shipping carrier as such.

The amendments which we have suggested, Sir, are in, first, Section 2 where some definitions are intended to be changed as far as the Act is concerned. After the change of definition, the definitions are being brought at par, whatever are the internationally accepted definitions on the subject.

Section 4 is required to be altered marginally. Earlier, the permission could only be given to companies. Now, we are widening it because in some cases, it is also firms, property concerns that are doing this business. So, in addition to companies, firms and property interests can also get licences under Section 4.

There is a proviso being added in Section 4 that if the person doing the multimodal transport operators' business, is a company which is a foreign company, then it is necessary for it to first establish a place of business in India before it can be granted a licence to that effect.

Section 6 is intended to be amended that the earlier Act gave a provision for appeal only when the licence was cancelled. The power of appeal to the Appellate Authority is now being extended to cover cases also where renewal is not granted or refused on some considerations as such.

Section 7 is being sought to be amended in order to ensure that the MTO, i.e., the multimodal transport operator, also obtains a valid insurance cover so that in case some goods are lost or destroyed in transit, there is a mandatory insurance cover which protects the value of the goods as such.

Section 9 is being sought to be amended to provide for certain details which are to be given with regard to the character of the goods in the document itself. The details are already in the original Act. Some changes have been made therein. It has also been mentioned that if erroneously some detail is not mentioned, that itself will not nullify the contract because it may give unfair advantage to one party or the other.

Sections 13, 14 and 15 are dealing with the liability of the MTO and, therefore, in accordance with the

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

requirement of the trade, the liability provisions have been marginally amended and also been clarified as to when the liability would begin, when the liability would end in the event of any loss and what would be the areas where they are exempted from liability.

Lastly, Sir, Section 20 is being sought to be amended to provide a new Section 20A that the responsibility of the MTO will cover the period from the time that he has taken the goods in his charge till the time the delivery is effected.

Now, these amendments are being suggested to this existing law in order to make the trade of MTO more expeditious because this is really the lifeline of our export industry through the shipping areas. The hon. Rajya Sabha, the Upper House had already passed this Bill on 22nd August, 2000, and now, I move in this hon. House that the Bill be passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted to this Bill is one hour.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill is very much needed for making our system linked with the international trade.

When the Act was piloted during the Congress regime in 1993, that exigency was taken into consideration, and a proper Bill was presented before the Parliament.

Now, there are certain amendments being made which are also very much needed in this hour when air is also included, and specifically shown that the goods taken by air will also be covered in this particular Act.

15.00 hrs.

Actually, international trade is widening each and every day. Especially when we are within the net of the World Trade Organisation, we have to be as quick as possible in transporting the goods from one place to another. Taking this consideration, our goods should move to the entire world and goods from all our trading partners should also come to our country.

The transport system is a very important system. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that it was like the nervous

system of the human beings. At the national level, this system was introduced by the Indira Gandhi Government in the 20-point programme. We are now widening it to the global level.

We have to appreciate the Government for bringing in a new sub-clause. Sub-clause (1a) is added newly to clause 2. This is very pertinent. A 'multimodal transport document' is now defined. It says:

"multimodal transport document' means a negotiable or non-negotiable document evidencing a multimodal transport contract and which can be replaced by electronic data interchange messages permitted by applicable law;"

This is very much important. When we are developing the IT sector, this sort of electronically preparing ourselves to the need of the hour is to be appreciated very much. This clause is very much useful for modern trade.

In the same way, the definition for 'Special Drawing Rights' is also given very clearly. The sub-clause on 'taking charge' is also newly added. That is also very useful for the international trade. As the hon. Minister has explained, bringing firms and proprietary concerns also within the fold is also very useful for the trade.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to clause 4. It says:

"A certificate granted under sub-section (3) shall be valid for a period of three years and may be renewed from time to time for a further period of three years at a time."

This may be made an automatic renewal so that the people who are in the industry of transporting goods need not wait for further renewals. If there is a complaint or a violation of the laws, they can be definitely stopped by issuing notices. Therefore, at least at the stage of making rules, some automatic renewal provision has to be put in place so that bureaucratic hurdles can be overcome.

The provision for insurance cover is also very important. We are now opening up the insurance industry also. The goods are to be insured before being subjected for shipment. So, that is also a very important provision.

In the same way, the non-liability clause has been brought in under section 13. It says:

"Provided further that the multimodal transport operator shall not be liable for loss or damage arising out of delay in delivery including any consequential loss or damage arising from such delay unless the

consignor had made a declaration of interest in timely delivery which has been accepted by the multimodal transport operator."

This is very important. Unless and otherwise there is a specific clause in the contract, there is no need for a liability on the part of the MTO.

I would not like to suggest a few things. Our Indian trade, especially in perishable goods, is coming up to the international level. Therefore, the Government should focus more concentration in making available airlifting facilities for perishable goods, which can immediately be transported to the world market. In South India, there is flower trade. The flowers have to reach the market within the shortest period of time. It is only then that the traders can get their flowers sold. Therefore, if we cannot provide that kind of transport in the Indian Airlines, at least the private airlines should be allowed to provide that type of cargo transport. This has to be done as quickly as possible.

In the same way, consumer goods are also very much needed throughout the world. We are depending on the agricultural economy in India. Even onions are sometimes thrown out because of non-availability of the market. At that time, we have to make provisions to export that to some other countries by air and such other quick transport methods. So, developing air transport should be the view of the Government so that international trade is developed in all respects.

I would like to say that we are very much one with the regulations of the United Nations Conventions and International Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Modern requirements are also taken into consideration in the form of amendments. Therefore, we fully agree with the amendments proposed by the Government. We feel that the international trade will also pick up because of passage of this Bill. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the title of this Bill is Multimodal Transportation of Goods Amendment Bill 2000. The amendments sought to be made in it are really commendable. There are no two opinions about that. There was an urgent need for it. A motion has been made about a yard in it from where goods would be transported from one place to another. The kind of foods to be transported has also been mentioned therein. Hon'ble Minister has brought in many amendments. The amendment brought in section 4 by the Hon'ble Minister says:

[English]

"(a) (1) that the applicant is a company, firm or proprietary concern, engaged either in the business of shipping, or freight forwarding in India or abroad with a minimum annual turnover of fifty lakh rupees..."

[Translation]

Those having a turnover of Rs. 50 Lakhs have been mentioned here. It also says:

[English]

"Provided further that any applicant who is not a resident of India and who is not engaged in the business of shipping shall not be granted registration unless he has established a place of business in India".

[Translation]

If it is not established in India then this right has not been given to it. Alongwith that it also says:

[English]

"Provided also that in respect of any applicant who is not a resident of India, the turnover may be certified by any authority competent to certify the accounts of a company in that country."

[Translation]

It says that the licence for it will be guaranteed for three years and after this period it could be extended for a period of another three years. The amendments made in it are commendable. The amendments made by the Hon'ble Minister in section 7, 9 and also in section 13, 14, 15, 20 (A) and 26 are all commendable. This is a good step taken by the Union Government. It is very necessary to pass the Amendment Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Minister.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I welcome the move and I support the Bill. It is high time that we have a change in the 1993 Act.

I would like to impress upon the Government on certain facts regarding transport of perishable goods outside India. From Trivandrum and Calicut Airports, some perishable goods, like vegetables are being transported to Gulf countries. In the multimodal transport, sometimes

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

some drawbacks occur; payment is also not made properly or promptly. Some of our transporters incur huge losses. So, I would request the Government to make some safeguards for the transportation of perishable goods from South India, especially from Kerala to Gulf countries.

This is a good step towards that direction. In sub-sections (k), (l) and (m) we find a clear definition of multimodal transportation. They should carry their goods by at least two modes of transport. Now, in India it will be transported by trucks to airport and from the airport it would be transported through Air India. So, in Kerala multimodal transport is being used for transporting perishable goods. The goods are delivered to other countries, like Bahrain, Dubai, Abu Dhabi etc. The difficulty is that payment is not made promptly. It is due to difficulty in getting some documentary evidence. We have done something more. We have passed our law in this respect. I think we can easily enforce the contract entered into by the Indian and the Gulf trader. So, this will help us to a considerable extent. I think the hon. Deputy-Speaker is also interested in this because many things are transported from Lakshadweep to Gulf countries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For your information, it is not there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Hitherto the law was confusing. Many of our people lost crores of rupees because of this lacuna in the transportation business. Until and unless there is some definiteness about these transactions, we will lose. That is why at the outset I said it is a welcome move and it is a move in the right direction. That would help international trade. We are living in the global age. Global trade is the order of the day. So, to suit the changing conditions, changes in the 1993 Act is quite welcome.

Whenever rules are made, we should see to it that filing appeals are made easier. Now, the Appellate Authority is the Central Government in matters of dispute. Hitherto, it was not like that. For appeals, the Central Government is the Appellate Authority. That must be decentralised because it will put the traders to a lot of difficulty. Whenever rules are framed, please see to it that the Appellate Authority is having officers in most of the trading States, especially in States where there is an international airport. Otherwise, all these people will have to come to Delhi for preferring an appeal because the Central Government is the sole authority for taking cognizance of the appeal. I think the hon. Minister will take steps to decentralise it.

Another matter is with regard to registration. In the matters of registration also, there must be some

decentralisation. All these people cannot come here and get registered under this Act. I think delegation of powers can be made effective when the rules are made.

In section 4, it says:

"Any person aggrieved by refusal of the competent authority to grant or renew registration under section 4 or by cancellation of registration under section 5, may prefer an appeal to the Central Government within such period as may be prescribed."

When rules are made, the hon. Minister may prescribe the period for the appeal. The Minister may also see that the traders or contractors may be allowed to file appeal anywhere, at least the international airports should have an office representing the competent authority. I hope the Minister will give some attention to this aspect of the matter.

I feel there is one difficulty. I am subject to correction. There is no control or restriction on the freight charges. This is not proper. In the changed circumstances, any trader, contractor or transporter can charge any amount. When rules are framed, please see to it that there are some guidelines for fixing the charges. Unjustified, enormous charges should not be levied as that will go against the interest of transportation. I hope the hon. Law Minister will give attention to this aspect also. When all these things are included in the Bill, I think it will be a welcome move and I welcome it.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): On behalf of my Party, I rise to support the Bill. It is really a welcome Bill. The amendments proposed are very timely, particularly when the WTO implications are round the corner and international transport is going to assume a lot of importance. The Multimodal Transportation of Goods (Amendment) Bill is a right step in right direction. Transportation of goods to foreign countries is going to have a lot of importance in the days to come. Special areas that have been provided through this amendment will particularly give a lot of boost to the operators who are engaged in transportation. Of particular importance is the amendment of section 4, proviso 3(2). In sub-section 3 of the proviso, the following provisions have been inserted:

"Provided further that any applicant who is not a resident of India and who is not engaged in the business of shipping shall not be granted registration unless he has established a place of business in India."

This really goes a long way because in a number of cases some of the people — if they have not got proper

registration — who have sent their goods abroad have totally lost their goods.

It says further:

"Provided also that in respect of any applicant who is not a resident of India, the turnover may be certified by any authority competent to certify the accounts of a company in that country."

So, some of these provisions really go a long way, particularly in the present scenario when WTO implications are round the corner and transportation is going to assume a lot of importance the world over. The amendment that has been introduced is a welcome step. Therefore, on behalf of my Party, I support and welcome it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill is in the name of Shri Rajnath Singh but he has been replaced by a new Minister. His earlier portfolio has been changed. There is a provision for introduction of a Bill by new minister in place of old minister, there are no two opinions about that. But, Sir, the portfolios of 16-17 ministers of this Cabinet have been changed. The portfolios of ministers of the Cabinet has been changed on large scale as if it was the case of transfers of employees from one department to another.

Shri Hukumdeo Narayanji is our friend who followed the ideals of Lohiaji when he was with us and he had been a follower of Lohiaji ever since but his portfolio has been changed many times. First of all he became the minister of animal husbandry but I suppose Nitishji did not let him do anything. Then he became the Minister of Surface Transport. Now he is the Minister of Shipping. Only time will tell to what extent he will be successful in his present assignment. Rajnath Singhji has been given higher responsibilities, but Hukumdeo Narayanji is going against the ideals of Lohiaji.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, be it the United Nations convention on the Goods of Contract Liner Conference, 1974, the United Nations Convention on the International Multimodal Transport of Goods, 1980, United Nations Convention on conditions for Registration of Ships, 1986, United Nations Convention on the carriage goods by Sea, 1978 and International Convention on Maritime (Hamburg Rules), all countries have collectively reached a convention but what you people have done. The international community have tried to make their transportation of goods

multimodal and amendments were done in order to undertake transportation of goods by ships, through sea and it was linked with airways. Earlier only railways and roads were there, but now the definition of carrier has been changed and airways has also been included.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the container service has improved the world over, but no improvement has been brought about in this regard. The container service of our country for export of goods is still not good in our country. We have not made any progress in this direction. China is leading in this field. They have made maximum progress in this direction. They have manufactured containers more than its own requirement. Now when such is the situation then goods will only be coming from abroad to our country, we cannot export because we don't have containers. You tell us, what is the position of India in container service. This Bill should have been brought when the WTO provisions came into force. It has been brought so late and even now only definition has been changed. I would like to say that nothing could be achieved merely by changing the definition. Instead, system should be improved, not the definition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is based on agriculture and maximum vegetables are grown here but there is no arrangement to export green vegetables. You do not have air conditioned containers. Mango, Banana and Lichi are grown in abundance in Bihar and they are world famous but there is no arrangement to export them. It gets rotten while reaching Mumbai and foul smell and starts coming out. Then how foreigners could consume such rotten things. You should tell us as to what arrangements have been made for the export of green vegetables and fruits from the country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister through you that the Bill has been brought so late by him for bringing improvement in the arrangement of goods transport at the international level and at this stage only definition of goods carrier is being changed. Its definition is being separated from Multimodal and it is being defined in a new way. I am not against this Bill, actually we want that transportation through our inland river water ways, International seaways, railways and roadways should be improved to compete with the International transportation system and if you want to improve upon this sector then we will welcome such steps by you.

The Air Cargo was to go from Patna where goods could have been exported to Arab Countries and the local farmers could have been benefited from it. But no such arrangement has been made so far. Now you have

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

brought this Bill. I want to say what good could be done to the nation by amending the definition? Improvement could be achieved by making proper arrangement and increasing efficiency not by amending definitions. He is an advocate when things do not go their way they change its course by arguments but what we have to say is, "you are merely quoting from papers, I am saying what I have seen through my own eyes". Our goods keep lying where they are. There is no arrangement for their transportation. For this reason India is lagging behind. If import of goods into the country continues without any exports from India then what will happen to the farmers of our country? No one is worried about farmer's produce. Therefore, farmers are in distress. You have not made the required arrangements under the WTO regime.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you supporting this Bill?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, Sir, as there is adequate production of foodgrains in our country, therefore sufficient arrangements should be made for the export of surplus produce of farmers so that it does not perish during transportation and reach its destination on time. It will keep his interest alive towards production. The hon. Minister has not said a word about it. He brings amendments only to benefit business class. This country cannot be run like this. The country will prosper when proper arrangements will be made for the poor. Those who are efficient and intelligent should apply their minds to provide facilities to the poor then only improvement could be made. The Bill runs into three pages only but the statement of objects and reasons is very lengthy. It should be brief so that people can go through it and know its contents. There is a saying in our area that you can judge the talent of a student by the size of his school bag. The actual content of this Bill is very limited and it is replete with unnecessary matter. I want to say that the country could be benefited by a precise and concrete Bill....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has also to reply.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I conclude my speech.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The goods will reach the market after being transported through also planes it is O.K. but farmers are also exporting their goods. I want to say that farmers and cooperative societies should be given priority. Besides, the licence fee being charged from farmers and cooperative societies also be reduced. This is my suggestion.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members of all groups in the House who have supported this Bill.

The object of the Bill as most of the hon. Members have suggested is really to ensure that what is produced in the country which is surplus has to be readied for export and for that purpose there must be an easier facility available. This Bill is intended to facilitate exactly that. One suggestion which has been made by some hon. Members is with regard to having rules carefully drafted so that the future needs can be taken into consideration according to the requirements. There are not many appeals as of now. But, I have no doubt that as the industry expands when such occasions arise, certainly we would look into the matter. The suggestions given by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan would be taken into consideration.

With these observations, I would commend this Bill to be passed by this hon. House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up the Private Members' Business. Not even a single minute we have encroached upon the Private Members' Business.

15.30 hours

MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri M.O.H. Farook — not present.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel — not present.

Since both the hon. Members are not here, is it the pleasure of the House to choose any Member to move the Motion?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, can you move this Motion?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Yes, Sir. I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 22.11.2000."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 22.11.2000."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up the next item — Item No. 1 — Shri Adityanath — not present.

Item No. 2 — Prof. Kailasho Devi — not present.

Item No. 3 — Shri Ramesh Chennithala — He is present.

15.31 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Malvelikara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to further amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I introduce** the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF DAMAN AND DIU BILL, 2000*

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have we received the authorisation letter from Shri Ramdas Athawale?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The authorisation letter is with the hon. Speaker and it is under consideration. Therefore, you cannot introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has given me the authorisation letter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please take your seat. I shall let you know after asking about it.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.11.2000.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.11.2000.

15.36 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000*

(Insertion of New Article 31)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000*

(Amendment of article 130)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000*

(Amendment of section 10)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Item No. 13.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Sir, I am on a point of order. My Bill is at Serial No. 15 - the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000. It was to come up for the consideration of the House today. But at about one o' clock I received a letter from the Secretariat saying:

"With reference to your letter dated 09.04.2000 on the above subject, that is, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000, the undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of letter No. 41018/14/2000/Estt./REC, dated 23.11.2000 from Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, the Minister of State, Department of Personnel & Training, Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, stating that the President has withheld his recommendations under clause 3 of the article 117 of the Constitution for consideration of the Bill in Lok Sabha."

Sir, this Bill is at consideration stage. At this eleventh hour, I received a letter from the Secretariat, and from the Minister. Now, I am bringing it to the notice of the House, and I brought it to the notice of the Speaker. The fact is that a similar Bill is being discussed today in the Rajya Sabha. It is in today's item at Serial No. 20 on the same subject of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes reservation.

The entire Bill is similar to the Bill that is being discussed in the Rajya Sabha. The President of India acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers and according to the Constitution, he has to act according to the guidance given to him by the Council of Ministers.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.11.2000.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Through my Bill, I am asking for reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes in universities, banks and cooperative societies. But when the same type of Bill is being discussed in the Rajya Sabha, I do not know the reason why I am being discriminated against in this manner.

Sir, on the first day of the Parliament Session, I met the Prime Minister of India and wished him good health. At that time, he told me that he had read my Bill. In fact, I wanted to appreciate his gesture because he is interested in the development of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes. But, I am very much disappointed now, because my Bill is not going to come up for consideration. Why is this kind of discrimination shown towards my Bill?

In fact, I have written a letter to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, with regard to the Bill namely, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000, standing against my name in the List of Business for Friday, 24th November, 2000, that is today whereby I gave a notice of my intention to move the following motion: "That the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Bill, 2000, be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon". Now, I would request that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. At the same time, I would request the Government of India, through you, to reconsider the advice that they had given to the President of India so that I can move my Bill here, because millions of educated young men and women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes would be disappointed if my Bill does not come up for consideration. This Bill is very unique in nature.

[Translation]

I do not understand as to why this Government is so much against giving justice to the poor. This Government has been often claiming that it is in favour of dalits. But, is this the justice to be given to dalits? Is this the advice to be given to the President? Will the Government act like that? I have been saying repeatedly that this Government is not in favour of the poor and the backward classes. There is no need of giving another example to prove this proposition.

[English]

Is this the advice that you give to the President of India?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when a similar Bill is being discussed

in the Rajya Sabha, why can his Bill not be discussed in this House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already established his case. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Shinde Sahab has raised a point. The Bill to be introduced by him was first taken up for consideration but later on it was dropped. Why is the Government avoiding to face the Lok Sabha on this issue. This is a matter concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. No discussion has been held on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not required to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Since the matter relates to the Scheduled castes, so the support of non-scheduled castes is necessary....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde is quite capable of establishing his case and he has already done that. Let met deal with it now.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I am really grateful to you for giving me a patient hearing. Now, economic reforms are gong on in our country. But there is a lot of backlog in respect of reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes and the backlog is not being filled up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, your Bill is listed under Item No. 15.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: This item will wither away.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already heard you. Now, how is it to be treated? I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also to say whatever he wants to say. Let me deal with it when it comes.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: If the Government is not succumbing go my request to send it second time to the Government of India, then, my other proposal is to elicit the public opinion about the Bill. That is for you to decide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is that as per the Order Paper, your matter comes only after the disposal of item Nos. 13 and 14.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: That is true. I absolutely agree with your decision. But the point in this. Since the Minister and the Parliament Secretariat have written to me that the President has not accorded sanction or recommended it, this will not appear. Today, the Bill will not be considered. The second item will become '14'. This number will vanish in the next 15 days. Therefore, today is the day when I can point it out. Otherwise, the entire thing will vanish.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also a similar issue, rather more serious one. Please give me also time to submit my point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall give you a chance after he concludes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): This matter has come to my notice. I think that the House is also now well aware of the sentiments of the Non-Member in this regard. Nevertheless, as per rules he can reappeal to the President and fresh decision can be had on it.

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Let them go for eliciting public opinion.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: After 15 days, this Bill will not be listed here whereby his chance will go.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will be taking it up. Now, it will be withheld. It cannot lapse because it is going to be reconsidered.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Yes, If the Government cannot reconsider it then, it should be moved for public opinion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per Rules, it will be taken up again.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: No, Sir. As per Rules, once the letter is issued, it will not be taken up for consideration. Therefore, I am submitting to you that the Government should reconsider it and send it to the President of India. If it is not possible, then, it should be sent for eliciting the public opinion. These are two simple things.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: As per Rules, you have to apply for its reconsideration.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I have already applied.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Please apply for it again.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: No. There is a whole process. You see, it will not come.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Actually your Bill will not lapse...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: No, no. You have say whether you will consider it or not because you are maltreating the Scheduled Castes.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Not Scheduled Castes...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The backlog is not of one year, but of 50 years.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Within the Rules it is very good subject for the entire country. We can have deliberations. Therefore, the Government should take it up in that perspective. We are framing the Rules. We can even amend the Rules. But it is a good subject for everybody to take it up.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also to introduce a Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Bill is not listed in the agenda.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mine is a serious matter, Please give a hearing to it. My notice was on the top of the agenda. My issue is even more serious. My item was on the top of the list for Private Members' Business. During the last session my Bill was listed after the item of Subodh Mohite and on which discussion was to be held. It was very much in the list. After that I received a letter that the President has disapproved it. The notice of my Bill was duly listed after the ballot, his item was, however, not cleared in the ballot.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: It did.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Had it not been cleared in the ballot, it would not have been listed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My item was cleared in the ballot at the very first instance. There was to be a discussion on it. Meanwhile, the letter was received stating that the President has withheld his recommendation to it. My charge against the Government is that the Government is withholding the Lok Pal Bill which was meant to check corruption.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should also plead for reconsideration. I shall tell him.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It was very much in the list.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): It was not listed since it was concerning corruption.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Paranjpe I am dealing with him and you are provoking.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My item had secured in the ballot.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask for sending it back to the President for his reconsideration.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My item had secured first position in the ballot, but they have withheld it just to avoid a discussion on it*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those parts whose reference has been made to the President may be expunged.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, this is a serious issue. The second Bill is being done like this. What is the Government doing? They should not behave like this. It is a right of the Members of Parliament.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have a submission to make. If those formalities are not completed, why are these Bills taken for lottery? Before completing the procedure, why are these Bills put in lottery? Why is it that this issue comes up here unnecessarily? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ballot comes first and then comes the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a procedural aspect. They cannot give a go-by to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I shall tell you the rule, I have read it in Kaul and Shakhdar. The rule provides that the Government are required to take hon'ble President's assent on the Bill. If the Government is incapable of doing so, the Members can do it. Why such an arrangement has not been made? Therefore, my protest may please be recorded. I have written to the hon'ble Speaker also. I want a discussion on corruption. Why the Lok Pal Bill has been held on? Several persons were accused under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act. A list contained several names, similar to that of a directory. It shows how much property been amassed by the persons concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have discussed it before the Bill was brought. I gave you an opportunity to make a mention of it, but instead of that you started delivering a speech. Now I shall call Shri Rasa Singh ji.

15.54 hrs.

BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL, 2000—Contd.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly support the Backward Areas Development Board Bill, 2000 brought forward by Shri Subodh Mohite. While initiating my speech on this Bill, during the last session, I laid emphasise on the constant need for giving required attention towards development of backward areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, strange are the ways of life, while one makes progress the other lag behind. Similarly, in the case of development, some States make progress very fast while others lag far behind. The States, where the resources are in abundance, natural climate is conducive, the people are hardworking and the State is economically strong, they move ahead very fast; on the contrary, states which are often hit by natural calamities such as acute famine, drought or scanty rainfall or cyclone, naturally lag behind. Hence the Government are required to pay more attention towards such states. Mohite ji has identified these areas. These include — Vidharba region of Maharashtra, Telegana region of Andhra Pradesh, Southern district of Tamil Nadu, Northern Bihar, Orissa Tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, which is now known as Uttranchal, Himachal Pradesh or North-

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Eastern States, several areas of Rajasthan, now area-wise the largest State in India. These areas are totally backward. The Government should constitute a Development Board for ensuring development of such backward areas. Such a board should ensure launching of development oriented programmes in these areas. These areas should be expeditiously industrialised, and special packages should be given to these areas and need based developed schemes should be implemented in such areas so that it can lead to all round development of the areas.

For strengthening infrastructure, facilities such as electricity, water supply and means of transportation, should be provided. But, above all employment opportunities should also be created so that the people of these backward areas can avail employment opportunities and can come at par with the people of forward States. Otherwise, one State will enjoy fruits of prosperity while the others will find it difficult to make both ends meet. In such a scenario, one person's prosperity will not be meaningful. Main objective of framing our Five Years Plan was to ensure balanced development of all the States. So, today, there is need to remove the regional imbalance.

When we have set up so many commissions, we should set up one more commission to identify the backward areas. Shri Mohite ji has made a mention of something like this in this Bill. There are other backward areas, too, which are required to be brought at par, with the developed areas. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you will also agree with me. You live in Lakshadweep. There is a big difference in the standard of living of the people living in Lakshadweep and those living in Mumbai, of the people living in the posh colonies of the capital and those living in the developing industrial States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. There is a big difference in living standard of people living in developed areas and those living in backward areas. Therefore, through you, I request the Government to bring forward a new Bill by adopting this Bill so that the backward areas of the country could also make progress.

Where provision of giving package exists, suggestion have already been made in regard to setting up of Backward Area Development Board. The Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission should be ex-officio Chairman of the Backward Areas Development Board and the Vice Chairman should be appointed by Central Government. It should also include six members of Parliament—four from the Lok Sabha and two from Rajya Sabha. In addition, the Central Government should also appoint nine members from ministries like the railways, communications, finance, industrial development, agriculture, health and family welfare and irrigation.

16.00 hrs.

These services of such departments are required for the infrastructural development of any region. Therefore, the Board should avail the services of these departments and there should be specialists who will make suggestions for development and also provide know how about various measures required from economical point of view.

Sir, our country used to have policy for the development of industrially backward areas. Similarly efforts should be made by the Government to bring the backward areas at par with economically developed regions. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government towards Rajasthan. Thar desert is in Rajasthan. Indira Gandhi canal has reached only a few areas of that state and the other areas are experiencing severe drought. Particularly the hilly tracts of Rajsamand-Ajmer are devoid of any development. Haryana has set up the Mewar Development Board, Andhra Pradesh has set up the Telangana Development Board, similarly Magara-Merwara Development Board should be set up for the development of that region. I would also like the say through you, that special assistance should be given for the areas affected by natural calamities. Such areas include those areas which are dependent on monsoon, sometimes there is excessive rainfall and sometimes scanty rainfall. There are areas with severe or long famine, and there are also areas with drought. There are also areas which have experienced three successive droughts in Rajasthan. Drought conditions exist in 28 out of 31 districts in the state. The situation is further worsened by the problem of drinking water. Even if that is available, it contains fluoride and the people drinking it suffer various diseases. The areas, which have frequent drought, floods, cyclones such as coastal Andhra Pradesh and Orissa should be identified and special economic measures should be undertaken for their development so that the people there could make progress. There should be a Backward Areas Development Board at the national level, with its headquarters, in Delhi it should have branches in the backward states. Competent officers will have be appointed there. Members of the Board will be in charge there, so that proper development of those areas could be ensured.

Finally, I would like to mention one more thing. Fifty three years have passed since we attained freedom, and now the Ninth Five year Plan is under way, yet the country has been witnessing regional imbalance in the matter of development. It is a matter of concern for the economic experts and planning experts to find out why this regional imbalance has been created even after spending billions of rupees and setting up of heavy industries? Who is responsible for it? The country has

witnessed the creation of a new Chhattisgarh state, but it can not be called an economically developed state. Uttaranchal state has scarcity of financial resources and has to take loans. Jharkhand state has resources but they should be properly utilised. Bihar is demanding a financial package. Besides, Vidarbha has given a call for a separate statehood—from Maharashtra. Such demands are raised only when a particular region is ignored, when it is not given a share in the power and the Government makes no sincere effort to raise the living standard of its people. Only then people raise their voice for a Development Board, a separate state, a separate assembly and a separate budget etc.

The tendency of alienation, successionism, regionalism and at times of terrorism also develops. All these circumstances are created owing to economic disparities. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government that the basic intent of this Bill to ensure development of the backward areas should be taken account of and the backward area development board should be set up.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. With expressing my gritudes to the Chair, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, the Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Member Shri Subodh Mohite is being debated in the House and I have risen to speak on this Bill.

The condition of development of the backward areas in the country, even after 53 years of independence is no secret. I am at pains to state that even after so many years of independence, there are no roads, no primary and secondary school buildings, no hospitals and no electricity in the villages. This Bill is likely to bring this issue into the focus and I strongly feel that this Backward Area Development Board Bill should have come long before. This will invites attention of the Government towards the development of the Backward areas. I extend my hearty congratulations to the hon'ble Member for this commendable work.

Sir, the development in Vidharbha region, in Maharashtra, Telengana in Andhra Pradesh, northern area of Bihar and hilly areas of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh and 8 north eastern states did not taken place the way it should have. On the other hand, rural areas in the country are far behind in development in comparison to urban areas. However, development of these areas is taking place under the MPLAD scheme. Bridges and culverts are being constructed under this scheme. But the major works to be undertaken by this board are also required

to be taken care of. Earlier also, several Bills have been passed in Lok Sabha for ensuring development of these areas but they are not being implemented properly. This Bill also contains a suggestion that a fund will be created by the Central Government to ensure development of these areas. In fact, the country where working fraternity is not prosperous and content, there are no means of transport, and there are no road and hospitals, it could never be called a developed nation. In brief, country's development is not possible unless development of villages is achieved.

Sir, the farmers in the backward areas are a miserable lot. They have to face a lot of difficulties while bringing their crops to the market for the lack of means. Those getting elected to Lok Sabha or State Assemblies from their areas must be aware of their miserable condition. People come to the block headquarters from 30-40 kms far off places. The farmers are having a good paddy crop all over the country but they are not getting remunerative prices of their produce as they are not able to bring their crop to the market for lack of roads in the areas.

Sir, I through you, should like to urge the Central Government to pass this Bill as early as possible and should provide maximum possible funds for development of the backward areas. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this time.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, in the Backward Areas Development Board Bill introduced by Subodhji, emphasis has been laid on some specific aspects. The Bill says that even after 50 years of independence there are some regions in the country which are still the victims of inequality, poverty and economic disparity. There is a need to set up some commission which should look into these matters in order to bring them at par with other regions. All of you know that it has been discussed time and again inside and outside the House that there are some regions of the country which are continuously facing drought and flood situation even today. These are regions which could be developed to the desired extent despite carrying out development work continuously. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the regions which could be developed industrially and the manner in which it could be done. It is true that there are some states where there are possibilities of industrial development. Take the example of newly created state of Chhattisgarh, it has vast potential for industrial development. It has coal, iron ore, copper and all types of mineral wealth. Even diamond is available here in sufficient quantity. Despite all this, this area is still undeveloped. Therefore, if the industrial potential is explored and necessary resources like water, power and other kinds of resources are made available the development of such regions is definitely possible.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

Sir, similarly we can take some regions of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. There are certain regions in Gujarat also which have not made any progress from the developmental point of view despite the continuous efforts made in this regard. Some areas have been mentioned in it and some are yet to be identified. Therefore, it is necessary that we should make the efforts to provide financial assistance for the development of all these areas. If the Government are trying to achieve this end and as it has been suggested, they should set up such type of commission and if work is done under a set norm then development of these areas could definitely be possible. Since the national geographical and economic situation of every area is different therefore these areas have been mentioned and identified in the said Bill. It has also been mentioned as to how the commission would be constituted and what should be its composition. My submission is that the Government should decide about the nature of the Commission to be constituted, the number of its members and their norms for selection. Moreover, other means of development could be adopted apart from the Commission for the development of those areas. So as to remove this regional economic disparity and imbalance.

Though, the debate in this regard is being undertaken in the Parliament time and again. Debate in regard to Vananchal and development of hilly areas is already done. Therefore, I think that the Bill which is presented here is a relevant Bill. Every today, many parts of India are reeling under extreme poverty, illiteracy and backwardness. We are aware about Kalahandi and Bastar. It will be in a fitness of thing if the Government act according to their sentiments and fulfil their objectives. The kind of vocabulary used in this bill can be a debatable subject but I would like to conclude by saying that the sentiments expressed in the Bill in regard to economic and socio development of the backward areas is good.

16.15 hrs

[English]

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the chair*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, no doubt, it is a well-intentioned Bill. Hon. Shri Mohite, while bringing forward this Bill, has mentioned about accelerated development of backward areas for reducing regional disparities. He wants to bring up the backward areas, in a short-term, to the level of the rest of the country. He wants to evolve a fully integrated development programme for identifying backward areas to ensure their all-round progress. He also wants that there should be a predominance of small and marginal farmers. He also has the intention of developing the infrastructural facilities

like power, water supply, transport and the rest. In the Financial Memorandum, he has also provided for Rs. 15 lakh from the Consolidated Fund of India on account of administrative expenses, and the Development Fund shall be made available to the Board after due appropriation by the Parliament. So, I fully agree that the intention is good. Already, the hon. Members who have spoken before me, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya and Shri Paswan, have mentioned in detail the fact that this is a very-well intentioned Bill. So, I am not going into the details of it.

But the way the Bill has been framed, I do not think that it is practicable, and it does not conform to the provisions of the Constitution of India. Clause 3 of the Bill says:

- "(1) There shall be established by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, a Board to be called the Backward Areas Development Board.
- (2) The head office of the Board shall be at New Delhi and Board may with the previous approval of the Central Government, establish offices at other places in the country."

Clause 12 says:

- "(1) The Board shall submit every year a report, in such form as may be prescribed, of its development activities to the Prime Minister.
- (2) The Prime Minister shall cause the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after each such report received by him."

Clause 13 (1) says:

"The Central Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act."

The way the Bill has been framed, clearly it seems that the Backward Areas Development Council is going to be a baby of the Central Government. It seems, as if it is going to be a Union Territory, it is only the Central Government which will have all sorts of control because the Chairman of this Council will be the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission. The Vice-Chairman will be appointed by the Central Government, besides six Members from the Parliament and the representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Industrial Development, Finance, Railways, Communications, Education, Health and Family Welfare.

Sir, I will just go through the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, List II - State List. In the division of powers, in Entry 5, what has been written is as follows.

It says:

"...The local Government, that is to say, the constitution and powers of municipal corporations, improvement trusts, the district boards, mining settlement authorities and other local authorities for the purpose of local Self-Government or village Administration..."

That means, according to the Constitution of India any such Development Board will never come under the Central Government. It would only come under the purview of the State Government.

Sir, now we are having - it is not anything new - the Gorkhaland Development Council, the Bodoland Development Council and presently now we are also having the Western Orissa Development Council. Just like that, as has been said by Shri Mohite, we could have Development Boards for Bihar, for the Telengaga region, for the Southern districts of North Bihar, for Madhya Pradesh, for the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and also for the North-Eastern States. But as of now wherever we are having these Development Boards they are under the purview of the respective State Governments. In case of the State of Orissa, the Western Development Council under which generally the backward districts of the State are covered, the Development Board does not have any Administrative or financial powers. A tug of war is now going on between the Government of Orissa and a group of people. They are not willing to demit some real administrative and financial powers to the Western Development Board of Orissa.

Sir, if we look at the present practice we would know that all the money that are allocated for developmental purposes comes from the Central Government. Money allocated under EAS; money spent under JRY, money spent under PMRY and money allocated for so many other Centrally-sponsored schemes including the MPLAD scheme comes from the Central Government only. But the executing agency for these schemes is the State Government and not the Central Government. The money goes to respective State Governments and they spend the money. It is not the Central Government who directly spends the money in any scheme. So, it would have been better had Shri Mohite provided for some kind of a Board that was to be controlled by the State Government and the financial powers would have to be given by the Central Government only.

Sir, there is a provision under Clause 5 where something has been mentioned about the Railways. It has been said that whatever railway projects ought to

have been taken up in the backward regions should be decided by the Backward Council. Is it possible? I was Member of the Standing Committee on Railways last year. I know that as of today if we want to complete all the on-going projects in the Railways, then it would cost Rs. 34,000 crore. The Railways are not able to increase the fare every year. It is because the Railway Minister feels that it would annoy the people. The Government is unable to increase the passenger fare. So, there is cross-subsidisation every year. Every year the freight charges are increased. Gradually it has so happened that sending goods by trucks have become cheaper than sending goods by trains. Freight charges are being increased every year. This Board might say that there should be railway lines in a particular place.

It may be uneconomical, it may be unremunerative, yet people say that because an area is a backward area they simply want a railway line there. From where shall the Central Government bring in funds? Merely saying that a railway line is wanted without arranging for the funds does not serve any purpose. It does not lead the country anywhere.

There should be Boards like this but they should remain under the control of the State Governments. That would be a practicable proposition. A very good provision I find in the Bill, as mentioned by the hon. Member, is that six Members of Parliament — four from Lok Sabha and two from Rajya Sabha — are to be elected from the respective Houses. This is a good suggestion. Members of Parliament are practically the representatives of the Central Government. They do not have a say in any matter. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Member of Lok Sabha you know very well that we do not have any say in the expenditure incurred on the EAS or any toher Centrally-sponsored scheme in the States. So, it will be good if the Members of Parliament are represented on such Boards. They can look after the interest of the Central Government. They can see if the money released by the Central Government is properly spent.

In conclusion I would say that there should be a board financed by the Central Government and run by the State Government. Such a board should have the representation of Members of Parliament and a few other representatives of the Central Government. This would be very good for the backward areas.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mohite has brought Backward Area Development Board Bill, 2000 and I rise here to speak in its favour. I think that the work of Union Government will become

[Shrimati Rama Pilot]

easier by constituting such boards. Some time back the demand for many smaller States was raised in our country. For which the struggle have been continuing for years. The people of Uttaranchal came all the way to Delhi and waged struggle for the creation of Uttaranchal which has resulted in loss of property and workdays. This loss of workdays is a loss of country. Ultimately the Government decided to create three new states in view of public agitation. I congratulate Shri Mohiteji for this Bill and would like to request the Union Government to consider upon this Bill. India is a vast country where immense resources are available. Sometimes it becomes difficult for our MPs, MLAs and other officers to reach them. The Government can solve this problem by constituting small boards. Shri Mohite has mentioned about Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, North Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States. I think it would have been better if he had included Rajasthan in it. The topography of Rajasthan is as such that in some places it is only sand dunes whereas some places lack water and some places are predominantly hilly. It would have been better if smaller boards be constituted for such place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country have a variety of seasons with abundant natural resources. If the Government handles the management of all these development boards then we can touch all the boundaries of the country and undertake development work. It is a common fact that if a family is big then after the marriage of elder son parents ask them to stay away because managing a big family is a difficult job.

Therefore, by constituting such boards, those parts of our country can also be developed which were alienated till date. The khadi board is being run by the centre since a long. I think that the branches of khadi board are running all over the country and its head office is in Delhi. Thus, if we constitute boards like this by opening their head offices in Delhi and their branches and sub-branches in all over the states i.e. from Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep to Nagaland and Assam in North East and upto the boarders of Bhutan and spread over network throughout the country then we will be able to reach not only our policies and programmes to the remotest areas because Delhi being the capital of India is hubbub of all new activities.

Today, dispute is going on regarding small industries. I do not want to talk about the industries which are running in the houses because a lengthy discussion has already been going on this. If we spread our branches through out the country like this then we will be able to save other states from the situation which has erupted in Delhi in the last few days. Everybody wants to prosper

and achieve his goal of life. Today the maximum population of Delhi is of outsiders, who come from other states. The main reason of this is that due to the lack of sufficient employment opportunities in their respective States these people come to Delhi in search of employment and later on become the resident of Delhi. This becomes a matter of controversy at the later stage. During election somebody says that they will remove jhuggis and somebody else says they will not allow their removal. We give it a political colour. I would rather say that if we constitute the Backward Area Development Board then we can develop any backward area of our country whether it is a flood hit areas or arid regions on rocky areas. If we constitute a board for promoting tourism in North East, then I am sure India can earn the maximum revenue from tourism out of northeastern regions.

Rajasthan produces the best quality of marble. If we constitute a board for them the employee and labourer, who work there will be able to get the maximum information, than those who are away. This way we can make people, such as labourers, fishermen working in hilly regions more informed.

Today, the demand has been raised for three States. I would like to say that some years from now the demand might come for dividing this States as well. It is therefore, necessary to constitute boards in order to save the excess expenditure. I would like to know from the Government whether the expenditure incurred on the formation of new States is not more than constituting boards. I think that the Government's answer is going to be positive. Fewer amount will spent on the constitution of any board in comparison to money needed for establishing offices for a new State. Therefore, I support this Bill and request the Government to consider upon it.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on this Backward Area Development Board Bill, and would like to say that the five year plans were implemented in this country to remove the regional imbalances. But even after 53 years of independence there are still some regions in this country which were not developed properly. Therefore, the Bill presented by our hon'ble Member is very pertinent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many areas of the states which were shown in this Bill. As for example there is reference of hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh which has become a State now. But I would like to draw your attention towards Kalahandi of Orissa and those areas of Poorvanchal which comprised of 23 districts. Even after the 53 years of independence the denizens of those areas are forced to go to metro polis like Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi in search of livelihood, due to economic imbalances.

In spite of severe imbalance in men and land ratio no economic development took place in those areas. Some districts such as Azamgarh, Ballia, Gajipur, Varanasi, Deoria, Gonda, Mau and Behraich are such which were quite backward economically, socially and culturally from the mainstream.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need to constitute boards which can identify such areas for regional development. Some efforts have been made by the Government of India to identify them but the continuous process for identifying them is lacking. The necessary machinery to perform this job is absent. There is need to create and develop it. For example, I would like to tell that my district Mau was created 11 years back, but till date no basic infrastructure have been developed there. The district neither have the proper roads nor any industrial unit. Besides being the world famous centre of saree not a single saree finishing unit have been established there. The district is quite backward from education point of view. In today's computer age not a single university is there to provide the education at B.Sc., B.Com., or LL.B. level. No heavy industry has been established there till date. From social point of view the area is very backward.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think tremendous efforts need to be made for the development of this area. I would like to submit that not only this particular area but all such undeveloped areas of the country should be identified and packages devised for their development and implementation. If this happens then the mess and pollution could also be alleviated which is created by the people who come to the cities and metro's in search of livelihood and end up living in slums. With the implementation of these packages sufficient employment opportunities at their doorsteps will get created. Thus, the need to migrate from the villages will get mitigated. This will not put pressure on metropolitan cities and there environment and atmosphere will remain healthy. Thus, the problem of pollution will also be solved. Along with this it will also develop the backward areas. I would like to request that there are no institution such as ITI and polytechnic in Eastern India particularly in Mau district. Therefore, the Government should establish any big industry in the district for the development of Eastern areas so that the migration of man power from that area could be stopped. With this I conclude and thank.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, I support this Bill moved by our hon'ble Member Shri Mohite ji in the House. This Bill consists of two parts and the objective behind this Bill is definitely worth appreciating and is espousing the feeling of the people living in backward areas of the country. All those category States,

which includes the States of Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the entire region of North-East, are facing financial crisis and the people of interior areas if these States such as Tankdhar, Gurej, and Uri areas of Jammu and Kashmir are facing great difficulties and if the government will not pay attention towards the situation prevailing there then the situation prevailing in Jammu-Kashmir and North Eastern States will deteriorate further. Therefore, we want that all the financially backward areas of the country whose problems are not attended from time to time should be given proper attention on priority basis to solve their problems and some solid arrangements should be made to solve their financial problems. I strongly support this concern.

Sir, as far as law and law enforcement aspect of this Bill is concerned, I think that, it needs to be reviewed because some complications might crop up between the rights of the Union and the States, and these complications can take a dangerous turn as expressed by my friend from Orissa in the House. However, we should support this Bill thoroughly which is presented by our friend to draw your attention towards solving the problems of backward areas. Infact, I request all the hon. Members of this august House to join hands on this issue at this crucial stage when the enemies of our country from across the border are conspiring and trying to misguide the educated unemployed youth of backward areas, who are leading miserable life, to destroy the peace and unity of this country. My sincere request to the government, to all the allies of this democratic system, opposition and other institutions is to consider this matter and to solve their financial and live stock related problems on priority basis and chalkout a legal procedure to implement it. The procedure for this could be the one presented by our friend through this Bill and if we consider the legal aspects of its implementation and compile them, then we will be able to solve the problems of backward areas. I would like to request the House that we should thoroughly support this Bill.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by the sensitive Member of the House, Shri Subodh Mohite. I have been to Vidharbha. First time, when I visited there I noticed that it is a hilly region. Development wise it was a backward area. I visited there with a Member of Legislative Assembly. We had taken male clothes with us. But we were not aware that the clothes were meant for male or female. There, people are half clad. Even now people live there like this. In the Dhule distict of Maharashtra more or less the same conditions are prevailing. Therefore, Shri Mohiteji has brought this bill to highlight this problem....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three hours time was allotted for this Bill. The allotted time is going to be over and still

there are many hon. Member desirous of participating in the discussion. If the House agrees then the time could be increased by one hour.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, why not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, an hour's time is increased for this.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: If the policy is correct then it can definitely remove the imbalances of the country. On petty issues suggestions is given to constitute a commission. A commission is already there for tribal and backward castes. The commission also recommends about certain works but the government throws all the recommendations into the dustbin. The country is economically bankrupt.

Sister Rama Pilot had said that ours is a big country. Earlier the population was less. If any incident used to happen in hilly areas then in no time the news used to reach everyone in Tehsil, district and region. Nowadays we have Gramsevak, Sarpanch, but the government is not interested in solving the problems of common man. Their only concern is to accomplish political tasks. Vidarbha is a very rich region. There is jungle, minerals and water, but lacks the necessary facilities. Nobody is concerned about development. I would like to request the government that everytime suggesting constitution of a commission is not good. Special attention should be given to development works there. I would like to thank Shri Subodh Mohite ji for moving this bill at this time and conclude by supporting this Bill.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am on my legs to support the 'Backward Areas Development Board Bill-2000' introduced by the hon'ble member Shri Subodh Mohiteji.

This Bill has been presented by him to set up Backward Areas Development Board (BADB) in almost eight states. A commendable job has been done by him in the constitution of the Board. While Chairman, Vice Chairman, Four MPs are from the Lok Sabha and two MPs are from the Rajya Sabha and nine members of the ranks of Secretary from the various departments of the Union Government etc. has been nominated as representatives. This BADB will have its head office in Delhi, this is a good thing. As many of my friends have said that even after 52 years of independence, the backward and tribal areas have not been developed, we feel very sorry for that. Just now my friend Mahaleji was speaking that there is a backward region like Vidarbha in Maharashtra which also consists of tribal areas like Dhule,

Nasik, Thanand Nandurbar districts. Recently the Government of Maharashtra has created a tribal district namely Garh-Chirauli in Vidarbha region. Nandurbar District which is located on Satpura range of hills and where Sardar Sarovar Project is going on, is my constituency was declared tribal district in the year 1998. Even today local people have to walk 25-30 Km. Therefore, Mohiteji has demanded BADB should be set up for this district, I heartily congratulate him for this move.

Tribal subplan has been implemented in Backward and Tribal areas of the country. I have recently visited Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat as a member of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committee of the House and had discussions with the officials of both the states but the funds provided by the Union Government for Tribal subplan or Budget provisions made by the State Government are not spent. We regret this deeply. My friend Mahaleji has told that many commissions have been set up but when it comes to programme implementation, all the senior officers of the Union Government do not pay that much attention to the backward areas as they should. Therefore, we may constitute as many commissions, development boards but as long senior officers of our country, who have been entrusted with the job of programme implementation do not implement these programmes honestly, the development of the backward areas not going to take place. Therefore, backward people are also suffering. Union Government should pay maximum attention towards this, State Government should also pay attention. Deliberations should be done at the Department, Ministry and Cabinet level of the Union Government for the utilization of funds provided by the Union Government for the backward and Tribal areas, then only some development could be achieved in the Backward Areas.

I want to say something about Maharashtra. The Government of different parties come in power at Centre and in Maharashtra. Every Government says that they will construct road to link this village with that village but it never get constructed. In our state, particularly in Vidarbha, there is dearth of drinking water this year. We should not have said the demand for setting up the BADB if the works have been undertaken properly on drinking water schemes, roads and power schemes in the backward areas. Even after many years since independence small or big industry has not been set up in these areas. Some big or small industry should be set up by the Union Government in backward areas so that some development should take place in these areas. The major irrigation projects of the country are pending due to lack of funds. Now a decision has been taken on the

Sardar Sarovar project. By this decision Gujarat is going to prosper. But our state is not going to get anything though many of our villages have been acquired for it. At that time assurance was given to the tribals of our area that they will be rehabilitated and they will be given land with irrigation facilities. But what to talk of that land nothing has been given. It is mentioned in the Sardar Sarovar Award, the Union and the State Government have accepted it, funds have also been also been provided, land with irrigation facilities were to be provided, but so far nothing has been given. One 'BAWREE' (broad well) has been given to five persons. 25 acre land has been given to some villages. I am also a small farmer. I know that if we are two brothers then we can not carry out irrigation from one 'BAWREE' then how it is possible for five persons. Schemes like this would lead backward areas to become more backward as there will no progress. Therefore, the Union Government should pay maximum attention towards this.

Maharashtra is facing draught. Atleast 22 districts are reeling under drought. In these districts there are 2131 villages where there is acute shortage of drinking water. Electricity is out of question. We have been told that Maharashtra will get power supply after the completion of the Sardar Sarovar Project, but this has not happened. 52 years have passed after independence but the houses of Tribals and our houses are still in dark. Therefore several demands for the development of backward areas would be coming forth. If the Government is willing, then BADB would be set up but as long as implementation is not done properly, these areas will remain backward only. Moreover, I would like to request the Union Government to provide maximum funds to the backward and tribal areas and implement the scheme. If possible a sub-committee of Cabinet may be constituted to monitor these things. I support the Bill.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Backward Areas Development Bill, 2000 moved by Subodh Mohiteji. This Bill would be helpful in the development of those areas which have remained undeveloped till today and this Bill is quite praiseworthy. This Bill would be helpful in the development of hilly areas. And the proposed Board which will comprise members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is also a good suggestion. Since the peoples' representatives are well aware of all the things, so their presence in the Board is essential. And from this very point of view, they are nominated to the Board. This Board envisages the development of such areas where the irrigation facility is

not provided so far, where the electricity has not been provided till date. And similarly the communications and health facilities are not available. And this Bill has been introduced for the development of such areas only. In this very context, I want to say that I belong to the Jharkhand region and would like to let you know about that region that the Jharkhand areas has been a tribal dominated area and this is a hilly region with forests. In the remote areas of the above region, where the tribal, backward and poor people live and for the development of whom the suggestions have been given in the Bill that the government want to provide facilities there through the Board, no development work has yet taken place. And for this very reason militancy in the Jharkhand region has increased alarmingly and out of 18 districts, 16 are affected by militancy. And this is the main reason why development has not taken place there. Eight states have been included in the Bill. I would like to urge you that development should take place in the region. The people of this region migrate sometimes to Punjab and sometimes to Haryana or Assam in search of livelihood in every six months of a year. So, development is the need of the hour for the above region. It's a matter of happiness that the Union government have taken the responsibility for the development of this area and now the development work will take place there. The hon. Members have expressed their apprehension that nothing would happen because such boards have been created earlier also. To them I would like to say that they are right because if the intention is not clear and if there is no honesty of approach, then creation of any sort of Board will hardly make any difference. Therefore, you need to work honestly. The funds provided by the Government should be utilised honestly, only then the development of villages can be ensured. In our Jharkhand region where nature has bestowed everything including forests, hills, agriculture and a lot of tourist spots which can, if developed, create job opportunities for a large number of people and which will be beneficial to both the country and the state. Thus I would like to request that Jharkhand which has not been included in the list of above states, should now be included in it and attention should also be paid towards the development of this state. We have discussed a number of issues. The poor, tribals and the backwards live in forest areas where incidence of Malaria is very high. During last year thousands of people may have died of it but due to lack of transportation facility, nobody is able to reach the village.

No attention has been paid for providing medicines to them. There are no schools in those areas. The area lacks electricity facility and facility of irrigation for agriculture. This area has not been provided with any facility. Therefore I request the Central Government to

[Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary]

include Jharkhand region in it. If the objectives, with which the Bill has been moved are honestly implemented, then I think that development of regions, which remain undeveloped, is possible. There are areas in Jharkhand where no development has taken place. There people say that they do not know what freedom does mean. These regions not seen any development and such boards should be constituted for such regions. I again request the Government to include Jharkhand in it.

With these words, I again support the Bill and conclude.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is a vast and magnificent nation. We have enough natural resources. We have forests, hills, plains, rivers, mountains and backwaters. We are maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. We maintain the unity in diversity.

The people of India are by and large peace-loving and law-abiding. We have abundant natural resources in our country. But if you look at the areas in our country, wherever natural resources are more, those areas remain under-developed. Take the case of Chhattisgarh in your State. I correct myself that it is not in your State but it was till recently a part of your State. Take the cases of Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. These areas are under-developed areas in our country. But these areas have abundant natural resources. Unfortunately, we are not able to tap the resources properly. We have no plan to tap these resources. So, these areas remain under-developed.

Next, creation of new States is not the remedy. Actually speaking, if a State is very small, political instability will be greater. Look at Goa. Forty MLAs are there. Thirty-nine MLAs became Ministers in a very short period. All the time they are in the crucible of political instability. Except the Speaker, all of them became Ministers within a span of one year. So, creation of a small State is not the remedy. It will create more troubles in future. But that is not the point to be discussed now. The point is that development should have a clear-cut planning. We should have a clear-cut planning to avoid regional imbalances. Unfortunately, we have no proper planning. Because of that, certain areas in our remotest parts of the country remain under-developed. So, planning should be done in such a way that every area should be given its proper due. We are not able to give every area its proper due now. If we go on doing like that, all these

areas will remain under-developed. Backwardness can be removed by a balanced growth. Unfortunately, the balanced growth is not there. Equitable distribution of wealth is not taking place in our country. That is the biggest problem. I am not blaming anybody.

Sir, we are now in an era of coalitions. If you look at the successive coalition Governments, you will see that powerful political partners are getting all the developmental benefits. If they bargain, the Government will succumb to the pressure and accept their demands. It is done for the existence of the Governments. This is a new phenomenon that is coming up.

The political party which commands more strength in Lok Sabha or in the Assemblies, they would get more power which they actually deserve. When we are living in an era of coalition, this is one of the most important points to be taken care of.

For example, if the Railway Minister is from a particular State, that State would get all the railway lines, and all the important projects of the Railways. Demands were raised to the effect that the office of Railway Ministry should be rotated to the States. When Shri Jaffer Sharief was the Railway Minister in the Congress regime, he only looked after Karnataka. When Kumari Mamata Banerjee became the Railway Minister, she is only looking after West Bengal. Irrespective of party politics, I am saying that this is the attitude of the day. As a result of this, the areas, which deserve more attention, is neglected. In an era of coalition Government, this phenomenon should be taken care of. We should have a national outlook on this.

Unfortunately, North-Eastern States are more backward. When Shri Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, he had introduced certain schemes for removing the industrial backwardness in the North-Eastern States. Unfortunately because of lack of infrastructure facilities, these schemes were not properly implemented and the North-Eastern States were not developed at all. Take Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and also Maharashtra, as rightly pointed out by my hon. colleague, where certain areas still have no electricity, schools and infrastructural facilities. People have no access to the markets. Because of non-accessibility to the market, they are not in a position to sell their goods. These are the real backward areas in our country. What is most important is that we have to have a real planning for the removal of industrial backwardness in these areas. Nobody is investing money in the backward areas and no industry is coming up. Even though the Government is giving

more facilities, more subsidies and tax holidays for these projects, really speaking, nobody is going and investing the money in these areas.

We are living in the agrarian society. The fruits of scientific revolution have not reached the villages. Till now, our farmers are adopting the age-old system of farming. They are mostly dependent on the monsoon. They are not getting real scientific and technological know-how. Hence, our production is less and we can see the real backwardness in our agricultural sector. I conclude by making two or three points.

Regarding education, if we go to the most populous States, we can see that the educational facilities are very meagre. Schools are only in the books. A number of schools exist on paper. No teacher is going to the schools. Of course, students are not going to the schools. The education is totally nil in those areas. There should be a concerted effort for the economic upliftment of the poorest of the poor. We had implemented a lot of programmes. For example, the IRDP. The IRDP is one programme which was aimed at poverty alleviation. But the incidence of poverty has to be evaluated and the economic activity should be accelerated. We can remove backwardness only when we accelerated the economic activities at the village level.

Poverty, unemployment and illiteracy are the three main issues confronting the people who are living in the backward areas. Merely constituting or forming a board will not help.

Sir, I was just now discussing with Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev about the backwardness in the North Eastern States. In many of the North Eastern States like Assam, people are not getting basic facilities even today also. Then, Shri Kharabela Swain was mentioning about the KBK districts in the State of Orissa which needs to be given more and more attention to remove backwardness. Finally, I support the Bill, but I would like to say that merely constituting a Backward Areas Development Board would not help. We should have a visionary thinking and proper implementation of the programme should be there.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Munger): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the sentiments behind the introduction of Backward Area Development Board Bill-2000. Shri Mohite has made a proposal for setting up of a Board for the most backward areas of the backward States. It appears that it will be an autonomous body. There is also a mention about the control of the Board. It appears from the Bill that Board would function under the Central Government because it is the Central Government which will manage its funds. But there is no

mention as to what will be the role of the State Governments having backward areas in regard to the Board and what will be board's approach towards them. It is not clear as to how the Central Government, the Board and the State Governments will interact with one another because Delhi would be the headquarters of the board. Its expences would be borne by the Central Government and all the departments including the Planning Commission, which find a mention in it would be its members. All the provisions would be passed by the Parliament. Will it be under the direct control of the Central Government or will the State Government also have some role there? Therefore, there is no mention about the extent of intervention, if any, of the Central Government and State Government in it. It should be mentioned clearly as to the authority under which the autonomous body and would function. Therefore, Shri Mohite Saheb should give a clarification in this regard and make same amendments also in it.

Secondly, I have supported this Bill also because there is a mention of North Bihar in it. Since Jharkhand is a separated State now it can now be called Bihar. Now Bihar Comprises only North Bihar and Central Bihar. Now it is mainly an agricultural State.

I am not going to ask as to how the development Board is going to function once it is formed. But a plan should be formulated for the development of these areas. There should be a plan for the development of Backward areas of the backward states.

There are two major means of transport in the country. Air route is used by a small section of our population. Therefore it is not proper to talk about aeroplanes for these backward areas. Roadways and Railways are two means of transportation for the people living in rural and urban areas of the country. People should be provided necessary infrastrucutre and roadways and Railways should form important component of the plan. These provisions should be made for the backward areas. If these facilities are provided, necessary capital will reach the area for the installation of agro-based industries and for full utilisation of minerals available there. Electricity should be provided to those regions. Whatever water comes from Nepal flow through rivers like Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati and Kosi without any utility. It also caused damage in North Bihar. Every year it destroys the infrastructure, schools, community halls and roads of those areas. It needs to be stopped for this purpose construction of major dams is necessary. Even the planning Commission endorses the views that it should be done. A dam should be constructed there and hydro electricity generated. Hydel power is cheaper in the

[Shri Brahma Nand Mandal]

country. By utilising the waters coming from Nepal, we can generate electricity upto 20000 MW. If transport and power is made available there, other things will take that own care. I gave the example of North Bihar. Central Government should arrange these three things in the backward regions of the country and allocate funds for that. If there is political will, we can bring these backward states on the map of the country.

With these words, I support the sentiments of the hon'ble Member. I would have given my full support to the Bill had it been moved under proper rules. I thank you for the opportunity you gave me for speaking.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairman, Sir, it is a very important Bill on the aspect that the backwardness should be a very important point for consideration of the Planning Commission and also the Minister for Planning who is available here. We would like to draw on the basis of this Bill that the areas which are covered in the Bill, especially the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, which include my constituency, are Pudukkottai, Sivaganga and Ramnad. These districts are also classified as backward districts - industrially and economically.

But now, after having about 12 textile mills, these districts were taken away from the classification of backward area. Simply by taking away from the classification of backward area, these areas are not getting any economic subsidy or economic help from the Government. The Government is having certain criteria to classify an area as a backward area. If it is having some small-scale or medium scale industries, then that area is taken away from the classification of backward area. I would like to submit that simply having small-scale and medium scale industries would not make the area forward. The purchasing power of the people should be taken into consideration.

Our area was once a very rich place. When there was a development activity in the neighbouring district that is in Madurai, the surplus water that was coming from *Vaigai* and *Periyar* had stopped by the construction of dams. That is a good development activity. That is a good development activity for Madurai but not for our district. Our district has become backward because of not getting the surplus water from *Vaigai* and *Periyar* dam. Therefore, we are depending on the rainwater. About 3,400 irrigation tanks are there but these irrigation tanks have not been renovated. A plenty of money had been borrowed from the foreign countries, foreign banks and

from the Central Government Departments but the money had not been properly utilised. If you take the data, you will find that so many crores of rupees had been spent on irrigation and for the improvement of these tanks but nothing is happening. That is why, we would like to submit that our area is having a rich resource. It is having a basic structure for irrigation. We are now taking it as a very fast water-harvesting scheme. It is there for thousands of years but it is not properly renovated. The supply channels were not improved properly.

Then, proper irrigation is not there. The rain water is not properly harvested. That means, there is a drought. The ground water is also going down. The sea water is also coming down. This is the thing that is happening. Therefore, the backward area is becoming the most backward area. What is the remedy for it? We have to choose it as a thrust area. I would like to request the Government that at least one Parliamentary constituency in each and every State should be taken as a nodal area, that is a sample area, where you can improve in certain areas so that the backwardness can be eradicated. For that purpose, this Bill is very useful. Different Departments should co-ordinate. For example, we are not having a broad-gauge line. Even for conversion of a line, which was announced this year, only a sum of Rs. 5 crore has been allotted. That is not sufficient. It needs about Rs. 250 crore. When we are going to get that broad-gauge line? How can that area become a developed area? Therefore, industrial backwardness is there. Transport facilities are not available. Infrastructure facilities have to be improved. Whether the hen is before or the egg is before, that is the question we have to answer.

The Government should concentrate on these backward areas. It is just like a human being. When a hand is not working properly due to paralytic attack, that hand should be given proper treatment, that handicap should be removed. Then only, the whole structure of the human being can be seen in the same way and the nation also can be seen in the same way. Therefore, this Bill will create an impact on the Ministry so that they will have the planning, which can be a total, comprehensive and area-wise. With proper focussing or attention, we can do it.

We can develop the backward districts. That mental attitude can be removed and development can be brought about.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, we all very grateful to Shri Subodh Mohite for the Bill that he has introduced and because of that Bill, a very important subject has been discussed. Extremely significant suggestions and points have been made and the entire debate has been completely non-partisan.

Just now we have heard a very good example of that. An Hon'ble Member mentioned the examples of Railway Ministers. He took the examples from both Parties, from both sorts of Governments. So, we all share the concern, which lies behind this Bill. There is backwardness and that is the heart of the problem of development in our country. That goes without saying.

The limited question to which I will address myself is whether the solution which has been proposed in Shri Mohite's Bill is a solution which will take us closer to the objectives which all of us want to achieve in this matter. The sympathy of all Members for the poor is such, so intense that Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale when he was speaking.

[Translation]

In his speech he said that setting up one more commission will not make any difference. But he supported the Bill which aims to create not one but a number of more such commissions. Sensitivity and sympathy is a different thing. But we have to really consider whether this particular remedy of setting up a Central Board is going to help solve the problem, a problem which, in all other debates we have been saying is to be better addressed by further decentralising power and functions.

This debate has been a very constructive one and I assure you that the specific suggestions which have been made, for instance, about a concerted attack on poverty, and of changing the direction of our planning, I will certainly convey to all concerned and do my little bit to ensure that those things are done. But at the moment, I will confine myself only to this particular point about the Board.

If we look at the speeches, which have been made, you will see that almost three-quarters of the country would have to be covered under that Board. That is one point.

[Translation]

As you were just saying about Bihar, but when my colleague was speaking on behalf of Jharkhand, he said that there is backwardness even when resources are abundant.

[English]

So you will cover again three-quarters of the country in the purview of this Board.

The second point is, as Shri Kharabela Swain pointed out, to use his words, this will be 'a baby of the Central Government'. If you see the composition, it is to be set up by the Central Government. The Chairman is to be the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission; another Vice-Chairman is to be appointed by the Central Government; and nine members are to be appointed by the Central Government to represent nine Ministries of the Central Government. Now, the point is that all these persons are already trying to attend to these problems. If they are not attending to these problems, then just putting them in another Board is not going to change the character nor their functioning, whichever the Government that is in power.

A very valid question was just raised by our friend from Bihar about what the relationship will be of the Governments which are of the States which have these backward districts or backward areas in their command.

[Translation]

What will be their relationship. All the State Governments are the members of National Development Council. They raise the same issue there. He was absolutely right that on the one hand we advocate more powers for state Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions' but on the other, we ask for setting up of a Central Board to be constituted by the Central Government. No matter whether it is set-up now or later, maximum Members of the Board would belong to Central Planning Commission and the Central Ministries and five members would be appointed by the Central Government. Then how that Board will be autonomous from the influence of Central Government?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the State Government's are represented in the National Development Council. What they are not able to do through the National Development Council, how they could do that through the new Board? We have to think about it. Firstly, there is the issue of its composition. Secondly, each and every Member of the House expressed the same view on the issue of

[Shri Arun Shourie]

poverty and backward sections of the backward areas of the States. The Government, the intellectuals and the political class, all agree to it. During the period of licensing, industries in the backward areas were sought to be promoted. The incentive is still there, but industries were not set up in backward areas, but only in metropolises like Mumbai.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member was saying that the Government should set up industries in other areas also.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: The Central Government should set up industries there.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: On this issue, we should pay attention to one thing. The Central Government will set up the Board while the State Governments would claim right on it, it will remain under the control. Now arrangement of funds will be the look out of Central Government. Please tell me, from where the Central Government is going to arrange money. Shri Swain was telling that we protest when rail passenger fare is increased we lodge a protest but everyone of us wants that new railway lines are laid. We should think that if the railway passenger fares are not increased from where else Government is going to manage funds for rail lines.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time during the debate on disinvestment, I had discussed in detail the position of Public Sector. They all invest money and money has been invested in the backward districts. But doing only that does not guarantee development. I don't want to be involved in it because it is altogether a different thing. At present our problem is that of growth which has increased from 2.5 to 3.0 percent earlier to 6.0-6.5 percent now, then we say that the progress has slowed down. In spite of that there are still some areas in the country where growth is not taking place properly. It mainly includes small regions and even states like Punjab and Haryana, which were having high growth rates during the 70s and 80s, are witnessing a declining trend. It is a dangerous phenomenon on Punjab and Haryana, except western U.P., there is only one area up to North-East which is progressing. That is Bangladesh, which is not a part of our country. The whole area is having a growth rate of 0.5 to 2.0 percent. What is the result? As my colleague was just telling us that growth rate in western Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is 7, 8 and 9 percent, but in states like Bihar, per capita growth is only around 0.5 percent. Difficulties will arise in the days to come if the country is divided on the basis of growth. Therefore, I share the view point of hon. Members that we should go into the reasons for the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to disclose a secret that even figures in respect of the same state symbolise a dangerous potent. Uma ji is present here. A survey was conducted in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94 a mention of which was made by hon'ble Finance Minister this morning.

[English]

In Madhya Pradesh 41 percent of the people were below the poverty line.

In South Western Madhya Pradesh, 68 per cent people were below the poverty line; in Gwalior region, only 17 per cent people were below the poverty line.

[Translation]

Disparity in the figures of the same region may prove dangerous.

[English]

In the coastal region of Maharashtra, 15 per cent people were below the poverty line; and in Inland Central, 50 per cent people were below the poverty line. So, this kind of a division between States, between regions within a State, and, within a region, between districts is a very dangerous thing. I agree with that. But the reason for this is not the absence of a Central Board. It is something completely different. It is not that allocations are not being made. It is not that Boards are not available.

We have placed a copy of the highlights from the 9th plan Mid-term Appraisal in the Library. The appraisal has been completed and it is being printed, and we hope that we will be able to distribute copies of the Mid-term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan during this Session. It is astonishing can anybody guess as to what is over total annual out-lay poverty schemes. It is Rs. 35,000 crores per annum....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): But it does not reach them.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Exactly. Our Planning Secretary Shri Saxena made a calculation that if all the poverty schemes are discontinued and the money involved in them is sent straight to families below poverty line by money order, each family would get Rs. 8000 annually. With that they can buy 2.5 kg rice per day and automatically they would cross the poverty line.

[English]

Is it a question of allocation? Is it a question that Board is not available? I will give an example to illustrate the problem.

[Translation]

Since Shri Raghuvansh ji is not here, I can speak on Bihar. In Bihar and Maharashtra....(Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) We two Members from Bihar are present.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is why I am scared. The population of Bihar is slightly higher than Maharashtra. The population of Bihar is 9.5 crores while that of Maharashtra is 8.8 crores. But the annual plan outlay of Bihar under five year plan is Rs. 2300 crore while in the case of Maharashtra it is Rs. 8400 crore. What is the secrecy behind it? It is not that Bihar is being discriminated against. But Bihar is not able to contribute the necessary counterpart funds. Even if a Board is created, for the Backward districts, will Bihar be able to contribute the counterpart fund? Shri Nitish Kumar was speaking in the other House. He is from Bihar. Bihar is in the grip of flood. When the hon'ble Prime Minister asked him to go to West Bengal, he went to Bihar also to assess the situation. There he was saying that the Finance Commission, C.A.G. have asked for opening separate accounts for the funds meant for calamity. Shri Nitish Kumar ji was saying, that he had visited Bihar twice. He was ready to provide funds, but at least accounts were required to be opened. Even account has not been opened. The condition of Administration is the main cause of the situation prevailing in Bihar. All these things take place due to that only. Due to that there is inequality and poverty. Setting up of a Board is no solution to this problem. Water supply is an important factor of poverty alleviation. But during last six years, Bihar could not utilise Rs. 600 crore out of the total money it received for Rural Water Supply. If we set up a Board in Delhi, what effect will it have on the administration of Bihar. This scheme is not meant for Bihar alone. When Shri Priyaranjan Das Munsu was speaking on the Bill, he was bent upon relating the condition of West Bengal. He also said that arsenic poisoning is taking place there. What are the facts there? The report of Comptroller and Auditor-General on West Bengal is placed in the Library. Please go through it. It will give an idea of what would happen if such Boards are set up. The Report says.

[English]

Ninety-five percent of the total expenditure in West Bengal is just in payment of salaries.

[Translation]

What assets one can hope to create with just 5 per cent money? If one more Board is set up, the expenditure

will decline to 3 per cent from 5 per cent as more salaries need to be given. Total investment in the Public Sector Enterprises of West Bengal is Rs. 3520 crores while total return has been put at Rs. 55 lakhs that comes to 0.01%. The West Bengal Government is borrowing at the rate of 12.5 percent interest. West Bengal Government invests Rs. 3520 crore in Public Sector Enterprises with interest liability of 12 percent while it is getting just 0.01 percent. This is the problem. And this problem will not be solved by setting up a Board.

Similarly, an hon'ble Member was saying about Vidarbha where such Boards are numerous. Boards have been set up in Vidarbha, Marathwada and remaining Maharashtra since 1994. Annual expenditure on the Boards is Rs. 100 crore. I have seen the minutes. Our Principle Advisor Mrs. Krishna Singh had gone to Maharashtra to discuss these very issues. One of the issues was how the Boards are functioning. Please go through their minutes.

[English]

"Chairman of two Development Boards, along with the officers of all the three Development Boards were present."

[Translation]

Maharashtra has similar development boards which you want to create through this Bill.

[English]

Chairman, Marathwada Board as also the Chairman for the rest of Maharashtra accepted the fact that these Development Boards have not had the required impact on the removal of regional imbalances which, in some cases, have further widened.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the extended time for the debate on the issue is expiring. I would like to have the consent of the House for extending the time for this issue till the hon'ble Minister finished his reply. Shri Subodh Mohite made his speech to dispose of the Bill and then Shri Geete moved the motion to consider introductions of the Bill.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend its time up to 6 O'clock. If the debate is not over till then, it should be stopped at that and I should be allowed to introduce the Bill next day....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have asked for consent of the House for the consideration of Bill. It is now upto the wishes of the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Only ten minutes are left. We have to be quick.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is up to the hon. Minister.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will just finish in two or three minutes.

[Translation]

There was a proposal to set up one more board for Konkan. Here are the views of the officers of the Maharashtra Government and the Chairman of the Board.

[English]

"Regarding the setting up of a separate Development Board for Konkan, the Chairman of the rest of Maharashtra was of the view that though the Maharashtra Assembly had approved of this, this was, in no way, going to help Konkan, even if it had a separate Board."

[Translation]

This is the experience of the persons running the board. There are two more small points. In the 73rd and 74th amendments empowerment of the Panchayati Raj Institutions has been envisaged and you will reverse that process through such proposals because through this Bill, centralisation will increase further. Similarly, in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, a totally different provision has been made for the other tribal areas. In the Sixth Schedule, provision of autonomous councils for the North-East has been made. If such boards are set up those provisions would also be reversed. I would like to tell Shri Mohiteji that he has raised very important issue and the entire House is with him.

A very important suggestion has been given here that the planning should be reoriented and I assure you that the Government are working in this direction and when you go through the mid term appraisal, high-lighted copy of which has been placed in the library and you will be getting the printed copies thereof, soon, you will find that entire focus is on the point as to how the backward sections of the backward areas can be developed. The Government are paying attention to this point. If you are of the view that meeting of the Members of Parliament representing those areas should be held with the Planning Commission, I assure you that I will arrange such a meeting with the Planning Commission. Shri Rashidji had given this valuable suggestion last time

also during the course of discussion on hilly areas and I will arrange that meeting.

Therefore, I request you that one more board should not be added for development and hence you should withdraw this Bill.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, so far as the centrally sponsored schemes are concerned, a way out should be found out for the states like Bihar which do not utilize the allocated funds for this purpose. For such states, funds should go directly from the centre and fund utilization should also be monitored from the Centre. We are leading a hard life there....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I am very happy that there is consensus on this Bill as there are very few bills on which we have consensus. About 20-22 hon'ble Members have spoken on this Bill and all of them have supported this Bill because they love their constituencies and they want that the backward areas should be developed.

Though I wanted to speak on this Bill for 10-15 minutes but I will not take much time of the House because otherwise other Bill will not be introduced in the House. No Member has opposed this Bill as it is a very important bill. The hon'ble Minister has also said in his speech that it is the question of the feelings of the hon'ble Members and I think.

[English]

He is a think tank

[Translation]

of the NDA Government. Therefore, we have high expectations from him. I don't remember whether any Private Member's Bill has been passed in the history of the Parliament. Ultimately whatever may be the fate of this discussion, all are anxious to know the outcome of this Bill.

I do not want to contradict all the points made here by the hon'ble Minister but I would like to say that there is no truth in the point he had made about the State Government. I would like to cite an example in this regard. When our officers visit the state and review the functioning of Vidarbha Development Board or Marathwada Development Board, they furnish information to you on the basis of which you have said all this, I would say that this information is totally wrong....*(Interruptions)* If the review has been done by the officers of Bihar then there are hundred and one percent chances that it is not correct. I would like to cite a latest example regarding allocation of budget to the Board by the State

Government. The Government of Maharashtra has demanded Rs. 1000 crores from the 'NABARD'.

[English]

Before demanding it, the Chief Minister of the Government of Maharashtra has announced that.

[Translation]

Rupees two crores each would be allocated to the MLAs and MPs belonging to the ruling party and no allocation would be made for the MPs belonging to the opposition parties. The hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil who belongs to the Shiv Sena has said that this could not be the criteria and therefore, the funds given by the 'NABARD' have not been released. Similar is the fate of the funds allocated for the Backward Areas Development Boards. In this regard I would like to cite the example of last year i.e. 1999-2000. If Rs. 100 crores are provided for the purpose then only Rs. 20 crores are released in the budget.

The provision is for Rs. 2300 crores, and Rs. 20 crores are given in Supplementary budget but Rs. 50 crores are allocated just three days prior to the conclusion of financial year i.e. 31 March. It means that the total outlay is not allowed to be used. This sort of conspiracy is hatched. Therefore, the facts which are before you.

[English]

That is not the ground reality. This is the first thing.

[Translation]

Match fixing scandal happened recently. Its report has come. A scandal even more dangerous is taking place. Be it any State Government. I am talking about Maharashtra there lobbying takes place. Shri Sharad Pawarji is not present here otherwise I would have interacted with him. If we see the Budget of five regions of Maharashtra for example of western Maharashtra

[English]

Sixty per cent of the total budget is allotted to the lobbies which are governing the Government, for example,

[Translation]

There are cooperative lobby, wine lobby, sugar lobby and mill lobby. If tendency of such nature prevails we will not be able to achieve our objective. The sacrifice made by our forefathers for independence, blood shed by them, I do not wish to delve into all that but this was the first point raised by the hon'ble Minister.

Secondly, he talked of decentralisation of power. Vajpayeeji's Government believes in decentralisation of power. It was quoted by you and we accept it being a part of NDA. You had also talked about empowerment of Panchayat Raj.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I said it was brought through a constitutional amendment. It was probably 73rd or 74th amendment.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: You talk about decentralisation of power, so decentralisation of power and separate regions are contradictory subjects.

[English]

That is the making of policies.

[Translation]

You said that the growth has stagnated from Zero to eight per cent. The shortcomings have not been analysed. We are using Rs. 35 thousand crore for anti-poverty scheme. You said that establishing a board is not a remedy if that is not a remedy it must be somewhere else. This malady has afflicted the backward areas for the last 50 years. So why was it not treated.

[English]

I think, he is the proper specialist to find out the diagnosis of it.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for all sided development of all economically backward areas of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for all sided development of all economically backward areas of the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

17.57 hrs.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT HYDERABAD) BILL, 2000*

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court at Hyderabad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court at Hyderabad."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.11.2000.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[Translation]

17.58 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

(Insertion of New Article 75A etc.)

SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): I beg to move:

"That the bill further to amend Constitution of India be taken into consideration".

I thank you hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I have introduced the private member's Bill for discussion in the House and to get it passed. There are various factors responsible for the present state of our economy. I would like to apprise the House with some of the important factors among those, if you permit me I would like to continue the discussion next time.

18.01 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Monday, November 27, 2000/
Agrahayana 6, 1922 (Saka)*

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

© 2000 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
