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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Corrigenda To Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Friday, December 20, 1996/ Agrahayana 29, 1918 (Saka)

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
	Nirmal	Nirmal
151/23	ther	there
55/4 (from below)	Nationa	National
142/15 (from below)	Aided	Aided
207/3	after 'The' and before 'these' <u>add</u>	
	'need for more realistic projection of demands for'	
245&246	Read 'Shri Ananth Kumar' instead of 'Shri Anant Kumar'	
252/19 (from below)	'discussin'	discussion
254/22	On-Serious	Non-Serious
276/15 (from below)	depend	defend
314/19	Delete ''/ HEADING''	

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 20, 1996/Agrahayana 29,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Tyre Corporation of India

*421. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Industry's representatives were present in the meetings of BIFR when it sanctioned the Rehabilitation Scheme of Tyre Corporation of India but they raised no objection;

(b) if so, why the Government after waiting a lot of time suddenly went for an appeal;

(c) whether this move of the Government is likely to seriously jeopardise the rehabilitation scheme endangering the fate of thousands of workers; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to take in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir. During the BIFR hearing held on 20.12.1995, it had been specifically stated by Department of Heavy Industry's representative that it would be necessary to obtain the approval of the Cabinet Committee for provision of additional equity of Rs. 19.41 crores, financial restructuring of liabilities and providing interest free bridge loan of Rs. 15 crores etc. and time was sought for this purpose.

(b) Since BIFR sanctioned the final revival scheme without obtaining consent of Government and as the final scheme was not in conformity with the views conveyed by the Government on the earlier draft scheme, an appeal was filed on 4.4.1996 before Appellate Authority on Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) who have since stayed the operation of BIFR's order dated 15.2.1996.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The final decision of AAIFR is awaited.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I read the statement which was laid on the Table of the House. In

reality, the Government say that they raised certain points excepting that they wanted time. The only thing that they said was that they would seek the permission of the Cabinet. But the BIFR has said at that very time that it is the Ministry of Industry which has sent the proposal and not the BIFR. Therefore, getting the Cabinet approval was the Ministry's own thing. The BIFR, despite that after considering that it was the Ministry's own proposal, gave them time. It is not clear how he can now say that they wanted this from the BIFR that the Cabinet's approval has to be taken, etc. despite the answer of the BIFR to this effect.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I share the anxiety of the hon. Member. Yes, there is a problem in the Tyre Corporation of India, but it has not happened yesterday. It has been there before the BIFR, since 1992. An alternate scheme was prepared by the company and our Department. They simply forwarded it. It is not of their own creation. So, what they did was they wanted some more time for the consideration of the appropriate authority, that is, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. That is what has happened. Nothing more, nothing less.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Two month's time was given and that was agreed upon by the Ministry's people. Despite that, when they did not do it within that time, only then the BIFR actually sanctioned the scheme. If this is so, and what the hon. Minister said also is true, how is it that the Government again went to the meeting of the BIFR on 12.11.96? Then, they again wanted time up to January, 1997. But before January, 1997, they went to the Appellate Authority on Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). How is it? Is it not a unique case to show that it is being avoided? How will this go on?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I am sorry for what has happened. After the new Government has come into being - the hon. lady Member should remember that she is also a part of the Government - her party is also a part of the Government!

Sir, the Marxist friends are the supporters of our Government from outside.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : We are the Party of the Union also. I was in the BIFR.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : So, there is no doubt about it. We have taken up the scheme at the highest level. It is under consideration. We do not say no. So, I give an assurance that this will be examined.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are happy that this is being examined. He shares the grief. That is also commendable.

MR. SPEAKER : After this there is no necessity to ask a question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the problem is not of sharing of grief but the problem is

sharing of funds. The Finance Minister is also here. This situation is continuing for the last three years. We know that there is a change of Government. But the expeditious way in which the Government should have functioned has not functioned. I know that there are certain lines of production both at the national level and also at the international level. There are certain other levels of production which are not efficient. The operating agency had formulated the plan. So, I want to know by which time you propose to execute your sympathetic decision.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the alternate scheme is not acceptable to the Government. I do not think that any Government will accept it. I do not think that even the Marxist Government of West Bengal will accept it. It is because the additional cash loss during the implementation period would be met by the promoters by bringing in additional interest-free funds. So, it is an open-ended policy. What is the amount we are going to seek and how much we are going to get are not specified. It is very vague to say that whatever may be the loss, the Government of India should provide the amount during the implementation period without charging any interest. I think that no Government will entertain this idea. What we want is that they should quantify the amount.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, that is already quantified. Their period of rehabilitation is five years. They have completed that period. Sir, you know all these things much more than I do. Within a period of five years, they are saying that they will make the unit profitable. That is their scheme. Of course that is part of their initial advance of the money.

MR. SPEAKER : Unfortunately, I cannot allow your second supplementary!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want you to ask the supplementary!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, as a former Labour Minister you have got sufficient experience as to how a delay in taking a decision by the Government results in losses to the companies. When the BIFR finalised the scheme and recommended for revival, they gave time also to the Government of India. The Government of India has to implement the scheme by 15th January. When the BIFR decided about the viability of the scheme in regard to revival of a public sector undertaking, the Government of India had failed to give the promoter of the company, and as a result of that, winding up notices were being issued. A glaring example, Sir, as you know, is of MAMC. It is a very important industry of West Bengal.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take a decision by 15th January about the implementation of this scheme sanctioned by the BIFR in regard to the Tyre Corporation of India Limited?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the alternate scheme sanctioned by the BIFR has full of infirmities. I have

quoted one example. If they want I can quote another example also. They said that the land should be sold. We agreed. But they have assumed that the amount proposed sale should be supplied by the Government of India. How will the Government of India accept that? If we accept that scheme, the NTC will say that they have got a Rs. 2,000 crore plan. They will ask the Government to take away the land and advance Rs. 2,000 crore. They will go to the Finance Minister. It is not simply acceptable. But what we suggest is this, let us sell the land. Let us have the plan. Let us ask the West Bengal Housing Board or HUDCO to take over the land. Let us formulate a scheme. Let us get the money. That is what we are suggesting. So, naturally, it will take time. As the hon. Member knows, in our system of Governance, if you want to impose President's rule and if you want to dismiss a State Government, just a report from the Governor is enough. Without that also, you can do away with the Government.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : This is what is happening in UP.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : But if you want to revive an industry, which will give job to thousands of workers, it takes time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How much time do you want, two years or three years?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : By which time are you going to do it?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Inter Ministerial discussions are taking place. Once it was taken to the highest forum, it was deferred. We are discussing it. The hon. Member, who asked the question, is a partner of the Government. Hon. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee is the Chairman of the Union and the Congress Members are also supporting it in West Bengal. So, I do not want to be negative. To put an end to this discussion ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you expect my support also on this issue?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : We have proposed to release Rs. 4 crore from the Crucial Balancing Fund available with this Department for restarting operations of the Kangra unit. We have got the concurrence of the Planning Commission also. We will release the amount very soon so that this unit is started as early as possible. I think this will satisfy the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : The appeal also should be withdrawn.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : No, it is there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : It is there because of some procedural requirement.

[Translation]

Frauds in Banks

*422. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cases of fraud, misappropriation, mismanagement of funds and serious irregularities in public sector banks noticed during 1995 and in 1996 so far, Bank-wise;

(b) the amount involved in each of the cases and the action taken against the Bank officials and other persons found involved;

(c) the details of the cases in which CBI has made enquiries, carried out searches on the premises of bank officers and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check corruption in banks and streamline the banking system?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

Information readily available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relating to bank-wise position of frauds detected and amount involved therein and action taken against delinquent employees for frauds in public sector banks during the years 1995 and 1996 (upto March, 1996) is given at **Annexure**.

Withdrawal of deposit accounts through forged instruments, fraudulent encashment of negotiable instruments by opening accounts in fictitious names, misappropriation through manipulation of books of accounts, frauds in clearing transactions, misuse/overstepping of lending/discretionary power and frauds in foreign exchange by providing fake import bills etc. are some of the methods used in perpetrating of the frauds.

Central Bureau of Investigation have reported that during 1995 and 1996, they have registered 378 cases for investigation of frauds, misappropriation, mismanagement of funds and serious irregularities in public sector banks. During 1995 and 1996, chargesheets have been filed in Courts in 218 cases and the matter was referred to banks for departmental action in 15 cases. CBI have also reported that during the period from January 1995 to October, 1996, a total of 172 searches were conducted in 84 cases relating to bank frauds and incriminating documents and assets were detected during the searches.

For prevention of frauds and irregularities in public sector banks, steps have been taken for strengthening the internal control and audit systems. Board level Management Committees and Audit Committees have been set up. Public sector banks have also been advised by the RBI to appoint concurrent auditors at their large and extra large branches with a view to detect non-adherence to laid-down procedures and prevent irregularities and frauds, if any, without loss of time. All public sector banks have vigilance machinery without is responsible for preventive and detective steps so as to prevent frauds and corrupt practices by the bank officials.

RBI constantly reviews the working of internal inspection and vigilance machinery of banks. RBI has also issued comprehensive guidelines for strengthening the control mechanism in banks. It also carries out a review of fraud cases on a continual basis advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases along with required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds. RBI also conducts snap inspections of systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas. In addition to on-site inspections which are conducted at prescribed intervals, RBI have put in place the mechanism of off-site monitoring system to enable improved supervision. In order to exercise integrated supervision over the financial system, the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) with its Advisory Council was constituted in 1994.

ANNEXURE

Statement showing bank-wise number of frauds detected, the amount involved therein and action taken against the delinquent employees of public sector banks during the years 1995 and 1996 (upto March, 1996)

Name of the Bank	No. of Frauds	Amount Involved	No. of employees convicted/ awarded major/ minor penalty
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	657	2119.16	266
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	21	203.54	35
State Bank of Hyderabad	41	157.79	21
State Bank of Indore	11	19.87	03
State Bank of Mysore	42	25.66	15
State Bank of Patiala	35	614.53	10
State Bank of Saurashtra	11	119.16	13
State Bank of Travancore	30	183.96	18

1	2	3	4
Allahabad Bank	62	226.51	37
Andhra Bank	48	528.60	44
Bank of Baroda	147	1325.08	31
Bank of India	209	632.61	43
Bank of Maharashtra	39	1935.38	31
Canara Bank	216	1996.12	122
Central Bank of India	111	208.14	85
Corporation Bank	30	90.29	25
Dena Bank	20	158.46	36
Indian Bank	51	117.31	100
Indian Overseas Bank	53	332.31	93
Oriental Bank of Commerce	16	632.74	04
Punjab National Bank	83	403.75	234
Punjab & Sind Bank	21	88.49	38
Syndicate Bank	131	805.11	71
Union Bank of India	77	383.24	30
United Bank of India	49	65.01	34
UCO Bank	82	401.01	47
Vijaya Bank	51	149.96	19
Total	2344	13923.79	1505

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : In the Annexure to the Statement, in Column No. 3, the word 'in lakhs' may be added. It is not typed. I am sorry for that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am the Chairman of the Sub-Committee which inquired into it. So, I want a chance here also.

MR. SPEAKER : How can you say that?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, as Chairman of the Sub-Committee I had visited nine banks and there are so many things which he has not answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chatterjee, you are one of the seniormost Members of the House. Your right, on the floor of the House is as a Member and not as the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sometimes you permit a Member.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, like the Congress Party, the Communist Party also should have the rule of one man one post. He is holding too many posts which is creating problems.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, faith is the soul of bank and fraud and scams are the biggest factors hampering their growth. During the last few years, the number of frauds and scams in banks are increasing continuously. In 1991 there were 1717 bank scams to the tune of Rs. 65 crores and in the reply given today, it has been stated that the number of bank scams is 2344 and the amount

involved in it is Rs. 140 crores. All of us know that these figures pertain to only known scams. But this is only a tip of the iceberg and actual figure would be many times more than this. The number of scams and the amount involved therein is a point of concern, but it seems that the government does not appreciate our concern, otherwise our hon'ble Minister of Finance while speaking in the other House would not have put the blame on Commercial mismanagement and criminal carelessness to save the person involved in a big scam. Today the responsibility to take action in respect of Bank scams is mainly that of Central Intelligence Bureau ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your two minutes are about to be exhausted.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Mismanagement of funds is a non-performing asset. Since you are not allowing me, I wish to tell this to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that Shri Pramod Mahajan requires such help. He is intelligent enough to put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That is why I come to my point. My question is further divided into two supplementary questions. First is that some high-class persons have misused the money of banks for personal ends and the Minister of Finance, wanted these persons to be saved in the name of Commercial mismanagement. What action government propose to take to control the amount involved in the scam? My other question is that the task of investigation today is entrusted to C.B.I. It has so many cases to investigate that it has no time to enquire into the bank scams. Will the government constitute a special department under C.B.I. to go into the mismanagement in banks or amend the rules of the Reserve Bank of India and Banking Regulation Act of provide more powers to bank officers in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for not asking part 'd'.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : In my written reply I have indicated the steps taken to control frauds and serious offences in banks. Following the report of the JPC in 1994, the RBI has constituted a Board for Financial Supervision. There is a Department of Supervision which reports to the Board. The Board has two arms; one is the Advisory Council and other is the Audit sub-Committee. The other instruments, which are already in place, have been strengthened. For example, the Concurrent Audit, issue of caution advice, insistence on staff accountability in cases where the loan has either gone sour or is found to be suspect and strengthening

the inspection and audit systems in banks are some. Every bank is now required to constitute an Audit Sub-Committee of the Board of Directors. I think, these steps will have a salutary effect once they take root and results begin to come.

It is not correct to say that only big frauds are being unearthed. In fact, if you look at the Annexure and take the first case, against the State Bank of India there are 657 cases of frauds involving Rs. 21.19 crore in which 266 employees were either convicted or awarded a major or a minor penalty. So, small frauds are also being unearthed. Only a certain number of cases go to the CBI and not all of these cases go to the CBI. Many of these cases are dealt with departmentally. Many of these cases are prosecuted through the State Police. Only a small number of cases go to the CBI because the CBI itself can take only a small number of cases per year. The CBI cannot possibly take all these cases.

To the specific question, whether it is proposed to set up a cell in the CBI, there is already a group in the CBI which deals with financial frauds. To the best of my knowledge there is no proposal to do anything more except perhaps strengthening this group or cell, whatever you call it, in the CBI which is already looking into the financial frauds.

I think we must give time for the new system to show results. This new system has been in operation for two years. Let us wait for some more time before it show results. The operating profits of banks have increased two-fold in the last five years and so also the cases of misdemeanor and frauds. I think we must look at it with a sense of proportion. We are determined to clamp down heavily on frauds.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Finance just now said in his reply that Financial Supervisory Board has been constituted. It was constituted two years ago. And even then the number of frauds has doubled. In such a situation the Board has received suggestions wherein it has been stated that so long as you do not give more rights to the officers of the Reserve Bank, the Board would not be able to do anything except asking for Statements from Banks. That is why I have asked whether the government would consider giving more powers to the officers of Reserve Bank by amending the Reserve Bank Act or the Banking Regulation Act to dispose off the cases of frauds.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not share the criticism that bank frauds have increased despite the Board of Financial Supervision having been set up. For example, in the public sector banks, in 1993, the total number of cases classified as fraud was 2,213; in 1994, this

number was 2,266; but in 1995, the number has come down to 1,890 and in the first quarter of 1996, it is only 454. I am not saying that there has been a dramatic improvement. Certainly, I do not agree that there has been a worsening of the position. I think, the Board of Financial Supervision must be given a fair trial. It is a Board with a new Department under it. Let us see how it works. Now the question is : Do I propose to make any amendment? I have not received any proposal from the RBI asking for any more powers under the RBI Act. Since a very distinguished Member is raising this issue, I will talk to the RBI Governor and ask him whether he feels handicapped because of lack of power.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of complaints against the functioning of Banks. Big industrialists are given loans immediately to run their industry but Medium and Small businessman have to go frequently to banks for the purpose. Such other irregularities are there in the country and it takes months to settle the commission. On the contrary when time for recovery comes....

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Sir, I am asking the question. Big industrialists are given more concessions as compared to the small entrepreneur. Small persons are put in jail if they are unable to pay the amount of loan. Such complaints are received regularly. Therefore, Sir, through you, I want to know if any steps are being taken by the Hon'ble Minister of finance to make the working of banks more transparent.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it is true that there is a general feeling that the small borrower, the small entrepreneur is neglected by the banks. That is true. I share this concern. And I have impressed at every forum that the banks must not become urban oriented and elitist. That must also look at small borrowers, small entrepreneurs and small businessmen. We have created a number of institutions which are tailored to meet the requirements of small borrowers. The SIDBI is one and Regional Rural Banks are the other ones.

In my Budget speech, I had announced creation of the local area banks. Specialised branches are being created, specialised branches for small scale industries. The attitudes must change, attitudes not only of management but the attitudes of employees must also change. If it is of any comfort, let me say that until last year, we were not able to reach the priority sector targets and we were only able to achieve about 37 per cent target. This year till two weeks ago, the Governor told me that we might have crossed 40 per cent priority sector lending. That is a good sign that priority sector is getting the credit which it ought to be getting. But if

there are defaulters. I do not think, that the banks are putting them in jail. The banks can only take civil action. If there is fraud and if there is prosecution and the court finds that there is a fraud and some crime is committed, surely punishment will have to follow. I think, banks are only taking civil action. The banks are not taking criminal action against borrowers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Sir, the process is very difficult. I wanted to know from the hon'ble Minister about simplification of the process. I would again like to know from the Minister about the steps being taken to simplify the process of providing loans.

Through you Sir, I want to know about this and want your protection too. As there are many difficulties in it, I would like to know the steps being taken by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to simplify the procedure?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the business of the banks is to lend. I do not think any bank would not like to lend. But a climate was created until some time ago by which all lending came under a cloud and I have said it on many occasions that banks exhibited a shyness to lend. I think, we have overcome that now. There was a judgement which was, I think, erroneously interpreted to mean that if you took a little risk in lending you would be penalised. Since then by talking to the Chairmen, by talking to the RBI, we have asked them to restore the normal lending practices instead of pushing everything up to the Chairman.

On November 30, the RBI had issued further instructions asking the Board of Directors of banks to delegate powers to their field formations so that lending takes place at the field level, at the branch level, at the zonal level, at the regional level instead of all cases coming up to the Chairman.

The flow of credit has improved. The flow of credit had been choked, for the first half of this year, but the flow of credit has improved since October.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, it is very much painful to the whole House and also to the country to find so many cases of frauds and misappropriation taking place in banks.

I am happy that the Minister's reply is showing that they are taking various steps to see that in future such frauds do not take place. But, there is a gross confusion growing on in the minds of the banks Management, Chairmen and Executives whether to take any decision or not, whether to give any assistance to any industry or not. At the same time, we have to keep in mind the growth of the country and the growth of the economy. The prosperity and progress of the nation depend on the action being taken everyday by the banks by

participating in giving assistance financially to the industry also.

As of today, we know, Sir... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not tell what you know, you ask the question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If he knows, he should not ask. He should ask what he does not know.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you ask what you do not know.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We all know that the industry is in a very bad shape on the one side because of the fall of the capital market and on the other because of lack of spirit, inspiration and confidence in the minds of the bank officials in taking a decision. We have a very sensitive role to play now. On the one side we have to curb and control the frauds and on the other side... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot allow you any more. Hon. Members, this is not an Hour for lectures. What is this? If you do not understand the subject, you do not ask any question. It only shows that you have a lack of knowledge about the subject, if you cannot frame your question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Therefore, I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to make the banks, hereafter, to participate in giving assistance to industries by not getting scared of those reasons that scared them.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have already answered that the banks must lend. The shyness in lending is wearing off. I have encouraged the banks to lend and I am sure that the banks will lend. It is changing and it will change.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, Hon'ble Minister has replied.

[English]

"All public sector banks have vigilance machinery which is responsible for preventive and detective steps so as to prevent frauds and corrupt practices by the bank officials."

[Translation]

Through you Sir, I would like to ask from Minister that all the banks issue overdrafts for more than Rs. 50 lakhs. Branch Managers and the high officers are party to it. How much amount has been recovered? How many persons were given loans of more than Rs. 50 lakhs and what is the number of persons with whom you have compromised and even principal amount has not been recovered from them and the interest has also been waived? Sir, is it not a fraud?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With great respect, I would like to say that this does not arise out of this question as he says, 'how many cases of banks giving over Rs. 50 lakh'. I cannot give the information based on that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Does this overdraft business not come under fraud?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is not a fraud. Overdraft is not a fraud.

[Translation]

Gold Import Policy

*423. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of gold brought in India by the Non-Resident Indians and Indian citizens working/serving abroad after liberalising the gold import policy till date;

(b) the quantum of gold imported during 1995-96;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to fulfil the requirement of gold in the country;

(d) whether Union Government have conducted any study regarding the quantity of gold available and kept as reserve in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

The import of gold into the country was liberalised and a Gold Import Scheme was import Scheme was introduced by the Government with effect from 1.3.1992. 825.8 tonnes of gold was imported under this Scheme by the Non-Resident Indians and other eligible Indian citizens coming from abroad between March '92 and November '96 and 218.2 tonnes of gold was similarly imported during 1995-96.

2. The liberalised Gold Import Scheme allows import of gold by Non-Resident Indians and permits imports by MMTC and SBI for delivery of such gold in India to the returning NRIs and against Special Import Licences. This Scheme aims at improving the availability of gold imported through licit channels and on payment of customs duty in foreign exchange at the rate of Rs. 220 per 10 gms. The said Scheme has had a salutary effect

on containing gold smuggling. There is no reliable estimate available regarding the quantity of gold available and retained within the country

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Datta Meghe, we are on the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : An Half-an-hour Discussion is required on this. Is it not?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. You can give a notice in the next Session.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker Sir, India was known as a golden bird but unfortunately the quantum of gold mined from the mines is not as much as it should have been and we have to import it. The Government had formulated the gold import policy on March 1, 1993 under liberalised economic policy and you are aware of the objects of the policy. I understand the meeting of the World Gold council was held in Delhi in India. Several people and even newspapers say that all this did not bring the smuggling down. With the improvement in financial condition of middle class and rural population have started investing in gold. To meet their demand, jewellers export the ornaments to get the foreign exchange. Whether government propose to reconsider and make the gold policy more liberal and transparent to stop the smuggling.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is a good suggestion. I will consider it.

MR. SPEAKER : Your suggestion is accepted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, I accept his suggestion.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : When will it be done. My other question is that according to an estimate 477 tonne gold was consumed last year, out of which 371 tonne was imported, 2 tonne was mined and 106 tonne old gold was used. Government has said in its reply that authentic estimates are not available. Even then the government would have got it studied. I would like to know the amount of gold imported and the gold left with people? Smuggled gold is also seized. I would like to know the amount of gold available in the country and the amount of gold with public in the form of ornaments. Hon'ble Minister says no figures are available. I would like to know clearly as to how much gold is available

Not recorded

in the country, and how much gold is kept in the Central Bank of India.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have given the figures about the amount of gold imported under the scheme which came into force on 1-3-1992.

I have said that 825.8 tonnes of gold was imported under the scheme. I am also willing to give the figures of estimates that we have about gold which is estimated to be smuggled into India. We think that every year between 118 to 170 tonnes, on an average of about 150 tonnes of gold, is being smuggled into India. I cannot give you an estimate of the total gold available with the people of India. I cannot draw an estimate. But I can furnish you the information about gold with the Reserve Bank, though that figure is not available with me right now. It is published every month. Our foreign exchange reserves, our gold reserves and our SDR reserves are published. I will send that figure to the hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Gold import means diversion of savings from productive purposes and there is an estimate of stock of gold in the book on 'Estimates of Black money' which has a foreword by Dr. Manmohan Singh. One of the editors of the book is the present Economic Advisor...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed him. You do not have to answer that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : In such a case, it need not go on record...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that about 218 tonnes of gold was imported last year. He has also indicated that about 150 tonnes of gold is being smuggled annually. But I would like to draw his attention to the February, 1996 Report of the World Gold Council which says that in 1995, there was a shortfall of 234 tonnes.

In part 'c' of the question, the hon. Minister was requested to give the details about the efforts being made by the Government to fulfil the requirement of gold in the country.

In view of the above, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would consider further liberalisation of the gold import scheme and whether he is considering changing the rate of duty which is presently charged at the rate of Rs. 220 per 10 grams.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have already answered the question raised by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat. I say that the suggestion to further liberalise the gold scheme is a good scheme and I am considering it.

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : Sir, as per the estimate, the annual requirement of gold in the country is about 450 tonnes. Under the various schemes of import of gold, part of the gold is to be sent back by export by making jewellery, etc. Therefore, the Government estimate that 115 or 118 tonnes of gold is being smuggled into the country. It is not proper and correct. There is information that about 200 tonnes of gold is being smuggled into the country and it is not a small amount...*(Interruptions)*. I agree that there should be some liberalisation and further revision of the scheme. But, at the same time, we are finding that the passengers, like NRIs, are bringing their gold in their baggage and immediately outside the airport they are selling away the gold to the people who are waiting there to purchase it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is nothing wrong in it.

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : It is happening in airports of cities like Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Calcutta, etc...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that you have to show all your knowledge as former Minister of State for Finance. Please ask the question.

SHRI B.K. GADHAVI : I am putting a specific question. What happens is that it is very difficult for the Customs people to decide which is the legally imported gold and which is the contraband gold smuggled into the country.

I want to know whether the Government has given any thought as to how to find out this count so that the people who are actually smuggling the gold are caught.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there is an appetite for gold in this country...*(Interruptions)*. We discussed this only three days ago with Shri Gadhai and Shri Chatterjee. There is an appetite for gold in this country. I am not going to lecture to the people of this country that they should not use gold. I will leave that for Shri Chatterjee...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please clarify which 'Chatterjee'!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is definitely Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

Gold is not like narcotics, opium or arms. I make this distinction. I would humbly urge hon. Members to consider this distinction.

These are legitimate goods. Arms, narcotics and opium are illegitimate goods. They are *res extra commercium*. If there is a need or demand for legitimate goods, our economic policies must reflect that and allow the people to get those legitimate goods within the limits. That is why I said that since everybody is recommending liberalisation of the scheme which was introduced from 1.3.1992, I intend to liberalise this scheme. The details will be announced later...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Price of Cotton

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*424. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the support price of cotton has been increased during the last three years alongwith the price increased each time; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the rise in market price of cotton?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Government announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for cotton once in a year and the same remains effective for the entire crop season. The MSPs for two basic varieties of cotton i.e., F-414/H-777 & H-4 are announced by The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India & for other varieties of cotton are fixed by Textile Commissioner, keeping in view normal price differentials with other varieties. The MSPs announced for the two basic varieties of cotton for the last three years and the increase over previous years are as under :-

The Minimum Support Prices for Cotton

(in Rs. per Quintal)

Year	Basic Variety	MSP Announced by the Government	Increase in the MSP over Last Year
1994-95	F-414/H-777	1000.00	100.00
	H-4	1200.00	150.00
1995-96	F-414/H-777	1150.00	150.00
	H-4	1350.00	150.00
1996-97	F-414/H-777	1180.00	30.00
	H-4	1380.00	30.00

(b) The average prices of raw cotton during the last three months have been generally slightly lower than the prices which prevailed during the corresponding months in the previous year.

Since, there was no abnormal rise in the prices of cotton in 1995-96 and so far in the current year, taking any steps to check price rise does not arise. However, the prices are being regularly monitored.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to how much and how many times the price of cotton has been increased during last three years?

My other question is regarding the price paid to the farmers of cotton in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat who are unfortunately paid less. When cotton comes to market it is hoarded. Whether government has any control over it and whether government is going to take any steps for the welfare of farmers.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, for the last three years the M.S.P. (Minimum Support Price) is being fixed, once in a year it will be fixed. While fixing the Minimum Support Price, the commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices will go into the details about the investments that they are making on land, labour and other inputs and also the parity between the other crops and this crop which will also be considered. They will also consult the concerned Ministeries. The Agriculture Department will fix the Minimum Support Price. For the last three years, there has been a hike every year which is just to see that the farmers get better price. Whenever we feel that there is plenty of cotton in our country, we allow exports. Last year, till the end of December, only two lakh bales were allowed. This year we have already allowed 6.15,000 bales to be exported outside to see that the farmers get better price.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Till now lot of bails of cotton are lying there. The reply given by the minister does not satisfy. How much export you are going to do this year and whether it will serve the purpose?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry that I will not be in a position to satisfy the hon. Member. But he should understand that out of the quota that we have already allotted for exports, which is 6.15,000 bales, not even 50,000 bales have gone outside. Except 30,000 bales the rest of the bales are given to cooperative institutions and the Maharashtra State Federation. It is their duty. I have also written to them. If they are not going to purchase, I will allot it to somebody else... (Interruptions) Further, the meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board is going to be held on 23rd December. On 24th or 25th we will look into the matter and see that some more quota is allotted for exports.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I would like to ask the Minister of Finance. Whether government of Gujarat has asked for approval

of the Government for export of cotton? If so, the details thereof and whether government of India has already given the permission to Gujarat for export of the cotton or would it give the same.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, we have already allotted 50,000 bales to the Gujarat Federation...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to answer. We have already allotted 50,000 bales to them. On 16th we have received another letter from the Gujarat Federation. It is under our consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, minimum price fixed for cotton in 1996-97 is Rs. 1180 and 1380 and according to the monopoly cotton scheme being introduced in Maharashtra the price paid is Rs. 2100. There they get some thing. Whether the government would extend any such scheme to other parts of the country also which protects the interests of the farmers. Another thing is that every year we have to enquire from the Government whether the scheme is being extended to other parts and whether Government would start any permanent scheme which has been sanctioned?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the Maharashtra Government has got this Monopoly Procurement Scheme, which has got its own liabilities also. They are spending Rs. seven to eight hundred crore every year. They are losing Rs. seven to eight hundred crore...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : They are not losing, they are doing it in the interest of farmers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Whatever it is, the State exchequer is losing this amount...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : No.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Even now, the Government of India has given two years' extension to them in spite of knowing that the Government is losing money. We are also giving them sufficient cotton to be exported so that they can make up some losses and it is being given in the form of a better price

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Whether the government propose to increase the minimum price?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot convert it into a debate.

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN : Sir, due to the heavy price of cotton, the power-loom industries are totally affected. There are 22 items allotted to hand-loom industries. The Supreme Court had allotted 11 items.

There is a long pending demand from the power-loom owners to scrap these 11 items. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government is going to scrap these 11 items in favour of the power-loom industries.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, there were formerly 22 items. Just, recently they were reduced to 11. If they want to reduce even these 11 items also, then what about the hand-loom people? We do not have such a thinking for the present.

Export of Tea and other Plantation Items

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*425. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of tea and other plantation items has stagnated in the recent past;

(b) if so, the total quantity of these items exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have examined the slump prevailing in these industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production and export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BULLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No. Sir. Tea and Coffee exports have not stagnated in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise. However, countrywise details of export of various commodities are available in the monthly publication "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

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

(e) The concerned Commodity Boards are implementing various developmental schemes to encourage activities such as replantation, extension planting and research to enhance production. Steps taken to increase exports include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, holding buyer seller meets, promoting brands etc.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a procedural objection to the reply given to this question. The answer is not correct. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you go through the reply to part (b) of the question, you will find that it is suggested - 'if you

like to have the country-wise details of export, they are available in the Parliament Library'. Then, the hon. Members will have to go to the Parliament Library. Sir, if you yourself like to have these details, you will have to go to the Library and the Library will not come to you! It should not be given in this way...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Well, the answer could have been slightly different.

Mr. Minister, instead of saying 'if you are interested', you can simply say that "the information is available in the Library". I think, you can just modify your answer in future.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Honourable Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said in his reply to my question part (e) that various schemes are being started, to encourage the activities such as extended Plantation and Research to increase the production of tea and coffee. I would like to ask which are those schemes indicating the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Development Board, for production of tea there have been a number of nurseries, various plantation programmes and training centres for the people. They also get bank loans at soft rates. We are planning to negotiate with the World Bank to get them a loan of about Rs. 2,265 crore. The proposal is almost at the last stage of negotiation. Once such a scheme is approved, I think, we will be able to make substantial expansion in the existing areas and the productivity will increase. In the non-traditional areas like the North-Eastern States, we are planning to see how much we are able to expand the growth and development.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Honourable Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister about the production of tea and Coffee during the last three years and what was the impact of the steps taken to increase the production. I would also like to know the names of the countries where we took part in trade fairs and exhibitions and what was the outcome thereof?

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, along with coffee we also have spices as a plantation crop. We are giving different types of training and also subsidies for various things. In case of coffee, we also have substantial amount of plantation training and nurseries. We are also doing agricultural research development. We have planned to give more additional support to coffee plantations, as I said, in the North-Eastern States along with the existing plantations in those areas.

Regarding export to various countries, we have a big list of the countries. I will prefer to lay it on the Table of the House because the number of countries is more. With all details, I will send it to him.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, the tea industry is the most labour industry of our country and the expansion of area has come to a stagnant stage because the land is not available. There is only one research centre in the country, that is, the Tea Research Centre in Jorhat. That Centre has given the greatest contribution. This is the only one of its kind in the world and the condition of that research centre is very deplorable. I want to know from the hon. Minister of Commerce whether the Ministry of Commerce is taking any interest to develop and support that research centre so that it will continue to give the necessary advice to the industry regarding production.

Secondly, there is a great rumour in the country that the Government of India is thinking for importing tea. I very strongly object to it and tea should not be imported in the country. I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister whether it is true or not.

MR. SPEAKER : The second part of the question is relevant, but I do not know whether the Minister has got an answer for the first part.

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH : Regarding the second part, I would say that we are permitting the import of a small quantity of tea only for export-purposes blending. A small quantity of tea is required to be imported for the purpose of packing or blending. We have permitted the import for these purposes only and not for regular purposes, internal consumption or anything else.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you got any information about the Jorhat Centre or not?

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH : We are going to give a lot of support to the Centre. We will see that we strengthen it hereafter.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, tea was one of the highest foreign exchange earners in the country. Now, we are facing some competition from Sri Lanka and other countries. In my recent tour to various countries, I have seen that the packing of tea by other countries is improved so much that our tea is being repacked and sold. Will the Government think of it and ask the Tea Board to look into this problem and improve the packing? Our quality is good, but how do you present the bridegroom and the bride is more important. Kindly tell us whether the Tea Board will be asked to look into this aspect so that our marketing in the international market is done in a proper manner.

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH : Thank you very much for the valuable suggestion. In fact, this is very important item on which we are also concentrating. Not only the Tea Board but the private sector also is encouraging these things so that we get value added products and

dominate the international market on these lines. I think that this is a valuable suggestion. We will take it into consideration.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yesterday, I had given a notice for a mention in Zero Hour on the same matter.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not Zero Hour. What are you talking now?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yesterday, I did not get time.

MR. SPEAKER : You should not misuse your right like this.

SHRI A.C. JOS : What I am saying is that...

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to the next question.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am coming to the question.

MR. SPEAKER : Not at all. Question number 426.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, this is not the way. I am allowing you to put the supplementary on Tea Board and you are talking about your chance in Zero Hour. This is not the way. I am sorry, Shri Jos.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : I wanted to mention the same problem yesterday because it is a very serious thing. I mentioned it only as introduction.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Many of the tea estates in my constituency, like Paelimedu and Munar are on the verge of closure because there are no exports. In the first part, the Minister has said that the exports are in a staggering position.

Sri Lanka is giving one year's credit for tea export. Russia had disappeared from the market and Iran-Iraq war had totally blocked such an outlet. So, we are out of the international tea market. My first question is, when tea is available in India, why should the Government permit importing of even the smallest quantity of tea?

Secondly, can the Government not think of giving some subsidy or bank loan for the exporters to export to different places? Since Sri Lanka is backed by America, they are exporting tea by giving one year's credit. It is a very serious situation. Lakhs of people are on the verge of unemployment and many tea estates are being closed.

There are two parts. Why should the Government import and why cannot they support the exporters?

MR. SPEAKER : The first part has already been answered; you do not have to repeat it. You answer the second part of it.

SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH : Sir, on the question of tea, we are giving financial support for development and export purposes. I also agree with the hon. Member

that we have lost the market in Iraq and our market has come down in Iran also. The Russian market also is one of the markets which has affected us substantially. In spite of that, we are encouraging the development of other markets. We are able to export as per the programme and I do not think that there is any problem at all. We are able to drive into various markets. We are improving our quality and bringing in more value added products. The packaging system has also improved and we are able to do quite well.

Production and Export of Heavy Industries

*426. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the total production in the heavy industries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of heavy industries in the total exports of the country;

(d) the average number of persons employed in the said industries during the last three years alongwith the details of capital invested therein by the end of March, 1996; and

(e) the number of said industrial units functioning at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). Industrial units are classified as SSI (Small Scale Industries) or non-SSI based on their investment in plant & machinery. The total value of output of the units with investment in plant & machinery of Rs. 50 lakhs and above in 1995-96 in terms of constant 1992-93 prices is estimated to be around Rs. 383 thousand crores. Overall capital invested in these units as on 31st March, 1996 is estimated to be around Rs. 455 thousand crores. These units currently employ around 54 lakh persons. The overall share of these units in manufacturing exports in 1995-96 was around 60%. As per Annual Survey of Industries released by Central Statistical Organisation, the total number of such units in 1992-93 were 14,101.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as there is shortage of time, if you permit, I may ask both the supplementaries together.

MR. SPEAKER : You may do so.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I had asked this question about heavy industries but by giving details of all industries with cost higher than Rs. 50 lakh. But the honourable Minister has defeated the very purpose of asking my question. As you know today even a small unit can not be installed with Rs. 50 lakhs what to talk

of heavy industry. Therefore I would like to know from minister whether you would give the details of industries whose cost as higher than Rs. 5 crores? If the details are not readily available, would you send them later on?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my other supplementary is the one which I had asked in part (d) of my question -

[English]

"the average number of persons employed in the said industries during the last three years..."

But he has replied that these units currently employ around 54 lakh persons.

[Translation]

I wanted to know about the employment provided in those industries during the last three years, the reply is that till date 54 lakh persons. This is not the answer of my question. I wanted to know how many persons could get employment during the last three years, when economic reforms are much talked about, you did not reply and told the figure of 54 lakhs. So please would you tell me the number of persons given employment during last three years?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, we have wrongly understood the question. There is no concept of large scale industries. The classification in our Ministry is SSI units and non-SSI units. If the investment is Rs. 60 lakh or below, it is considered as a Small Scale Industry and above that limit, it is considered as a non-SSI unit. So, what we have done is, we have extrapolated these figures and arrived at these figures. If the hon. Member wants those figures, I will be delighted to send her.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I wanted the employment figures for the last three years. He said that it is 54 lakhs.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I do not have the figures now. I will send it to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : He will send it to you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That was my original question. So please direct him to give the reply as if the original question is being asked. I had specifically asked for it. How many persons were employed. He says 54 lakhs of people are employed. But this is no way to reply. Please give the instruction that if it has been asked to give details of three years in original question then he should give the total figures. How can you avoid giving reply or information. You can give this direction even after question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Investment Promotion and Infrastructure Development Cell

*427. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cell namely 'Investment Promotion and Infrastructure Development Cell' has been set up in his ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its objects;

(c) the time by which the said cell is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the likely increase in the trade as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Industry has created an Investment Promotion and Infrastructure Development Cell in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion vide office order dated 15-11-96. The main objectives of creation of this Cell are (i) to give further impetus to investment facilitation, (ii) to monitor investment approvals and (iii) to coordinate matters relating to infrastructure requirements for industry. The Cell has already started functioning from the date of its creation and is being strengthened.

(d) The objective of creation of this Cell is to boost up foreign investment with a special focus on infrastructure, which in turn would inter-alia contribute to increase in trade. It is not however possible to quantify this increase as it has become operational only recently.

Assistance from ADB

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

(a) the total financial assistance provided to India by the "Asia Development Bank", till date;

(b) the details of the areas for which this assistance has been given, sector-wise;

(c) whether the said bank has threatened that it will not provide more financial assistance to India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The total loan amount approved for India by the Asian Development Bank

(ADB) till 18.12.1996 is US \$ 6,605.3 million for the energy, transport and Communication, finance, industry and non-fuel minerals, and social infrastructure sectors.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Production of Coal

*429. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are possibilities to increase production and to reduce the production cost of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

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

(e) whether the coal produced in the country is costlier than the imported coal; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the production cost of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is considerable potential to increase production of coal in the country. The increase in production of coal so far in the current year is 8% greater than in the last year.

Steps being taken to augment indigenous production of coal include the following :

- (i) Opening up of new mines.
- (ii) Increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation and application of new technologies.
- (iii) Ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.
- (iv) Partial de-regulation of coal prices. This is likely to improve internal resource generation of coal companies which will enable new projects to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability of new mining projects.
- (v) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured. This will enable it to raise additional financial resources from the capital markets which are required to add new coal production capacity.
- (vi) Steps are being taken in coordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced production.

(vii) Steps are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition.

(viii) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining. This is expected to increase domestic coal production.

The coal companies continually make efforts to effect economies in the cost of production of coal. Such steps include :

- (i) Increasing opencast mining.
- (ii) Increasing the efficiency of coal production.
- (iii) Modernisation and mechanisation of existing coal mines.
- (iv) Reduction in surplus labour.
- (v) Ensuring better power supply by setting up captive power stations etc.
- (vi) Observing strict economies in operational expenditure.

(c) and (d). Efforts to increase production while reducing production costs proceed on a continuous basis after detailed study of the existing conditions and taking into account the available financial and technical resources. This is a continuous process.

(e) A study conducted indicates that imported non-coking coal is costlier than domestic coal on calorific value basis at all locations in the country. Imported coking coal, however, does not appear to be costlier than domestic coal.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to part (e) of the question.

[English]

Revival Plan for Sick Companies

*430. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases referred to Industrial Finance Corporation of India by the BIFR during the last five years for the preparation of revival plan of sick companies both in private and public sector;

(b) whether the revival scheme could not be prepared by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) had appointed Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) as Operating Agency in respect of 111 sick industrial companies (93 private sector, 6 central sector and 12

state sector companies) during the period from 1.4.1991 to 31.3.1996.

(b) and (c). IFCI has reported that it has carried out viability study in respect of 104 cases. As regards the remaining seven cases, in six cases the respective promoters have not submitted any comprehensive rehabilitation proposal for consideration of the Operating Agency and in one case the proposal has been received by IFCI recently and the same is under scrutiny of the Operating Agency.

Investment on Coastal Areas Development

*431. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have put forth a proposal to Singapore Government for investment on eastern port of the country viz. Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) the details of the fields of industries in which the investment is likely to be made by Singapore Government?

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

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

World Bank Aided Projects

*432. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the assessment of the World Bank the amount spent on most of the World Bank aided projects in the country has not resulted in full or commensurate benefits to intended areas/people;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for effective monitoring of World Bank aided projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. World Bank, in March, 1996 has evaluated 104 projects approved between 1 July, 1978 and 30 June, 1993. Of these 77% were evaluated to have achieved satisfactory outcome.

(b) and (c). The Government has already taken a number of steps to further improve project implementation. These include ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of Additional Central Assistance as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining and procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to

Central PSUs, portfolio rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs. In addition, Central Ministries and State Governments, with a large number of World Bank aided projects, have recently been asked to set up a single point Project Monitoring Authority for intensive supervision of these projects. This will be combined with joint semi-annual reviews by Ministry of Finance and World Bank. In order to ensure that the projects achieve their development objectives in full, their quality at entry and also during implementation is being reviewed regularly.

[Translation]

Sundaram Committee

*433. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sundaram Committee has recommended that loans should be made available at low interest rate so that Indian goods could stand in competition in the international market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India at the request of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations appointed a Committee in September, 1992 under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Sundaram, the then Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce to examine the complaints regarding the interest rate structure of export finance, the period of credit and allied questions including important individual complaints. Accordingly, the Committee studied the various aspects of these issues and suggested that the Reserve Bank might consider reviewing the interest rates for export credit within their overall monetary and credit policy. It also recommended that if there was going to be a policy decision to lower the minimum lending rate for commercial loan, it should be ensured that there was more than a corresponding reduction of export credit interest rate keeping the yield to the banks at the existing level.

The Committee submitted an Interim Report followed by a final Report. Based on the recommendations of these Reports, the Reserve Bank of India made appropriate revisions in October, 1992 in the interest rates of Pre-shipment as well as Post-shipment Credits. These rates have been kept under review by the Reserve Bank of India so that adequate credit is available to the exporters at internationally competitive rates. The Government also interacts appropriately from time to time with the Reserve Bank of India on this matter.

[English]

Production of FCV Tobacco

*434. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Tobacco Board to each State to boost the production of tobacco during the above period;

(c) whether tobacco growers of several States have demanded remunerative price for their produces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of State-wise production of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :

(Qty : In Million Kgs)

State	1995-96	1996-97
Andhra Pradesh	101.66	83.08 (Target)
Karnataka	25.00	36.00 (Estimate)
Maharashtra	0.21	0.14 (Target)
Orissa	0.13	0.12 (Target)
Total	127.00	119.34 (Target)

(b) No financial assistance is being given by the Tobacco Board to the States. However, financial assistance is being provided to the FCV Tobacco Growers by the Tobacco Board. During 1995-96, an expenditure of Rs. 40.89 lakhs in Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 17.41 lakhs in Karnataka was incurred under various developmental and extension schemes for increasing the yield and quality of FCV Tobacco. The budgeted outlay of various schemes during 1996-97 in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is Rs. 45.03 lakhs and Rs. 28.80 lakhs respectively.

(c) to (e). A representation has been recieved from the Karnataka State Tobacco Growers Forum on various issues including remunerative prices for tobacco wherein a specific request to see that the Tobacco growers of Karnataka get an average price of Rs. 50/- per kg. during current Karnataka auctions, has been made.

The Tobacco Board authorises the crop size for Virginia tobacco after consultation with growers and traders, assessment of carryover stocks and the

domestic/international demand and supply position. Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for various grades of tobacco are announced by the Tobacco Board on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural costs and Prices. MSP for the current year for F2 and L2 grades of tobacco are Rs. 19 and Rs. 22 per kg. respectively.

Tobacco Board has fixed a crop size of 29.50 M.Kgs for 1996 Karnataka crop season taking into consideration the domestic and international demand for Tobacco. The average price realised in Karnataka during the current season is Rs. 50.64 per kg

Smuggling of Gold

435. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the World Gold Council about 100 tonnes of gold valued at around Rs. 5000 crores is brought into India every year through illegal channels,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Gold Council has suggested certain measures to check smuggling of gold into the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Presumably, the question refers to the report of the World Gold Council, Geneva published in February, 1996. This report states that in 1995 there was a gap of 234 tonnes between legal import of gold and the demand for gold in India and that this gap was met by re-cycling of gold available within the country and other imports. The report, however, does not give any estimate of quantities of gold sourced through these channels.

It is also observed that the referred publication itself states that the accuracy of any statement or onbservation made therein is not guaranteed. It is, therefore, considered that the estimates of demand for gold in India and the quantities of gold illegally imported into India could only be conjectural and not verifiable.

The World Gold Council has not suggested any measures to check smuggling of gold into the country.

Considering demand for gold in the country, Government have allowed import of gold as baggage by eligible passengers on payment of customs duty. Since inception of this Scheme in 1992, 825.8 tonnes of gold has been imported under this Scheme thus curtailing smuggling of gold.

Losses in Paper Industries

*436. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the total loss suffered by the public sector paper manufacturing industries in the country particularly situated in Assam and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for incurring losses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) *Details of losses* :

There is only one Central Public Sector Undertaking-Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (HPC)-engaged in the production of paper, in four of its mills. The names, locations and losses incurred upto 31.3.1996 in respect of these mills are given below :

Name	Location	Loss (as on 31.3.96 Rs. in crores)
1. Nagaon Paper Mills Cachar Paper Mills	Assam	785.81
2. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Limited.	Nagaland	178.09
3. Mandya National Paper Mills Limited	Karnataka	175.17

(b) *Reasons for Losses* :

Nagaon and Cachar Paper Mills : Locational disadvantages, lack of infrastructural facilities and high interest burden due to cost over run etc. have let to loss although operating profits have increased in the past. Loss in 1995-96 came down substantially from the previous year and the capacity utilisation is increasing.

Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited : Lack of infrastructural facilities, lack of power, poor organisation of raw materials, unsatisfactory performance of boilers and lack of work culture. Production remains suspended since Oct., 1992.

Mandya National Paper Mills Limited : Low capacity utilisation, operational difficulties, excess manpower and shortage of raw material i.e. bagasse. Production remains suspended since April, 1993.

(c) *Steps taken by Government* :

Nagaon and Cachar Paper Mills : A proposal for financial restructuring of Hindustan Paper Corpn. (Nagaon and Cachar Paper Mills) have been approved by Govt. Action has been taken by H.P.C. to improve efficiency in the area of pulp mill, recovery section and paper machine and to increase the capacity utilisation.

Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited : Government has decided to revive the mill by financial restructuring and additional capital investment.

Mandya National Paper Mills : The Company was referred to BIFR and BIFR ordered winding up. Government has, however, decided to re-start the operations of the mill and privatises it as a going concern. An appeal has been filed in AAIFR.

Board of Trade Meeting on Decline in Exports

*437. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem in 'Hindustan Times' dated October 10, 1996 under caption 'Board of Trade to discuss slide in growth of exports';

(b) if so, the main reasons for slide in growth of exports; and

(c) the decisions taken and the steps being taken to meet the growth of exports by the Board of Trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir. The recent decline in the rate of export growth is mainly on account of deceleration in the rate global export growth in the current year from 8% in 1995 to an estimated 5% in the first half of 1996, high rate of interest charged by the banks, non-availability of export credit and infrastructure constraints.

As a measure of boosting exports, the Board of Trade recommended that the effects of the Busy Season Credit Policy of RBI be reflected in practice, particularly with reference to speedy delivery and lowering the cost of credit, Foreign Direct Investment be given whole-hearted encouragement of support, anomalies in the duty structure of certain sunrise industries like textile machinery and machine tools be quickly removed, and the imposition of MAT be reviewed.

Steps taken to improve export growth include :

- (i) Operationalization of the Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme to improve infrastructure specifically related to export production.
- (ii) Establishment of special growth centres and export promotion industrial parks to support State Governments efforts in export promotion.
- (iii) Encouraging exports of agro products and value added products such as processed foods.
- (iv) Regional bilateral initiatives have been taken such as operationalisation of SAPTA.
- (v) Special thrust is being given to 43 countries of Latin American region by granting double weightage for exports to these countries for

grant of recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House

- (vi) Small exporters with an average export turn-over Rs. 2 crores in the proceeding three years or with a turn-over of Rs. 5 crores in preceeding year have been made eligible for grant of Special Import Licence to give a special boost to exports of products manufactured in SSI sector. Special Import Licence entitlement to status holders has been increased by 1% across the board to all categories and the number of items on the Special Import Licence list has also been increased.
- (vii) India Brand Equity Fund has been launched to build up a brand image for Indian export products abroad.
- (viii) With a view to involve States/Union Territories in promotion of exports, one State Corporation in each State/Union Territory has been accorded Export House status irrespective of past export performance.
- (ix) Better and continuing Inter-ministerial coordination and interface with Trade and Industry to further streamline and simplify procedures relating to Foreign Trade transactions

Silk Industry

*438. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States selected under the National Sericulture Project and the details of work being undertaken under the Project;
- (b) the financial assistance received so far from the World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation for the Project; and
- (c) the time by which the project is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) A World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation assisted National Sericulture Project is being implemented in 5 traditional sericulture States namely Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir and on a pilot basis in 12 non-traditional States namely Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

Under the project, the components financed are development oriented with several innovative and

synergic constituents. Besides creation of substantial infrastructural facilities by the States and CSB for the discharge of functions like the supply of quality basic and rearer seed, markets for decentralised private rearers and reelers, research and development and training facilities for on-farm and off-farm activities the project has also attempted the incorporation of efforts by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by assisting 125 NGOs. The progress in quantitative as well as qualitative terms has been significant and on the technology generation and absorption side, progress has ranged from the evaluation of techniques for genetic marketing of live sericulture material to the introduction of low cost energy conserving ovens in reelers' establishments in the country.

(b) The World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation have disbursed US\$ 120.5 million up to November, 1996 under the project.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 is closing on 31st December, 1996.

Investment in Coal Sector

*439 DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital investment made in coal sector as on March, 1996 and at the time of nationalisation of the Coal Industry;

(b) the investment made in the sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the Government propose to invest more funds in coal sector in view of the increasing demand of coal in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). As per the New Economic Policy of the Government of India stipulating self-sufficiency in public sector undertakings, the budgetary support to Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been reduced during the Eighth Plan period. However, capital investment in CIL and SCCL will increase during the Ninth Plan period by progressive increase in internally generated resources of these companies and their commercial borrowings. In order to enhance the borrowing capacity of SCCL and CIL, certain capital restructuring steps have been taken by the Government of India in 1994 and 1996 respectively. In June, 1993 the Government have amended the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to enable captive coal mining by the private sector and this step will improve the investment in the coal sector. Besides, the partial deregulation of coal prices introduced in 1996 have also improved financial health of these companies.

STATEMENT

The requisite information is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Company	Total capital investment made in Coal India Limited (CIL) & Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) as on 31.3.1996.	Total capital investment approved for CIL and SCCL during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.
CIL	19400.47	8747.58
SCCL	3257.95	2300.47
Total	22658.42	11048.47

The total capital investment made in the coal sector at the time of nationalisation of the coal industry was Rs. 282.82 crores as on 31.3.1973. This includes Rs. 30.77 crores of capital investment made in Singareni Collieries Company Limited. The remaining amount of Rs. 252.05 crores was the total amount of compensation paid by the Government of India to the private owners of the coal mines which were taken over at the time of nationalisation when Bharat Coking Coal Limited and National Coal Development Corporation were in existence. CIL was set up in September, 1975.

Rate of Interest Offered by Financial Companies

*440. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD :
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to certain advertisements issued by Private Financial Institutions in Madras and Delhi offering 30% and 24% interest on fixed deposit schemes floated by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the rate of interest offered by such companies has been approved by any Government agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action proposed to be taken to save small investors from such exploiting offers of interests; and

(e) whether the Government propose to keep people informed through media as and when such exploiting deposits schemes are advertised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India have reported that some cases relate to unincorporated bodies and, as such, fall outside the purview of Reserve

Bank of India (RBI)'s regulations relating to the rate of interest on deposits and the amount of deposits that may be received. Under the provisions of Chapter IIIC of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 such unincorporated bodies are prohibited from accepting deposits from the number of depositors, more than that specified under Section 45S of the RBI Act. In respect of incorporated bodies (NBFCs), as per RBI directions, registered NBFCs not complying with the credit rating and prudential norm requirements and other NBFCs not registered with RBI are not authorised to accept deposits (a) at a rate exceeding 15 per cent per annum, (b) for a maturity period of less than 12 months and more than five years. RBI has reported that one company M/s. Hoffland Finance Ltd had issued advertisement for investments in the news papers. On inquiry, the company has clarified on 26.11.1996 that it is not taking deposits out is arranging and mobilising funds for other corporates and firms and thereby earning brokerage.

(c) RBI issued advertisements and press communique in November, 1995 in respect of unidentified unincorporated bodies located in Chennai (Madras) cautioning members of the public that they should verify the credentials before depositing money with any such unincorporated body and satisfy themselves that deposits are being accepted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IIIC of the RBI Act. Members of the public were also cautioned in the advertisements that if any such body fails to repay the deposit, they can have recourse only against such bodies under the existing provisions of law. The Government of Tamil Nadu was also requested to initiate immediate action against defaulting companies.

Central Dues Towards Assam

4212. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from the State Government of Assam requesting for a moratorium on deduction of dues to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised in the memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Chief Minister Assam submitted a memorandum in July, 1996 to Prime Minister on various problems being faced by the State Government of Assam. Among other things, the Chief Minister, Assam also requested for the grant of moratorium in favour of the State Government for three years commencing from the financial year 1996-97 on the repayment of the Central loans involving principal and interest dues

(c) The repayment of loans from the State Governments form part of the revenues of the Central Government. The Central Government provides plan assistance for the Central and State plans from its resources which include loan repayment by the State Governments and other loan repayments. All State Governments are required to pay their loans and interest dues in time. Non-repayment of loans and payment of interest will affect the Central resources during that year. Further, by giving moratorium on loan repayment in one year, the liability of the State for the following year (s) goes up considerably and distorts State's financial position in subsequent year (s) making it worse to the extent of deferred liability as well as increased interest payment. In view of this, it has not been found feasible for the Central Government to agree to the request of the State Government of Assam for moratorium on principal and interest payment.

Hawala Racket

4213. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in "The Sunday Observer", New Delhi dated the September 22-28, 1996 under the caption 'India loses 1,000 crores in forex to touts';

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

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this racket?

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

(b) and (c). Most of the monetary transactions in the international trade are carried through normal banking channels. But some businessmen do resort to unauthorised channels for making/receiving payments in respect of the aforesaid transactions. Amount routed through unauthorised channels cannot be quantified because of its clandestine nature.

(d) The Enforcement Directorate keeps a strick vigil to check such illegal transactions. Appropriate action, warranted under the law is taken as and when any such case is detected.

Revenue Earned through FERA, MRTP, etc.

4214. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of revenue earned by the Government through the implementation of 'FERA', MRTP and other related Acts during the last three years;

(b) whether any review has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government do not earn any revenue by way of implementing the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA). However, total of currencies (Indian and Foreign) confiscated and penalties imposed, as a result of adjudication of cases during the last three years comes to Rs. 107 crores (approx.)

No fee has been prescribed under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practises (MRTP), Act for filing of complaints before MRTP Commission. However, the revenue earned by the Commission by way of (i) supplying copies of orders (ii) sub-scription towards cause list and (iii) fees for granting recognition to consumers' associations during the last three years comes to Rs. 52.163/-.

(b) and (c). Major changes were carried out in the F.E.R.A. through the Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1993. No review has made with regard to the MRTP Commission.

Recruitment of Disabled and women in PSUs

4215. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disable persons and women recruited in the Public Sector Undertakings separately during the last three years till date; and

(b) the scheme formulated and the target fixed for recruitment of such people in each undertaking during the years 1997 and 1998?

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

Saudi Arabia package from India

4216. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia is keenly looking towards packages from Indian companies in the field of hospital management, health care, banking, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There is no information with Government as to whether Saudi Arabia is looking towards packages from Indian companies in the field of hospital management, health care, banking etc.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Does not arise

IMF and World Bank

4217. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Govt. has been drawn to the news appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' captioned dated November 6, 1996 under "Top IMF, WB men to manage Pak economy";

(b) whether Indian citizens are also working with IMF and World Bank in managerial positions;

(c) if so, its details like number and assignments holding in IMF and World Bank; and

(d) the details of these Indians who have worked in IMF and World Bank in responsible positions and have returned back to India and now holding position in various Ministries and Departments of Govt. of India, Reserve Bank of India and Planning Commission, etc., alongwith service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Top IMF, WB men to manage Pak economy" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated November 8, 1996 has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Indo-Japan Co-Operation

4218. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken comprehensive review of Indo-Japan economic and cultural co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approved major projects aided by the Japan and progress achieved thereunder during the last three years project wise;

(d) the details of the project under consideration for Indo-Japan co-operation; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to expand Indo-Japanese economic and cultural co-operation during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India and the Second High Level Mission on Economic and Technical Cooperation from the Government of Japan undertook a joint comprehensive review of the Indo-Japan Economic and Technical Cooperation at the time of Mission's visit during 26th March-2nd April, 1995.

(b) During the discussions with the visiting Mission, both sides agreed that the Japanese Official Development Assistance would focus on the sectors viz. (i) Economic Infrastructure (Power and Transport), (ii) Alleviation of Poverty, (iii) Medicare and Health (iv) Agriculture and Rural Development, (v) Population and HIV/AIDS, (vi) Support for Small Enterprises, and (vii) preservation of Environment.

(c) The list of projects committed by the Government of Japan during the last three years for OECF loan assistance and their progress during last three years is enclosed Statement-I. The list of grant-in-aided projects committed by the Government of Japan during the last three years is enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The Government of India have posed 23 projects to the Government of Japan for OECF 1997-98 loan package which are given in the Statement-III enclosed. Besides, the list of the projects with the Government of Japan for grant assistance is given as Statement-IV.

(e) Government of Japan usually sends High Level Mission on Economic and Technical Cooperation once in five years. The Government discusses with the visiting Mission to review and expand the Indo-Japanese Cooperation. Moreover, the Government also holds periodic discussions/reviews with the Embassy of Japan and Japanese Governmental agencies in India to continue its efforts towards further improvements in successful implementation of the projects.

STATEMENT-I

List of OECF loan assisted projects committed by the Government of Japan during the last three years

(in yen million)

Project Name	Loan Amount	Disbursement during		
		94-95	95-96	96-97 (till 31.10.96)
1	2	3	4	5
1994-95				
1. IDP-94 Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station Project II	22567	0.0	7858.9	3295.1
2. IDP-95 Srisaillam Power Transmission Project II	9546	0.0	0.0	0.0

	1	2	3	4	5
3. IDP-96 Assam Gas Turbine Power Station and Transmission Line Construction Project III		15821	0.0	2470.5	2344.4
4. IDP-97 Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit 3 Extension Project		8659	0.0	45.6	0.0
5. IDP-98 Purulia Pumped Storage Project		20520	0.0	40.3	25.8
6. IDP-99 Kothagudem 'A' Thermal Power Station Rehabilitation Project		5092	0.0	322.2	4.2
7. IDP-100 National Highway-5 Improvement Project II		5836	0.0	1.0	0.0
8. IDP-101 National Highway-24 Improvement Project		4827	0.0	0.0	0.0
9. IDP-102 Madras Water and Sewerage Renovation and Functional Improvement Project		17098	0.0	0.0	0.0
10. IDP-103 Lake Bhopal Conservation & Management Project		7055	0.0	58.0	48.4
11. IDP-104 Rajasthan Forestry Development Project		4219	0.0	185.9	226.0
12. IDP-105 Industrial Pollution Control Project		1525	0.0	0.4	0.0
13. IDP-106 Industrial Pollution Control Programme		3000	0.0	1001.0	0.0
1995-96					
14. IDP-107 Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project		5665	—	0.0	0.0
15. IDP-108 Anpara Power Transmission System Project (II)		12020	—	0.0	0.0
16. IDP-109 Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Project		28452	—	0.0	0.0
17. IDP-110 Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Program		8670	—	0.0	0.0
18. IDP-111 Attappady Wasteland Comprehensive Environmental Conservation Project		5112	—	0.0	0.0
19. IDP-112 Gujarat Afforestation and Development Project		15760	—	0.0	774.3
20. IDP-113 Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal Modernization Project		16049	—	0.0	0.0
21. IDP-114 Small Scale Industries Development Programme (V)		30000	—	20020.0	2002.0
22. IDP-115 Ship-breaking at Pipavav		7046	—	0.0	102.0
* 1996-97					
23. Northern India Transmission System Project		8497			
24. West Bengal Transmission System Project		11087			
25. Umiam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project		1700			
26. Tuirial Hydro-Electric Power Station Project		11695			
27. Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project		19817			
28. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project		14760			
29. Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project		10679			
30. Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project		15968			
31. Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project		13324			
32. Kerala Water Supply Project		11997			
33. Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project		13222			

* Exchange of Notes for the projects committed under OECF 1996-97 loan package are yet to signed

STATEMENT-II

List of grant-in-aided project during the last three years

Project Name	Amount (in yen million)	Date of completion
1994-95		
1. Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU	1058.000	Completed
2. Increase of Food Production (KR II)	700.000	Completed
3. IGNOU Phase II	679.000	Completed
4. Construction of Nizamuddin Bridge across river Yamuna Phase I	52.000	Completed
5. Improvement of Medical Equipment at Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad	757.000	Completed
1995-96		
6. Construction of Nizamuddin Bridge Phase II Term II	444.000	31.3.97
Term II	1662.000	31.3.97
Term III	672.000	31.3.98
7. Development of Seed Research and Storage Facilities	662.000	31.3.97
8. Kalawati saran Children Hospital	1217.000	31.3.97
9. Improvement of Equipment for Water Quality Monitoring	244.000	10.1.97
10. Increasing Food Production (KR II)	500.000	10.1.97
Cultural Grant-in-aid		
11. National Archives	34.000	Completed
12. Bharat Bhavan	46.000	31.3.97
1996-97		
13. Eradication of Poliomyelitis	768.000	31.3.97

STATEMENT-III

List of proposals posed to the Government of Japan for OECF 1997-98 loan package

1. Madhya Pradesh Sericulture - Soil to Silk approach
2. Manipur Sericulture Project

3. Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station Project (6X150 MW) (2nd tranche) of APSEB
4. Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project (280 MW) of NHPC
5. Simhadri Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) of NTPC
6. Forestry Development Project of Punjab
7. Rengali Irrigation Sub-Project II of Orissa
8. Dredging of Tuticorin Port
9. Tuuivai Hydro Electric Project (3x70 MW) of NEEPCO
10. Varshi Hydro Electric Project Stage II (2x115 MW) of KESC
11. Rehabilitation and Modernisation of Bandel TPS of WPSEB
12. Western Yamuna Canal Hydro Electric Project Stage II and HSEB
13. Hogenakkal Water Supply Project of Tamil Nadu.
14. Integrated Watershed Development for Saraswati and Shetrunji river basins of Gujarat
15. Procurement of three numbers Airborne Multisensor Geophysical System for Geological Survey of India
16. Infrastructure Development for Eco-Tourism and Cultural Exchange in Orissa
17. Line of Credit for Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA);
18. Line of Credit for PFC
19. Line of Credit for IDBI
20. Line of Credit for NHB
21. Line of Credit for ICICI
22. Transmission Schemes for Vishakhapatnam TPS and Simhadri TPS of APSEB
23. Urban Water Supply projects for 19 towns of Karnataka.

STATEMENT-IV

List of Grant-in-aid projects under active consideration with the Government of Japan

General Grant-in-aid

1. Upgradation of Dio Pediatric Cardio Therapeutic Surgery at the Institute of Child Health and Hospital Children, Madras.
2. Increase in Food Production (KR II)

Cultural Grant-in-aid

3. Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centres for establishing a planetarium in Trichy

Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

4219. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the funds allocated for the schemes of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana are being diverted for other works in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the reports received from Government of Andhra Pradesh the funds allocated for the scheme of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana are not being diverted for other works in Andhra Pradesh.

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

Foreign Markets by MMTC

4220. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Union Government to direct Metal and Mineral Trading Corporation to take active interest in locating suitable foreign market for the products of Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. MMTC is exploring possibilities of exporting this product through its foreign offices.

Income Tax Act

4221. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn tax exemption to Dairy under section 80JJ of Income Tax Act, 1961; and

(b) if so, the justification thereof?

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

(b) Tax concessions to dairy farming were withdrawn by the Finance Act, 1985 on the basis of the recommendations of Economic Administration Reforms Commission.

Economic Cooperation and Trade Opportunity in Foreign Countries

4222. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited a number of countries for exploring economic cooperation opportunities;

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

(c) the details of those countries who have agreed to accelerate the process and started their investment;

(d) whether any agreement has also been signed in this regard by the Government with any foreign country;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and to what extent it has been successful in getting the foreign economic cooperation in Indian exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Name of the Country	Country-wise details and Agreement signed
1	2
1. Bahrain	To address NRI conference from 1st to 2nd Nov., 96.
2. Dubai	To inaugurate "Expo India-1996" from 6th to 7th Dec.,
3. China	Led the High powered Chief Executive Officers Mission sponsored by Confederation of India Industry (15th sept to 19th sept).
4. Hongkong	Addressed the gathering of the Indian Chambers of Commerce (20th Nov., 96).
5. Brussels	Indo-EU investment and Trade Cooperation Forum on 25-26 November, 1996. Economic Cross-cultural Agreement between India of European Commission was signed.
6. Zeneva	To participate in the High Level Segment of the 43rd Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board on foreign direct investment on 10th October, 96.

1	2
7. Brazil	For inaugurating the exclusive Indian Exhibition in Sau Paulo. (3-7 Nov., 96)
8. USA	Attended the Meeting of Indo-US Commercial Alliance (15-18 Oct., 1996). For taking a meeting of the representatives of the PSUs/Boards of the Ministry of Commerce on 8th Nov., 1996.
9. Singapore	First Ministerial Conference of World Trade organisation (9-13 Dec., 96).
10. Kazakhstan	To inaugurate the exhibition organised by ITPO 8th to 13th October, 1996.
11. Bulgaria	Agreement signed on Trade and Economic co-operation with Bulgaria at New Delhi on 4.12.96.
12. Kenya	For attending Made in India Show arranged by Confederation of Indian Industries at Nairobi from 14th to 16th August, 1996.

(e) and (f). Economic cooperation with other countries has been the constant endeavor of the Government. In a fast integrating world it is important to establish partnerships with others countries so that India can derive economic advantage in its efforts at maximising exports and developing the economy. Strong links have been established both at the bilateral level with various countries, as well as at the multilateral level and with important groupings like the European Union, ASEAN etc. SAPTA is fast becoming as important instrument for liberalising trade within the SAARC region. Apart from this, the govt. has cleared 380 proposals involving foreign investment valued at around US \$ 5 billion.

Strike in HEC

4223. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi (HEC) struck work w.e.f. October 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) Ranchi struck work on 17.10.1996 for one day to press their demand for immediate wage revision. Wage revision in a company is dependent on generation of internal resources to meet the extra burden.

Guarantee for Foreign Investment

4224. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has made a statement that Government may not be a guarantee for any foreign investment in any big projects including in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the State Electricity Boards are financially very weak and cannot invite foreign investment on their guarantee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Finance Minister has said that no further Government of India Counter Guarantees will be extended to any Power Project beyond the eight initial, CCFI-approved Power Projects.

(c) and (d). The foreign investors have generally not viewed the State Electricity Boards as credible risk for investment. The Government is therefore encouraging Reform and Restructuring of State Electricity Boards with a view to improving their financial strength.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Banks in M.P.

4225. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of banks located in Madhya Pradesh in which "Remote Computer Lock-in Terminal" facility has been started, branch-wise;

(b) whether the said facility is likely to affect employment opportunities in the banks; and

(c) the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in regard thereto?

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

[English]

India's Share in World Trade

4226. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state India's share in world trade in 1990 and 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) : As per available data from WTO, India's share in world merchandise trade increased from 0.60% in 1990 to 0.64% in 1995.

Funds for welfare activities

4227. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for welfare activities of different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the allotment made to different coal mines and organisations by the subsidiaries during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cess on Cotton Fabrics

4228. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose cess on all fabrics of cotton; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Printing Ink Factory

4229. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHOLT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is Printing Ink Factory in 'Bhartiya Bank Note Press' (Currency Printing Press), Dewas;

(b) if so, the production capacity of the said factory;

(c) whether the printing ink is being supplied by the said factory to Bank Note Presses located at Nasik and Hyderabad;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ink is being imported for use by Bank Note Press, Dewas at present; and

(f) if so, the details of countries from which the said ink is being imported and the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The annual production capacity of the Ink Factory in Bank Note Press, Dewas, is approximately 325 Metric Tonnes.

(c) The above Ink Factory supplies security inks to Bank Note Press-Dewas, Currency Note Press-Nasik, India Security Presses Nasik and Security Printing Press, Hyderabad.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The above Ink Factory does not have the technology to manufacture the Quick Set Intaglio Inks which are also required for printing the rates. At present, the requirement of Quick Set Intaglio Inks is met by import on the basis of global tender procedure. The Bank Note Press, Dewas, had imported such inks in the past from United Kingdom as well as Switzerland and Canada.

[English]

Repayment of Debt

4230. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Sudan have defaulted in the repayment of debts owned by them to Government of India;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made to realise these debts;

(c) whether in view of economic liberalisation in these countries, the Government propose to invest these blocked funds in private ventures in these countries; and

(d) if so, the details of effort being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya have defaulted in repayments of dues owned by them to Govt of India against various Govt. to Govt. credits. Sudan does not owe any dues against Govt. to Govt. credit.

(b) to (d). The debt owed by Uganda was crystallized in US Dollars in 1992 and repayments are being received albeit with some delays. Tanzania and Kenya have also been approached through diplomatic channels with a view to realization of over-dues. Proposals for use of these funds, through an ESCROW account mechanism, to set them off against investments in or exports from the debtor country, can be considered in that framework.

Development of Plantation Items

4231. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of production, distribution (for domestic consumption and export) and development of plantation of tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

A. Tea

(In million Kgs.)

Year	Area under Tea (In hec.)	Production	Distribution	
			Export	Domestic consumption
1993	4,18,331	760.82	175.32	560*
1994	4,20,089	752.90	150.69	580*
1995*	4,21,913	495.92	163.74	595*

*Estimated.

B. Coffee

(In tonees)

Year	Area under Coffee (In hec.)	Production	Distribution		
			Export	Year	Domestic consumption (Estimated)
1993-94	2,92,467	2,08,000	1,36,690	1994	54,000
1994-95	2,93,109	1,80,000	1,37,395	1995	54,000
1995-96	(yet to be complied)	2,23,000	1,70,581*	1996	55,000

*u to 5.12.96

C. Rubber

(In tonnes)

Year	Area under Rubber (In hec.)	Production	Distribution	
			Export	Domestic Consumption
1993-94	5,08,420	4,35,160	186	4,50,480
1994-95	5,15,572	4,71,815	1,961	4,85,850
1995-96	5,23,366	5,06,910	1,130	5,25,465

D. Cardamom (Small)

(In tonnes)

Year	Area under Cardamom (In hec.)	Production	Distribution	
			Export	Domestic availability (Estimated)
1993-94	60,845	6600	387	6213
1994-95	61,930	7000	257	6743
1995-96	(yet to be compiled)	7900	500	7400

Smuggling of Timber

4232. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the punitive steps proposed to prevent smuggling of timber along the Myanmar border;

(b) the number of smuggling cases detected during the last six months and awaiting adjudication;

(c) whether the Government propose for absolute confiscation of goods to curb the smuggling activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling of timber into India from Myanmar. Seized timber is confiscated under the provision of customs Act, 1962 and redemption fine as well as personel penalty is imposed in adjudication proceedings in respect of such cases.

(b) 12 cases have been detected during last six months which are waiting adjudication.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does to arise in view of (c) above.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

4233. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BHEL is properly utilising the land given by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up of its plant;

(b) if so, the purpose for which the land is being utilising;

(c) whether the vacant land is likely to be utilised for extension of the plant; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The land given by the Madhya Pradesh Government has been properly utilised by by BHEL for setting up the Factory, Administrative Office buildings, Residential Quarters, Hospital and other infrastructural facilities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to utilise the vacant land for the future growth and diversification phase of the Unit, the dwelling units for employees and required infrastructural facilities.

[Translation]

Dacoity in Punjab National Bank, Delhi

4234. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any dacoity took place recently in the

Punjab National Bank located at South Extension, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the estimated value of items taken away in the dacoity;

(c) whether the Bank Authorities proposes to pay any compensation to the locker owners;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Punjab National Bank (PNB) have reported that a case of burglary took place at its branch in South Extension, New Delhi after close of the banking hours on 30.11.1996 and before the bank was opened after weekly holiday on 2.12.1996. The burglars had broken open 13 lockers and emptied them of all their valuables. The police have registered an FIR relating to this case.

Taking into account the facts of the case and the provisions of the lease agreement entered into by the Bank with the locker holders, the Bank has been advised to deal with the claims lodged by the Concerned locker holders. RBI has also been requested by the Government to examine the matter and to advise the bank suitably in accordance with law and equity.

[English]

Committee on Public Investment

4235. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cochin Refineries Ltd., Kerala, has sought stage I clearances by the Committee on Public Investment Board;

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

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) and (c). Committee of P.I.B. has not yet considered it pending the receipt of appraisals of the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission and hence no final decision regarding clearance has been taken.

[Translation]

Sales Tax on Marital Items

4236. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish or to reduce the Sales Tax on marital items such as bangles, bichua, bindi, sindur etc. in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Medical Facilities to Retired Employees of ITPO

4237. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has constituted a committee to consider and extend the medical facilities to their retired employees;

(b) whether the report of committee has since been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the detail of recommendations made; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited

4238. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are placing work orders to the BHEL;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of work orders awarded to the private companies during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). BHEL has been receiving orders from Government for Defence and Railway equipments.

In respect of other areas like Power Sector and Industry Sector, BHEL being a commercial organisation secures orders in competition with other manufacturers under domestic as well as Inter-national Competitive Bidding procedures. BHEL has demonstrated a success rate of 86% in multilaterally funded Power Projects in India.

Foreign Collaboration Policy

4239. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any slackness in the foreign collaboration policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage Joint Ventures during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs.17026.77 crores has been approved during the period July, 1996 to October, 1996 which is 3.1/2 times more than Rs.4689.34 crores approved during the same period last year. Actual inflow during the same period in 1996 has increased to Rs.2402.05 crores as against Rs.2189.18 crore during the corresponding period last years.

From the above it is evident that the foreign investors confidence had increase substantially and they see India as a destination for their investment. It is thus apparent that there is no slackness in the foreign collaboration approvals.

Disbursement through SIDBI

4240. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total disbursement made by SIDBI since its inception upto March 31, 1996, Scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the reasons for wide disparities in disbursement of funds to States; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure equal disbursement to all States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have reported that since its inception in April 1990 upto March 31, 1996 SIDBI have disbursed assistance aggregating Rs 16864.4 crore to units in SSI sector under this various schemes. State-wise and scheme-wise assistance disbursed by SIDBI during the above period is given in the statement - I, II and III enclosed.

(b) SIDBI have reported that the disparity in the flow of assistance to various States is due to differences in credit absorption capacity, emerging industrial climate in various States, Provision of supporting facilities such as infrastructure and state government's policies. In industrially backward states, their lesser share of credit is also on account of weakness of some of the State Financial Corporations (SFCs)/Twin function Industrial Development Corporations.

(c) SIDBI has reported that it has taken various initiatives to accelerate the flow of assistance to SSI sector in the industrially backward states. For loans to SSI by banks and SFCs 100% refinance is provided by SIDBI in various States in North Eastern Region, J&K and Sikkim. Ceiling of project cost and minimum loan amount qualifying for SIDBI's direct assistance has been lowered for hilly and most backward regions. Rural

Entrepreneurship programmes, rural industrialisation programme, micro credit scheme etc. have been put in

operation to generate industrial activities largely in industrially backward states.

STATEMENT-I

Direct Finance - Statewise Assistance Disbursed during April 1990 to March 1996

(Rs. Crore)

	Refinance	BRS	DDS (Equi- Pment)	DDS (Comp- Onents)	EFS	PPS	Ancillary	TDMFS	SLIC
Andhara Pradesh	661.82	84.30	56.46	78.09	3.36	2.55	0.00	0.70	0.10
Arunachal Pradesh	3.58	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	55.06	6.95	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	122.84	13.49	0.00	31.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75
Goa	120.63	3.73	0.00	12.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	1079.89	67.05	537.90	146.28	7.98	39.18	3.97	0.63	3.83
Haryana	376.00	28.60	17.18	282.32	0.77	6.55	0.00	0.00	2.80
Himachal Pradesh	125.05	1.58	0.20	1.75	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.10
J & K	62.91	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	1321.89	26.71	5.66	138.01	1.92	3.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	695.41	11.73	0.04	15.88	0.68	6.67	0.34	0.24	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	280.04	227.13	3.77	70.74	1.62	2.15	1.25	0.30	0.70
Maharashtra	1058.31	190.63	289.99	681.10	2.71	6.72	3.12	1.47	5.55
Manipur	10.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	12.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	5.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	5.72	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	192.90	15.38	0.00	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	448.19	2.79	8.72	85.51	5.51	7.49	0.00	0.22	5.09
Rajasthan	499.28	101.36	1.01	54.79	1.73	11.91	0.14	0.00	1.00
Sikkim	7.25	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	1181.30	125.47	36.43	361.28	15.65	10.07	0.05	2.98	4.00
Tripura	10.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	645.72	43.09	0.51	400.18	0.67	7.88	0.00	0.30	2.15
West Bengal	182.45	106.74	4.01	216.81	1.56	10.43	0.00	0.00	0.09
A & N Islands &	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ghandigarh	19.40	0.70	1.13	0.36	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadara & Nagar Haveli	4.30	0.43	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daman & Diu	3.44	0.74	0.00	0.00	1.65	1.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	181.27	11.71	7.57	713.63	2.63	0.00	0.20	0.00	28.94
Laksha Dweep	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondycharry	22.06	1.00	0.27	0.90	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	9396.01	1071.99	971.59	3292.59	48.44	119.44	9.07	6.74	55.10
Factoring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOC for OTCEI Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NSIC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Venture Cap. to Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	9396.01	1071.99	971.59	3292.59	48.44	119.44	9.07	6.74	55.10

STATEMENT-II

Direct Finance - Statewise assistance Disbursed During April 1990 to March 1996

(Rs. Crore)

	Venture Capital	SSIDC	LOC to SFCs/SIDs Banks/ SEBs Other	LOC for PCFC to Banks	Seed Capital	Others	Disburse ment under all Schemes
Andhara Pradesh	0.00	4.12	0.00	0.00	4.79	10.00	918.93
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	3.71
Assam	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	64.09
Bihar	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	170.82
Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	136.80
Gujarat	0.00	35.52	90.00	0.00	0.53	5.50	2112.03
Haryana	0.14	1.50	46.84	0.00	1.17	0.00	771.32
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	129.74
J & K	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	63.05
Karnataka	0.93	7.00	44.00	0.00	7.57	0.00	1608.18
Kerala	0.22	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.87	3.01	738.59
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.00	590.56
Maharashtra	0.80	46.86	11.70	0.00	6.92	6.50	2627.59
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.59
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.44
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	5.82
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	5.92
Orissa	0.00	24.56	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	234.79
Punjab	0.00	1.75	85.00	0.00	2.16	0.00	655.67
Rajasthan	0.26	0.50	0.00	0.00	4.30	0.00	676.70
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	7.47
Tamil Nadu	0.10	0.00	48.79	0.00	2.35	1.00	2203.36
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	10.07
Uttar Pradesh	0.50	2.62	115.00	0.00	1.49	9.00	1229.24
West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	585.04
A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43
Ghandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.00	22.99
Dadara & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.25
Delhi	0.00	0.00	3.38	0.00	1.30	10.00	1074.63
Laksha Dweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Pondycherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	21.19
Total	2.95	126.68	444.71	0.00	38.17	44.01	16706.89
Factoring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.00
LOC for OTCEI Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.99
NSIC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.60
Venture Cap. to Institutions :	1.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.88	
Grand Total	4.83	126.68	444.71	0.00	38.17	44.01	16884.36

[illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NSIC.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Venture Cap. to Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	0.25	5.05	0.38	2.02	10.08	7.57	8.06	272.20	1045.99

Abbrev.	Expanded form of Scheme
BRS	Bills Rediscounting Scheme
DDS (E)	Direct Discounting Scheme (Equipment)
DDS (C)	Direct Discounting Scheme (Components)
EFS	Equipment Finance Scheme
PFS	Project Finance Scheme
TDMFS	Technology Development & Modernisation Fund Scheme
SLIC	Short Term Loan to Industrial Concerns
BLAP	Block Level Adoption Programme
PCFC	Packing Credit in Foreign Currency
	Integrated Infrastructure Development
SSIDC	State Small Industries Development Corporation

Under Write Vetted Projects

4241. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked Foreign Institutions to underwrite vetted projects;

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

(c) its implications on the capital market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Export of Black Pepper

4242. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any decline in the export of black pepper during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the total quantity of pepper exported to various countries and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of pepper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Exports of pepper have shown a mixed trend during the last three years as can be seen from the details given below :-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs.)
1993-94	48,743	189.10
1994-95	37,264	236.64
1995-96	26,346	196.47

The main reason for decline in exports of pepper during 1995-96 was depressed demand in USA, the major pepper importing country. Country-wise details of exports of pepper are available in the annual number of the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(d) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices including pepper, are, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine) to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like logo promotion; grant of spice house certificates as a recognition of processor exporter of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

[Translation]

Revenue Code

4243. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate a Revenue Code for bringing uniformity in the various laws regarding ownership, transfer, inheritance of land in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Export Promotion Councils

4244. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of all the Export Promotion Councils under his Ministry;

(b) the criteria of eligibility for election of Chairman to these Export Promotion councils; and

(c) the export figures, both in terms of quantity and value of exports of each of the Chairman of all the Export Promotion councils under this Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) and (b). The names of the Export Promotion Councils under M/o Textiles, and the criteria of eligibility for election of Chairman of there Export Promotion Councils are as under :-

S. No.	Name of Organisations	Criteria of selection Chairman
1	2	3
1.	Handloom export Promotion Council - Madras	The Chairman is elected by the Executive committee at its first meeting, held after the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the council.
2.	Apparel Export Promotion Council New Delhi	The Executive Committee elects a member amongst the members of the Executive Committee to be the Chairman of the Council.
3.	Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council - Mumbai	The Committee of Administration elect one of its member to be the Chairman of the Committee who shall ex-officio be the Chairman of the Council.
4.	Silk and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council Mumbai	The Chairman is elected by the Committee of Administration in its first meeting held after the Annual General Meeting of the Council.
5.	Indian Silk export Promotion Council, Mumbai	The Council is managed by the Committee of Administration and the Committee elect one of its members as the Chairman of the Council.
6.	Wool & Woollen Export, Promotion Council New Delhi	The Members of the Committee of Administration elects Chairman from amongst themselves.

1	2	3
7.	Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	there are 3 categories of membership of the Council such as from Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and rest of India. The Chairman is elected by rotation from these categories Any Council Member is eligible for election as Chairman if his value of export is more than Rs. 5.00 lakhs.
8.	Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi	The Chairman of the Council is elected by the members of the Committee of Administration amongst themselves. The tennure of the Chairman is for 2 terms and after expiry of these 2 terms the Chairman is not entitled for holding the post for next two terms.
9.	Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	Criteria for selection of Chairman are being framed.

(c) Export Figures both in terms of quantity and value of export of each of the Chairmen of all the Export Promotion Councils under this Ministry are not maintained.

Women Entrepreneures in Trade Related Activites

4245. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to train women entrepreneurs in trade related activities particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate number of women entrepreneurs proposed to be trained during 1996-97;

(d) the different cities where arrangement has been made to train women entrepreneurs; and

(e) the details of the programme of the Government in the at direction?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The State of Andhra Pradesh is included for implementation of the programme of Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and development for Women in India (TREAD). Andhra Pradesh

Government has been requested to identify the agency through which the programme is to be implemented. Under the proposed TREAD programme grant not exceeding one-third of the project cost can be made available to the NGOs recommended by the State Government and acceptable to the financial institutions. In the first phase of the programme, it is proposed to take up implementation in 9 cities namely; Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Cochin, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Gauhati. It is also proposed that initially in the first phase of the project about 5,000 women entrepreneurs in each centre will be selected for assistance under the programme.

Time Video Group

4246. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent probe into the dealings of the "Time Video Group" has revealed involvement of film stars and leading businessmen in Hawala transactions to meet their forex requirements during overseas trips;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). During the course of searches of the premises connected with M/s. Times video and its partners, Income tax Department, Mumbai seized some documents relevant for investigations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. Investigations conducted by the Enforcement Directorate revealed some payments otherwise through authorised channels being carried on by the partners of M/s. Times Video, some film stars and businessmen.

(c) Action as envisaged under the laws is proposed to be taken.

Soyabean Extraction Units

4247. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Soyabean extraction units in the country and location thereof;

(b) whether the Government have examined the scope of the expansion of these units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). On the basis of tentative information, about 155 solvent extraction plants have processed soyabean seeds for recovery of oil. Of these, 74, 37 and 17 units are located in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively. The activity relating to setting up of solvent extraction plant is de-

licensed. And hence any entrepreneur can take investment decision on his own, depending on his commercial judgement.

Seizure of Narcotics

4248. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of the narcotics seized during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the number of persons arrested and convicted so far together with reasons for delay in finalising their cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the information available details of narcotic drugs seized during the last three years, (upto November, 1996), are as given below :-

Year	Quantity of Durgs Seized (in KG)				
	Opium	Hero in	Hashish	Metha-qualone	Ganja
1993	30111	1088	8238	15004	98867
1994	2256	1011	6992	45319	187896
1995	1339	1678	3629	20485	121873
1996 (upto Nov.)	2141	1054	5340	481	42406

(b) The number of persons arrested and convicted during the last three years, upto November, 1996, are as given below :-

Year	Number of Persons	
	Arrested	Convicted
1993	13723	1488
1994	15452	1245
1995	14673	2456
1996 (Upto Nov.)	9183	2070

The delay in trial is generally due to a large number of cases pending before the criminal courts, which are competent to try cases under the NDPS Act.

Castism and Communalism in Politics

4249. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any effective measures have been taken by the Government to check the increasing incidents of castism and communalism in politics

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). Provisions already exist in the Representation of People Act, 1951 to prevent use of caste or religion for electoral gains.

[English]

Handicrafts and Gift Fair

4250. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three day Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair held at Bangalore in September 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount spent thereon;

(c) the amount earned from sponsors and the amount of export orders received at the above fair;

(d) whether the above Fair was not open to the general public; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This fair was a buyer-seller's fair between exporters and importers of handicrafts. An amount of Rs.1.93 crores was spent for organising the fair at Bangalore.

(c) An amount of Rs.72.84 lakhs was received from the participants towards their participation charges, advertisement etc. About Rs.39.00 crores worth export orders were received in this fair.

(d) and (e). In the overall interest of exporters who earn valuable foreign exchange for the country and for providing an opportunity for them to negotiate under conducive conditions with buyers, the fair was open to invited buyers and exporters.

Loans by United bank of India in Northern Region

4251. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the loans disbursed by the United Bank of India in the Northern India region amounting to Rs.10 lakhs and above without any tangible security during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the loan amount given to SC/ST applicants in this region against the total advance.

(c) the number of loan applications received from SC/ST applicants by the above bank directly or through Government agencies and the number of applications out of them sanctioned and rejected and the reasons for rejections;

(d) the time limit stipulated to sanction a loan of Rs.10 lakhs and whether the banks is maintaining the RBI time scheduled while disposing of the loan applications; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Dumping by Western Coalfields Limited

4252. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers could not harvest their crops due to over dumping by Western Coalfields Limited in the banks of Wardha river (Maharashtra) :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation being paid by the Western Coalfields Limited to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Per Capita Central Assistance

4253. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the per capita Central assistance to each State/ Union Territory during the last three Plans as also the estimates of Current Five Year Plan period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Information is being collected and will be furnished.

Recommendations of the World Bank on Financial Reforms

4254. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn towards the recommendations made by the World Bank in its recent report on the financial sector reforms and capital market development in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) World Bank in its Country Economic Memorandum (1996) has highlighted the importance of completing the financial sector reforms rapidly for promoting efficient allocation of investments required for achieving higher growth. They emphasized that some of the most important remaining aspects of financial sector reforms can only be implemented if fiscal consolidation is achieved. The report has recommended the following reforms in the financial sector: (i) restructuring of public sector banks; (ii) phasing out of the remaining controls of banks and insurance companies; (iii) accelerating development of money markets; and (iv) strengthening of prudential regulations, supervision, capital market infrastructure and of the legal and regulatory framework.

(c) The financial sector reforms are an ongoing process. Government has decided to limit the Central Government fiscal deficit to 5% of GDP in the current financial year. The various actions taken by Government on their own in the financial sector so far, among others, include : (i) substantial progress in deregulation of interest rates; (ii) entry of private sector banks; (iii) setting up of private sector Local Area banks with lower initial capital requirement; (iv) legislation enabling the establishment of depositories; (v) Stronger disclosure norms in respect of primary issues; and (vi) guidelines for mutual funds in general and money market mutual funds in particular.

Irregularities in Accounts of Punjab and Sind Bank

4255. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab and Sind bank has violated certain banking norms to show profits during the last year;

(b) whether serious lapses and non-compliance of RBI guidelines have also been pointed out by the auditors;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) the circumstances leading to extension in service to Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the bank even without the recommendation of RBI?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that Punjab & Sind bank had Capitalised a sum of Rs.15.61 crores as on 1st April, 1994, being the amount of broken period interest paid to sellers at the time of purchase of securities by the bank, for the period 1.4.1990 to 31.3.1994 by credit to income account. The Auditors observed that it was not a sound policy. Some of the other qualifications made

by the auditors in the Balance Sheet of the Punjab and Sind Bank for the year 1994-95 were regarding accrued interest taken to income account and short provisions for advances. RBI, after examining the issue, had advised the bank that the broken period interest taken to the income account for the year ended 31st March, 1995 should be reversed from the income head while finalising the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1996. Accordingly, the Bank has reversed the entry for Rs.15.61 crores as on 31.3.1996 by debiting provisions and contingencies and crediting investments.

(d) The tenure of the previous Chairman and managing Director of the Bank was extended by the appropriate authority until such time his successor, the present Chairman and Managing Director was appointed.

Export Quota Policy

4256. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have abolished the quota for handloom sector in the new Textile Export Entitlement Policy (Quota Policy), 1997-99 announced recently;

(b) if so the reasons therefor and the quota announced for different sectors of textiles industry according to new policy;

(c) whether the Government have received any suggestion from textiles exporters in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The reservation for the handloom sector, within the Non-Quota Exporters Entitlement systems of the Textiles Export Entitlement Policy, has been abolished for the period 1997-99. However, the handloom sector continues to enjoy a reservation in categories 369(D)/USA and 369(S)/USA as before.

(b) to (d). The Government had constituted a Task Force to give its recommendations on the new long term Textiles Export Entitlement Policy for the period 1997-99. The Task Force received suggestions from different Textiles Export promotion Councils Exporters' Associations, individual exporters and held open house meetings with exporters/interest groups in Mumbai, Madras and new Delhi. It submitted its report to the Government on 31 July, 1996. After detailed examination of the the recommendations of the Task Force, the Government announced the Textiles Export Entitlement Policy (1997-99) on 14-10-96. The systems of allotment

and their percentage level in the new Policy, are as follows:

System	Percentage of Annual level		
	Yarn	Fibrics (other than Cat 3, 3a/Eu) Medeups (Mill made/Powerloom)	Fabrics (For Cat. 3, 3a/Eu)
Past Performance Entitlement (PPE)	55	55	55
(of which, High Value Entitlement)	(15)	(15)	(15)
Manufacturer-Exporters Entitlement (MEE)	15	15	15
Ready Goods Exporters Entitlement (RGE)	25	15	25
Non-Quota Exporters Entitlement (NQE)	5	5	5
Powerloom Exporters Entitlement (PEE)	-	10	-
Total	100%	100%	100%

The handloom made-up items under quantitative restraint in USA are to be allocated as follow :

System	Percentage of Annual Level
Past Performance Entitlement (PPE)	55
(of which High Value Entitlement)	(15)
Ready Goods Exporters' Entitlement (RGE)	40
Non-Quota Exporters' Entitlement (NQE)	5

Illegal Copper Trade

4257. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated October 3, 1996 under caption "Illegal Copper Trade has Cost Crores";

(b) if so, the details of illegal copper trade unearthed by the Government during the current year; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those who are involved in the illegal trade?

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

(b) Government have not unearthed any illegal copper trade as brought out in the news item. The Small and tiny units in Delhi manufacturing the winding wires obtain the supplies of electrolytic copper from the Hindustan Cooper Limited, MMTC and through direct imports. These units are registered with the Central Excise Department by Code/registration numbers and avail MODVAT credit on the materials received through these channels. End/actual users of winding wires get credit adjustment of excise duty paid by winding wire manufacturers under MODVAT. Under the MODVAT scheme, there is no incentive for SSI units to avoid payment of excise duty. the units with turnover upto Rs.30 lakhs are, however, exempted from the excise duty.

(c) In view of 'B' above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Natural Gas in Vehicles

4258. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether use of compressed natural Gas in Government vehicles is proving expensive;

(b) whether maintenance and safety of vehicles run by compressed Natural Gas is difficult; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dams on Katri River

4259. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on construction of the dam on the Katri river, near the Gazli-Tond coal mine;

(b) whether seepage occurred after cracks developed in the new dam recently; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL), a sum of about Rs. 20 lakhs has been spent by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for construction of the Katri river near the Gasitand coal mine.

(b) CIL has reported that no cracks developed in the new embankment and there was no seepage through the body of the embankment.

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

[English]

Common Code of Conduct for PSUs

4260. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Enterprise in the country represent an investment of Rs.1,60,000 crores spread over 246 enterprise out of which 104 are sick;

(b) whether too much interference in the working and lack of accountability are mainly responsible factors for the sick units;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring out a common code of conduct for observance in all units; and

(d) if so, the time by which the code is likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The cumulative investment in CPSUs as on 31.3.1995 is estimated as 172433 crore rupees spread-over 245 number of enterprises of which 83 are sick.

(b) There are numerous causes for sickness and it would not be correct to generalise that there is too much interference in the working of PSUs and lack of accountability in them.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Question does not arise.

Coal Mafia

4261. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the "Indian Express" dated 15th November, 1996 under the caption "White collar mafia takes over Dhanbad looting";

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the activities of mafia taking over Dhanbad looting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In September, 1994, a complaint was made by Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad to the Central Vigilance Commissioner alleging that certain ex-servicemen coal transport companies were Bename companies. Investigations of the Vigilance Department of BCCL could not firmly establish the allegations in the matter. The Coal companies systematically investigate

every specific complaint in order to keep a check on illegal and unlawful activity.

Problems of NRI

4262. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Commissioner appointed to deal with the NRI's problems is not able to cope with the complex problems of NRIs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Supply of Coal

4263. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pathakheda mines under Western coal Fields Ltd. are basically the feeder mines for the adjacent 'Satpura Thermal Power Plant' at Sarni of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the quantum of coal produced by the Pathakheda mines during the last three years and the quantum of coal supplied to the relevant plant at Sarni of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(c) whether coal was supplemented to the relevant plants by other Western coal Fields Limited managed mines situated far off in Chhindwara and Nagpur (Maharashtra) areas;

(d) if so, the quantity of coal supplemented from the Chhindwara and Nagpur mines to the said plant during the last three years;

(e) whether coal was sold to other industries situated in and outside the State of madhya Pradesh by the Pathakheda Mines; and

(f) if so, the details of such industries with supplies made to each during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Almost 90% of coal produced from Pathakheda Area of Western Coalfields Ltd. is supplied to Satpura Thermal Power Station of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Boards (MPSEB). However, in order to meet the full demand, this power house is also linked to the adjacent mines of Pench/Kanhan and Nagpur Areas of Western Coalfields Ltd.

(b) Details of coal production from Pathakheda Area and the quantum of supplies to Satpura Power Station

from this area during the last three years are given below :-

Figures in Million tonnes

Year	Production	Despatches	% of Despatches
1994-95	2.644	2.386	90%
1995-96	2.648	2.343	88%
1996-97	1.598	1.523	95%
(April to November, 96)			

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. Coal from nearby mines of Pench, Kanhan and Nagpur areas was supplied to Satpura power House as per the approved linkages. The quantity of coal despatched from the Pench/Kanhan and Nagpur mines to the power house during the last three years are as follows:-

Despatches in million tonnes

Year	Pench/Kanhan	Nagpur	Total
1994-95	2.326	0.670	2.996
1995-96	2.400	0.627	3.027
1996-97	1.288	0.389	1.677
(April to November, 96)			

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. About 10% of the total production of Pathakhara Area has been sold to linked industrial consumers in the State of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The total yearwise quantity sold to such industrial consumers was as follows :-

Year	Despatches in million tonnes
1994-95	0.215
1995-96	0.259
1996-97	0.069
(April to November, 96)	

[Translation]

Industrial Park in Maharashtra

4264. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of industrial parks set up in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has any share in these parks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Under the Centrally sponsored schemes, Industrial Parks are set up under the Export promotion Industrial park (EPIP) assisted by the Ministry of Commerce. Under this Scheme, one proposal of the Maharashtra State Government for setting up an Export Promotion Industrial park at Ambarnath, District Thane

has been approved on 28.9.94. The project is being implemented by the Maharashtra Government through the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation and central assistance so far released is Rs.6.75 crores out of a total project cost (excluding cost of land) of Rs.14.82 crores.

The Ministry of Industry separately has a scheme for setting up industrial growth centres. Under this scheme for state of Maharashtra, five growth centres have been announced, namely, Akola, Chandrapur, Dhule, Ratnagiri and Nanded. The projects in respect of four growth centres at Akola, Chandrapur, Dhule and Ratnagiri have been accorded final approval and central assistance to the tune of Rs.9 crores approximately have been released for these projects. The Growth Centre at Nanded is at the stage of appraisal with the leading financial agency, IDBI. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, the Central Government provides assistance upto Rs.10 crores and the share of the State Government is Rs.5 crores.

[English]

Losses to Banks/Financial Institutions

4265. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the nationalised banks and financial institutions have understated their losses; and

(b) if so, the names of such banks/financial institutions and the remedial action taken by the RBI in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Seven (7) nationalised banks viz. Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Punjab national bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, United Bank of India, UCO Bank and Vijaya bank have reported losses during 1995-96. Reserve bank of India (RBI) has informed that only in the case of Vijaya Bank the Statutory auditors have reported that the bank has not made provision for contribution to Pension Fund estimated at Rs.37.04 crores resulting in consequential understatement of losses for the year 1995-96.

In the case of other loss making nationalised banks and financial institutions it is not possible to infer from the balance sheet alone whether losses have been understated. This can be gathered only during the inspection/scrutiny of books of accounts which RBI takes up during the year following the year to which the accounts relate.

Operation Swastika

4266. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of narcotice and its value in the

international market seized under "Operation Swastika" from the northern part of the country from May, 1996 till date, month-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of smugglers arrested in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to further strengthen the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is running shortage of trained personnel?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in an anti-narcotics operation code name "Swastika" seized 83.770 Kgs. of Heroin from a truck in Delhi on 23.9.96. International value of Seized Heroin is estimated to be Rs.83.77 Crores in the illicit market.

(b) No arrest has been made in the case so far.

(c) Government are making constant efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence by suitable augmentation of specialised equipment, Vehicles and other support measures. However, there is no shortage of trained personnel in Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

Export of Manmade Fibre

4267. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of manmade fibre from Gujarat particularly from Surat has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for such decline; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of manmade fibre?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). India's man-made textile exports have increased from US \$ 587.81 million in 1993-94 to US \$ 935.21 million in 1996-96. The region-wise export figures are, however, not maintained.

(c) In order to boost the exports of man-made textiles from all parts of the country, including Surat, Government have been taking a number of steps such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangement for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Corruption Charges Against Management of PNB

4268. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether serious allegations of corruption and mismanagement have been levelled against the management of the Punjab National Bank;

(b) whether some of these allegations are now being examined by the High Court of Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to deal with these allegations effectively; and

(d) the action taken against the officials involved in defalcation and other financial irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Allegations of corruption/mis-management were received against some of the executive of Punjab National Bank. These were referred to Reserve Bank of India/Chief Vigilance Officer of the bank for appropriate action.

The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that a Writ Petition has been filed before the Delhi High Court by All India New Bank of India Employees Federation alleging certain financial irregularities. According to the information furnished by the bank, notice on the above petition has been issued by the Court on 15.11.1996. The matter is subjudice.

According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, during the years 1993-95, five employees of PNB were convicted, 481 employees were awarded major/minor penalties including dismissal/removal of 105 employees for involvement in frauds.

High Cost Funds

4269. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that high cost of funds is resulting in with holding of investment by enterprises;

(b) if so, the likely adverse effect thereof on growth rate of industry during 1996-97; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure availability of adequate amount of cheaper funds to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The industry and trade associations have earlier been expressing concerns about high cost of funds. However, there is no conclusive evidence that this has resulted in withholding of investment by enterprises. In the busy season credit policy for 1996-97, Government has already initiated steps to improve liquidity and to reduce the cost of the funds to industry.

Hunger Strike by Officers of Central Bank, Jabalpur

4270. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Bank

Officers of Central Bank, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh went on hunger strike in October, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Central Bank of India has reported that a section of its officers resorted to agitational programme including relay hunger strike at several places including in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh during the month of October-November, 1996. The bank has further reported that these officers resorted to an agitation on issues including change in promotion policy and certain other matters which have financial implications. Bank's management, however, has had discussions with representatives of officers on these issues with a view to end the agitation.

[Translation]

Units in EOUS and EPZS

4271. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export oriented units and export processing zones set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of such Export Oriented Units/Zones functioning at the beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith the number of Export Oriented Units/Zones set up at the end of 1995-96;

(c) whether all such Export Oriented Units/Zones are engaged in export and import;

(d) if so, the details of imports and exports undertaken and the foreign earned therefrom incurred thereon by these Export Oriented Units/Zones during each of the last three years; and

(e) the details of share of imports and exports made by the said Export Oriented Units/Zones in comparison to the total imports and exports of the country during the above years separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details regarding number of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Export Processing Zone (EPZ) units operating in the country as on 31.3.96, state-wise, are given in the Statement.

(b) While 632 EOU/EPZ units were in operation at the beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan, the number of such units at the end of 1996-96 was 1213.

(c) and (d). The imports, exports and net foreign exchange earnings (NFE) in respect of EOU/EPZ units

during the last three years are as follows :

(Rs. crores)

Year	Exports	Imports	NFE
1993-94	5045.96	2422.63	2623.33
1994-95	7363.11	3027.27	4335.84
1995-96 (Provisional)	9735.63	3618.56	6117.07

(e) Details of percentage share of EOU/EPZ units in the total import and export of the country during the last three years are given below :

Year	Imports	Exports
1993-94	3.31%	7.23%
1994-95	3.36%	8.91%
1995-96	2.97%	9.14%

STATEMENT

Details regarding number of Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zone units operating in the country as on 31.3.96.

State/ U.T.	Export Oriented Units	Export Processing Zone Units*
1	2	3
Gujarat	62	90
Maharashtra	94	156
Uttar Pradesh	34	119
Tamil Nadu	144	82
Kerala	19	36
West Bengal	23	24
Andhra Pradesh	99	2
Assam	1	-
Bihar	4	-
Haryana	20	-
Himachal Pradesh	3	-
Jammu and Kashmir	0	-
Karnataka	94	-
Madhya Pradesh	17	-
Meghalaya	0	-
Nagaland	0	-
Orissa	7	-
Punjab	16	-

1	2	3
Rajasthan	18	-
Sikkim	1	-
Tripura	0	-
Delhi	22	-
Goa, Daman and Diu	14	-
Mizoram	0	-
Arunachal Pradesh	0	-
Manipur	0	-
A and N Islands	0	-
Chandigarh	1	-
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	2	-
Pondicherry	7	-
Indian EEZ	2	-

(* There are seven Export Processing Zones in the country at Kandla (Gujarat), Santacruz (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

[English]

Production of Cement

4272. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cement factories in the country are facing difficulties in the production of cement for export purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to set up cement plants in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). While the Indian cement industry is fully capable of producing cement of exportable quality, cement factories have been facing problems like inadequate availability of infrastructure at ports for storage, bulk handling and transportation, high cost of transportation from the factory to the port, unattractive international prices and difficulty in moving cement/clinker to Bangladesh by land route through rail and road.

(c) After interaction with the cement industry, the concerned administrative Ministries have already been apprised of the problem for appropriate remedial action. Railway are allocating wagons on priority for export of

cement plants to set up dedicated jetties wherever possible for facilitating export.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Water Supply Projects

4273. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of water supply and drainage projects in the country, State-wise, particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat which have been provided with financial assistance by Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation and other Government Financial Institutions during the last three years;

(b) the details of the amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released by each of these corporations/financial institutions during the above period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of the financial assistance given by these financial institutions for the purpose during the current year till date, State-wise?

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

Photo Identity Cards

4274. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the matter of preparing Photo Identity cards of the voters in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the names of the States where progress pertaining to pre-preparation of Photo Identity cards is very slow or negligible;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix a time-limit for preparation of photo identity cards in all the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). The Election Commission had originally fixed 30th November, 1994 as the deadline for completion of the scheme of issue of identity cards to electors. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and was last extended upto 31st March, 1996. No fresh deadline has yet been laid by the Commission.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territories	Percentage of electors provided with Identity Cards till June 1996
States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.67
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60.11
3.	Assam	Nil
4.	Bihar	14.63
5.	Goa	60.28
6.	Gujarat	69.50
7.	Haryana	81.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59.98
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Scheme not yet Introduced
10.	Karnataka	54.41
11.	Kerala	Work not yet Started
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35.61
13.	Maharashtra	77.44
14.	Manipur	74.14
15.	Meghalaya	74.26
16.	Mizoram	Work not yet Started
17.	Nagaland	Nil
18.	Orissa	64.89
19.	Punjab	67.43
20.	Rajasthan	63.31
21.	Sikkim	71.59
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
23.	Tripura	26.06
24.	Uttar Pradesh	32.04
25.	West Bengal	64.21
Union Territories		
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	80.97
27.	Chandigarh	65.30
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	32.29
29.	Daman and Diu	58.50
30.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	62.54
31.	Lakshadweep	82.85
32.	Pondicherry	85.48

Export of Agricultural Items

4275. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the possibilities of exporting agricultural products from Uttar Pradesh and also their sales in the international market have been ascertained;

(b) the details of the other States in which such possibilities have been ascertained during the last three years and the achievements made so far in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to explore such possibilities for the remaining States;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No specific study for determining possibilities of export of agricultural products from Uttar Pradesh and their sales in the international market has been conducted so far. However, some of the agricultural products identified for exports from Uttar Pradesh are rice, mangoes, litchies, spices and fresh vegetables.

(b) No study for ascertaining the possibilities of exports of agricultural products from other States have been undertaken during the last three years.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. Government of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have sought financial assistance from Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for conducting surveys to ascertain export potential of agricultural products. A proposal to conduct a survey of export of agricultural products from the North Eastern Region is under consideration of APEDA.

[English]

Infrastructure Development Finance Company

4276. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far to establish an Infrastructure Development Finance Company as announced during presentation of Budget 1996-97;

(b) the details of the composition of such Finance Company;

(c) the details of guidelines laid down for investment by this Finance Company;

(d) whether the Government propose to merge the State owned Power Finance Corporations with the above Finance Company;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the objective likely to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). As a follow up of the Budget announcement for 1996-97, a Working Group under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (Banking) was constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to work out the modalities for setting up of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC). Further

consequential steps for setting up of the IDFC are being taken. Details of guidelines for investment etc. will be formulated by the IDFC after it has been set up and operationalised.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Revival of Scooter India Ltd.

4277. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scooter India Ltd. a Public Sector unit has fallen sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to revive sick unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be spent on the rehabilitation of that unit?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Scooters India Limited was referred to BIFR in 1992. The main reasons for its sickness are :

- (i) Lack of upgradation of technology in terms of design, process and manufacturing which could meet the changing needs of customers.
- (ii) Very high interest bearing liabilities on account of the past operating losses.
- (iii) Excess manpower incommensurate with production levels.
- (iv) Consumer preference for other makes of Scooters.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government has decided to revive Scooters India Limited in the present set up as per the revival scheme sanctioned by BIFR with necessary cash infusion amounting to Rs. 22.45 crores and other reliefs and concessions.

[Translation]

Import of Maize

4278. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with USA for import of maize;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions set for it; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of maize growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No. Sir.

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

[English]

High Court Bench at Goa

4279. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for the setting up of an independent High Court in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The Government of Goa have proposed that the State of Goa should have an independent High Court. The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Patent Issue

4280. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has since submitted the report on Patent Issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of suggestions received in this regard;

(d) whether some suggestions or memoranda from the Members of Parliament and other social organisations have been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The Government has not asked the Planning Commission to submit any report on the Patent Issue. It has, however, received suggestions/memoranda relating to amendment to the Patents Act, 1970 in the context of the TRIPs Agreement which is a part of the WTO Agreement.

Government is holding consultations in order to work out appropriate measures in this regard.

[English]

Interest on Bank Deposits

4281. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the revision of interest rates on bank deposits has adversely affected the national saving scheme;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by the agents of National Saving Scheme in collecting deposits due to the new restriction of limiting the handling of receipt upto Rs. 5,000/- by them; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to review the said regulations and restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The revision of interest rates on bank deposits has not affected the National Saving Scheme.

(b) and (c). No restriction of limiting the handling of receipt books by the agents of National Saving Scheme upto Rs. 5000/- has been imposed.

[Translation]

Co-operative Sugar Mills

4282. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 26 co-operative sugar mills of Maharashtra, which were provided licence during Seventh Five Year Plan have made financial tie-up;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether IFCI is not providing financial assistance to co-operative sugar mills of Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that out of the 27 applications received from new sugar co-operatives in the States of Maharashtra, the institutions had short-listed in phases, 25 cases for processing in Jan-April, 1994, subsequent to clearance of the defaults of the existing sugar co-operatives in the State of Maharashtra by the State Government. Out of the aforesaid 25 applications, financial assistance has been sanctioned by the institutions in 21 cases and the sanction/processing in remaining 4 short listed cases has been kept in abeyance in view of mounting defaults in respect of the existing sugar co-operatives.

(c) and (d). IFCI has reported that it has been decided jointly by the financial institutions to consider any fresh applications for financial assistance in respect of sugar cooperatives from the State of Maharashtra only after the existing projects under implementation have commissioned (whereafter only a clear picture would emerge with regard to availability of sugarcane) and the issue relating to mounting overdues in respect of existing sugar cooperatives is sorted out.

[English]

Benami Property

4283. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government keep a watch on the unaccounted wealth and properties accumulated by the Income-Tax, Customs and Excise officials beyond their known sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases of alleged corruption and income tax evasion registered and prosecutions launched against such officials during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Both the Income-tax Department and Central Excise and Customs Department have an independent Directorate of Vigilance to process cases of complaint against officials of the Department. CVC and CBI also keep a vigil on the unaccounted wealth and disproportionate assets of the officials of the Departments. Furthermore, CCS (Conduct) Rules for Central Government servants contain elaborate provisions on norms of integrity and good conduct which include inter alia submission of Immovable Property Returns, intimation of transactions over certain specified monetary limits and financial inspections of Government servants affairs.

(c) The number of cases registered for acquiring disproportionate assets during the last 3 years are :

Income Tax Department	31
Customs and Central Excise Department	6

Further, follow-up action as per the CCS (Conduct) Rules and whenever required, under the Income-tax Act is taken.

Public Sector Undertakings

4284. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees in public sector undertakings transferred from any part of the country and posted in the public sector units in the N.E. region are given special incentives considering the "very special circumstances prevailing in the area";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these special incentives are applicable to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings hailing from the N.E. States and transferred to any other place in another State of the N.E. region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). The Board of Directors of public sector undertakings, after satisfying themselves about the conditions for grant of special compensatory allowance in the nature of Border Area Allowance, Remote Locality Area Allowance and Difficult Area Allowance, could extend these to their employees on the same basis as extended to the Central Government employees from time to time. In public sector undertakings, both the CDA pattern and IDA pattern employees are in receipt of such allowances depending upon their postings. However, the employees having All India Transfer Liability are entitled for special compensatory (Remote Locality) allowance.

Hindustan Machine Tools

4285. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the H.M.T. factory at Srinagar was closed down in early 1990's;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount of loss suffered and unemployment occurred therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to re-start it?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). HMT Factory at Srinagar was temporarily closed from 19th April, 1990 to 20th June, 1990 consequent to the murder of the then General Manager of the unit. The unit has been incurring losses due to low capacity utilisation, migration of employees and frequent law and order problems. In 1990-91 the unit incurred a cash loss of Rs. 443.00 lakhs and about 400 employees migrated. They were deployed in various units of HMT. There was no unemployment.

(c) Government has been giving grants to HMT to meet the cash losses of the unit. In 1990-91 the grant given was Rs. 500 lakhs.

External Aided Projects

4286. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide any Central Assistance to States for implementing the External Aided Projects;

(b) if so, whether the Government have released any such Central assistance to Rajasthan for the purpose.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be released?

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

(b) to (d). The Government of India releases the additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects on reimbursement basis. An amount of Rs. 135.28 crores has so far been released to the Government of Rajasthan for the purpose against the allocated amount of Rs. 350.00 crores for the year 1996-97.

Document on Industrial Growth

4287. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a status document on industrial growth has been prepared by economists and industry experts at the behest of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith findings of the report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Government is not aware of any status document on industrial growth which has been prepared by economists and industry experts.

(b) Does not arise.

Revival of Sick Public Undertakings

4288. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether revival plans for sick PSUs in his Ministry are still under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether delay in the finalisation of revival schemes for sick PSUs caused serious problems; and

(d) if so, the fact and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) 26 PSUs of the Department of Heavy Industry had been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR have finalised their recommendation in case of 12 PSUs. They have sanctioned revival schemes in case of 9 PSUs and have recommended for winding up in 3 PSUs. One PSU Nagaland Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. (NPPC) is out of the purview of BIFR after financial restructuring. Remaining cases are under various stages of consideration.

During the period of reference to BIFR, Government is providing assistance for securing orders, arranging working capital needs and providing non plan budgetary support for meeting wage/salary bill within the overall financial constraints of the Government.

[Translation]

Clearance of Licence Proposals

4289. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared several licence proposals received from Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the priority is likely to be given to set up these industries in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of capital investment likely to be made in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). During the period from January, 1994 to November, 1996, a total number of 164 Letters of Intent have been granted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for setting up industries in various parts of Uttar Pradesh. The details are published in the Monthly News Letter of the Indian Investment Centre, copies of which are regularly sent to Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). After the liberalisation of Industrial Policy, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create congenial atmosphere and provide infrastructural facilities for industrial development of the State/District.

(e) Does not arise.

Recovery of Bad Debts in U.P.

4290. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policy and programmes formulated for recovery of the bad debts by the banks; and

(b) the extent to which it has been proved successful in recovering the bad debt in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised banks to have documents of investment policy, loan policy, loan recovery policy, etc., prepared and vetted by their Boards of Directors. Accordingly each bank has adopted a loan recovery policy which prescribes the manner of recovery, targetted level of reduction in NPAs norms for permitted sacrifice/waiver, etc. The policy formulations include reduction of NPAs through compromise/write-off proposals, setting up of recovery cells, establishment of Debt Recovery Tribunals and compilation and circulation of list of defaulters/suit-filed accounts.

(b) RBI's data-reporting system does not generate state-wise position of the recovery of NPAs. However,

the percentage of Non-Performing Assets to total advances of the Public Sector Banks has come down from 24.78% during 1993-94 to 19.45% during 1994-95 and further to 17.12% during 1995-96.

[English]

Patent of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant

4291. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether India has patented the plants before allowing the genetic resources to go out of India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has allowed a US based company to import medicinal and aromatic plants from India for tissue-culture;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these plants are likely to be patented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a), (b) and (e). As per the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970, plants are not patentable in India.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Finance Minister's Visit to Japan

4292. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the recent visit of Finance Minister to Japan;

(b) whether Union Government signed any agreement with Government of Japan or any other agency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Finance Minister recently visited Japan to address two investment seminars on India. He also met senior Japanese Ministers and the Chairman of a number of Japanese companies.

(b) and (c). No agreement was signed during the visit.

[Translation]

Capital Formation Question

4293. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steps taken for boosting capital formation have proved successful;

(b) if so, the details of achievements thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase capital formation in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The various economic reforms measures such as trade liberalisation, deregulation of industry, fiscal and financial sector reforms over the last few years has led to significant improvement in the domestic capital formation. As per the latest information available with the Central Statistical Organisation the aggregate gross domestic capital formation at 1980-81 prices increased by 28.5 per cent from Rs. 54361 crore in 1993-94 (quick estimate) to Rs. 69848 crore in 1994-95 (provisional estimate). Besides, the Central Government Budget presented to the Parliament few months ago contains various measures/policy changes which are likely to have a positive impact on capital formation.

[English]

Smuggling at Gujarat Border

4294. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large-scale smuggling across Gujarat border;

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

(c) the steps taken or being taken to effectively prevent smuggling across Gujarat border?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Value of contraband goods seized during last three years in the state of Gujarat are as follows :

Year	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1994-95	19.45
1995-96	5.27
1996-97 (upto 30.11.96)	11.38

Seizure statistics and intelligence reports do not indicate large scale smuggling on the international border in the State. Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling in the State of Gujarat.

Overdraft by Government of Kerala

4295. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has taken any over draft from Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. There is no system of overdraft for States from Government of India. The States excepting those of Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim have an agreement with Reserve Bank of India which allows them to draw Ways and Means Advances from their accounts with the Central Bank upto the limit prescribed for each. The States also enjoy the facility of overdraft beyond the prescribed Ways and Means limit upto the maximum of 10 consecutive working days on exceeding which payment of State Government cheques are suspended until balance in the State's accounts is restored.

(b) Does not arise.

Permission for Loan from Foreign Agencies

4296. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow the States to procure loans from foreign agencies directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware of its likely adverse effects on external debt, fiscal deficit and budgetary deficit management; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the request of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). During the last and current financial years, Government of India have received requests from the following State Governments to avail of external commercial borrowing :

1. Kerala
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Assam
5. Karnataka
6. Maharashtra
7. Punjab
8. Haryana
9. Meghalaya
10. Mizoram

(c) and (d). These proposals were not accepted, because as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments can borrow within the territory of India only. The States cannot raise loans from abroad directly.

World Bank Loan for Power Projects

4297. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has threatened to cancel the loan to some of the power projects of the country; and

(b) the details of such projects alongwith the reason to cancel the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in NTC Mills

4298. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Netha Spinning Mills, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, owned and controlled by National Textile Corporation were forced by the Management to sign the papers opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the details of action being contemplated against the erring management of Netha Spinning Mills, Secunderabad?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Textiles

4299. SHRI K.P SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the present quota fixed for the export of textiles to the United States;

(b) whether there is growing demand to increase the textiles export quota to U.S.A.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). Exports of textiles to the U.S.A. are regulated under the provisions of the Indo-U.S. textile agreement and the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of the W.T.O. A quantitative Restriction of approximately 511 million square metre equivalents (MSME) distributed over various categories of products, is the total quota for the exports of textiles and Clothing Products from India to the U.S.A., during 1996.

There is no specific provision in the ATC enabling increasing quotas on a bilateral basis between an exporting and an importing country.

Banking Licence to Foreign Banks

4300. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Foreign Banks given permission for their banking business in India during 1996;

(b) whether the performance of these Banks is reviewed by the RBI from time to time in comparison to our Nationalised Banks; and

(c) the details of Foreign Banks likely to be set up during this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The following foreign banks have been given permission to open their maiden branch in India during 1996 :

1. Hanil Bank of Korea
2. Commercial Bank of Korea
3. Sumitomo Bank of Japan

In addition to the above banks, the following three existing banks in India have been allowed to open additional branches :

(b) Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank at Bangalore

1. Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd. at Chennai
2. Deutsche Bank at Calcutta.

(c) The performance of foreign banks in India is being monitored with the help of returned submitted by them to different departments of RBI. The department of Supervision of the RBI also carries out annual inspection of these banks under Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Review of working of all foreign banks operating in India is also undertaken by Department of Supervision of RBI on annual basis.

(c) Following foreign banks to whom approvals have been granted to open their maiden branch in India are yet to open their branches :

1. Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation
2. Krung Thai Bank, Thailand
3. Tronto Dominion Bank, Canada
4. Hanil Bank of Korea
5. Commercial Bank of Korea
6. Sumitomo Bank of Japan.

No definite indication can be given regarding the likelihood of these branches being opened during the current financial year.

Export of Jute Goods

4301. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of diversified jute goods has gone up?

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main items being exported; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of diversified jute goods?

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

(a) and (b). The exports of Diversified Jute Goods are gradually increasing. The trends of exports and the items figuring in the exports of the Diversified Jute Goods are indicated below :

Export of Diversified Jute Goods from India

(in Rupees/Million)

Products	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Decorative Fabrics	2.30	3.39	10.34	43.06
Floor Coverings	26.96	80.93	181.97	277.08
Gift article	9.82	17.72	22.73	23.25
Articles				
Hand Shopping bags	21.18	56.06	143.42	139.47
Wall Hangings	26.07	27.20	56.17	41.00
Total	86.31	185.30	415.13	523.86

Taking 1992-93 as "Base Year" (86.31), it may be noticed from the table that the total Diversified Jute Goods exports have registered a growth of 11.5% in 1995-96.

(c) Export of Diversified Jute Products is an important area of priority of the Government. On its part, the JMDC takes all steps to increase export of DJP's by implementing "External Market Assistance (EMA)" Scheme for the exporters, participation in International Fairs, organising Buyer-Seller-Meets, Workshops, Sponsoring Overseas Delegations-Market Exploratory Missions etc. in order to generate demand, create awareness and explore new markets. UNDP's Jute Development Programme has also been instrumental to a great extent in acceleration the above efforts and focussing attention on market promotion of diversified jute products, the pace of export of which is accelerating as a result.

Performance of Central Bank of India

4302. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Central Bank is violating norms" appearing in 'Times of India' dated December 2, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether RBI had conducted inspection of the Central Bank of India from 1994 to 1996;

(d) if so, the details of irregularities noticed;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Central Bank of India for misrepresenting the facts to RBI; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken against RBI officials for not bringing the irregularities to light?

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

(b) The operating results of the Central Bank of India have shown an improvement during 1995-96 as compared to the level of 1994-95. The un-reconciled inter-branch entries covering the period upto March, 1994 also came down from 13,000 as on 31.12.1995 to 10,000 as on 31.3.1996. So far as inter-bank entries are concerned, even though the outstanding entries slightly increased from 11347 during 1994-95 to 11426 during 1995-96, there has been a substantial fall from 48553 outstanding entries to 12147 outstanding entries during the same period in Nostro Accounts. The CMDs of banks have been advised to bestow their personal attention and ensure concerted efforts to reconcile the outstanding entries in inter-bank accounts.

(c) Inspection for the financial years 1994 and 1995 has been completed. Inspection for 1996 financial year is yet to be completed by RBI.

(d) Some of the deficiencies reported by RBI inter alia included recurrent overstepping the delegated powers by functionaries at various levels, high proportion of Non performing assets, increase in the number of unreconciled inter-bank entries. However bank has been able to reduce arrears reconciliation of inter branch entries and entries in Nostro accounts.

(e) and (f). The inspecting officials of RBI report the deficiencies to the Senior Officers of the RBI who, in turn, hold meetings with the top management of the concerned banks. In the case of Central Bank of India a meeting with Chairman and Managing Director and other Executives was taken by Deputy Governor, ?? in August, 1996. In view of Bank's inability to attain the prescribed CRAR Capital to Risk Assets (Ratio) of 8 per cent by March, 1996, the Bank has been advised to contain credit expansion, not to incur any major capital expenditure and achieve the prescribed level of CRAR by March, 1997.

Long Term Loans by Public Sector Banks

4303. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks are all set to compete with the Financial Institutions for lending long-term loans to the corporate clients at a cheaper rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ask public sector banks to pay same rate of interest on deposits of small investors as is being paid by their financial institutions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Banks are free to determine Prime Lending Rate (PLR) and with reference to PLR, the rate of interest applicable to loans exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs each except for export credit where a separate structure is stipulated and under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme. These rates apply to short term as well as long term loans.

(c) and (d). RBI have further reported that there are no proposals which require banks to pay the same rate of interest on deposits of small investors as that paid by financial institutions. The present prescription of interest rate on bank deposits, including small deposits stipulates a ceiling rate of 10.0 per cent per annum on term deposits of upto one year. For term deposits of over one year, banks are free to determine the interest rate. Financial institutions are allowed to raise term deposits with maturity of three years and above and are required to offer interest at rates not exceeding 14.0 per cent per annum.

[Translation]

Closed Textiles Mills of Gujarat

4304. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of textile mills in Gujarat are lying closed for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their closure;

(c) the steps taken for their revival and the outcome thereof alongwith the number of mills revived;

(d) the number of workers rendered jobless in each mill and the details of the steps taken for their rehabilitation; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on the modernisation of each mill in Gujarat during the last three years and the details of the financial and other assistance provided by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). As on 31.10.96 no Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mill was permanently closed under I.D. Act in Gujarat. 24 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were under liquidation and 33 mills were temporarily closed mainly due to financial difficulties, labour problem and disconnection of power supply, etc.

(c) Government has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare

and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills.

(d) Statement showing the names of the mills and workers affected in each mill is attached. Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of a mill.

(e) The Central Government has not given any financial assistance to the private sector or the State Textile Corporation for the mills during the period. However, the mills do obtain finance from Banks and Financial Institutions.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Mill	Workers affected
1	2	3
1.	Fine Knitting Co. Ltd.	191
2.	Sh. Arbuda Mills Ltd.	2178
3.	A'bad Jupiter Tex. Mills	1999
4.	Himadri Tex. Mills	812
5.	Jahangir Tex. Mills	1275
6.	A'bad Advance Mills	3102
7.	A'bad Mfg. Calico Ptg. Co. Ltd.	4302
8.	A'bad Jubilee Mills Ltd.	3598
9.	A'bad New Cttm Mills Co. Ltd.	2086
10.	Omex Investors	2758
11.	A'bad Sh. Ramkrishna Mills Co. Ltd.	1754
12.	Ajit Mills Ltd.	1412
13.	Aruna Mills Ltd.	3210
14.	Aryodaya Gng and Mfg. Mills Ltd.	2858
15.	Aryodaya Spg. and Wvg. Co. Ltd.	1500
16.	Prasad Mills Ltd.	1384
17.	Bharat Suryodaya Mills Co. Ltd.	3758
18.	Commercial A'bad Mills	2184
19.	New Guj. Syn. Ltd. No. 1	2686
20.	New Guj. Syn. Ltd. No. 2	2099
21.	Sh. Bansiohar Spg. and Wvg. Mills Pvt. Ltd.	1501
22.	Continental Tex. Mills Ltd.	2019
23.	New Rajpur Mills Co. Ltd.	1106
24.	Nutan Mills Ltd.	2161
25.	Patel Mills Co. Ltd.	901
26.	Rustom Mills Inds. Ltd.	1397
27.	Y.S. Syn. Proj. Ltd.	1000
28.	Sh. Ambica Mills Ltd.	4875

1	2	3
29.	Vivekanand Mills Ltd.	1297
30.	Vijaya Mills Ltd.	1920
31.	Amruta Mills	1744
32.	Bhalakio Mills Co. Ltd.	1726
33.	Tarun Comm. Mills Ltd	2033
34.	Manechchowok and A'bad Mfg. Co. Ltd	1345
35.	Marsden Spg. and Mfg. Ltd	2296
36.	Monogram Mills Co. Ltd.	2649
37.	Abhay Mills Ltd.	1423
38.	Sh. Mahua Coop. Spg. Mills Ltd.	260
39.	Gandhidham Spg. and Mfg. Co. Ltd	611
40.	Rajprakash Spg. Mills Ltd	390
41.	Sri Mandavi Spg. Mills Ltd.	310
42.	Suketu Tex.	64
43.	Prithvi Ctn. Mills Ltd.	390
44.	Sunil Mills Ltd	695
45.	Petlad Tex. Mills	470
46.	Mahalaxmi Tex. Mills	997
47.	Rajkot Tex. Mills	480
48.	Viramgam Tex. Mills	1261
49.	Sri Yamuna Mills Ltd.	948
50.	Gaekwar Mills Ltd.	2031
51.	Navjot Tex. Mills Ltd	887
52.	Kalol Mills Ltd.	1626
53.	Navjivan Mills Ltd.	2818
54.	Navsari Ctn. and Silk Mills Ltd	1552
55.	Maharana Mills Ltd.	2049
56.	Kanti Ctn. Mills	318
57.	New Jahangir Vakil Mills	552

[English]

Registrar and Transfer Agent of PSUs

4305 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria/guidelines followed by those Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) whose shares are listed in Stock Exchanges, in the matter of appointing their Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) for handling share-transfer work;

(b) the particulars of such RTAs appointed by various PSUs so far, PSU-wise with dates of their respective appointments during the last three years; and

(c) the details of remuneration paid by such PSUs to their RTAs during each of the last three years. RTA-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and shall be laid on table of the house.

Monitoring of the Companies by Nominees of Financial Institutions

4306. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some top companies have been put on a special watch-list and their managements are likely to be monitored by special task force of financial institutional nominees to ensure that they adhere to the norms of ethical corporate governance;

(b) if so, the details of these companies; and

(c) the result of the monitoring achieved so far and the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken against the defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government has not put any company or management on a special watch-list. However, Government had suggested to some of the financial institutions, namely, IDBI, ICICI and UTI to study the practices of corporate governance by major Indian corporates. The financial institutions have discussed the matter with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and CII has set up a Task Force on corporate governance.

Export of Granite to Japan

4307. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Japanese construction industry has now realised that Indian granite can be fabricated, cut and polished into ready-to-use forms in India itself and shipped directly to Japan, saving a handsome money on cost of production and shipping as in the case of diamond; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Japanese construction industry has recognised that Indian processed granite structural slabs can be cut and polished and fabricated to the required sizes. The cost of production in India is cheaper than Japan and that will go to the benefit of the Japanese market.

Granite has been identified as an extreme focus product for an intensive export promotion thrust. Measures such as setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units for Granite industry, participation in fairs and exhibitions, sending delegations, etc. are taken to boost the export of processed granite.

Indian Money in Foreign Banks

4308. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan' dated 2nd December, 1996 under the caption "Swiss Bank Mein Pari Bhartiya Rakam Ka Andaja Nahin-Bhurela";

(b) whether a team of Indian investigators visited Switzerland recently in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the team members visited Switzerland;

(d) whether the bank officials of Switzerland informed the team that the Indian money lying in their lockers could not be estimated; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Mega Projects

4309. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been recurring incidence of cost over-run of upto 100% in many major and mega projects totalling in thousand of crores rupees monitoring of the Department of Programme Implementation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed the responsibility on the guilty officers during each of the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Out of 195 mega and major projects being monitored by the Department of Programme Implementation in the Central Sector, as on 30.9.96 there were 75 projects with cost overrun upto 100% and 20 projects with cost overrun above 100%.

(b) and (c). It has been observed that normally the projects face various types of problems resulting in time and cost overrun. The final time and cost overrun in the projects is the net result of several interacting factors affecting a project. A number of factors being outside the control of the authorities, it has not been possible to pin point with all certainty that any particular official is squarely responsible for the time and cost overrun with a particular project. The factors such as fund constraints/forest clearance, law and order problem, court cases and inadequate infrastructural facilities to

be provided by the State Government and other agencies are mainly the result of inadequacy in the system.

[Translation]

Performance of Banks in Rajasthan.

4310. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of the Public Sector Banks located in Rajasthan with regard to their deposits and disbursement of loans during the last two years;

(b) the amount of loans given by each bank to the agricultural and industrial sector and for the self-employment scheme and developmental works of the State separately during the said period and the details of targets fixed therefor; and

(c) the action plan of the Government regarding utilisation of the deposited capital of the banks in the development of the agriculture and industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The deposits and bank credit of public sector banks in Rajasthan during the last two years as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given below :

(Rs. lakhs)		
As on the last Friday of	Deposits	Credit
March 1995	8612.99	4010.70
March 1996	9872.58	4707.16

(b) The disbursement of agricultural credit under Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP) by each public sector bank during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (first half upto september 30, 1996) is given in the attached Statement-I. In respect of industrial sector, advances given by scheduled commercial banks in Rajasthan to small scale industries during the last two years are given below :

(Rs. lakhs)			
Year ended June	Disbursal	Year ended March	Balance outstanding
1993	4553.38	1993	51535.09
1994	8907.04	1994	57942.50
(latest available)		1995	70989.64

The performance of public sector banks in respect of various Government sponsored self employment schemes in the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given in the Statement-II attached.

(c) RBI had set up a Task Force to ascertain the reasons for low credit deposit ratio in Rajasthan. The Task Force has already submitted its report which has been discussed in the State Level Bankers' Committee meeting for implementation of the recommendations.

STATEMENT-I

Bank-wise disbursement of agricultural credit under SACP 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Rajasthan

(Rs. crore)

Name of the Public Sector Bank	SACP 1995-96		SACP 1996-97	
	Projections	Disbursements	Projections	Disbursements (first half upto 30.9.96)
State Bank of India	69.04	54.28	76.65	31.02
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	78.00	61.80	112.00	36.98
State Bank of the Hyderabad	-	-	-	-
State Bank of Indore	-	-	-	-
State Bank of Mysore	-	-	-	-
State Bank of Saurashtra	-	-	-	-
State Bank of Travancore	-	-	-	-
State Bank of Patiala	1.07	1.14	1.35	1.42
Allahabad Bank	2.08	1.66	2.77	1.50
Andhra Bank	-	-	-	-
Bank of Baroda	68.00	52.25	77.0	19.93
Bank of India	10.86	4.52	13.0	2.41
Bank of Maharashtra	-	-	-	-
Canara Bank	1.00	1.15	1.25	0.41
Central Bank of India	10.25	9.37	15.0	3.61
Corporation Bank	0.50	-	0.11	-
Dena Bank	4.30	0.65	2.2	0.28
Indian Bank	-	-	-	-
Indian Overseas Bank	1.40	4.95	4.56	0.89
Oriental Bank of Commerce	7.00	13.10	7.51	5.20
Punjab National Bank	17.00	25.37	32.0	12.50
Punjab and Sind Bank	3.60	4.00	5.15	1.94
Syndicate Bank	-	0.30	-	-
Union Bank of India	72.05	5.21	9.45	0.65
United Bank of India	-	-	-	-
UCO Bank	14.29	5.36	8.3	3.56
Vijaya Bank	0.11	0.22	0.10	0.02

STATEMENT-II

Performance of Public Sector Banks in Rajasthan in Respect of Various Government Sponsored Self Employment Schemes

(Rs. lakh)

Scheme	Year	Target	No of applications received	Total Loans Sanctioned		Total Loans Disbursed	
				No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SUME*	1994-95	15659	22974	11514	879.89	8023	Not available
	1995-96	13222	27172	12570	1066.41	8272	673.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SLRS*	1994-95	2255	2174	1387	195.55	889	156.68
	1995-96	4999	5372	3348	301.28	2084	169.54
PMRY*	1994-95	7375	14263	6203	3424.99	4184	2090.86
	1995-96	9555	18473	8960	4637.87	5480	2448.92

SUME* : Scheme for Micro Urban Enterprise

SLRS* : Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

PMRY* : Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana.

[English]

Tannery and Footwear Corporation

4311. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of orders secured by the TAFCO during the last three years from the Defence forces;

(b) whether the company was not allowed to secure the order at a proper rate and prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) TAFCO have not received any order from the Defence forces for supply of shoes during the last three years i.e. from 1993-94 onwards.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Though TAFCO had been submitting their quotations in response to tender enquiries floated by Defence, the Company did not get any orders during the past three years.

Currency Crisis in Banks in Mumbai

4312. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a serious currency crisis in some of the public sector banks in Mumbai for the last several months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/Proposed to be taken to remedy the situation and to ensure that such crisis is not developed in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Due to capacity constraints, the note printing presses in the country are not able to fully meet the ever increasing requirement of notes by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, Mumbai is allowed the highest share of available notes. During the period from April, 1996 to November, 1996, RBI had supplied notes worth Rs.3204 crores to its Mumbai issue offices for mitigating the difficulties of members of the public in that area.

Manufacturing of Mopeds

4313. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies which manufacture mopeds;

(b) the number of mopeds manufactured during the last three years; and

(c) the cost of production of mopeds as per the cost audit reports?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The names of the companies manufacturing mopeds and the number of mopeds produced by them during the last three years are as follows :

	1993	1994	1995
Bajaj	70254	71276	77912
Escorts Ltd.	-	-	13470
Royal Enfield Ltd.	5631	120	-
Kalvinator India Ltd.	4325	-	-
Kinetic Engg. Ltd.	119952	123349	158876
Kinetic Honda Motors Ltd.	8014	-	-
Majestic Auto Ltd.	106454	112643	115449
TVS Suzuki Ltd.	140587	189116	238390

(c) There is no statutory control on prices of automotive vehicles including mopeds. As such, the manufacturers are not required to disclose the cost of production of their product to the Government.

Pending Cases with MRTPC

4314. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the break up status of pending cases in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) as on date;

(b) whether review of pending cases of Mega city-wise and State-wise was undertaken in registration and

disposal of cases by MRTPC during the last five years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen/reorient/restructure MRTPC during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There were 3122 enquiries/cases pending in the MRTPC Commission as on 30.11.1996. The break up of the enquiries/cases is as under

Unfair Trade Practice Enquiries	862
Restrictive Trade Practice Enquiries	1044
Monopolistic Trade Practice Enquiries	5
Compensation Applications	1211
Total	3122

(b) Information with regard to registration and disposal of cases in the MRTPC Commission is not maintained city wise and no review of pending cases mega city wise and State wise has been under taken.

(c) The Government is considering a proposal to administratively strengthen the Commission so that pendency of cases can be brought down.

Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944

4315. SHRI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the scheme of tax audit of manufacturer's accounts and returns under Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives likely to be achieved therefrom and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In place of the existing system of routine biennial audit of all the manufacturers' accounts and returns, a system of selective but comprehensive audit by the Central Excise Officers has been introduced in the month of November 1996. Units paying Central Excise duty above Rs.1 crore per annum will be audited once in year keeping in view the marketing pattern, costing and pricing of products, remission of duty obtained through Modvat/Drawback route, records of production/Turnover, trends in revenue, type of commodities etc. For other, i.e. medium and small scale units, a more selective, commodity and industry specific, sectoral studies and intelligence based audit have been envisaged. The objective is to have qualitative and in-depth audit in the areas of high revenue stakes in the rapidly growing industrial sector for utilising optimally the limited resources of the Department.

[Translation]

Child Labour and Human Rights Conditions in Indian Items

4316. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries which have put forth human rights condition for importing goods from India;

(b) the details of countries which have decided not to import the goods in the production of which child labourers are engaged;

(c) whether any country had stopped or reduced imports from India on the grounds of human rights or child labour;

(d) if so, the details thereof country-wise and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BULLA BOLLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No country has put forth conditions regarding human rights or use of child labour in production of goods which are imported by it from India.

(c) to (e). It is perceived that some exports from India to some European countries may be adversely affected by misconceptions among importers regarding the situation with respect to the use of child labour in production in sectors such as carpets and garments. Concrete measures are being taken by Government of India especially through our missions abroad, to sensitize the concerned governments, opinion makers, Imports and the general public regarding these issues.

[English]

N.P.A. of Banks

4317. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of comparative figures relating to Non-Performing Assets and advances made by Nationalised Banks during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) the reasons for the decline in advances;

(c) the details of loan recovery policy followed by the banks and the achievements made thereunder during the above period; and

(d) the names of banks which have been showing poor performance during the above period and the steps taken by them to improve their position?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The details of Non-Performing Assets and Advances of the nationalised banks during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) There was no decline in the advances of the banks during the last three years except for a very slight decrease in the advances of one bank.

(c) The loan recovery policies of the nationalised banks include, inter alia, constitution of Committee of General Managers, fixing of recovery targets, guidelines for compromise/settlements and setting up of recovery cells at the Head Quarters headed by a General manager. The position of recoveries for the last three years is given in the Statement.

(d) Year-wise details of loss making following nationalised banks are given below :

(During the years)

1. Allahabad Bank	1993-94, 1994-95
2. Andhra Bank	1993-94, 1994-95
3. Bank of India	1993-94
4. Bank of Maharashtra	1993-94, 1994-95
5. Central Bank of India	1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96

6. Dena Bank	1993-94, 1995-96
7. Indian Bank	1993-94, 1995-96
8. Indian Overseas Bank	1993-94
9. Punjab & Sind bank	1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96
10. Syndicate Bank	1993-94, 1994-95
11. UCO Bank	1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96
12. United Bank of India	1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96
13. Punjab National Bank	1995-96
14. Vijaya Bank	1995-96

The banks have been advised to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery, tone up internal control system and reduce their Non-Performing Assets. The loss making banks have been precluded from incurring fresh capital expenditure and fresh recruitment. These banks have also been advised to reduce all operating expenses through rationalisation of their organisational structure.

STATEMENT

Details of Non-Performing Assets, Advances and Recovery of NPAs of Nationalised Banks

(Amount in Crores)

Name of the Bank	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	NPAs	Advances	Recovery	NPAs	Advances	Recovery	NPAs	Advances	Recovery
Allahabad Bank	1025.03	3722.16	92.00	1235.11	4236.95	51.00	1255.00	4815.60	102.00
Andhra Bank	520.78	1932.43	76.00	399.65	3469.81	111.00	332.20	2580.33	36.00
Bank of Baroda	2630.10	12651.48	95.01	2689.68	14784.21	350.73	2840.00	16012.55	345.96
Bank of India	3772.00	10922.12	301.00	2961.00	12207.55	325.00	2434.00	15595.80	354.00
Bank of Maharashtra	847.67	1807.51	115.52	734.59	2344.03	96.00	694.26	2692.17	83.15
Canara Bank	1653.00	8284.99	204.00	1523.00	10878.26	255.00	1533.47	13095.84	238.00
Central Bank of India	2443.00	6017.08	296.00	2154.78	7809.59	550.00	2036.00	8902.57	541.00
Corporation Bank	259.01	1423.26	30.63	360.01	2065.59	19.41	251.83	2442.11	26.98
Dena Bank	594.00	2158.04	65.01	557.00	2871.24	12.00	508.00	3401.68	69.80
Indian Bank	2040.51	6780.69	205.00	2102.41	7874.58	283.00	3140.90	7873.46	283.00
Indian Overseas Bank	2175.18	5340.13	122.52	2001.41	6628.22	167.13	1823.00	7504.26	179.85
Oriental Banks of Commerce	210.95	2567.03	56.00	221.94	3528.88	51.70	271.25	4671.78	69
Punjab National Bank	2179.03	9867.84	214.20	2033.50	11731.47	222.90	2518.00	12579.89	300.00
Punjab & Sind Bank	637.28	1696.40	41.55	619.32	3438.31	101.74	725.29	2789.84	56.08
Syndicate Bank	1409.60	3981.24	189.35	1452.07	4420.65	147.65	1311.75	5397.66	188.37
Union Bank of India	693.49	5161.40	128.00	98.95	7129.14	159.00	900.60	8681.08	161.00
United Bank of India	1509.00	2529.20	74.00	1309.68	2814.93	142.00	1500.00	2851.13	102.00
UCO Bank	1961.81	4577.58	141.14	1745.60	4876.15	157.64	1840.00	4982.13	95.44
Vijaya Bank	532.88	1825.58	86.00	439.40	2050.28	69.00	545.38	2443.70	27.00

Spinning Mills in Orissa

4318. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether spinning mills in Orissa has not successive achievements and job facilities for their natives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of skilled workers of the textiles mills of Orissa are migrating from the State to Surat to get their bread;

(d) if so, the number of skilled workers of the textiles mills migrated from Orissa during the last two years; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the spinning mills more successive and to established new textiles mills in the State so that skilled workers may get sufficient job facilities at their native places and their migration can be stopped?

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

(a) and (b). As on 31.3.96, there were 14 Cotton/Man-Made Fibre Textile Mills (Spinning 13 & Composite 1) with 17065 workers on their rolls.

As on 31.10.96, no Cotton/Man-Made Fibre Textile Mills was closed under I.D. Act and only one mill, namely M/s. Lignraj Textiles mills, was closed due to financial difficulties. As on 31.10.96, 5 Textile Mills were registered with Board for Industrial Financial and Reconstruction (BIFR). Out of these draft schemes have been circulated under two cases, two cases are not maintainable and one case is under enquiry with BIFR.

(c) and (d). Government has no information in this regard.

(e) As per the liberalised Industrial Policy notified on 25.7.91, there is no restriction on setting up of cotton textile mills, except for certain locational restriction irrespective of whether the proposed mills are in the public, private or cooperative sectors. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government, at present, to set up any textile Mill.

Government has set up the BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

Export of Coir and its Products

4319. **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of coir products during last three years;

(b) the major countries whom the Coir Products exported; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of Coir Products?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Total earnings from the export of coir products during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	12936.75
1994-95	17165.25
1995-96	20684.65
Total	50786.65

(b) The major countries to whom the coir products are exported are USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, France, Australia, Belgium, Portugal, Canada, Greece, Irish Republic, Spain, Denmark, Trukey, UAE and Japan.

(c) The Coir Board, which is a statutory body, has taken various measures to boost the export of coir and coir products in the international markets. The Board has undertaken joint publicity programmes with British and German Coir Associations for promoting consumption of Indian coir in These countries. In order to increase the export of coir products, the Board Participates in import and exhibitions abroad, deputed officials in market development missions, organises seminars for popularising the use of coir geo-textiles and various other new products and undertakes publicity programme.

Medical Facilities to Retired Employees.

4320. **SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Public Sector Undertakings functioning under the administrative control of his Ministry;

(b) the details of the Public Sector Undertakings which have extended medical facilities to their retired employees alongwith such Public Sector Undertakings which have not provided medical facilities to their retired employees at present but are considering to extend this facility to them;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a committee to provide medical facilities to the retired employees of these Public Sector undertakings;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received the report from the said committee; and

(f) if so, the details of the recommendations made and those accepted by the Government?

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

[Translation]

Illegal Export of Garments

4321. **SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the garments are being exported illegally from Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some excise officers/officials are also involved in this illegal export; and

(d) if so, the action taken against those who are responsible and excise officers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

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

[English]

Registration of Cement Companies

4322. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cement companies Government registered during the last three years in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the number of cement companies functioning in Andhra Pradesh during beginning of each of the last three years? *

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the last three years, 302 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM) have been filed in respect of Cement in the Ministry. Out of this, 35 IEMs relate to Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Number of cement companies functioning in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of cement companies	No. of cement plants
93-94	14	16
94-95	13	16
95-96	13	16

The number of mini cement plants functioning is not maintained centrally.

Jewel Appraisers of Banks

4323. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to regularise the services of the Jewel Appraisers of Banks as is done in the case of Jewel Appraisers of the Indian Bank.

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Old Textiles Machinery

4324. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted permission and rebate on import of old textile-industry machinery in the country;

(b) if so, the amount spent on import of old machinery during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the cost of production by these old imported machineries is more in comparison to the cost in competitive world market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) In terms of the Export and Import Policy 1992-97, all second hand capital goods, including old textile machinery, having a minimum residual life of 5 years can be imported by the actual users without a licence subject to actual user condition. Second hand machinery can also be imported under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme by paying 15% or zero percent import duty and under 100% Export Oriented Unit (EOU) Scheme without paying any duty. Also, vide Customs Notification No.36/96-Cus dated 23.7.96 customs duty on 117 Nos. of specified items of textile machinery has been reduced from 25% to 10%.

(b) Import data of old machines is not maintained, as 'old machines' are not separately classified under Indian Trade Classification on the basis of which Foreign Trade Statistics are compiled.

(c) and (d). Government has no information as to whether the cost of production by these old imported machineries is more in comparison to the cost in competitive world market.

[Translation]

Trust Fund

4325. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India propose to contribute towards the trust fund proposed to be set up for the development of under-developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount proposed to be invested in the Trust fund at the time of its creation; and

(d) the time by which the said Fund is likely to start operating?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). India proposes to contribute US \$ 1,00,000 (One Lakh US dollar only) towards the Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) proposed to be set up by UNCTAD. The purpose of the Trust Fund would be to facilitate the start-up of new activities and to help LDCs react to challenges and benefit from opportunities provided by globalisation and liberalisation.

(c) Targetted corpus of the Fund is US \$ 5 million.

(d) The Funds is likely to start operating as and when sufficient contributions are received from the member countries.

[English]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

4326. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SMT. VASUNDHRA RAJE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees of public sector enterprises who opted for Voluntary Retirement so far since the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced PSUs wise and year-wise;

(b) the total amount of money paid to them so far availing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(c) whether the Govt. have taken loan from the World bank to make such payments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the available information, the number of employees who opted for voluntary retirement in Central Public sector enterprises since inception and year-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) From NRF, the year-wise expenditure on account of Voluntary Retirement Scheme is as under :-

1992-93	Rs. 567 crores
1993-94	Rs. 478 crores
1994-95	Rs. 251 crores

Besides the above expenditure the PSEs also met a part of expenditure from their internal resources.

(c) and (d). World Bank Assistance was available for the social safety Net Programme, one of which was NRF. A portion of the assistance was utilised for VRS from the NRF.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of PSU	Upto 31.3.93	During 1993-94	During 1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bharat Dyanmics Ltd.	11	18	11
2.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	127	45	74
3.	C.M.C. Ltd.	13	6	7
4.	Electronics Corpon. Of India Ltd.	171	97	84
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	8	35	15
6.	Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	Nil	5	2
7.	National Minesral Development Corporation Ltd.	9	Nil	Nil
8.	Praga Tools Ltd.	Nil	73	87
9.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	10	4	2
10.	Oil India Ltd.	2	2	1
11.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	5505	1274	3638
12.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	232	69	6
13.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	3232	791	627
14.	Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.	1	-	-
15.	Engineering Project (India) Ltd.	105	Nil	33
16.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	3478	1669	581
17.	India Firebricks & Insulation Col Ltd.	107	62	12
18.	Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (India) Ltd.	14	8	2
19.	Mica Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	702	142	5
20.	Projects & development India Ltd.	254	81	28
21.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	309	60	92
22.	Indian Petro-Chemical Corpn. Ltd.	19	22	9
23.	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	5533	1505	600
24.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	996	824	1240

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Bharat Eathmovers Ltd.	620	609	175
26.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	1617	300	786
27.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	1182	916	331
28.	H.M.T. (International) Ltd.	6	19	5
29.	H.M.T. Ltd.	420	1390	499
30.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	797	632	230
31.	I.T.I. Ltd.	1904	500	727
	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Nil	1	Nil
33.	Kedremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	7	Nil	1
34.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	145	3	Nil
35.	NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe.) Ltd.	1441	758	241
36.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	139	9	20
37.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	-	62	7
38.	Visvesvarayya Iron & Steel C. Ltd.	2107	Nil	Nil
39.	Cochin Shipyards Ltd.	104	21	Nil
40.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	98	85	54
41.	Hindustan Latex Ltd.	1	Nil	39
42.	Hindustan Newprint Ltd.	2	Nil	2
43.	Nepa Ltd.	120	225	145
44.	Northern Coal Fields Ltd.	Nil	16	73
45.	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	3547	772	223
46.	South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	191	758	231
47.	Air India.	17	Nil	Nil
48.	Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.	11	Nil	Nil
49.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	27	2	1
50.	Indian Oil Blending Ltd.	4	Nil	7
51.	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	237	120	307
52.	Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	71	1	2
53.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	1	Nil	Nil
54.	Maharashtra Electromelt Ltd.	24	Nil	Nil
55.	manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	40	Nil	Nil
56.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	Nil	Nil	707
57.	Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	50	574	276
58.	National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd.	653	30	Nil
59.	National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	31	14	10
60.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	2567	1116	420
61.	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	4377	2211	1075
62.	Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizers Ltd.	104	24	28
63.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	965	189	78
64.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	1069	556	260
65.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	35	Nil	1
66.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd.	106	177	14
67.	Mahandi Coalfields Ltd.	Nil	1	Nil
68.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	5	4	1
69.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	Nil	15	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
70.	Semi-Conductor Complex Ltd.	2	-	-
71.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	Nil	11	9
72.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Nil	1237	385
73.	Instrumentation Ltd.	175	506	67
74.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	Nil	27	31
75.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	208	182	287
76.	H.T.L. Ltd.	Nil	73	Nil
77.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	79	23	Nil
78.	Neveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	Nil	48	134
79.	NTC (Tamilnadu & Pondicherry)	2137	59	195
80.	Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.	46	17	16
81.	Bharat Pumps & compressors Ltd.	97	16	33
82.	British India Corpn. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	577
83.	Brushware Ltd.	Nil	Nil	33
84.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	384	326	120
85.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	1000	1859	709
86.	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	4157	1360	730
87.	Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	974	433	513
88.	Scooters India Ltd.	243	777	42
89.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	179	161	Nil
90.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	330	121	18
91.	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	Nil	197	173
92.	Balmer Lawre & Co. Ltd.	11	35	15
93.	Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	63	91	75
94.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	182	38	75
95.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	75	15	23
96.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	14	17	16
97.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	569	32	19
98.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	285	29	29
99.	Braithwaita & Co. Ltd.	1013	223	132
100.	Bridge & Roof co. (India) Ltd.	283	25	25
101.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	656	608	626
102.	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	Nil	598	115
103.	coal India Ltd.	2	Nil	19
104.	Cycle Corpn. Of India Ltd.	1320	365	Nil
105.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	1672	800	4116
106.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.	20	Nil	Nil
107.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	172	52	65
108.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	1305	2091	743
109.	Hindustan Steel Works Const. Ltd.	3791	1850	96
110.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	186	229	31
111.	I.B.P. co. Ltd.	44	16	16
112.	Ilsco Ujjain Pipe & Foundry Co. Ltd.	30	166	Nil
113.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	3195	Nil	573
114.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	29	175	49

1	2	3	4	5
115.	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	24	16	33
116.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	1141	902	85
117.	National Instruments Ltd.	143	114	Nil
118.	National Jute Manufactures Corpn. Ltd.	1130	597	44
119.	NTC (West bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	4313	527	245
120.	Rehabilitation Industries Corpn. Ltd.	484	355	201
121.	Reyroll Burn Ltd.	Nil	28	12
122.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	153	91	36
123.	Tea Trading Corpn. Of India Ltd.	7	9	4
124.	Tyre corpn. Of India Ltd.	288	408	148
125.	Weighbird (India) Ltd.	169	32	18
126.	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	4	Nil	Nil
127.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	128	115	195
128.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	987	Nil	Nil
129.	Cement Corpn. Of India Ltd.	200	144	38
130.	Central Cottage Industries Corpn. Of India Ltd.	42	7	10
131.	Delhi Transport Corpn.	Nil	4428	1065
132.	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	Nil	Nil	13
133.	Engineers India Ltd.	16	40	2
134.	Fertilizrs Corpn. Of India Ltd.	923	167	200
135.	Food Corpn. Of India.	143	36	35
136.	Handcrafts & Handlooms Export Corpn. Indai Ltd.	35	8	11
137.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corpn. Ltd.	1147	254	86
138.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	98	38	27
139.	Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.	20	11	22
140.	Hindustan Prefeb Ltd.	97	207	71
141.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	1277	85	57
142.	Hindustan Vegetable Oil corpn. Ltd.	144	506	20
143.	India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	973	Nil	Nil
144.	India Trade promotion Organisation.	63	Nil	6
145.	Indian Airlines Ltd.	Nil	Nil	232
146.	Indian Road Constn. Corpn. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	5
147.	M.M.T.C. Ltd.	717	55	27
148.	Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.	14	79	123
149.	National Bldg. Constn. Corpn. Ltd.	69	104	84
150.	National Hydro Electric	137	366	91
151.	National Industries Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	44	11	8
152.	national Seeds Corpn. Ltd.	308	68	81
153.	National Textiles Corpn. Ltd.	Nil	11	6
154.	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan), Ltd.	1241	601	311
155.	Projects & Equipment Corpn. Ltd.	14	Nil	Nil
156.	Rashtriya Priyोजना Nirman Nigam Ltd.	144	652	368
157.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	580	Nil	Nil
158.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	16928*	Nil	Nil

1	2	3-	4	5
159.	Central Warehousing Corpn.	-	405	205
160.	Hooghly Printing Co. Ltd.	-	5	
161.	Goa Shipyard Ltd.	-	3	

*w.e.f. Oct'86

Closing of Coal Plant

4327. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dugadha Coal Washery Plant No.1 was closed down on October 26, 1996 after producing about 5000 tonnes of tons of good quality of coal;

(b) whether the maximum installed capacity of the said plant is 6000 tons; and

(c) if so, the reasons for closing the plant before utilising its maximum installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The operation of Dugda-I Preparation Plant Installed in 1962 was stopped from 26.10.1996. The raw coal feed on the previous day was 3000 tonnes and washed coal production was 1200 tonnes.

(b) The original installed capacity of the Plant was 2.4 million tonnes per annum of raw coal feed which was subsequently derated to 1.8 million tonnes per annum by a committee constituted by the Government.

(c) The Plant was stopped on safety reasons.

Financial Support to ESSAR Group

4328. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the loans and advances of different public sector financial institutions outstanding as on date towards the ESSAR Group;

(b) the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the details of such foreign dealings of ESSAR Group?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent permissible under the Rules.

National Confederation of Officers Association

4329. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Confederation of Officers

Association of Central Public Sector Undertakings (NCOA) has urged the Government to remove the Chairman and Directors of all the PSUs who were well known for their corrupt dealings;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering the appeal made by the NCOA;

(c) the total number of directors and Chairman who have been found guilty of corrupt practices; and

(d) the action taken or propose to be taken against those persons?

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

(b) The national Confederations of Officers' Association of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has not furnished any details of Chairmen and Directors who are suspected for their corrupt dealings. However, as and when specific instances come to the notice of the PSU managements, their Vigilance wings or Government, suitable action is taken. This is a continuous process.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Plan for TAFCO, Kanpur

4330. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the court had asked for a report regarding the revised plan to restart Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. Kanpur From his Ministry which is to be submitted by September 23, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of further action to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Allahabad High Court had directed that Government stand on the report of the Departmental Committee constituted to examine the viability of two Revival Plan received from the management and the Employees Unions of TAFCO should be submitted to the Court. The Courts' directions have since been complied with and the report has been submitted to the Court.

[English]

Export of Beef, Pork & Mutton

4331 JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of beef, pork and mutton exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years alongwith its value on FOB basis;

(b) what were the world price for beef and pork during each of the last three years; and

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
1. Buffalo Meat	101665.58	28075.41	116137.56	32437.04	159703.90	55500.30
2. Pork	57.80	13.11	742.81	253.07	934.56	262.83
3. Sheep/Goat Meat	11022.15	6216.35	10819.35	6603.15	8612.80	5642.54

Source : GCC&S, Calcutta

(b) As per the FAO Trade Year Book, 1993 and 1994, the average world price of bovine meat & pork during the year 1993 was US \$ 2990 and US \$ 2410 per MT FOB and during the year 1994 was US \$ 3048 and US \$ 2440 per MT FOB respectively. The world prices of these products for the year 1995 are not available.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to promote the export of meat and meat product :-

- (i) identification of new Markets;
- (ii) inviting delegations from overseas to inspect and evaluate processing facilities;
- (iii) notifying standards for export of raw meat (chilled/frozen) and processed meat products under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963;
- (iv) periodic inspection, of meat processing facilities to ensure that such facilities comply with the quality standards as laid down under Export (Quality Control & inspection) Act, 1963;
- (v) providing financial assistance for market development, brand publicity, quality control, packaging development, upgradation of meat processing facilities in the public sector, modernisation of abattoirs etc.
- (vi) arranging promotional campaigns and buyer seller meets and participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions.

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per the current EXIM Policy 1992-97, the export of beef is prohibited from India. However, export of buffalo meat is allowed subject to the conditions stipulated in Handbook of Procedures, Volume-I, the export of buffalo meat, pork and mutton in terms of quantity and value for the last three years is as under

Export of Sandalwood and its products

4332 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of sandalwood, sandal oil and other products of sandal-wood exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of sandalwood products?

THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The relevant figures are given below

Source : DGCI&S		Value (v) in Rs. crore		
		Quantity (q) in metric Tonnes		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Sandalwood	Q	-	-	-
	V	-	-	-
Sandalwood oils	Q	27.0	27.4	29.5
	V	14.81	16.04	23.40
Sandalwood chips And dust	Q	950.5	423.4	552.3
	V	15.57	9.24	13.23
Sandalwood works of Art	Q	-	-	-
	V	7.28	4.03	5.42

(b) Export for sandal-oil and Sandalwood finished products is promoted by the Government through the

means of market development assistance, exchange of delegations, buyers-sellers meet, and participation in trade fairs etc. besides, policy liberalisation has been effected to facilitate the export of sandalwood products. No export promotion is contemplated for sandalwood itself which remains a restricted export item, for environmental reasons.

Export and Import by Foreign Firms

4333 SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some foreign firms are importing goods at higher rates in the country and exporting the goods at cheaper rates from the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing these firms and the total loss of foreign exchange incurred thereon during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

New Coal Mines

4334 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new coal mines in the coal rich belt of the country; and

(b) if so, the places where such mines are likely to be opened particularly in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following coal mines are likely to be opened in the coal bearing areas of the States including Madhya Pradesh.

Company	Mine	State
1	2	3
CCL	Topa OC	Bihar
	Jharkhand OC	Bihar
	Karo Ph-1 OC	Bihar
	Kaveri OC	Bihar

1	2	3
BCCL	N. Urimari OC	Bihar
	Tapin OC	Bihar
	Salunga-Jeenag Orah OC	Bihar
	Bina Min-II OC	Uttar Pradesh
WCL	Block B OC	Madhya Pradesh
	Towa UG	Madhya Pradesh
	Urdhan OC	Madhya Pradesh
	Nirguda OC	Maharashtra
MCL	Pauni OC	Maharashtra
	Dhorwasa OC	Maharashtra
	Kulda	Orissa
	KTK 9 & 9 A Block -2	Andhra Pradesh
BCCL	KTK-3	Andhra Pradesh
	YD OC, "D"	Andhra Pradesh
	Chinnur-3 Incluine	Andhra Pradesh
	21 Inc. Yd. BG	Andhra Pradesh

[Translation]

New Coal Mines in Maharashtra

4335. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the locations of coal mines in Maharashtra in which mining work has been started during the last three years;

(b) the progress made in the production of coal in new coal mines opened recently;

(c) the time by which mining work in each of these new mines is likely to be completed and the quantum of coal likely to be extracted after the completion of work in these new coal mines; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each new coal mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). Coal projects, each costing Rs.20 crores and above, in the State of Maharashtra under Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) where implementation was started during last three years alongwith details of ultimate capacity, sanctioned capital outlay, schedule of completion and coal production achieved during

1995-96 are under :-

Project	Distt.	Date of sanction	Capacity (mty)	sanctioned cost (Rs. crs.)	Scheduled of completion	Production during 1995-96 (m.t.)
1. Sasti RO US	Chandrapur	April '93	0.36	38.24	March '98	0.23
2. Mugoli OC	Yeotmal	Jan '95	0.80	83.63	Marh '99	0.31
3. Telwasa OC	Chandrapur	Feb '95	0.45	42.10	March '99	-

[English]

Grant-In-Aid to Export Inspection Council of India

4336. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have stopped the grant-in-aid for payment of salary and other expenses to the employees of Export Inspection Council of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the account from which the employees of Export Inspection council of India are being paid salary/allowances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The employees of the Export Inspection council of India (EIC) are being paid their salary/allowances from the grants received from Government of India, Ministry of Commerce. However, the EIC has reported that occasionally, in the absence of sufficient funds, the EIC raise short term loan from Export Inspection Agency-Delhi to meet its immediate requirements and the same is repaid within the shortest possible time.

Setting up of Industries in Punjab

4337. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries set up and proposed to be set up in Punjab with foreign investment alongwith its sectors,

(b) the quantum of foreign investment made therein and employment generated therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract more foreign investment in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Sector-wise break up of industries set up in Punjab alongwith foreign investment made therein is given in the statement enclosed.

Data on employment generation with specific linkage to foreign direct investment is not centrally maintained. However, any investment in the industrial sector, whether domestic or foreign, does result in generation of employment opportunities.

Government constantly reviews the investment policy so as to make it increasingly competitive and investor friendly. The Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. In addition, the Government has set up a Foreign Investment Promotion council (FIPC) comprising of distinguished and well known experts who will catalyse, manage and coordinate investment promotion and marketing efforts.

Under the present Industrial Policy the State Government are required to provide the requisite infrastructure facilities, amenable law and order situation and other facilities for attracting investment to their States. Industrialisation of the State is therefore to a very great extent dependent on the efforts of the State Government to attract investment in the State. Government of India plays a supportive and pro-active role.

STATEMENT

Sector wise break-up of foreign direct investment and technical collaboration approved during the period (01/08/91 to 31/10/96) for Punjab

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of Industry	Total	Tech	Total Fin	Amount of FDI Approved	% of Total Amount Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Mettallurgical Industries					
	Non-Ferrous	1	0	1	3.25	0.40
	Total	1	0	1	3.25	0.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. Electricals Equipment						
Electrical Equipment	11	7	4	5.13	0.64	
Computer Software Industry	3	0	3	0.96	0.12	
Electronics	1	0	1	0.10	0.77	
Total	15	7	8	6.19	0.77	
3. Telecommunications						
Telecommunications	3	3	0	0.00	0.00	
Radio Paging	1	0	1	14.70	1.83	
Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	1	0	1	99.00	12.33	
Total	5	3	2	113.70	14.17	
4. Transportation Industry						
Automobile Industry	6	5	1	0.06	0.01	
Passenger Car	1	0	1	9.01	1.12	
Total	7	5	2	9.07	1.13	
5. Industrial Machinery	2	1	1	0.01	0.00	
6. Machine Tools	1	0	1	0.05	0.01	
7. Agricultural Machinery	3	1	2	8.96	1.12	
8. Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	3	1	2	0.86	0.11	
9. Medical and Surgical Appliances	1	0	1	5.65	0.70	
10. Chemical (other than fertilizers)	6	3	3	3.59	0.45	
11. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	7	4	3	80.72	10.06	
12. Textiles (including dyed, printed)	18	3	15	503.48	62.73	
13. Food Processing Industries						
Food Products	10	1	9	12.90	1.61	
Total	10	1	9	12.90	1.61	
14. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspathi	1	0	1	2.30	0.29	
15. Rubber Goods	1	1	0	0.00	0.00	
16. Leather, Leather goods and Pickers	6	2	4	26.62	3.32	
17. Service Sector						
Non-Financial Services	2	0	2	15.87	1.98	
Total	2	0	2	15.87	1.98	
18. Miscellaneous Industries						
Horticulture	1	1	0	0.00	0.00	
Floriculture	4	1	3	2.33	0.29	
Others (Misc Industries)	5	3	2	7.09	0.88	
Total	10	5	5	9.42	1.17	
Total	99	37	62	802.64		

Import of newsprint by STC

4338 SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of newsprint with its value imported by state Trading Corporation during each of the last five years

(b) the procedure adopted for its distribution particularly to small and medium newspapers alongwith credit facilities extended to them; and

(c) the total quantity of the newsprint in stock at the end of march each year during the above period and the reasons for piling up the stock?

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

Foreign Investment Promotion Board

4339 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the total number of investment proposal cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) till date.

(b) whether FIPB has cleared the proposal of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation to set up wholly-owned subsidiary in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) 3249 numbers of proposal envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs 80.620 Crores have been approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the period from 1.8.91 to 30.09.96.

(b) and (c) The proposal of M/S/ News Corporation, USA for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in India to be engaged in development and sourcing of media software bringing in modern techniques and equipment, promotion and marketing of STAR TV, was recommended for consideration of Government by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). However, Government have not approved the proposal.

Production of Coal

4340 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal produced in Bokaro-Kargali colliery area under Central coal Field Limited during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to increase the coal production in collieries of Bokaro Kargali area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal production from Bokaro and Kargali area under Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) during the last three years is as under :-

(Million Tonnes)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
3.00	2.75	2.64

(b) For increasing the level of Coal production from Bokaro and Kargali area, 3 new project are under implementation and Advance Action for 5 more projects has been initiated.

[Translation]

Credit Deposit Ratio of Banks in Maharashtra

4341. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations-wise details of branches of nationalised banks functioning in Maharashtra, bank-wise;

(b) the details of the amount deposited in these banks during each of the last two years, bank-wise.

(c) the loan amounts sanctioned/allocated to the farmers during the said period, bank-wise;

(d) whether the target fixed for distribution of loans have been achieved by these banks;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Gold Confiscated at IGIA, Delhi

4342. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of gold, confiscated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi during the last three years, month-wise;

(b) the number of smugglers detained on this account; and

(c) the details of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quantity and value of gold seized at the Indira Gandhi International Airport,

during the last three years, month-wise is given below :-

Month/ Year	Qty in kg	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95		
April	0.676	3.12
May	0.996	3.31
June	2.699	13.93
July	3.498	15.95
August	21.566	96.91
September	0.936	4.38
October	Nil	Nil
November	1.888	8.98
December	3.538	16.79
Jan 95	16.496	77.53
Feb 95	Nil	Nil
March 95	0.701	3.26
1995-96		
April	5.830	28.00
May	Nil	Nil
June	53.867	254.64
July	2.824	13.17
August	9.081	43.03
September	2.388	11.23
October	1.980	9.70
November	13.059	64.85
December	7.694	41.49
Jan 96	1.516	7.88
Feb 96	5.000	27.00
March 96	2.38	13.59
1996-97		
April	1.632	8.58
May	22.769	121.18
June	5.600	29.12
July	25.985	133.18
August	31.506	162.58
September	11.443	59.09
October	5.631	28.95

(b) and (c) Action taken against persons found involved in the smuggling of gold in aforesaid seizures is as follows :-

No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons detained under cofeposa
68	65	49

Foreign Exchange through Hawala Trade

4343. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether people are getting foreign exchange through illegal Hawala trade;

(b) if so, the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard during the last two years. State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such trade?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Cases where people get foreign exchange through compensatory (Hawala) payments do come to the notice of the Enforcement Directorate.

(b) Data in this regard are not maintained statewide. However, the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard by the Enforcement Directorate (Zonewise) during the last two years are as under :-

Zone	1995	1996
Mumbai	289	142
Chennai	157	45
Jalandhar	121	199
Delhi	67	150
Calcutta	82	39

(c) The Enforcement Directorate maintains a strict vigil to keep a check on such transactions. Appropriate action warranted under the law is taken as and when any such case comes to the notice of the Directorate.

World Bank Aided Coal Projects

4344. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of on going coal projects financed by World Bank/International Agencies, project-wise; and

(b) the details of new projects proposed to be financed by the World Bank and their present status project-wise, particularly for projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) These are two on-going World Bank assisted projects being implemented by Coal India. These are: Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance project and Environmental and Social Mitigation Project. The former is scheduled to close on

31.12.96 and has cumulative disbursement of \$ 5.2 million upto 30.9.96, out of a total available credit of \$ 12 million. The latter with a credit of \$ 63 million has been approved by the world Bank only this year and is in the initial stages of the implementation.

(b) Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project is the only project under consideration with the World Bank. The proposed project is likely to have 24 mines in five different companies of Coal India in five States including five mines in Maharashtra.

Performance of Banks in Karnataka

4345. SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of Public Sector Banks in Karnataka bank-wise as on date;

(b) the total deposits in these banks, as on April 1, 1995 and April 1, 1996, bank-wise;

(c) the total amount of loans sanctioned by these banks in the State during each of the last three years;

(d) the amount of loans sanctioned and actually given by these banks to the farmers during the above period; and

(e) the amount paid back by the farmers during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The bank-wise number of branches of public sector banks in Karnataka as on the last Friday of June 1996 (latest available) as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c). The bank-wise deposits and credit of public sector bank in Karnataka as on the last Friday of March 1994, 1995 and 1996 as reported by RBI are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e). As reported by RBI, the disbursal of advances towards agriculture (Direct and Indirect) by all scheduled commercial banks in Karnataka for the year ended June 1992, June 1993 and June 1994 (latest available) are as given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year Ended	Disbursement to Agriculture in Karnataka
June 1992	346.61
June 1993	401.21
June 1994	445.42

Position of recovery as available with RBI with regard to direct agricultural advances by All

Scheduled Commercial Banks in Karnataka is as given below :

Year ended as on last Friday	Demand	Recovery	% of recovery to demand
June 1992	868.91	385.44	44.36
June 1993	956.06	416.91	43.61
June 1994	1046.88	502.88	48.04

STATEMENT-I

Bank-wise Number of Branches of Public Sector Banks as on Last Friday of June 1996 in the State of Karnataka

Name of the banks	No. of branches
SBI and Its Associates	861
State Bank of India	288
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	3
State Bank of Hyderabad	96
State Bank of Mysore	456
State Bank of Patiala	4
State Bank of Saurashtra	2
State Bank of Travancore	11
State Bank of Indore	1
Nationalised Banks	2055
Bank of Baroda	33
Allahabad Bank	14
Bank of India	55
Bank of Maharashtra	38
Canara Bank	500
Dena Bank	23
Indian Bank	61
Indian Overseas Bank	58
Central Bank of India	55
Union Bank of India	86
Punjab National Bank	35
United Bank of India	7
UCO Bank	26
Syndicate Bank	450
Andhra Bank	19
Corporation Bank	189
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
Punjab and Sind Bank	5
Vijaya Bank	400

STATEMENT-II

Bank-wise Deposits and Credit of Public Sector Banks as on the Last Day of March for the Years 1994, 1995 and 1996 in the State of Karnataka

(In Rs. '000)

Name of the bank	1994		1995		1996	
	Deposits	Credit	Deposits	Credit	Deposits	Credit
State Bank of India and Its Associates	41479653	36566796	52699303	43274028	62119787	52282943
State Bank of India	19291942	20385902	25402977	24098976	29859707	29911598
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	134406	285277	192902	611874	167470	779628
State Bank of the Hyderabad	3446227	2807004	4000997	3230196	5242475	4014173
State Bank of Mysore	17807134	9743714	21264860	11694153	25696954	13935551
State Bank of Patiala	96784	639095	237740	771221	291855	831740
State Bank of Saurashtra	43175	220188	76602	256726	98298	204908
State Bank of Travancore	621359	2373263	1182298	2486167	716292	2468971
State Bank of Indore	38526	112333	37927	124715	46736	136376
Nationalised Banks	85380816	5569158	108216498	66227050	126402620	76618815
Bank of Baroda	2389557	3283862	2707556	3292725	2643551	3592888
Allahabad Bank	265497	180434	299469	265222	381337	323538
Bank of India	2353695	1853488	3473435	2273067	3979285	2753373
Bank of Maharashtra	911784	547868	1249637	746061	1280219	820852
Canara Bank	29314996	17992433	32876463	22594613	40950697	26888391
Dena Bank	490959	564588	619572	880107	776069	918115
Indian Bank	2578768	2357567	3421210	3122229	4325438	3169889
Indian Overseas Bank	2427407	1466377	2754642	1635793	3417227	1913748
Central Bank of India	2018133	140350	2464458	2268454	2975493	2631519
Union Bank of India	2904682	1412713	3638366	2261497	4569095	3127798
Punjab National Bank	1130853	1750731	2963494	1808004	1991420	2435362
United Bank of India	167754	208867	265450	144576	281197	153710
UCO Bank	1011543	1049759	1089255	850670	1167780	1070825
Syndicate Bank	15862592	9186666	20347370	9647054	22641216	10850536
Andhra Bank	889910	682177	1049687	699719	1200718	691489
Corporation Bank	8466146	5365373	11927666	5425009	12999905	6425740
Oriental Bank of Commerce	51742	69435	56243	513484	117559	547637
Punjab and Sind Bank	94790	118340	152869	113990	190570	213434
Vijaya Bank	12049908	6199128	16859656	7584776	20513844	7989870

Export-Import Prices

4346. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved any mechanism to keep up-to-date information about the current export-import prices of items at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Commerce does not keep up-to-date information about the current import-export prices at the international level since the Ministry does not itself import or export any commodity. However, depending on commodities of export or import interest to them, public sector trading companies like the State Trading Corporation (STC) and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) keep track of inter-national price movements through subscription to international Electronic Data services.

[Translation]

Setting up of Textile Mills

4347. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Central financial institutions for providing long term loans to set up cooperative textile mills in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on November, 1996; and

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

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

(a) to (c). Government is not aware whether some State Governments, except Maharashtra, have requested the Central Financial Institutions for providing long term loans to set up Cooperative Textile Mills in their States. As regards the state of Maharashtra, the following cooperative spinning mills are reported to have approached the All India Financial Institutions like Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) etc. for sanction of long term loans :

1. Sagreshwar Sahakar Soot Girni Ltd.,
2. Swami Ramanand Bharti SSG Ltd.,
3. Babasaheb Ambedkar SSG Ltd.,
4. Mungansji Maharaj SSG Ltd.,
5. Priyadarshini SSG Ltd., Shirpur.
6. Priyadarshini SSG Ltd., Yavatmal.

The Financial Institutions examine requests for loans in the context of their norms and after taking into account all relevant factors in this regard.

[English]

Setting up of Local Area Banks/ADFC

4348. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cooperative banks in rural areas have been working viably and purposefully;

(b) whether the Government have taken a decision to permit establishment of private sector local area banks and Agricultural Development Finance Cooperation at the Panchayat and District levels respectively;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of such establishments taken place so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) While Cooperative credit institutions have been extending credit to a large number of persons in rural areas, their operations have been, in many cases adversely affected by poor recoveries, low resources mobilisation, high cost of management, bureaucratisation of management and other factors.

(b) to (d). With a view to strengthen the institutional framework for providing rural credit, it has been decided to allow the establishment of private local area banks and to set up State Agricultural Development Finance Companies. As far as local area banks are concerned, these would have an area of operation limited to two or three contiguous districts with a minimum paid up capital of Rs. five crores, of which the promoters capital shall be atleast Rs. two crores. These would be required to adhere to the requirement of lending 40% net bank credit to priority sector of which 10% should be to weaker sections. Further, the liquidity/requirements and the interest rate regime would be the same as for regional rural banks. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no licence has so far been issued to any local area bank. As far as State Agricultural Development Finance Companies (SADFCs) are concerned, these are expected to promote investments in high-tech agriculture, floriculture, horticulture etc. by providing expertise in identification and appraisal of projects, by financing such projects directly or through syndication and by providing other related services.

National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been entrusted with the responsibility of promoting these companies. 55% of the equity is expected to come from the private sector and the rest could be subscribed by the State Government and other public finance institutions. No SADFC has been established so far.

Automatic Teller Machines in Banks in Gujarat

4349. SHRI N. J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of branches of the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks in Gujarat, location-wise, especially in tribal areas wherein automatic teller machines have been installed;

(b) the details of the branches in which the proposal of installing these machines is presently under consideration; and

(c) the time by which these machines are likely to be installed there?

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

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

4350. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in various States in the country. State-wise.

(b) the amount of compensation paid to the people through Lok Adalats. State-wise.

(c) whether some instances of bungling in payment of compensation have come to the notice of the Government and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is contained in the Statement attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

Statement Showing

Number of Lok Adalats Organised by State Legal Aid and Advice Boards/District Legal Aid Committees, Cases Settled, Amount of Compensation Paid, Etc.

(Based on the information available with NALSA as on 30-9-1996)

S.No	Name of the State Legal Aid and Advice Board	Number of Lok Adalats organised	Number of cases (including MACT cases) settled	Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Cases settled	
				Number of cases settled	Amount of Compensation paid to the Claimants (Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	634	2,43,227	29,057	91,48,44,982
2	Assam	78	8,957	2,850	8,98,36,856
3	Bihar	45	56,013	295	1,30,12,480
4	Goa	32	3,026	2,128	8,80,94,652
5	Gujarat	1,027	1,50,168	26,151	81,81,00,000
6	Haryana	647	2,08,789	9,834	43,05,69,150
7	Himachal Pradesh	269	25,426	2,615	4,21,93,203
8	Jammu and Kashmir	8	470	470	3,03,00,000
9	Karnataka	1,929	3,40,799	41,308	79,25,91,604
10	Kerala	45	29,804	21,329	40,88,83,207
11	Madhya Pradesh	895	8,70,381	24,343	58,19,52,192
12	Maharashtra	1,545	97,340	22,050	105,17,73,198
13	Manipur	7	1,483	321	1,51,26,500
14	Meghalaya	7	525	246	97,19,500
15	Mizoram	6	341	174	44,14,000
16	Orissa	2,367	6,44,862	8,550	29,30,53,747
17	Punjab	195	46,790	6,525	12,32,66,862
18	Rajasthan	304	8,73,197	23,458	86,27,34,624
19	Sikkim	3	10	-	-
20	Tamil Nadu	1,472	49,104	48,854	151,59,66,978
21	Tripura	7	842	130	74,13,630

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2,522	24,83,266	27,261	111.12.30.601
23.	West Bengal	41	3,107	2,400	5.91.47.700
24.	Chandigarh Administration	11	10,667	396	2.62.23.200
25.	Delhi	48	29,300	8,621	70.26.91.988
26.	Pondicherry	24	1,812	1,807	3.92.32.468
Grand Total		14,168	61,79,706	3,11,173	1003.23.73.322

[English]

Foreign Collaboration in Automobile

4351. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some automobile units proposed to be set up in the country with foreign collaboration particularly in Karnataka;

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

(c) the details of the joint venture proposed in collaboration in the above units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). A Statement indicating the details of approvals granted for setting up of joint ventures for manufacture of automobiles since 1992 is attached.

STATEMENT*Joint Ventures in Automobile Industry*

Joint Venture	Product/Capacity	Foreign Equity participation	Lumpsum payment	Royalty
1	2	3	4	5
1. Birla Group of Companies (Hindustan Motors) with General Motors of USA Halol, Gujarat.	Car (Opel Astra) 20,000	50%	DM 19.176 million (approx. Rs. 40 Crores) (net)	5% (net)
2. Premier Automobiles with Peugeot of France Bombay, Maharashtra	Car (Peugeot-309) 60,000	50%	FF 69 million (Rs. 38.64 crores) (net)	2% (net)
3. TELCO with Mercedes Benz of Germany Pune, Maharashtra	Car (Mercedes) 20,000	51%	DM 56.6 million (Approx. Rs. 110 crores) (Gross)	2.75% (Gross)
4. DCM with Deawoo Motor Company of Korea Surapur, Uttar Pradesh	Car (Cielo) 2,00,000	51%	US \$ 11.8 million (Approx. Rs. 38 crores) (net)	3% (Net)
5. Shriram Industrial Enterprises Limited with M/s. Honda Motor Company Ltd of Japan Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Car (Honda) 30,000	60%	US \$ 30 million (around Rs. 100 crores) (subject to taxes)	4% (subject to taxes)
6. Hindustan Motors with Mitsubishi Motor Corpn. of Japan Tamil Nadu/ Madhya Pradesh	Car (Lancer) 30,000	10%	JY 586 million (around Rs. 20 crores)	5%
7. Sipani Automobiles Ltd. with M/s. Rovers Group Limited of U.K. Bangalore, Karnataka	Car (Montego) 15,000	2.59%	£ 2,00,000 (Net)	4% (Net)

	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Hyundai Motor Company Madras, Tamilnadu	Car (Accent) 2,00,000	100% Subsidiary	-	-
9.	Kamal, Sabre Motors Ltd., Jaipur with JD Automotive Designs, S.Africa and Sabre International Corp'n. of USA (100% EOU) Sitapur, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Sports Car 720	49%		5% (Gross)
10.	Volvo AB, Sweden Not decided	Trucks	100% Subsidiary		
11.	Overseas Concept Auto Ltd. with M/s. Concept Industrial Management Ltd., UK, Rajpura, Patiala, Punjab	Sports Car/ Luxury Coaches 2200	37.47%	£ 2,00,000	Nil
12.	Hero Cycles Ltd., Ludhiana with BMW, Germany Dadri, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P.	Cars 10,000	51%	DM 45 million	5%
13.	Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. with Ford Motor Company of USA Nasik, Maharashtra	Cars 1,25,000	50%	-	5%
14.	Maini-Amerigon Car Company Pvt. Ltd. USA with M/s. Amerigon Incorporated USA and ASC Asian Equity Ltd., UK-Malur, Bangalore	Electric powered passenger car 6000	67%	US \$ 0.8 million	Nil

[Translation]

Open Cast Projects

4352. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether pollution level has been increasing in Maharashtra due to open cast coal mines of Western Coalfield;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to close down the open cast mines and start coal production from underground mines;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Pollution level has not increased in Maharashtra due to opencast mines of Western Coalfields Limited. All control measures are adopted as per Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in the mines. The

environmental monitoring reports revealed that all the parameters of air, water and noise in the mines are found within the prescribed limits of Central Pollution Control Board.

(b) to (d). Does not arise, in view of reply above.

[English]

Sodhani Committee

4353. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NRIs and OCBs are permitted to have holding not more than one per cent of the paid up capital in any listed company;

(b) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have been permitted to hold 10% of the paid up capital of any listed company from the earlier level of 5%.

(c) if so, the reasons for such discrimination against NRIs; and

(d) the recommendations of the Sodhani Committee in this respect and the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under the Portfolio investment scheme, Non-resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Corporate bodies (OCBs) predominantly owned by (NRIs) are permitted to acquire individually upto 1% and collectively upto 5% of the paid up capital of any Indian company through stock exchanges. The ceiling of 5% can be increased upto 24% of the paid up capital of a company in case the company's share holders authorise such an increase through a general body resolution. In terms of the Press Release dated, 24.7.96 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), the individual FII or sub-accounts of an FII can acquire upto 10% while the collective ceiling through portfolio route remains at 24% for investments by all FIIs/NRIs and OCBs in any Indian Company.

(c) and (d). The Sodhani Committee had recommended that the ceiling for individual NRIs/OCBs for acquisition of shares through portfolio route be increased to the levels prescribed for individual FII or sub accounts of FII, which has not been accepted by the Government. FIIs are permitted a higher limit as they are broad based diversified funds and have lesser interest towards control of management in Indian Companies.

Export of Marine Products

4354. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of marine products being exported to different countries at present;

(b) the details of such products exported during the last three years;

(c) whether the export of marine products during the current financial year, is not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). At present major items of marine products being exported from India are Frozen Shrimp, Frozen Cuttlefish, Frozen Squid and Frozen Fish. Following are the details in terms of quantity exported and value realised in respect of these items during the last three years :

Q : Quantity in MT

V : Value in Rs. crores

		1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
		1	2	3
Frozen shrimp	Q :	95697	101751	86541
	V :	2356.43	2510.94	1770.73

		1	2	3
Frozen	Q :	33845	28145	18998
Cuttlefish	V :	260.86	224.01	138.18
Frozen Squid	Q :	45025	37194	34741
	V :	319.58	245.10	192.47
Frozen Fish	Q :	100093	122529	94022
	V :	372.26	446.57	296.00
Others (Including Live items, dried items, etc.)	Q :	21617	17718	9658
	V :	191.28	148.65	106.24
Total	Q :	296277	307337	243960
	V :	3501.11	3575.27	3503.62

(Source : MPEDA)

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The steps being taken by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for increasing the export of marine products inter-alia are as follows:

(i) Participating in trade fairs abroad and sending trade delegations.

(ii) Inviting overseas experts to India and providing training to persons involved in the fishing industry

(iii) Providing technical and/or subsidy to the entrepreneurs by way of assistance to acquire equipment for modernisation, establishment of quality control measures, product and packaging development.

(iv) Equity participation, promotion of capture fisheries for exports such as prawn farms, hatcheries, improving productivity, transfer of technology, etc.

(v) The Trade Promotion Office of MPEDA at Tokyo and New York are engaged in market promotion activities in two of the largest markets for exports of marine products from India.

[Translation]

Outstanding Bank Loans towards States

4355. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the State Governments against whom amounts of various nationalised banks have been outstanding and the dates since when the said amounts are pending alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government for recovery of the said amount;

(c) whether some nationalised banks have also filed their cases in the courts for the recovery of the said amounts; and

(d) if so, the latest position thereof?

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

[English]

Disinvestment

4356 DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the equity participation in 40 Major PSUs for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the total disinvestment made uptill now and the extent to which it has been proved beneficial; and

(c) the total number of public sector units restructured so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Government have referred 40 PSUs to the Disinvestment Commission and they are now looking at them. So far no disinvestment

or restructuring has taken place in these PSUs during 96-97.

SAFTA Agreement

4357. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the agreement of South Asian Free Trade Area;

(b) the likely date of its coming into operation; and

(c) the level of trade undertaken among SAFTA countries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The 'SAARC' Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) has become operational with effect from 7.12.1995 with SAARC Member Countries granting mutual tariff concessions.

The Commerce Ministers of SAARC Member States and leaders of delegations in a meeting held in New Delhi on 8-9 Jan 1996 while reiterating their commitment to accelerating the SAPTA process decided that the South Asian Free Trade Area should be realised preferably by 2000 AD but not later than 2005 AD.

(c) The details of India's trade with the SAARC Member Countries are as under :

India's Exports

Rs. Crores/ (% age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan
1993-94	1349.31 (31.12)	903.23 (25.75)	200.96 (36.63)	24.88 (11.87)	307.84 (46.69)	31.16 (395.88)
1994-95	2024.13 (50.01)	1151 (27.44)	179.71 (-10.57)	48.28 (94.04)	377.03 (22.48)	34.93 (11.76)
1995-96	3469.91 (71.43)	1335.62 (16.03)	256.8 (42.9)	52.52 (8.78)	536.45 (42.28)	57.56 (54.79)

India's Imports

Rs. Crores/ (% age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan
1993-94	56.07 (151.14)	62.82 (57.59)	136.68 (-63.60)	1.02 (259.75)	90.68 (61.41)	9.35 (166.24)
1994-95	119.82 (113.70)	88.12 (40.27)	165.61 (121.17)	0.73 (-28.87)	114.89 (26.70)	57.40 (513.96)
1995-96	282.13 (135.5)	145.83 (65.5)	150.8 (-8.94)	0.55 (-24.66)	166.95 (45.31)	107.2 (86.76)

Pending Cases for EPCG Licences

4358. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many licences under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme were cleared recently by D.G.F.T.

and are now pending for approval of the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which these licences are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir. Those cases approved by the Committee of Secretaries for availing benefits of Zero Duty EPCG Scheme, where the CIF value of the Capital Goods to be imported, exceeds Rs. 100 crores, requires approval of Commerce Minister/Finance Minister before the licences are issued and such cases have been submitted for approval. Details are as follows :

1. M/s. Parsrampur Synthetic Ltd.
2. M/s. Malvika Steel Ltd.
3. M/s. Usha Ispat Ltd.
4. M/s. International Aluminium Products
5. M/s. Tata Engg and Locomotive C. Ltd.
6. M/s. Owen Corning (I) P. Ltd.
7. M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd.
8. M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd.

Decision on the above is expected shortly.

Assistance to Assam

4359. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken/proposed to take measures to improve the flow of institutional finance for industrial development of Assam and N.E. States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The decision to locate a project in a particular State/Region vests with the entrepreneurs who, in turn is guided by such factors as the level of infrastructure facilities available in the State, availability of raw materials, skilled labour and proximity of market. With a view to accelerating industrial development, a new public financial institution named as North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) has been established to finance creation, expansion and modernisation of industrial enterprises and infrastructure projects in the North Eastern Region including the State of Assam. Notwithstanding the establishment of NEDFI, it would be the endeavour of All India Financial Institutions to assist all financially, economically, commercially viable and technically feasible projects coming-up in Assam and other States of North Eastern Region.

Insurance Claims in J & K

4360. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount paid by various Insurance Companies in Jammu and Kashmir in lieu of the killings,

fire and other damages caused since the outbreak of violence and terrorism in the state

(b) the number of timber depots burnt each year and the amount paid by various Insurance Companies to the State owned Forest Corporation of Jammu and Kashmir and the number of pending claims alongwith the amount involved therein;

(c) whether the Insurance Companies have decided not to insure timber depots of the Jammu and Kashmir State Forest Corporation particularly in Doda District, and

(d) if so, since when this decision has been taken and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The General Insurance Corporation (GIC) has reported that an amount of Rs. 11140.80 lakhs worth of insurance claims were paid by the general insurance industry since the out-break of violence and terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Between the period 1991-92 to 1993-94, 38 claims were reported and an amount of Rs. 1644.02 lakhs has been paid towards claims settlement. Another 11 claims to the extent of about Rs. 723.86 lakhs are still pending with the companies for settlement. In November 1994, the revised premium rate proposed by the general insurance industry for providing insurance cover to the timber depots was not accepted by J and K State Forest Corporation including the depots located in Doda District.

Fraud by Financial Companies

4361. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 1036 dated March 8, 1996 and state :

(a) the details of delinquent companies against whom the R.B.I. has taken action for contravention of its directions; and

(b) the number of letters/complaints received by the R.B.I. and the Government for non-payment of principal and interest on deposits by these companies during the last three years and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per the present regulatory framework only the deposit acceptance activities of Non-Banking Financial Companies, Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies and Residuary Non-Banking Companies are regulated by three sets of Directions issued by it in accordance with the provisions of the RBI Act, 1934. These directions stipulate ceiling on deposits, rate of interest on deposits, maintenance of liquid assets, etc. The RBI is empowered to take action

against delinquent companies for contravention of its directions by prohibiting the concerned companies from accepting further deposits and launching prosecution proceedings against them in courts of law. Reserve Bank of India has further reported that 208 companies (mainly residuary non-banking companies) have been prohibited from accepting further deposits for violation of the directions. It, however, cannot enforce repayment of deposits and payment of interest thereon and the remedy left to the depositors is to enforce the contract in a court of law, acceptance of deposits being a civil contract. As and when complaints regarding non payment of principle and interest is received by RBI/ Government, complainants are advised accordingly.

Import Duty on Titanium Dioxide

4362. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received the request of the State Government of Kerala regarding withdrawal of reduction in import duty of Titanium Dioxide; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) In the Budget for 1996-97, the basic customs duty on all chemicals was reduced from 50% to 40% or lower in some cases. In respect of titanium dioxide the reduction in customs duty was from 50% to 40%. The request of Government of Kerala in this regard will be considered as a part of the budget exercise for 1997-98.

[Translation]

Small Scale Industries

4363. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Daily Observer dated November 18, 1996 under the caption "A fluidly vague Small Scale Sector";

(b) if so, whether 40% production of the total output is produced by the small industries in the country besides 34% of its share in the total export and providing employment to 1 crore 50 lakh people;

(c) if not, the estimate of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have also evaluated the amount of capital investment in small scale sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount invested therein; and

(f) the total number of units of small scale sector functioning by the end of March, 1996 in the country?

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

(b) and (c). As per Government estimates, share of production of SSI Sector was 41.27% out of total industrial production in the country during 1994-95. SSI Sector accounted for 35.15% of the total direct exports during 1994-95. An estimated 1.53 crore persons were employed in SSI sector till 1995-96.

(d) and (e). The data on investment in SSI sector is collected only through Sample Surveys/Census. The latest information available relates to reference year 1987-88, which was collected through 2nd All India Census of registered SSI units. According to this, the capital invested in registered SSI Sector was Rs. 9296 crores.

(f) Total number of SSI units functioning by the end of March, 1996 is not available. However, as per Second All India Census of SSI units conducted with reference year 1987-88, 5.82 lakhs SSI units were found functioning out of a total of 9.87 lakh registered SSI units by 31st March, 1988.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

4364. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign reserves position has suffered considerable erosion during the past few months;

(b) if so, the comparative foreign exchange reserve position as on 1st April and July 1996 and the likely position on First January and April 1997; and

(c) the reasons for the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. The foreign exchange reserves position has improved in recent months.

(b) The foreign exchange reserves, comprising foreign currency assets of the RBI, gold and SDRs rose from US \$ 21, 687 million at the end of March 1996 to US\$ 22,091 million at the end of June 1996 and further to US\$ 23796 million on November 29, 1996. The foreign exchange reserves position on future dates will depend upon several factors, such as the net inflow or outflow of funds on account of the external transactions put through the RBI, developments on the current and capital accounts of the balance of payments and the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market, which are difficult to predict with certainty.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Workers of Textile Mills

4365. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government to rehabilitate the workers of textile mills who rendered jobless due to closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat seeking assistance for rehabilitation of such jobless workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of a mill.

(b) to (d). According to Ministry of Industry, the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to Ministry of Industry for grant of assistance from National Renewal Fund for 19 closed textile mills under liquidation. The proposal envisages, "inter-alia", takeover of assets of these mills by State Government, payment of legal dues to 30,150 workers, incentive for Area Regeneration and utilisation of assets of closed mills etc.

According to the Ministry of Industry, the proposal of State Government would be taken up after necessary approval to the operational modalities for grant of assistance from the National Renewal Fund has been obtained.

Stock Market

4366. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted financial institutions to lend their shares to short-sellers in the stock market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conference of Accountant Generals

4367. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 19th Conference of the Accountant Generals was organised at New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof.

(c) the details of suggestions made therein with steps to be taken to implement the same

(d) whether the organisers have achieved the targets for holding such a meeting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). A conference of Accountants General was held from 26-28 November 1996, mainly to refine and improve audit scope and methodology, including mechanisation, and consider new approaches in audit to deal with the increasingly complex business of Government, huge investments in creation of economic assets and Government's spending in social sectors.

(c) to (e). The recommendations made in the Conference are under process.

Home Loan Account Scheme of N.H.B.

4368. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has introduced a Home Loan Account Scheme recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Housing Bank proposes to reduce the rate of interest;

(d) if so, the extent thereof; and

(e) the details of the refinance scheme formulated by the National Housing Bank for Regional Rural Banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it introduced a loan linked saving scheme known as "Home Loan Account Scheme (HLAS)" with effect from July 1, 1989. Initially the scheme was implemented by the network of scheduled commercial banks, which later on, was extended to select Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and co-operative sector institutions. Under the scheme any individual can open an account and deposit any amount on recurring basis and earn an interest on deposit at the rate of 10.0% (Ten Per cent) per annum. The deposits made under HLAS are eligible for tax concession under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The account holder becomes eligible for housing loan in multiples of his accumulated deposits alongwith the accrued interest. The rates of interest charged on loans under HLAS as reported by NHB.

are as under :

Loan as multiple of accumulated savings	Amount of Loan	Rate of Interest
(i) 4 times	Upto Rs. 50,000/-	10.5%
(ii) 3 times	Above Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 1 lakh	12.0%
(iii) 2 times	Above Rs. 1 lakh and upto Rs. 2 lakh	13.5%
(iv) 1.5 times	Above Rs. 2 lakhs	14.5%

NHB has further reported that under the HLAS the designated banks and HFCs have collected an amount of Rs. 365.86 crores upto the end of March, 1996, out of which an amount of Rs. 28.56 crores has been utilised by the implementing agencies so far.

(c) and (d). NHB has reported that there is no proposal at present to reduce the rates of interest on refinance by it.

(e) The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been permitted by Reserve Bank of India to lend for housing activities in the rural areas upto 5% of their incremental deposits subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per borrower. In consultation with Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NHB has initiated the formulation of a scheme to refinance RRBs in this regard.

Cheating of Bank

4369. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newitem captioned "CBI arrests four for cheating bank" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 5, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether handwriting expert confirmed the bogus signatures on drawee bills, hundis and other bills;

(d) if so, the reasons as to why the bank officials failed in verifying the genuineness of signatures before clearing those documents and the action taken by the Authorities for the lapses; and

(e) whether the Government propose to ask the R.B.I. to collect the information of frauds etc, from the private sector banks also, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that a case was registered by them on 23.5.1994 on the allegations that a fraud was committed by the Directors of M/s. R.K.B. Herbals P.Ltd., New Delhi in conspiracy with the Branch

Manager of Vijaya Bank, R.K. Puram, New Delhi cheating the bank to the tune of Rs. 87 lakhs during the period 1987-1990 on the strength of bogus documents. CBI has also reported that the signatures appearing on the bogus hundies and invoices did not belong to any account holders whose specimen signatures are kept by the bank for verification. The three Directors of the company and the Branch Manager were arrested on 4.12.1996 and the CBI propose to file charge-sheets for their prosecution in Court. The bank has conducted its own investigation into the matter and fixed accountability on 7 officials of the bank and initiated departmental action against them.

(e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that frauds in banks for less than Rs. 1.00 crore are monitored by their regional offices while the frauds of Rs. 1.00 crore and above are monitored by Central Office of Department of Supervision of RBI. For cases of frauds of less than Rs. 1.00 crore, no statement/information regarding action taken against delinquent staff is obtained from private sector and foreign banks. However, these banks have clear instructions to report all cases of frauds of above Rs. 10,000/- to Police.

Patent Right

4370. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a WTO Committee is likely to visit India to investigate the charges of violation of Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) if so, the details of charges made against India;

(c) the Government views on intellectual property rights in India; and

(d) the stand likely to be taken by the Government relating to patent-issues during the probe by the WTO Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No Committee of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is to visit India to investigate the charges of violation of intellectual property rights.

However, in pursuance of the provisions of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, on 2 July, 1996, the Government of the United States of America had sought consultations with India alleging the absence in India of either patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products or formal systems that permit the filing of patent applications for such products and that permit the grant of exclusive marketing rights in such products. The consultations were held on 27 July, 1996. The DSU provides that the complaining party may request the

Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO to establish a panel to examine the allegation if the consultations fail to settle the dispute within sixty days after the date of receipt of the request for consultations. In accordance with these provisions, on 7 November, 1996 the USA requested the establishment of a panel to examine the dispute. The DSB, at its meeting held on 20 November 1996 considered this request and decided to establish a panel.

(c) and (d). As a signatory to the Agreement Establishing the WTO of which the TRIPs Agreement is an integral part, India has to fulfill all obligations that emanate from its membership of the WTO. Government of India is in the process of holding consultations in order to work out appropriate measures with regard to the amendment of the Indian Patents Act 1970.

Foreign Investment

4371. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister to INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has further liberalised the provisions relating to automatic approval of foreign investment.

(b) whether the earlier policy specially banned import of second hand machinery and stated that the plant and machinery should be new and not second hand;

(c) whether the concerned administrative Ministries are not in favour of the inclusion of more industries in the annexure III of the industrial policy of 1991; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Recently, the foreign investment parameters have been further liberalised to facilitate better and increased flow of foreign technology and equity and provide greater attraction to prospective investors. It will no longer be necessary for automatic approvals by RBI that the amount of foreign equity should cover the foreign exchange requirements for import of capital goods needed for the project. The import of capital goods for the project would be, however, subject to the EXIM Policy. The existing ceiling of Rs. 1 crore by way of payment of lumpsum fee for automatic approval has been raised to US \$ 2 million.

(b) Under the existing Policy, the plant and machinery proposed to be imported under the automatic approval scheme, should be new and not second hand.

(c) and (d). The Foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic and investor-friendly with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure. The views of concerned Ministries is taken

into consideration while undertaking such review and while framing policy.

Reservation for Women in Panchayats and Municipalities

4372. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such States which have not passed necessary legislation to incorporate provisions of the Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1993, which provide reservation of 33% seats for women in Panchayats and Municipalities respectively; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) All the States where the provisions of Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1993 are applicable have passed necessary legislations in accordance with the Constitutional provisions on Panchayats and Municipalities.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Price of Coal

4373. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the average number of layers (Seem) of coal found in the coal mines of Coal India Ltd;

(b) the details of mines in which various varieties of coal is found in various layers (Seem);

(c) the criteria adopted to fix the prices of coal of various qualities obtained from different layers (Seem) and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that fixation of price of coal is done on rational basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Details of seems being worked mine-wise in Coal India Limited (CIL) with their declared grades are too voluminous to be incorporated in reply. These details are contained in Coal Directory of India 1995-96. Copy of the said Directory has been made available to the Library of the Parliament.

(c) and (d). The criteria adopted for fixation of coal prices is as under :

(i) In respect of non-coking coal, the prices are based on various grades from A to G depending on Useful Heat Value.

- (ii) In respect of coking coal the prices are based on ash percentage.
- (iii) In respect of semi-coking coal, the prices are based on combined percentage of ash and moisture.

The prices of superior quality coal i.e. all coking coals and non-coking coal of grades A, B and C have been deregulated with effect from 1.4.1996 except in WCL and SCCL where deregulated prices became effective from 22.3.1996 and 19.4.1996 respectively. The prices of grades D to G of non-coking coals, which are mostly used in the power sector, still continue to be administered.

[English]

Coir-Geo-Textiles

4374. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coir Board has requested to the Government to conduct a Seminar on promotion of export by Coir and Coir Products abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to popularise Coir Geo-Textiles for Soil Engineering purposes?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). A proposal has been received by the Government from the Coir Board seeking Government approval for conducting a seminar on coir geo-textiles. Government have already accorded its in principle approval for the proposal. Coir Board has been entrusted with the task of popularising use of coir products including coir geo-textiles for soil engineering in foreign countries.

Opium Cultivation

4375. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the 'Times of India', dated November 27, 1996 under the caption "Policy change may be a shot in arm for illegal opium trade";

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for the change relating to opium cultivation regulations;

(c) the present quantum of legal cultivation of opium and the number of licensed opium cultivators in the country, State-wise and the details of productivity norms set by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to check the opium cultivators illegal diversion of their produce to the drugs markets in the country and abroad?

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

(b) A statement explaining the position is enclosed.

(c) At present, licit cultivation of poppy is allowed only in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in the country. The area licenced, the number of cultivators who have been given licences to cultivate poppy and the productivity norms set by the Government in each State is as under :

State	Area licensed (hectare)	No of cultivators	Minimum qualifying yield (Productivity Norms)
Madhya Pradesh	16552.90	42626	48 Kgs /hectare
Rajasthan	12497.90	31465	48 Kgs /hectare
Uttar Pradesh	708.60	940	40 Kgs /hectare

(d) The system of control over poppy cultivation is quite elaborate which includes, inter-alia, 100% measurement of poppy fields, test measurement by senior officials, constant monitoring of crop conditions and daily weighment of produce of each cultivator during the period of opium cultivation. The enforcement set up of the Central Bureau of Narcotics has also been strengthened by improving transport and communication net work and setting up more preventive intelligence cells in and around poppy growing areas. Enforcement operations and general vigil are intensified during the lancing period and collection of opium. In addition to departmental officers, other enforcement agencies and para-military forces are also engaged for the above purpose.

STATEMENT

The newspaper reports appearing in the 'Times of India' and some other dailies about opium licensing policy of the Govt. have published incorrect and misleading facts based on wrong presumptions.

The opium policy for the year 1996-97 was based, as in previous years, on an assessment of the annual requirement of opium and the area required to be licensed to produce the same. With the depletion in the opium stock position the area under poppy cultivation was raised, in the year 1994-95 from about 13,000 hectares to 25,000 hectares. The International Narcotics Control Board, which is the concerned United Nations body, has been writing to the Govt. of India emphasizing its responsibilities as the sole supplier of licit opium and the need to build up stocks to provide for future eventualities like crop damage etc. During the current year, the area under cultivation has been increased to about 29,760 hectares and not 40,000 hectares as reported in the Newspapers.

Like in previous years, this year also the Minimum qualifying yield has been raised from 46 kgs. to 48 kgs. per hectare (for Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan) to prevent any leakage of opium. for Uttar Pradesh, the Minimum Qualifying Yield has been fixed at 40 kgs. as that State is in a different agro-climatic area and has a traditionally lower yield.

To provide for the shortfall in area and the number of cultivators delicensed every year, the experiment of inducing new cultivators or increasing the size of individual cultivator's area was tried in the previous years but the same had by and large failed. While the productivity fell with the increase in the area, the induction of fresh cultivators every year introduced a hiccup in the policy which encouraged corruption and leakage of opium into illicit channel. No long term relationship or trust could be built in such a state and new set of people were being introduced to opium trade habits every year. The Govt. has, therefore, decided to retain, as far as may be, the previous year's cultivators provided they were not involved in any manner under the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985 and the Rules made thereunder, as laid down specifically under Clause 3 of the current year's Policy. Almost 75% of the cultivators licensed this year had fulfilled the prescribed Minimum qualifying yield of 48 Kgs. or 40 kgs., as the case may be, in the previous year of cultivation. Out of a total of about 75,000 cultivators licensed this year, the concession in terms of yield has been extended to about 19,000 and not 70,000 cultivators as reported in the Newspapers. The said concession is subject to the proviso that the concerned cultivators shall be permanently delicensed if they fail to tender the prescribed Minimum Qualifying Yield in the year 1996-97. There is no evidence that such cultivators had diverted their products to drug trade. Opium poppy being a delicate crop susceptible to damage, delicensing of a large number of cultivators every year, who fail to reach the prescribed Minimum Qualifying Yield, is quite common. Relief in terms of yield was being granted to such cultivators in the past also.

The said concession was extended in view of the pressing need of the Government to have a continuity in the system and license a certain minimum number of cultivators to produce the targetted quantity of opium. It is in the long term interest of the country and directed to prevent the prevalent drug abuse.

The presumption that the entire opium produce on about 29,760 hectares this year would be diverted into illicit channels notwithstanding the strong enforcement machinery of the Department, is completely baseless besides being irrational. Similarly, to calculate the likely produce and leakage of opium into illicit channels and quantify its price in the black market is a hypothetical exercise which does not merit serious consideration.

[Translation]

Development of Textile Industry

4376. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan in regard to allocation of more funds and providing more facilities for the promotion and development of handloom, powerloom, readymade garments and woollen garments industries in the State as well as to resolve the problems being faced by these industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (c). Union Govt. have not received any proposal from the Govt. of Rajasthan in regard to allocation of more funds and providing more facilities for the promotion and development of powerloom, readymade garments, woollen garments industries in the State as well as to resolve the problems being faced by these industries.

As regards 'handloom', no such proposal with regard to allocation of more funds has been received from State Govt. of Rajasthan for providing more facilities for promotion and development of handloom. However, funds to the tune of Rs. 5.84 lakhs under the Scheme of setting up of Enforcement Machinery and Rs. 12.67 lakhs under the scheme of MDA to States have been released during the current financial year 1996-97 (as on 3.12.96) to Govt. of Rajasthan. Releases made during last three years to the State Government of Rajasthan under various on-going Handloom Development Schemes are indicated below :

(Value Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No	Scheme	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Plan Scheme				
1	Publicity and Exhibition		2.25	-
2	Margin Money for Dist. Weavers		50	-
3	Workshed cum Housing Scheme	40.16	6.00	7.40
4	PPS/IHVDS	12.25	34.57	336.94
5	HDC/QDU	-	3.04	7.73
6	Health Package Scheme	20.00	-	25.50
7	Thrifty Fund Scheme	1.65	1.00	1.00
8	Setting up of Enf. Machinery	5.00	7.51	2.67
Sub Total		79.06	54.87	381.24
Non-Plan Scheme				
1	MDA for states	130.11	68.59	33.07
2	Janta Cloth Scheme	291.39	123.05	113.03
Sub Total		421.50	191.64	146.10
Total		500.56	246.51	527.34

A proposal was also received from Govt. of Rajasthan for setting up of Re-search and Development Centre at Jaipur for testing of textile printed with azo dyes. In this connection it may be mentioned that testing facilities are being provided at Jaipur under the programme of expansion/upgradation of laboratory network in the country at easy reach to the textile industry.

Tax Rates

4377 SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Tariff Rates to be at Global Level by 2003' Chidambaram published in 'Economic Times' dated November 25, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the rate of taxation in the country is much higher than that in the other countries of the world;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and the estimated average rate of taxation in India and other countries of the world separately;

(d) whether the Government have fixed the year 2003 as time limit for bringing the said Rate of Taxation at Global level;

(e) if so, whether the high taxation rate would continue affecting the foreign trade in the country; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) It is generally that India's average import tariff is higher than that in many other countries including some developing countries.

(d) to (f). No precise terminal year has been fixed. However, it is the policy of the Government to gradually bring down the import tariffs. In doing so, Government will take into account all relevant factors, including the desired level of protection to domestic industry, competitiveness of India's export products which use imported raw materials and components, and tariff bindings agreed to.

[Translation]

Latest Technique in SSI

4378. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale industries are facing

difficulties due to lack of provision of latest techniques in time;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing latest technique to SSI in time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Small Scale Sector is experiencing some difficulties in sourcing latest technology. To facilitate this Government is providing technology information and extension services to the small scale units through a network of various institutions at different places in the country. Under the Department of SSI and ARI, Small Industries Development Organisation and National Small Industries Corporation are rendering services to the SSI units through their field offices. Tool Rooms at Ludhiana, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar, Indore, Aurangabad, Jamshedpur and Hand Tool Institutions at Jullandhar and Nagaur and providing technical support services to the SSI units. Specialised institutions namely Process-cum-Product Development Centre (PPDC) Meerut for sports goods and PPDC, Agra for foundry, CDGI for glass industry at Ferozabad, FFDC for essential oils at Kannauj, IDEMI for instrumentation at Bombay and ESTC for electronics at Ramnagar, CFTIs for leather and footwear at Madras and Agra are providing specific technical services to the SSI units. 5 Prototype Development and Training Centres by NSIC located at Delhi, Calcutta, Rajkot, Madras and Hyderabad are providing technical training, common facilities, laboratory testing facilities and development of proper technologies to the SSI units.

In addition to above, the Department of SSI and ARI operates a scheme of International Cooperation Programme wherein small enterprises are taken to different countries to acquaint them with latest technique available in their field of production. Also NSIC organises industrial exhibitions every year wherein the SSI units get an opportunity to meet the foreign companies and interact with them for the latest technologies/techniques.

[English]

Function of Export Inspection Council of India

4379. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main functions of the Export Inspection Council of India;

(b) whether Export (Quality Control of Inspection) Act, 1963 prescribed any duration for holding the meeting of the members of Export Inspection council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) when was the last meeting of Export Inspection Council of India held and who were the members of the Council at that time;

(e) whether there is any violation of the provisions of the Act in holding such meetings;

(f) if so, the authority under whose Export Inspection Council of India has been functioning; and

(g) whether any action has been taken against the officials if they have violated the Council Act 1963 in either way; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The main functions of the Export Inspection Council of India are to advise the Central Government regarding measures for the enforcement of quality control and inspection in relation to commodities intended for export and to draw up programmes therefor; and to arrange pre-shipment inspection of notified commodities for export.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The last meeting of the Council was held on 28th October, 1993. The list of the council Members at that time is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The Act does not contain any provision for holding such meetings.

(f) to (h). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Shri J.K. Bagchi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.	Chairman
Director of Inspection and Quality Control, Export Inspection Council, New Delhi.	Member-Secretary
Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi.	Member, Ex-Officio
Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, New Delhi.	Member, Ex-Officio
Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.	Member, Ex-Officio
Secretary (Technical Development) and Director General (Technical Development) Ministry of Industry, New Delhi.	Member
Director (In-charge of Export Inspection) Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.	Member
Director (Finance Division), Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.	Member
Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi.	Member

Representative of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi. Member

Director, Central Institute of Fisheries, Technology, Cochin. Member

Representative of Director General of Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi. Member

Director, Fruits and Vegetable Preservation, New Delhi. Member

Quality Marking Centre, Directorate of Industries, Government of U.P. Member

Quality Marking Centre, Directorate of Industries, Government of Punjab. Member

Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd., Ministry of Railways, New Delhi. Member

Chairman, Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority, New Delhi. Member

Chairman, Spices Board, Cochin. Member

President, Seafood Exporters' Association, Cochin. Member

Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, Madras. Member

Liaison Offices of Foreign Insurance Companies in India

4380. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted four foreign Insurance Companies to open their Liaison Offices in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the terms and conditions set up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded permission to Zurich Insurance Co., Switzerland, Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Ltd., Japan, Cigna International Corporation, U.S.A. and Allianz Holding, Germany to open their liaison offices in India. Some of the important conditions imposed by RBI are -

(i) The Liaison office will be permitted initially only for a period of three years for undertaking solely liaison activities viz. to act as a communication channel between Head Office and parties in India;

(ii) they would not be permitted to write any insurance business in India;

- (iii) Except the proposed liaison work, the office in India will not undertake any other activity of a trading commercial or industrial nature nor shall it enter into any business contracts in its own name without prior permission of RBI.
- (iv) No commission/fees will be charged or any other remuneration received/income earned by the office in India for the liaison activities/ services rendered by it or otherwise in India.
- (v) The entire expenses of the office in India will be met exclusively out of the funds received from abroad through normal banking channels.
- (vi) The office in India shall not acquire, hold, (otherwise than by way of lease for a period not exceeding five years) transfer or dispose of any immovable property in India without obtaining prior permission of the RBI under Section 31 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.
- (vii) They will furnish an annual report of the work done by the office in India, stating therein the details of actual export or import, if any, effected during period in respect of which the office had rendered liaison services.
- (viii) The Liaison office will not render any consultancy or any other services directly/ indirectly with or without any consideration.

Balance of Payment with Thailand

4381. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thailand is the fifteenth largest market for Indian items.

(b) if so, the value of export and import made by the two countries during the previous years;

(c) whether there is a gap in regard to export and import made between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. As per the statistics available with the DGCI&S, Thailand ranked 16th amongst the countries importing goods from India during 1995-96.

(b) The details of bilateral trade between the two countries during 1995-96 are as under :

(Value in Million US \$)

Export	Import	Total	Trade	Balance of Trade
474.31	168.29	642.60		(-) 306.02

(c) and (d). Since India is having favourable balance of trade with Thailand, no specific steps are contemplated to reduce the trade gap. However, various measures have been taken to boost the bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meetings of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries, exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in free flow of trade.

[Translation]

Textile Designing Exhibition

4382. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Textile Designing Exhibition has been organised in Maharashtra during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the orders received through such exhibitions;

(d) whether the Government propose to hold more such exhibitions in the State in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (e). In January 1995 and February 1996, two textiles fairs named "TEX-STYLES INDIA", had been organised in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

There were 324 and 350 participants in "TEX-STYLES INDIA" 1995 and 1996, respectively. Order worth Rs. 39.1 crores and Rs. 210 crores respectively had reportedly been booked during these fairs.

At present, there is no proposal to hold a textile fair in Maharashtra.

[English]

Duty Evasion by Multinational Companies

4383. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of duty evasion by some of the multinational companies have been noticed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two year alongwith the amount involved therein and the details of such multinational companies;

(c) whether the Government have ordered probe into the affairs of some multinational companies for alleged evasion of customs duty and violation of the provisions of customs duty;

(d) if so, the details of such companies and the cases registered against each of them and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the cases of duty evasion by multinational companies?

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

Nomination of Board of Stock Exchanges by Seds

4384. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the criteria adopted by SEBI in nominating Public Representatives (PRs) on Board of various Stock Exchanges particularly during the last three years, year-wise and exchange-wise;

(b) the details of the Public Representatives forwarded by Gauhati Stock Exchange to Securities and Exchange Board of India for nomination on its Board during the above period;

(c) the details of contribution made by said PRs in affairs/activities of GSE during the above period, year-wise;

(d) the details of Board member of GSE representing SEBI, State Governments within its jurisdiction and other

Government controlled bodies/institutions during the above period, year-wise and

(e) the details of contribution made by the above Board members in GSE's activities/affairs during the above period, year-wise and member-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) SEBI has been giving approval for Public Representatives in the Government Bodies of various Stock Exchanges on the criteria of suitability of the persons for holding such a position on the basis of their professional, academic and administrative experience and qualifications.

(b) and (c). SEBI commenced giving approvals for nomination of Public Representatives from the year 1994-95. Accordingly, the required information for the past two years viz. 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given in Statement-I. The Public Representatives have generally contributed towards the development of the Exchange through their participation in the meetings of the Governing Body.

(d) and (e). The names of the nominees of the Government/SEBI on the Governing Body of the Exchange during the last three years are given in Statement-II. These officials have also contributed to the development of the Exchange through participating in the meetings of the Governing Body of the Exchange. Generally, the decisions taken at such meetings are a result of the deliberations of the members of the Governing Body as a whole and it is not feasible to quantify the contributions made member-wise.

STATEMENT-I

Year	Name of persons forwarded by Gauhati Stock Exchange to SEBI	Background of the persons	Names approved by SEBI
1995-96	Shri J.N. Hazarika	Retired IAS Officer	Shri J.N. Hazarika
	Shri R.N. Singh	Industrialist	Shri R.N. Singh
	Dr. P. Bharali	Ph.D/Consultant	Shri A.K. Saikia
	Shri A.K. Saikia	Retired IAS Officer	
	Shri R.N. Choudhari	Retired Principal	
	Shri Atul Kr. Kedia	Chartered Accountant/ Company Secretary	
	Shri Santosh Kr. Jain	Chartered Accountant	
	Shri M.C. Jalan	Industrialist	
1994-95	Shri J.N. Hazarika	Retired IAS Officer	Shri J.N. Hazarika
	Shri Ramesh Goenka	Tax Consultant	Dr. P. Bharali
	Dr. P. Bharali	Ph.D/Consultant	Shri R.N. Singh
	Dr. P.K. Jain	Ph.D/Lecturer	
	Shri P.K. Saraf	Company Secretary	
	Shri R.N. Singh	Industrialist	

STATEMENT-II

Year	Name
1995-96	(1) Shri N. Dasgupta, Regional Manager, SEBI.
	(2) Shri C.R. Das, Regional Director, Department of Company Affairs, Calcutta
	(3) Shri M.K. Barua, Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC)
1994-95	(1) Shri N. Dasgupta, Regional Manager, SEBI
	(2) Shri C.R. Das, Regional Director, Department of Company Affairs, Calcutta.
	(3) Shri J.N. Sarma, Managing Director, AIDC
1993-94	(1) Shri N. Dasgupta, Regional Manager, SEBI
	(2) Shri C.R. Das, Regional Director, Department of Company Affairs, Calcutta.

Restriction on Mutual Fund

4385. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has imposed restriction upon the Mutual Funds of the companies including the Unit Trust of India not to float any right or bonus issues till it is decided that these issues are in the interest of the investors, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). SEBI has stated that it has taken a decision to permit rights issues for closed-ended schemes subject to the condition that the unit holders be given repurchase facility at NAV related prices. The repurchase facility is expected to protect the interests of investors.

Demand of Salt

4386. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the demand of Indian Salt in the countries like Japan, Phillippines, Singapore, etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase production of salt in the country particularly in Tuticorin and coastal area of Chengal Pattu District of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been increase in the export of salt to Japan and Phillippines. However, no definite trend is available from other countries

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Government to increase salt production in the country:

(i) New areas are being identified for salt manufacture;

(ii) Salt manufacturers are being impressed upon to bring undeveloped areas under salt cultivation;

(iii) To improve productivity, guidance is given to salt manufacturers to relay salt works on scientific lines;

Production of salt in Tuticorin & Chengal Pattu area has almost reached its optimum potential. However, some new areas have been identified which are under the process for settlement for salt cultivation.

Small Scale Industries

4387. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether SSIs have identified shortage of power, inadequate demand, inconsistent Government policies, inadequate credit, high cost of raw materials and shortage of skilled manpower as constraints operating for growth in output;

(b) if so, whether these constraints have been listed in the Confederation of Indian Industry's 11th business outlook survey on small industry for the period October, 1996 to March 1997;

(c) if so, the coverage of survey conducted; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to help the Small Scale industries in regard to above shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Small Scale Industry Associations in general, in their representations to the Government have been stating shortage of power, inadequate demand, inconsistent Government policies, inadequate credit, high cost of raw materials and shortage of skilled manpower as constraints for growth in output.

(b) Some of these constraints like inadequate demand/lack of orders, inconsistent Government policies, shortage of skilled manpower, lack of credit have been listed in Confederation of Indian Industry's 11th business outlook survey on small industry for the period October, 1996 to March, 1997.

(c) The 11th Survey of Confederation of Indian Industry covers 400 small industry units engaged in industrial activities like metal products, transport equipment, electrical machinery, electronics, non-metallic components, auto parts, etc., located all over the country.

(d) Steps are taken by Government to overcome the above shortcomings as given below :-

- (i) Priority Sector lending for SSI Sector.
- (ii) Issue of guidelines by Reserve Bank of India on Nayak Committee recommendations to improve the flow of credit to SSI sector and also monitoring of seven Point Action Plan announced in 1995-96 for this purpose.
- (iii) Fiscal concessions in the form of excise duty exemption and other concessions.
- (iv) Reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector.
- (v) Price and purchase preference to products manufactured by small scale industries.
- (vi) Provision of support services in the form of testing facilities, tool rooms, training, entrepreneurship development programme, infrastructural development etc. through nation-wide network.
- (vii) Facilities/incentives made available by State/ U.T. Governments in the form of provision of developed plots, sheds, fiscal concessions, etc.

[Translation]

IDBI Loan to the Industries of U.P. and Rajasthan

4388. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Industrial Development Bank of India from the entrepreneurs of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years. State-wise;

(b) the number of applications accepted and rejected out of them;

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided by IDBI to the industries of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years. State-wise; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government for removing the industrial backwardness of these States.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The details of applications received, sanctioned and rejected under direct finance schemes of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :

Year	Uttar Pradesh			Rajasthan		
	Applications received	Applications sanctioned	Applications rejected/ withdrawn/ closed	Applications received	Applications sanctioned	Applications rejected/ withdrawn/ closed
1993-94	99	78	12	90	67	18
1994-95	154	127	13	137	108	18
1995-96	134	75	9	138	79	25

(c) The amount of financial assistance disbursed to the industries by IDBI under direct finance schemes in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under :

(Rs. crores)

Year	Uttar Pradesh	Rajasthan
1993-94	405.07	356.78
1994-95	646.66	454.73
1995-96	742.15	418.14

(d) IDBI has reported that the decision to locate a project in a particular state/region vests with the

promoters who in turn are guided by the availability of infrastructure, raw materials, skilled labour, proximity of the location to the market for their products and incentives from State Government. IDBI looks to the location from the angle of its suitability for the project. All financially, economically, commercially viable, technically feasible and socially desirable projects are supported by IDBI irrespective of their location.

In addition to extending financial assistance, IDBI alongwith other Financial Institutions undertakes promotional and developmental activities such as providing technical consultancy services, conducting research and special studies, assistance to voluntary agencies and conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programmes.

[English]

Supply of Drinking Water

4389. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to coal mines, the ground water level in the adjoining areas is going low causing acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to supply sufficient potable water to the coalleries, the quarters of employees of subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and adjoining villages of coal mines; and

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No direct link has been established between the mining activity and lowering down of ground water level and consequent shortage of drinking water.

(b) All the subsidiary companies under CIL have got their own water supply scheme including supply of drinking water. Subsidiary companies are also participating in certain water supply schemes mooted by respective State Governments augmenting supply to employees and also to adjoining villages of coal mines.

(c) An amount of Rs. 3051.73 lakhs have been earmarked for the purpose of water supply by the subsidiary companies of CIL.

Coastal Regulation Zone Rules.

4390. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Coastal Regulations Zone Rules in the near future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have invited the views of the State Governments suggesting amendments in the existing rules; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d). Some State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have represented/made suggestions regarding implementation of some provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. The major issues raised by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations will be looked into by experts. No decision has been taken to amend the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

Customer Service in S.B.I.

4391. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the customer service in several branches of the State Bank of India in Delhi particularly in the South Extension has been very much unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to recruit necessary new staff, fill up the vacancies and to improve the customer service?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that customer service in their branches by and large is good. However, it is bank's endeavour always to serve the customers better. Whenever a complaint is received, the complainant is contacted by the bank and efforts are made to resolve the matter to his satisfaction.

At present there are two branches of State Bank of India in South Extension. The bank has confirmed that during the recent past there has been no untoward incident/instances of customers displeasure in these two branches.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) SBI have reported that the staff provided at the above two branches is adequate vis-a-vis business volume.

Trade Fairs

4392. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trade fairs organised in Delhi by India Trade Promotion Organisation during each of the last three years;

(b) the total value of trade transacted with various countries during each of the last three years and in 1996, till-date;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise more trade fairs with a view to promote the small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be earned from these trade fairs during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of trade fairs organised by ITPO in Delhi during the last 3 years are given below :

1993-94	-	8 fairs
1994-95	-	10 fairs
1995-96	-	14 fairs

The product profile of fairs were water treatment plants, irrigation system, household consumer products, decorative handicrafts, home textiles, security equipment and devices, shoes and accessories, engineering products, electricals & electronics, agricultural and food products, textile fabrics, ready-made garments, toys etc.

(b) The business which is transacted in the fairs organised by ITPO is both for domestic and export purposes. Based on the information received from the participants, the details of the business generated during the last three years and upto November 1996 are given below :

1993-94	-	Rs. 372.27 crores
1994-95	-	Rs. 886.44 crores
1995-96	-	Rs. 1190.24 crores
1996-97	-	Rs. 592.75 crores

(upto Nov. '96)

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government will promote more and more fairs. ITPO will organise 10 and 11 fairs in 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively in Pragati Maidan. It is expected that Rs. 19.63 crores and Rs. 19.42 crores approximately will be earned during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. The majority of participation in all these fairs will be by the entrepreneurs in small scale sector.

Mining Guidelines

4393. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate new mining guidelines on the lines of mining guidelines of China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from Ministry of Mines, Government of India, there is no proposal to formulate new mining guidelines on the lines of the mining guidelines of China. The Ministry of Coal, Government of India, do not also propose to formulate any new coal mining guidelines on the lines of mining guidelines of China.

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

Projects behind Schedule

4394. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of coal projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the number of such projects and the reasons for not completing them on schedule;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete them on time; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As on 30.9.1996, out of 65 coal projects each costing Rs. 20 crores and above under implementation in Coal India Limited (CIL) & Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), 13 are behind schedule in implementation. Reasons of delay inter alia include constraints in land acquisition and related rehabilitation problems, delay in equipment supply and turn-key execution, adverse geo-mining conditions and fund constraints.

(c) The Ministry of Coal is monitoring the implementation of these delayed projects. The Ministry and coal companies follow-up with the concerned State Governments in expediting pending land cases and also with equipment manufacturers in ensuring early supply/commissioning of equipment, for providing adequate funds for the on-going projects, coal companies have taken steps to mobilise resources through internal generation, Suppliers' Credit and external borrowings.

(d) With the steps taken as indicated in part (c) of the answer above, the number of delayed projects in the coal sector is showing a declining trend. The percentage of delayed projects as on 30.9.1995 was 28.7%, this has come down to 20% as on 30.9.1996.

Frauds by Finance Companies

4395. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered chit and finance companies in Tamil Nadu under bank guarantees as on date;

(b) the number of financial companies that are declared insolvent or wound up during the last three years;

(c) the number of frauds of various finance companies detected during the last three years; and

(d) the action being contemplated to prevent such malpractices by finance companies in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As on 31st July, 1996, there were 118 Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in Tamil Nadu, which had been registered with RBI. Chit Companies, which are categorised as Miscellaneous Non-Banking Finance Companies, are not registered with RBI. Finance Companies/Chit Companies are not covered under any bank guarantee.

(b) RBI's data reporting system does not generate this information. However, as per information available

with RBI, a provisional liquidator had been appointed by the Madras High Court for the Madras Motor Finance & Guarantee Company Ltd. on an application made by the Bank of India Finance Ltd.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has not prescribed any reporting system for frauds by finance companies.

(d) Any irregularities noticed during inspections are followed up and action is taken as per law.

Complaints of Custom Officials

4396 SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some complaints regarding harassment of foreign diplomats by the customs officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport have been received by the Government;

(b) if so the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, so far; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received a letter from the Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs in November, 1995 to the effect that some foreign missions had reported non-cooperative behaviour by customs officials posted at Indira Gandhi International Airport. The main complaint was that the diplomats who were holding photo identity cards issued by the Airport Security were not allowed to enter the customs area meant for arrival of passengers.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs got the matter verified and restored the said facilities. There has been no further incidence of this nature.

World Trade Organisation meet in Singapore

4397 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India was isolated at the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting in Singapore on the issue of giving equal treatment to the multinational companies;

(b) if so, the stand taken by India at the meeting; and

(c) the consensus that emerged from the deliberations of the WTO meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). There was no specific proposal under consideration at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Singapore for giving equal treatment to the multinational companies.

However, during the Singapore Ministerial Conference and in the preparatory process leading to

the Conference, some developed countries had proposed the inclusion of discussion on a multilateral agreement on investment in the WTO. India had strongly opposed this proposal maintaining that a separate discussion on this issue was not necessary as Article 9 of the Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) provides for a review of the operation of this Agreement not later than the year 1999, in the course of which review it shall be considered whether the Agreement should be complemented with provisions on investment policy and competition policy. India's concern in this area was fully taken on board, and it was agreed that two Working Groups will be established, one to examine the relationship between trade and investment, and the other between trade and competition policy including anti-competitive practices, having regard to the existing WTO provisions, including under the TRIMs Agreements.

[Translation]

Unsettled Claims Pending in PSUs

4398 SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, the details of such pending claims for over 1 year to 2 years, 2 to 3 years, 3 to 5 years and 5 years and above and the total amount involved in unsettled claims and the number of cases referred for Arbitration, undertaking-wise;

(c) the details of cases settled, years-wise and undertaking-wise; and

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

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

Export of Horticulture Items

4399 SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the India's share in the world trade of horticulture products;

(b) the total quantity of horticulture products exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the private sector has desired to invest in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received any foreign assistance for the development of horticulture;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of horticulture products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India's share in the world trade of fresh horticultural products during 1994 was 0.81%.

(Source : FAO Year Book, 1994)

(b) The quantity and value of fresh horticultural products exported during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as follows :-

		Qty. : In MTS	Value : Rs. in Crores
		Fresh fruits & vegetables	Floriculture & Seeds
1993-94	(Quantity)	475332	NA*
	(Value)	385.43	43.34
1994-95	(Quantity)	554546	NA*
	(Value)	433.27	55.61
1995-96	(Quantity)	544105	NA*
	(Value)	531.16	103.22

(Source DGCI&S, Calcutta)

* Details of quantity are not maintained as flowers are exported by numbers.

(c) and (d). 66 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 43.85 crores have been approved by the Government during the years 1991 to 1996 (upto 30th September).

(e) and (f). A Project titled "UNDP Project on Floriculture" is being implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) with an assistance of US \$ 6 lakhs from UNDP for enhancing the production and productivity of floriculture items.

A pilot Vapour Heat, Treatment plant has been set up in New Delhi with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency to develop a processing system enabling export of perishable products to Japan.

(g) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of horticulture products include :-

(i) Supply of quality planting material and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction

platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(v) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product;

(vi) Implementation of a project titled "UNDP Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and productivity of floriculture products.

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns, buyer-seller meets and participation in fairs/exhibitions.

(viii) Air freight subsidy for selected floricultural, horticultural and fresh vegetables.

[English]

Decline in Production

4400. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entry of multinationals have attributed to slow down in industrial production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Export-Import Growth

4401. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import has registered a growth during April-October, 1996 after hovering at lower levels in comparison to the last three years;

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

(c) whether the export growth has picked up during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the rate of export growth during 1996-97 in comparison to the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the export target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). As per provisional data received from DGCI&S for October 1996, imports (in dollar terms) during April-October 1996 were valued at US \$ 21183.51 million, which is 6.42% higher than the level of imports valued at US \$ 19905.40 million in April-October 1995. It is noticed that oil imports during April-October 1996 valued at US \$ 5226.04 million were 42.96% higher than oil imports valued at US \$ 3655.67 million in April-October 1995.

Export in dollar terms, during April-October 1996 were valued at US \$ 18908.24 million representing 9.91% growth over the level in April-October 1995.

Details of value of imports & exports together with the growth rates are given in the Statement attached.

(e) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade relations debottlenecking of export infrastructure etc. Government also has periodic consultations with the trade and industry and export promotional organisations.

STATEMENT

Imports & Exports : 1996-97 (Provisional)

Adjusted for late returns received upto September end of respective years

(US \$ Million)

	April	Apr-May	Apr-June	Apr-Jul	Apr-Aug	Apr-Sep	Apr-Oct
Imports (E)							
1993-94	1725.09	3465.17	5428.61	7354.08	8947.64	10791.59	12700.17
1994-95	1958.60	3883.02	5811.53	8081.84	10411.64	12851.06	15215.22
1995-96	2259.87	5091.00	7991.70	11250.20	14278.39	17065.32	19905.40
1996-97	2980.64	6281.90	9146.27	11920.04	14948.70	17952.93	21183.51
% Growth during 93-94	-3.61	-4.05	-2.66	-2.72	-3.74	-3.39	-0.91
% Growth during 94-95	13.54	12.06	7.05	9.90	16.36	19.08	19.80
% Growth during 95-96	15.38	31.11	37.51	39.20	37.14	32.79	30.83
% Growth during 96-97	31.89	23.39	14.45	5.95	4.69	5.20	6.42
Exports (E)							
1993-94	1765.56	3458.58	5127.12	6916.09	8693.03	10351.11	12131.08
1994-95	1988.12	3792.78	5613.59	7488.05	9613.11	11620.62	13820.32
1995-96	2466.87	4815.49	7167.50	9724.31	12302.15	14684.61	17203.94
1996-97	2805.09	5510.36	8212.87	10837.73	13507.49	16139.76	18908.24
% Growth during 93-94	28.90	29.69	27.76	27.19	24.30	21.08	20.19
% Growth during 94-95	12.61	9.66	9.49	8.27	10.58	12.26	13.92
% Growth during 95-96	24.08	26.96	27.68	29.86	27.97	26.37	24.48
% Growth during 96-97	13.71	14.43	14.58	11.45	9.80	9.91	9.91

Source DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Alternative Finance Mechanism

4402. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suggested any "alternative finance mechanism" to end the four-decade-old system of monetisation of deficit through ad hoc treasury bills from next fiscal year;

(b) if so, the salient features of the detailed projection of the alternative arrangement submitted by the RBI; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). An agreement was signed on 1 September, 1994 between Government of India and RBI to gradually phase out the system of borrowing

by the Government from the latter through issue of ad hoc treasury bills by 1996-97. An alternative system is under consideration of the Government in consultation with the RBI.

Counter-Guarantee to Power Projects

4403. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give sovereign counter-guarantee to eight fast track power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the amount of investment involved in these power projects as on date;

(c) the component of foreign loans involved besides the total amount of investment in these power projects and the details of foreign multilateral and bilateral agencies providing the foreign loans, project-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the amount of foreign loans liability involved in the grant of sovereign counter-guarantee given by the Government in all projects, both in public and private sector, during each of the last three years both in Indian currency and foreign currency, separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government of India has agreed to extend counter-guarantee to State-Guarantee for State Electricity Board's, payment obligations to generating companies in respect of the following eight CCFI approved private power projects cleared from foreign investment angle :

S. No.	Name of Projects/ states	Capacity (MW)	Latest Provisional Completion Cost (Rs. cr.)
1.	Godavari GBPP/ Andhra Pradesh	208	748.43
2.	Jegurupadu GBPP/ Andhra Pradesh	216	816.00
3.	Vishakapatnam TPS/ Andhra Pradesh	1040	4797.00
4.	Dabhol TPS (Ph-I)/ Maharashtra	740	2912.00
5.	Ib Valley TPS/ Orissa	420	1993.63
6.	Zero Unit NLC/ Tamil Nadu	250	1200.00
7.	Mengalore TPS/ Karnataka	1000	3948.35
8.	Shadravati TPS/ Maharashtra	1082	4362.00

(c) The component of foreign loans involved in these power projects and the details of foreign multilateral and bilateral agencies providing the foreign loans, project-wise and year-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Record of all guarantees where for internal or external borrowings is maintained only in Indian Rupee, the details of which are published in Annexure 5 of Expenditure Budget Vol. I for information of Parliament as also in the Detailed demand for Grants of each Ministry. The Guarantee for external borrowings is to be converted into Indian Rupee on the basis of prevailing exchange rate on the date of assessment of outstanding guarantee. Accordingly, the details of total outstanding guarantees, for external and internal borrowings, for last 3 years are as follows :

Sums guaranteed by the Central Government and outstanding

(In Rs crore)

As on 31.3.93	58087.86
As on 31.3.94	62833.96
As on 31.3.95	62467.86

STATEMENT

Details of External Commercial Borrowings approved in case of Fast Track Power Projects

Name of the Project	Amount	Lender
1. GVK Industries	USD 30 mn	IFC (W)
	DM 65 mn	IFC (W)
	DM 16 mn	NIL
2. Spectrum Power Corp Ltd.	GDP 50 298 mn	ANZ Banking Group Ltd
3. AES IB Valley Corp	USD 20 50 mn	IFC (W)
	USD 55 mn	DPI
	USD 242 50 mn	US Ixim
	USD 22 mn	ADP
4. Dabhol Power Corp.	USD 298.2 mn	US Exim
	USD 100 mn	OPT
	USD 150 mn	DA & ABN Amro Bank
5. ST-CMS Electric Co. Ltd.	USD 126.0 mn	Layerrischa Landesbank
		Bank Austria AG
	DM 81.3 mn	

Note : ECB approvals in case of AES IB valley Corporation and STECMS Electric Company Limited have lapsed
OPCI : Overseas Private Investment Corporation
NIB : Nordic Investment Bank

Purchase of Cashew for Export

4404. SHRI MULLAPPLALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made

any request to the Union Government to purchase cashew kernal from Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation for export purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Explosive Units

4405. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the statewide details of the total number of explosives manufacturing Units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : The state-wise distribution of the explosives manufacturing units (other than fire works manufacturing units) in the country is as follows :-

State	No. of Units
Andhra Pradesh	11
Bihar	5
Haryana	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	2
Madhya Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	15
Orissa	8
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	5
West Bengal	1
Total	66

Securities Scam

4406. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far and the present status of investigation/enquiries conducted in regard to the Security Scam;

(b) the names of foreign as well as Indian banks reported to have been involved in the Scam;

(c) the quantum of money that has been recovered so far; and

(d) the details of obstacles coming in the way of the recovery?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that so far 70 banks scam related cases have been registered out of which chargesheets have been filed in 33 cases and 18 cases are under various stages of investigation. The remaining cases have been disposed off by recommending department action/action as deemed fit by the concerned bank etc.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had imposed penalties/withdrew exemption given from maintenance of 10% incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) in respect of 37 banks namely, State Bank of India, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Saurashtra, State Bank of Hyderabad, State bank of Mysore, Allahabad Bank, Andhra Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, Syndicate Bank, UCO Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of Madras Ltd., Federal Bank Ltd., Karur Vysys Bank Ltd., Lord Krishna Bank., Nedungadi Bank Ltd., Karnataka Bank Ltd., Vysya Bank Ltd., ANZ Grindlays Bank plc., Citi Bank N.A., Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank, bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, Banque Indosuez, Deutsche Bank, American Express Bank Ltd., Banque Nationale De Paris, British Bank of the Middle East, ABN Amro Bank N.V. and Oman International Bank S.A.

(c) and (d). As per the information available as on 31.7.1996, total approximate value of properties of notified persons attached under the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 amounted to Rs. 2674 crores. The properties attached are to be disposed in accordance with the priorities laid down in the said Act by the order of the Special Court. Some of the provisions of the Act including the order of priorities laid down have been challenged in Courts.

[Translation]

Indo-US Alliance Meeting

4407. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 19, 1996 under the caption "Indo-US Alliance extended";

(b) whether India is aiming at capital formation of about 30 per cent of gross domestic product which is higher than the domestic savings rate of about 24 per cent;

(c) whether US ambassador in India has felt that US would like greater Patent protection in India;

(d) if so, the details of other issues discussed and the outcome thereof alongwith the officials agencies/ industrial sectors participated in the above meeting; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to meet the Indo-US alliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e). The Term of the Indo-US Alliance has been extended by two years for the period from January 16th, 1997 to January 15th, 1999. The Agreement for this was signed between the two Governments on October 16, 1996 in Washington DC at the Board Meeting of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance.

The Alliance encompasses trade associations as well as large & small businesses and provides a general frame work for increased inter-action in various sectors between private sector enterprises of both the countries for expanding trade & commercial ties. The Alliance is presently focussing on four sectors, namely, information technology, transportation and infrastructure, agri-business and power. The Board has agreed to consider including environmental technologies as an additional focus sector and also give additional emphasis to small and medium sized businesses. The Alliance is likely to further consolidate its achievements and build on new synergies between the India and US businesses for expanded, mutually-beneficial commercial linkages.

[English]

Electronic Data Interchange

4408. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Electronic Data Interchange has been installed at Delhi Customs House for the efficient working of export business by the exporters;

(b) if so, whether the paper work load of exporters has been reduced to some extent with the installation of this system;

(c) if not, the efforts being made by the Government to make the system more efficient and to reduce the paper work load of exporters;

(d) whether Government propose to install more Electronic Data Interchange at other major Custom Houses in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). Customs clearance procedure of exports under this system has resulted in reduced paper work.

The working of the procedure is reviewed on on-going basis to effect improvements.

(d) and (e). Government proposes to extend the system to other Custom Houses and Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Kandla, Nhava Sheva, Vishakapatnam, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin, Goa, Tuticorin, Mangalore, Ahmedabad and the process will be completed by the end of 1997.

Hike in Wages of Sick PSUs

4409. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has recommended that wage hikes for executives and non unionised supervisors be allowed for public sector units which are under the BIFR;

(b) if so, whether the Govt. have considered the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). As per the extant guidelines on pay revision, w.e.f. 1.1.92, it is stipulated tht for sick enterprises registered with BIFR, pay revision and grant of other benefits will be allowed only if it is decided to revive the unit. The revival package should include the enhanced liability on this account. This matter, however, is under review.

Loan from ADB

4410. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received the Loan from the Asian Development Bank at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the mode of repayment of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government has not received any loan assistance from ADB on concessional terms;

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

I.M.F. and W.B. Loan to India

4411. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans drawn by India from IMF and World Bank and other foreign financial institutions as on date;

(b) the mode of repayment of these loans;

(c) the rate of interest which India is paying to both these agencies; and

(d) the terms and conditions on which these loans are sanctioned to our country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The amount of loans drawn by India from IMF, World Bank and other foreign financial institutions as on 31st October, 1996 is as follows :-

Institution	Currency	Amount drawn upto 30.10.96 (in millions)
Government A/c		
1. IMF	SDR	9988
2. IBRD	US Dollar	11678
3. IDA	US Dollar	18332
4. ADB	US Dollar	1786
5. OPEC	US Dollar	172
6. IFAD	SDR	166
Non-Government A/c		
1. IBRD	US Dollar	3224
2. ADB	US Dollar	969

(b) to (d). The terms and conditions including mode of repayment and the rate of interest of these loan is as follows :-

The IMF loan is available to its member countries who are facing balance of payment crisis. It is available under different facilities at variable repayment period ranging between 4 to 10 years including 2 to 4 years grace period. Interest rate of IMF loan is variable, currently it is 4.36%, calculated on the outstanding loan.

IBRD loans are repayable in 20 years, inclusive of 5 years grace period. The interest rate is variable and is revised semi-annually. The current rate of interest is 6.94% per annum. The commitment charge on undisbursed balance at present is 0.75%. A rebate of 0.5% is however, permitted for timely repayment of loans.

IDA credits are repayable in 25 years, inclusive of 10 years grace period. These credits carry no interest charges but a service charge of 0.75% per annum is levied on the disbursed portion of credit. Commitment charge on undisbursed balances are fixed every year upto a maximum of 0.5%. However, for the last few years IDA has been waiving commitment charges.

ADB loans are repayable in 25 years, inclusive of 5 years grace period. The interest rate is variable and the applicable rate for the period from 1.7.96 to 31.12.96 is 6% per annum.

OPEC loans are repayable in 20 years including 5 years grace period and have an interest rate of 2% per annum.

IFAD loans are repayable in 50 years inclusive of 10 years grace period. Interest rate of 1% per annum is leviable on IFAD loans.

Customs Houses

4412. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of customs Houses set up in the country, so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some new air customs Houses in the country; and

(c) if so, the places identified therefor in the country specially in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are four major Custom Houses at Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Cochin and Seven Commissionerates at Bangalore, Mumbai Airport, Delhi, Goa, New Kandla, Nhava Sheva (JNPT) and Visakhapatnam apart from other Customs (Preventive) Commissionerates.

(b) There are no separate Air Custom Houses in the country, as such.

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

Export of Spices

4413. SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of spices particularly cardamom, clove, ginger, garlic, papper and turmeric exported during each of the last three years and in the first six months of the current financial year in comparison to the corresponding period of 1995;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of the above spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The details of export of spices (quantity and value) during the last three years and upto September, 96 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Apart from the trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance the export of spices include, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine); saffron, cardamom, spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in international markets; sponsoring trade delegations abroad; inviting overseas

buyers for inter-action with exporters; participation in trade fairs; awarding of logo/Spice House Certificates in recognition of maintenance of quality; assistance for

setting up quality testing laboratories; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development facility.

STATEMENT

Export of spices from India

Item	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96(P)		
	Qty. (M.T.)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	(MILN US \$)	Qty. (M.T.)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	(MILN US \$)	Qty. (M.T.)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	(MILN US \$)
Total Spices	182.336	57144.01	102.57	155.008	62010.53	197.86	202.197	78589.09	235.86
Pepper	48.743	10909.67	60.41	37.264	23664.19	75.51	26.346	19647.09	58.96
Cardamom (Small)	387	1454.83	4.65	257	762.61	2.43	500	1239.55	3.72
Cardamom (Large)	1.797	1256.96	4.02	1.293	812.74	2.59	1.784	1234.95	3.71
Ginger	18.442	2478.12	7.92	12.022	1673.03	5.34	18.191	3828.73	11.49
Turmeric	25.436	5256.00	16.79	28.286	4517.96	14.42	27.376	4607.07	13.83
Garlic	2.845	354.89	1.13	633	122.87	0.39	3.776	490.03	1.47
Cloves	14	5.62	0.02	36	11.07	0.04	Neg.	0.56	Neg.

(P) Provisional

Source : DSCI&S, Calcutta/Shipping Bills/Exporters Returns

Export of Spices from India during Apr-Sep 1996 compared to Apr-Sep 1995

Item	Apr-Sep 96 (E)			Apr-Sep 95 (P)		
	Qty. (M.T.)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	(MILN US \$)	Qty. (M.T.)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)	(MILN US\$)
Total Spices	103.767	46570.75	132.47	91.263	32889.05	104.01
Pepper	18.000	13666.40	38.88	10.722	7962.13	25.37
Cardamom (Small)	47	117.85	0.33	51	153.91	0.48
Cardamom (Large)	640	440.05	1.26	538	365.39	1.18
Ginger	8.900	1544.20	4.38	5.144	927.08	2.95
Turmeric	10.000	2391.25	6.82	11.868	1975.73	6.29
Garlic	1.475	184.45	0.52	2.017	211.99	0.68
Cloves	1.05	0.69	0.0020	0.10	0.22	0.0007

(P) Provisional

Source : DSCI&S, Calcutta/Shipping Bills/Exporters Returns

Import of Gold

4414. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow higher imports of gold against special licences; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). In the EXIM Policy, some categories of exporters have been given an incentive in the form of Special Import Licence which is freely

transferable and is valid for the import of certain specified items including gold. There is no quantity restriction as regards import of gold under Special Import Licence.

Outstanding Dues Against Private Airlines

4415. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private airlines have to pay over Rs.37 crores by way of inland air travel tax and airport charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of such huge amount against private airlines; and

(d) the steps taken to recover these outstanding dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The private airlines owe to the Government an amount of Rs.24 79 crores against dues of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) including interest thereon and penalties imposed for failure to pay in time. The private airlines also owe to the Government an amount of Rs.23 46 crores towards Airport Charges payable to the Airport Authority of India.

(c) and (d) The airlines which do not make payment during the stipulated period are served with a show cause notice for nonpayment of the dues. Adjudication of such show cause notices is a quasi-judicial function and takes time to complete. Moreover, private airlines often dispute the demands in the courts and, therefore, collection is delayed.

For recovery of dues, action is initiated by detaining aircrafts of the defaulting carrier to realise the dues. The Collector of the District in which the property of the defaulter is situated is also approached to recover the tax, penalty and interest from the defaulting carriers in accordance with the law.

Inquiry Against Cosmetic Companies Under MRTPC

4416. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued notices of inquiry on cosmetics companies for indulging in monopolistic trade practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of charges levelled against these companies; and

(d) the outcome of the investigations and the action taken against these companies by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The MRTPC Commission have issued Notices of Enquiry to M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited, M/s. Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited, M/s. Godrej Soaps Limited, M/s. Ponds India Limited and M/s. Lakme Limited for allegedly indulging in monopolistic trade practices and restrictive trade practices mainly by effecting unreasonable increase in prices of their products.

The MRTPC Commission is a quasi-judicial body and will take further necessary action under the provisions of the MRTPC Act, 1969.

[Translation]

Export of Agricultural Items

4417. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export wheat for good quality like 'Durm' and edible oils during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government have fixed minimum quantity and export price for the export of such items;

(c) if so, the details thereof, item-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from the foreign investors and Non-Resident Indians regarding investment in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLI BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). A quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh MTs of durum wheat without minimum export price restriction has been released for exports the year 1996-97. As per the entry at S.No. 24(i) of Para 159 of the Export-Import Policy, 1992-97, the export of specified variety of vegetable oils is subject to export licences issued in this behalf. However, export of these vegetable oils when exported in consumer packs upto 5 Kgs. is permitted without any restriction. The export of groundnut oil is subject to licensing whether exported in consumer packs upto 5 Kgs. or otherwise.

(d) to (f). 27 proposals with foreign direct investment of Rs.47.79 Crores (24 with financial collaboration and 3 with technical collaboration) have been approved during the period 01.08.1991 to 30.09.1996. One case for investment in this sector is under consideration of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

[English]

House Building/Conveyance Allowance

4418. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been under utilisation of budgetary provisions of loans to Government servants for house building and conveyance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternatives being contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). There has been under utilisation of budgetary provisions for loans to

Government servants for house building and conveyance due to less number of applications for loans than anticipated. The these loans will be impressed upon various Ministries/Departments.

Stock Market

4419. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that allowing the bankers as participants of depository, is likely to curtail the participation of the Stock Brokers in the Stock market as it is not possible for them to compete with the Bankers;

(b) whether the SEBI proposes to concentrate the business only in a few hands; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 1996 allow a broker to be a participant of the Depository subject to fulfilment of the requirements specified under the Regulations. Transactions on Stock Exchanges will continue to be through brokers who are members of the Stock Exchanges.

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

Foreign Investment

4420. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn any scheme for economic reform process to attract foreign investment in the country in order to boost employment.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have invited any suggestions from the trade and industry in this regard;

(d) if so, the detail thereof; and

(e) the future programme so envisaged by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is constantly kept under review with the objective of increasing FDI into the country, particularly in the priority sectors which can change from time to time depending on considerations such as promotion of exports, creation of more employment opportunities, backward linkages with the farm sector, etc. The Central Government has recently revamped the FDI Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. In addition, the Government has set up a Foreign Investment Promotion

council (FIPC) comprising of distinguished and well known experts who will catalyse, manage and coordinate investment promotion and marketing efforts. The FIPC, among others, includes the apex industry associations as Members. Consultations are held with apex Trade & Industry bodies in this process.

It is relevant that when any investment is made, including foreign investment, it results in generation of employment opportunities. However, data on employment generation on account of foreign investment proposals approved are not centrally maintained.

Role of Nominee Directors

4421. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reviewing the role of nominee directors on the board of major companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). It is not the Government but All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) which appoint nominee directors on the boards of assisted companies. AIFIs themselves are responsible for reviewing the performance of their nominee directors and taking appropriate action wherever necessary.

It may be added that the existing guidelines on nominee directors are under review by AIFIs.

Financial Institutions

4422. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the aggregate cost of equity shares and convertible debentures purchased by UTI, IDBI, IFCI and ICICI except Public Sector Units shares and debentures from financial year 1992-93 to 1995-96 through Direct placement/Bought out Deals/Development (i.e., other than purchases through the Secondary market) alongwith the present aggregate value at market price of these Securities;

(b) the number of companies out of the above whose shares and convertible debentures have not been listed so far alongwith their aggregate purchase price and the dividend received during the last year; and

(c) the aggregate Cost of shares-Listed and Unlisted-purchased between 1992-93 to 1995-96 at premium on which no dividend has been received during last year?

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

Law for North-Eastern States

4423. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customary Law of the tribals of the North-Eastern States particularly the sixth Scheduled Areas has been recognised as separate law for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has recommended that the tribals of Fifth Scheduled Areas be given the same rights as are given to tribals of Sixth Scheduled Areas; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Customary Law alongwith statutory law still forms to be an important constituent of legal framework in India. Its force as law has been recognised under article 13 of the Constitution. Different Customary Laws are in force in all States and Union territories including the North-Eastern States and the States covered under the Sixth Schedule. Certain Acts of Parliament and State Legislations also specifically recognise custom as source of law.

(c) and (d). The requisite information is being collected from the States concerned and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the same will be laid down on the table of the House.

Opening of New Coal Mines

4424. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and the locations of coal mines are in working condition in the Madhya Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new coal mines in the State particularly in Pasan, Sindurgarh and Pali areas of Bilaspur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to the skilled and unskilled workers of the areas in the said coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The number and the locations of working coal mines of CIL in the Madhya Pradesh as on 1.11.96 are as under:

Company	District	No. of Working mines
1	2	3
SCEL	Shahdol	43
	Surguja	30

1	2	3
	Raigarh	4
	Bilaspur	18
WCL	Chindwara	28
	Betul	9
NCL	Sidhi	6
Total		138

(b) and (c). Five new mines around Pasan/ Sindurgarh and Pali of Bilaspur district are proposed to be started in 1996-97/97-98. Details of the mines are given below :

Name of Project	Capacity	Locality
1. Bani Atari UG	0.18 MTY.	Pasan/ Sindurgarh
2. Skhakti UG	0.21 MTY.	Pali
3. Kartali UG	0.18 MTY.	Pali
4. Saraipali UG	0.21 MTY.	Pali
5. Budbud UG	0.21 MTY.	Pali

(d) As per the policy of the company the recruitment of workers for the new coal mines mention above. Wherever necessary will be done out of the candidate sponsored by the concerned employment exchanges of Korba and Bilaspur.

I.T. Raids on Industrialists

4425. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax investigation wing has unearthed any racket involving big industrial houses under the "Sale and lease back" arrangement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A number of cases of irregularities relating to sale and lease back agreement by Industrial Houses have been detected by the Income-tax Department. the assets in respect of which this kind of arrangement was made, were either over-invoiced or non-existent. In most of the cases, claim of 100% depreciation and lease-rentals were made, which, after concerted enquiries and investigations, were found to be falsely claimed as the assets did not exist or were of much lesser value. The Officers of the Income Tax Department dealing with cases of industrial houses, including those who owned the alleged assets, are taking appropriate remedial action in accordance with law.

Disqualification of Non-Serious Political Parties

4426. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently suggested disqualification of non-serious political parties which have not been active during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such parties;

(c) whether some suggestions have also been made regarding the contest of independents candidates, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Certain proposals to discourage contest by non-serious independent candidates were discussed by the Government with political parties some time back. Based on the consensus arrived at, some of these suggestions were given effect to by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1996.

Assistance to A.P. by World Bank

4427. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to have assistance from World Bank for improvement of their financial position; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance sought by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh alongwith the assistance provided and proposed to be provided by the World Bank so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh have been having some discussions with the World Bank regarding a Fiscal Adjustment Programme. The State Government have been requested to firm up their views and ideas, and to send to the Central Government a detailed project proposal which could then be considered by the Central Government. Since the detailed proposal is yet to be received, no formal proposal has been sent to the World Bank to provide such assistance.

(b) Does not arise.

Dubious Companies in Teak Plantation

4428. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of growing

number of dubious companies getting into teak plantation business praying on small investors through attractive promises of return on investment.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of small investors and ensure that funds collected by such companies are utilised properly for intended purpose and not diverted to other activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that companies engaged in teak plantation business as their principal business are excluded from the definition of "financial institutions" and as such are outside the purview of the various regulatory provisions of Chapter-III-B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1994.

Maruti Udyog

4429. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Excise Department has asked the Maruti Udyog Limited to pay the outstanding amount for Rs. 50 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding amount from the Maruti Udyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Central Excise dues amounting to Rs 4995.72 lakhs (including penalty of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs) are outstanding against M/s. Maruti Udyog Ltd.

The Company has obtained unconditional stay from Delhi High Court on 3.12.96 against any recovery proceedings.

Import of Rough Blanks

4430. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Othlamic Rough Blanks (ORB) for making spectacle and gogal frames are imported from different countries by importers in Optical Trade in Delhi and Bombay in Container Loads;

(b) whether these importers during the last many years have paid/transferred in foreign countries the difference between the actual amount to be paid to their foreign suppliers and the under invoiced amount* by way of Hawala Transactions, thereby duping Government by evading the payment of customs duty and sales tax on under-invoiced value* with the connivance of customs officers and Hawala Dealers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken against the importers of Delhi and Bombay indulging into gross violation of FERA?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import Scam

4431. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain officials found involved in clearing the garment consignments as "rags" in connivance with the importers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the investigations made into reg import scam; and

(e) the action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Enquiry in the matter has been initiated and details shall be provided on completion of the same.

Securities and Exchange Board of India

4432. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate amount of money raised by companies through Public and Rights issues by way of equity and convertible debentures (only Non-Debt portion) during each of the last three years and there present aggregate market value;

(b) the number of companies against whom SEBI has taken action during the last three years for misusing funds or not using the money for which it was raised through Public or Rights issue alongwith details of the action taken by SEBI against such erring companies; and

(c) the number of companies who raised their public issues in 1992-93 or onwards and are not traceable?

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

B.R.B.N.M. Pvt. Ltd.

4433. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether BHARTIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE Mudran pvt. Ltd. had been incorporated under Company

Act: 1956, to take over the new Note Press Project from Reserve Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has been flouted in violation of section 24 and section 25 of the RBI Act, 1956; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Bhartiya Reserve bank Note Mudran Pvt. Ltd. was Incorporated on 3-2-1995.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of Punjab & Sind Bank

4434. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) in Delhi/New Delhi zones during each of the last three years in the last three years in the matter of deposits, advances non-fund business, profitability and house-keeping; and

(b) whether any managers/Officers of said branches were awarded for their performance during the said period; if so, the details thereof, branch-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The performance of Punjab & Sind Bank in Delhi/New Delhi Zones during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the matter of Deposits, Advances, Non-Funds Business, profitability and House-Keeping as reported by Punjab & Sind Bank is given below:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	1	2	3
Gross Deposits			
New Delhi Zone	66826	87998	97774
Delhi Zone	15680	20753	26082
Advances			
New Delhi Zone	45760	27624	77458
Delhi Zone	5565	8927	10261
Non-Fund Business			
New Delhi Zone	632	928	1163
Delhi Zone	185	220	300
Profitability			
New Delhi Zone	1215	2862	2879
Delhi Zone	179	638	880

	1	2	3
House Keeping (No. of untallied branches)			
New Delhi Zone	15	19	28 (18)
Delhi Zone	8	3	7 (4)
(Figures in brackets indicate the latest position)			

(b) The Punjab & Sind Bank has further reported that their branches at Green Park, New Delhi and Shalimar Bagh, Delhi were given Best Branch awards for their performance in 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

Pension And I.R. to Staff of CCL

4435. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have amended the norms to give pension and Interim relief to the retired staff of Central Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase pension and Interim relief to the retired staff of Central coalfields limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir

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

Bar Council

4436. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make any changes in State Bar Councils' composition to ensure justice to aggrieved litigants/complainants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Assam State bar Council's executive Committee member at present;

(d) the names of advocates suspended/debarred from practice by the said State Council since its inception, year-wise; and

(e) the names of representatives from the said council since its inception, having served as members of Bar council of India with respective tenure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) As per information furnished by the Bar Council of India the names or representatives from the bar Council of Assam, Nagaland etc. with their respective tenure since the inception of the Advocates Act, 1961 are as follows :-

S. Shri Satyendra Kishore Ghosh	18.7.62	to 21.7.64
Dr. Jagadish Chandra Medhi	21.7.64	to 7.2.68
	and	
	26.7.69	to 15.12.76
B.K. Goswami	Dec. 76	to 28.4.84
L. Nandkumar Singh	28.4.84	to 7.5.93
Dr. Harendra Kumar Das	8.5.93	Till now

Financial Assistance Provided to the States

4437. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL

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

(a) details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the last three years and in 1996 till date statewise.

(b) the number of persons to whom free legal aid/ assistance has been provided out of Legal aid Fund of the States during the above period State-wise;

(c) the criteria fixed for providing free legal aid and assistance to the people by the authorities of Union Government and legal aid fund.

(d) the number of applications received for getting free legal aid and financial assistance during the said period and the number of applications among them accorded sanction and rejected respectively. State-wise, and

(e) the reasons for rejection of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (excepting Chapter III which contains provisions with regard to State Legal Services Authority) has been brought into force w.e.f. 9th Nov., 1995. The provisions of Chapter III of the Act have so far been extended to 13 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and National Capital Territory of Delhi, who have finalised and notified their rules in the State Gazettes.

Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act lays down criteria for Legal Aid.

The Financial assistance is provided to the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards etc. for implementation of specific Legal Aid Programmes such as promotion of Legal Literacy, holding Legal Aid Camps, Lok Adalat and Training of para legal etc. on 'financial year' basis on receipt of the project proposals from the State Boards etc. Statement-I showing grant-in-aid released during the financial years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1996-97 till date is enclosed.

(b) Neither the National Legal Aid Fund nor the State Legal Aid Fund as provided under the aforesaid Act has been established since the Accounting Procedure is under consideration of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and Controller General of Accounts.

(c) Chapter III of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 contains provisions with regard to entitlement to Legal Services. The criteria for giving Legal Services is

contained in Section 12 and Section 13 pertains to Entitlement of Legal Services. The Extracts of Section 12 and 13 are contained in the Statement-II attached

(d) and (e). The definition of the words "Legal Services" under Section 2(1)(c) of the said Act includes rendering of any service in the conduct of any case or other legal proceedings before any court or other Authority or Tribunal and the giving advice on any legal matter. Free Legal Service includes expenses in regard to Advocate fees; court fees; drafting charges; preparation of paper-books; affidavits; typing expenses and the like including summoning of witnesses etc.

The requisite information with regard to applications received for getting Legal Aid during the last 3 years and rejected with reasons therefor is being obtained from the State Boards and would be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT-I

The Grant-in-aid Released During the Financial year 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto 17.12.1996) for implementation of specific legal aid programmes, State-wise

S.No.	Name of the State	1993-94 Rs.	1994-95 Rs.	1995-96 Rs.	1996-97 Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,70,000	55,000	35,000	2,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	1,10,000	1,10,000	2,50,000	-
4.	Bihar	70,000	5,000	75,000	5,000
5.	Goa	-	-	-	35,000
6.	Gujarat	1,25,000	1,00,000	85,000	1,00,000
7.	Haryana	5,000	1,75,000	1,15,000	5,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	50,000	1,00,000	1,00,000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	10,000	-	-
10.	Karnataka	2,50,000	2,00,000	-	-
11.	Kerala	10,000	1,10,000	60,000	1,00,000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,00,000	1,15,000	1,15,000	-
13.	Maharashtra	5,000	-	-	-
14.	Manipur	10,000	-	-	15,000
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	2,60,000	1,00,000	1,20,000	-
19.	Punjab	75,000	50,000	50,000	1,00,000
20.	Rajasthan	15,000	15,000	10,000	-
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	4,10,000	6,10,000	4,15,000	4,35,000
23.	Tripura	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1,70,000	2,55,000	2,50,000	20,000
25.	West Bengal	80,000	30,000	45,000	-
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	-	-	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
29.	National Capital Territory of Delhi ;	9,55,000	8,95,000	9,85,000	4,00,000
30.	Lakshdweep	-	-	-	Please refer to S.No.11
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	50,000
Grand Total		29,00,000	28,85,000	27,10,000	15,70,000

STATEMENT-II

Extracts of Sections 12 and 13 of the legal services authorities act. 1987

"12 Criteria for giving legal services : Every Persons who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this act if that person is-

- a member of a Scheduled Caste of Scheduled Tribe;
- a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitutions;
- a woman or a child;
- a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- an Industrial workman; or
- in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 104 of 1956, or in juvenila home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the juvenile Justice Act, 53 of 1986, or in a psychiatric/hospital or phsychatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 14 of 1987; or
- In receipt of annual income less then rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount ~~as~~ may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the eupreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government. If the case is before the Supreme court,"

"13. Entitlement to legal services :- (1) Persons who satisfy all or any of the criteria specified in section 12 shall be entitled to received legal services provided that the concerned Authority is satisfied that such person has a prima facies case to prosecute or to defend.

(2) An affidavit made by a person as to his income may be regarded as sufficient for making him eligible to the entitlement of legal services under this Act unless the concerned Authority has reason to disbelieve such affidavit."

Import of Glasses in Container Loads

4438. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many importers in Delhi have done during the last many years imports of multi crore value of Ophthalmic Rough Blanks (ORB) for making spectacle and gogal frames in container loads from China, U.K., France and Germany on the basis of manipulated import price getting it under involved, thereby duping the Government for more than 100 crores of Rupees by way of evading customs duty and sales tax;

(b) if so, the details of such importers and the quantities imported by them, country-wise during the last three years;

(c) whether the customs authorities have recently seized many container loads carrying the above item in Delhi since there is a vast difference in the import orice, "per piece wise", in the invoiced to different importers, though the imports are from the same country, at the same time, of the same origin and supplier;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the seized quantities by customs in Delhi and action proposed to be taken against such importers"

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Certain information had been received about under invoicing of Ophthalmic Rough Blanks (ORB) of Chinese origin, being imported from Hongkong. However, as per the investigation conducted so far, no case of under invoicing of import of Ophthalmic Rough Blanks has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e). In view of 'a' above, do not arise.

Publication of Constitution

4439. SHRI SANAT MEHAT :
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA, :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

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

(a) when the Constitution of India was last published and made available in the market;

(b) whether a number of amendments have been made in the Constitution and the latest version of the Constitution of India is not available to the general public; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available the latest version of the Constitution of India duly incorporated all the amendments therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The last edition of the Constitution of India in Diglot (A-4 size) was published in 1991 by incorporating therein all the amendments upto and including the Constitution (68th Amendment) Act, 1991 and was made available to the public.

(b) and (c). Yes, A number of amendments have been made. The Revised edition of the constitution of India (in diglot form) is under print and is likely to be available to the public shortly.

12.00 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Thirty-Second Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India from July, 1991 to June, 1992 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Thirty-Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India of the period from July, 1991 to June, 1992.

- (2) An explanatory note (Hindi and English versions) regarding delay in laying the above report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1200/96]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1201/96]

Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Administration, for 1996-97.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1202/96]

Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for 1996-97 etc.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1996-97.

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1203/96]

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of

the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1204/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1205/96]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1206/96]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the Working of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta (including its subsidiaries), for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta, (including its subsidiaries), for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1207/96]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Nepa Limited, Nepanagar, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Nepa Limited, Nepanagar, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1208/96]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool room, Aurangabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1209/96]

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurnagabad, for the year 1995-96.

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Frangrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Frangrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1210/96]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) Regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instrument, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1211/96]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1212/96]

Notification under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) The United Bank of India (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. 1/96 in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 1996.
- (ii) The Bank of India Officers' Service (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. P: IR(O) SAH in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 1995.
- (iii) The Indian Overseas Bank Officers' Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. PAD/177 in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 1995.
- (iv) The Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulation, 1995 published in Notification No. P:IR:O SAH: 506 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 1995.
- (v) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. WIE:II: MISC: 91 in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1996.
- (vi) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No.3919 in Gazette in India dated the 23rd August, 1996.
- (vii) The Indian Bank (Employees') Pension Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. SRC/Pension/223 in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1995.

- (1a) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vii) of items (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1213/96]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. 5 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1996 making certain amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Pension Regulations, 1990 under sub-section (4) of section 58 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1214/96]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959:-

- (i) The State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/ Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/

Saurashtra/Travancore (Employees') Pension Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. SBD, No.9/1996 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1996.

- (ii) Notification No. SBD.7/1995 published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1996 making certain amendments in the Regulation 69(7)(ii) of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra/Travancore (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1215/96]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159, of the Customs Act 1962 :-

- (i) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 504(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 526 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 81/95-Cus., dated the 31st March, 1995.
- (iii) G.S.R.456(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to special industrial adhesives, gums and solutions and synthetic diamond power upto one per cent of the Free On Board value of the export of cut and polished diamonds, when imported into India by the exporters from the whole of the basic, special and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.
- (iv) G.S.R. 528(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 13/81-Cus., dated the 9th February, 1981.
- (v) G.S.R.529(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.138/91-Cus., dated the 22nd October, 1991.
- (vi) G.S.R. 414(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

Notification No. 36/96-Cus., dated 23rd July, 1996.

- (vii) G.S.R. 414(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 50/96-Cus., dated 23rd July, 1996.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 415(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain goods mentioned the Notification from the whole of the special duty of customs leviable thereon.
 - (ix) G.S.R. 510(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to fogging machines when imported into India by Municipal Authority from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.
- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.546(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Bisphenol-A originating from or in the United States of America, when imported into India, at the rate of ten thousand rupees per Metric Tonne.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1216/96]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1994 :-

- (i) G.S.R.413 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.8/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (ii) G.S.R. 544 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (iii) G.S.R. 505 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the 1st day of November, 1996, as the date on which section 85 of the Finance Act, 1996 to come into force.

- (iv) The Service Tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 506 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1217/96]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:-

- (i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other conditions of services of supervisory clerical and subordinate Staff) Second Amendment Scheme, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 759 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1996.
- (ii) The General Insurance (Termination, Superannuation and Retirement of Officers and Development Staff) Amendment scheme, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 760 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1218/96]

- (8) A copy each of the followings Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 :-

- (i) The Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 849(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1996.
- (ii) The income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1962 published in Notification No.S.O. 854(E), in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1219/96]

- (9) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inter-Disciplinary Group for tracing end-use of Funds involved in the Problem Exposure of Banks and Financial Institutions- 1995.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1220/96]

- (11) A copy of the Uttar Pradesh Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996 (No. 1 of 1996) (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by the Government of Uttar Pradesh on the 17th November, 1996, under article 213(2)(a) of the Constitution read with clause (c) (iv) of the proclamation dated the 17 October, 1996 issued by the President in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1221/96]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1222/96]

- (13) A copy of the Notification No.1 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 1996 making certain amendments in the Sub-Regulations (i) and (ii) of Regulation 24 of the Reserve Bank of India General Regulations 1949, under sub-section (4) of section 58 of the Reserve bank of India Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1223/96]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1224/96]

- (15) A copy of the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) amendment Regulations, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.702(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1996, under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1225/96]

Annual Report alongwith Audited Accounts and Review on the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi for 1994-95.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi for the year 1994-95.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1226/96]

Notification under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Ports Act, 1963 etc.

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Ports Act, 1963 :-
- (i) G.S.R. 433 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 1996 approving the Cochin Port Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 1996.
- (ii) G.S.R. 434(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 1996 approving the Mormugac Port Employees (Study Leave) Amendment Regulation, 1996.
- (iii) G.S.R. 446 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1996 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Interest Subsidy on House Building Advance) Regulations, 1996.
- (iv) G.S.R. 447 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1996 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Classification Control and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1996.
- (v) G.S.R. 466(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 1996 approving the Tuticorin Port Employees' (Classification, Control and Appeal) Second Amendment Regulations, 1996.
- (vi) G.S.R. 534 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1996 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1996.
- (vii) G.S.R. 494 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 1996 containing corrigendum to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Medical Attendance and Treatment) Regulations, 1993 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 10(E) dated the 7th January, 1994.
- (viii) G.S.R. 555 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 1996 containing corrigendum to the Madras Port Trust Employees (Reimbursement of Tuition Fees) Regulations, 1993 published

in Notification No. G.S.R. 568(E) dated the 23rd August, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1227/96]

- (2) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Shipyard Limited for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1228/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Chaturanan Mishra, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1229/96]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1230/96]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development (Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1231/96]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1232/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Heavy Engineering Co-operative Limited, Pune, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1233/96]

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Heavy Engineering Co-operative Limited, Pune, for the year 1995-96.

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1234/96]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1235/96]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1236/96]
- (7). (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1237/96]

Annual Report of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1238/96]
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1239/96]
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1240/96]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai; South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore; and Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1241/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man-Made Textile Research Association, Surat, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review Hindi and English version) by the Government working of the Man-Made Textile Research Association, Surat, for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1242/96]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1243/96]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1244/96]
- (6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1245/96]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1246/96]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1247/96]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat of the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1248/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1250/96]

Notification under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 etc.

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

KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 500 (E) (Hindi and English versions) containing Presidential Order making further amendments in the Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1951, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1251/96]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1252/96]

Technology Development Board, Rules, 1996 Published in section 23 of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Yogendra K. Alagh, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Technology Development Board Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 523 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1996 under section 23 of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1253/96]

- (2) A copy of the Research and Development Cess Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 524 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Research and Development Cess Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1254/96]

Memorandum of Understanding between the Coal Limited and the Ministry of Coal, for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Coal India Limited and the Ministry of Coal, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1255/96]

Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) (Advisory Committees Rules, 1996 published under section 34 of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Saleem Iqbal Shervani, I beg to

lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) (Advisory Committees) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 540 (E) in Gazette of India, dated the 26th November, 1996 under section 34 of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1256/96]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1257/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1258/96]

Review on the working of an Annual Report of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. U. Venkateswarlu, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 -

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Annual Report of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, -

for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1259/96]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1260/96]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1261/96]

- (3) A copy of the National Council for Teacher Education (assignment of functions and powers to the Executive Committee) Regulations, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 28-6/95 NCTE in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1996, under section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1262/96]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Council of the Technical Education, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1263/96]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar, for the year 1993-94.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1264/96]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bal Bhavan Society India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Bal Bhavan Society India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bal Bhavan Society India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1265/96]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology Itanagar, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar, for the year 1992-93.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing delay for laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1266/96]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1995-96.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1995-96.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1267/96]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Truchirappalli, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts thereon.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli, for the year 1994-95.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1267A/96]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan, for the year 1994-95.
(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visva Bharati Shantiniketan, for the year 1994-95.
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1268/96]
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi And English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1269/96]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar, for the year 1994-95.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (17) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1270/96]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1994-95.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1994-95.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 1271/96]

Notification published under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification

No. S.O. 877(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December 1996 containing (i) Report of the Justice Venkatachala Commission of Inquiry on Railway Accidents and (ii) The suggestions of the Commission and Government's views thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1272/96]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri N.V.N. Somu, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1273/96]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 1274/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Aru, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Aru, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1275/96]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the First to Fourth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th December, 1996 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill".
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 1996 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill".

12.02 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

First, Second and Third Report and Minutes

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (11th Lok Sabha) :

- (1) First Report on Excesses over Voted Grants and charged Appropriations (1994-95) and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

- (2) Second Report on Action Taken on 97th Report of Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) relating to System Appraisal-Functioning of Investigation Circles.
- (3) Third Report on Action Taken on 112th Report of Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) relating to National Cancer Control Programme.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Fourth and Fifth Reports and Minutes

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Sir, I beg to present each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto :

- (1) Fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-eighth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) - Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
- (2) Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendation contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report of the committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, (Banking Division) - Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Bank, and Credit Facilities provided to SCs and STs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for privilege motion. I got a book recently written by Shri K. Venkatgiri Gowda, an Ex-M.P. The title of the book is

[English]

Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister, the King of Corruption and the Unmaking of India'.

[Translation]

The intention of the writer has been apparant from the title of the book. The writer stating the Prime Minister the king of Corruption through the title of the book, who will ruin the country. It is a contempt of the House. Even the title of the book is... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot read like that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask what has happened to your notice for privilege motion. Why should you read it?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Why is he raising a baseless point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not disposed it of. The question is that I have not given the final ruling. I am giving the ruling now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has the right to raise it.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many allegations in this book, which have not been levelled not only against our Hon'ble Prime Minister but against other members of the House also, which is very disgraceful.

That is why he said that he left Shri Sukhram, the member of this House...

He thought that the case of corruption has been proved against Shri Sukhram, that is why he passed bad remarks against him. On page 7 of the book, he passed disgraceful remarks about Shri Indrajit Gupta, who is a member of this House and also the Minister of Home Affairs... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : It should not go on record. This is not the way to raise the matter. He is deliberately doing that.

MR. SPEAKER : The Member has a right to raise the issue. He has given a Privilege Notice, and I have to dispose it of. He can present his case. Why not?

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : After that for Hon'ble Prime Minister... word has also been used* whether this word is appropriate for the Prime Minister?...*(Interruptions)* It has also been stated further that he has amassed property more than thousand times as compared to the property of his ancestors. It is not a contempt of the House? Therefore, I would like to say that the privilege Motion given by me may be accepted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. I have given you more time than what is required. No more please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you enough. Shri Ananth Kumar, you can speak one sentence.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Before you give your ruling on this important matter, I want to bring to you kind notice two things. One is, I want to quote Kaul and Shakdhar from Page 949. Secondly, I want to read the last but one paragraph written by Shri Venkatagiri Gowda in the preface of the book. Shri Venkatagiri Gowda clearly said that :

"If I am found to be guilty of malfeasance against the Prime Minister..."

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot read it; it is enough. Nothing will go on record now. I will give my ruling on this. You cannot quote from the book. I am sorry.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, I am referring to Kaul and Shakdhar. You should allow me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Venkatagiri Gowda's book is out of circulation. It has been banned and you cannot quote from that.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. It is not going on record. I have said that nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, it will not go on record.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order? This is not your notice. I have just give you a chance. Please know that this is not your notice. This is Lalmuni Chaubey's notice. You have no right in this regard.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, before you give your ruling...

MR. SPEAKER : I have to give my ruling.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, I want to bring one small thing to your notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not read from this book.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : No, Sir, I am referring to what Kaul and Shakdhar said at page 949...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is reading from Kaul and Shakdhar. One can read from Kaul and Shakdhar's book.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : At page 949, it is said :

"A Committee of Presiding Officers has considered the scope of the rule of *sub judice* and recommended the following guidelines."

The second guideline says :

"rule of *sub judice* has no application in privilege matters."

Therefore, Sir, before you give your ruling on this important matter, I want to draw your kind attention to what Shri Venkatagiri Gowda said in the preface of the book.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given you enough chance which I am not supposed to give you. Please sit down now.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Sir, I want to quote one more thing from Kaul and Shakdhar since you have ordered expunction of some of the remarks.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please read quickly.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Sir, he is alternatively reading from the two books.

You have given the ruling to expunge some of the things. It is clearly said :

"As regards a matter which is *sub judice* and which has been referred to in a speech or debate or in any statement in the House, the Speaker has no power to order expunction of any words or phrases merely on the ground that they relate to a matter which is pending for a judicial decision in a court of law. Where a member insists on referring to a matter which is *sub judice* in spite of the

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not Recorded.

* Not Recorded.

Chair asking him not to do so, the Chair may ask him to discontinue his speech forthwith."

But here because it is a privilege motion.

"Rule of *sub judice* has no application in privilege matter". (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will carefully go through the record again and I will take a decision.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR. (Bangalore South) : Therefore, I request you to refer the whole matter to the Privilege Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling :

"Shri Lalmoni Chaubey, Member, gave notice of a question of privilege on 12 December, 1996, against Prof. K. Venkatagiri Gowda, former Member, alleging that he had cast reflections on the Prime Minister and the Home Minister in a book authored by him and thereby committed a breach of privilege and contempt of the House. Shri Chaubey made specific reference to the passages in the book which, according to him, cast reflections on the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. He also enclosed a copy of the book with his notice.

I have since examined the matter on the basis of the well established parliamentary privileges, past precedents, facts on record and the legal position obtaining in the matter and come to the conclusion that no question of privilege and contempt of the House is involved in the matter.

I, therefore, withhold my consent to the raising of the matter by Shri Lalmoni Chaubey on a question of privilege in the House, under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha."

(Interruptions)

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : I have given a notice of privilege on Uttarakhand.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Justice Guman Mal Lodha, it is not fair to interrupt every day. You have given notice yesterday. You have told me about this. We have received it. I have to get the comments. I cannot dispose of the privilege motion like that.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Very well.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. Normally when there is a Call Attention, we do not have a Zero Hour and today is Friday and Private Members Bills will be taken up. But today being the last day of the Session, I had promised hon. Members yesterday that there will be a Zero Hour. But Zero Hour will have to be concluded at 1 o'clock and there will be no lunch. From 1 o'clock, Government business will start.

Shri Ilyas Azmi, since I could not admit your Call Attention, I am giving you a chance during Zero Hour to raise the issue you want to raise.

Shri Nitish Bharadwaj, your Call Attention will be taken up at 1 o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahbad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the dictatorship of vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and the worsening situation arising thereby. I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and this House through you towards this situation. The Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University... (Interruptions) even the Administrative Officer of the University since when he became the Vice-Chancellor of the University, he is not even misutilising his post but even his attitude is very shameful. He moves openly with a revolver and threaten the students. It has happened many times and he punished the boys without any reason. In the night of 1st October he put to death one boy named Nadim, who was from Azamgarh. It happened only three furlongs away from that place. There was no reason behind it. He was put to death in that place. After that incident he lodged a false FIR. FIR was also lodged against the boys who were not even present in Aligarh and got them arrested. The false FIR was also lodged against one boy named Furkan who was busy in election campaign with Shri D.P. Yadav. M.P. Shri D.P. Yadav also gave evidence that Shri Furkan was with him.

I would like to urge the Government that the whole matter may kindly be got investigated by CBI and Vice-Chancellor of the University may kindly be removed. He came on deputation from Kashmir for two years. So he may kindly be sent back after completing two years and should be removed from this post.

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh) : Sir, whatever has been stated just now by an Honble member is entirely wrong. Since his appointment as a Vice-Chancellor there, discipline is being maintained in the University and all such bad people have been expelled from the hostel. The University is now functioning properly. There is no cheating even in the competitions and nothing is going wrong. Whatsoever he has stated is wrong... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful that you have given me an opportunity to speak. I had given notice on this issue many times but I did not get opportunity to express my views. I myself had been residing there for many

* Not Recorded

years. The University was closed twice in one year. It seems as if Police or Military rule has been enforced in the University. I would like to say that a Vice Chancellor who closed his University twice in a year and not only that he has beaten the innocent boys and ultimately put them to death. I would like to say that the situation has so worsened there that neither the students nor the staff of the University have any faith in him. The Government of India should consider this issue immediately and come to any concrete conclusion. As the Hon'ble Member has stated that the situation has been improved. I am sorry to say that situation is stated to be improved though the University is closed twice in a year. All the political activities have been banned there. The election of students Union has been postponed twice, there is no political process in the University.

I would like to say that a boy who died, should be given atleast ten lakh rupees and the Government of India should take appropriate steps. Sir, I would like your directive in this regard. It is a very pitiable matter. It is a residential University and 12 thousand students from all over the country came there. Therefore, I seek your protection in this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Azmi, you have taken the name of the Vice-Chancellor. That will not go on record because we cannot take the name of the Vice-Chancellor.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be got investigated and action should be taken against him.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, CBI inquiry be conducted... (Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : It has happened first time in the history that a Vice-Chancellor has shot fire by his revolver... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Only what I say, will on record now.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have to sit down.

I want, the Government may kindly look into this matter. The Home Minister is very much here. It may kindly be inquired into.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Government cannot go on assuring.

Yes Mr. Finance Minister, would you like to lay the Paper listed in the Supplementary Agenda?

12.21½ hrs..

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Alternative Scheme of Devolution of Share in Central Taxes to States recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission - Discussion Paper (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1279/96]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will start with the names in this list to whom we could not give chance yesterday.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, I may also be given a chance to raise my issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, your name is very much there in the list. Since you were in the Chair yesterday, you could not raise your issue. You may please proceed now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the other students of backward classes. It has been raised many times in the Tenth Lok Sabha. They have been provided three years relaxation in the age-limit for the examinations conducted by UPSC as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, wherein it is stated that there should be five years relaxation in the age and the limit of regarding the number of opportunities should also be removed. The member of various political parties had also negotiated many times with the Ministry of Welfare. At present they have been given three years relaxation. Whether it would be considered to enhance the age relaxation.

12.22 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Now notification has been issued for examinations. Whatever has been stated by the earlier Government. And now there is new Government which is committed to social justice, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is also present here, I would also like to urge upon him that candidates of other backward classes should also be given the opportunities similar to those which have been given to the scheduled Cast and Scheduled tribes candidates. I would also like to urge upon the Government to tell their reaction in this regard... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I support the points which has been stated by Shri Nitish Kumar. Candidates of other backward classes should also be provided five years age relaxation and there should not be any limit of chances so that there future is protected... (Interruptions) The Hon'ble Minister give a reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you take your seat, then only he will give a reply.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :

(a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will discuss the matter raised by Shri Nitish Kumar and other Hon'ble Member with the concerned Ministry.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : When will you discuss this matter?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would be discussed with the concerned Ministry at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a matter of shame...*(Interruptions)* The reply given by him is even worse than the one given by the Congress Government. Their Government claims that they are committed to social justice. All the members of the House are of the opinion that he should give a clear reply on this point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down and let him explain his point.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I think this is the consensus of the House and the Government will take it very seriously and will act on this quickly.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Thank you for allowing me, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that backward classes...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Excuse me. What is happening? He has called me, Why are you intervening? Let me speak first and then you seek permission.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : For a moment. This is a very important matter.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : No, this is not the way.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : It is an important issue to raise the age limit of five years for backward classes...*(Interruptions)* The Government should consider about the poor sections other than backward classes. They should also be provided one year age relaxation and they should get another extra chances? When this is being considered, the Government should consider about the so called backward classes also. They should

also be given five or six years relaxation. There is no hinderance in it. The Government should consider this aspect also.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Since you have called me, I am raising the matter for which I have given notice. This is about the much talked of and very vexed Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, popularly known as Women Reservation Bill. Today is the last day of the session. I expect that the Government...*(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Affairs Minister may please lend his ears. Not only the hon. Members here, but women all over the country as well as men of goodwill want to know what has happened to this Bill which was supposed to be passed in this Session. Government must come out with a clear understanding of what they are going to do with the Bill. We are not going to face a situation where we will go back and say nothing can be done, we could not get anything from the Government. Let the Government say what they want to do about it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let this be brought at 4 o'clock and passed without discussion. We will sit and pass this Bill in this Session itself...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let others also to speak. I have called Shrimati Girija Vyas.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let this Bill be brought and passed without discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will I be given a chance to speak or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you also.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let them speak. I will allow other later on.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, kindly allow me also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : We should also be heard Sir.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already called her to speak. Let her speak. Surely I will call you also. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, we have a right to know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will surely call you also. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I wanted to know from Government, through you, that what was their intention, of the Government specially when only two days were left? Seeing the Government's intention quite unfavourable. Yesterday a demonstration was staged by the Women Congress but the police ill treated them. They arrested 460 women, beat three ladies so badly that their bones got fractured and got injured in legs. The police snatched the purse of so many ladies and threw them out and did not allow them to march peacefully. Yesterday we only wanted to know whether the Government is serious about the Bill or wanted appreciation from the people and maximum votes in U.P. election. But the real intention of the Government is clear now that Government is not interested in bringing this Bill.

Today Gitaaji asked a very appropriate question that today when it is the last day, what is Government's intention. Today the Hon. Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and even Hon. Prime Minister are giving different versions. Definitely we have not demanded that the Bill for the reservation of 33 per cent seats for women must have been brought in the last session. Today the expectations of women have been raised, not only in India but we have received telegrams from abroad also that they too want to take a lead in this direction like India. At this juncture Government should clearly tell that it does not want to bring the Bill so that we could take this issue in some other way but Government cannot keep us in dark for a long time and we want to clear something that expectations of the women have increased so much and now it is not a matter to be raised in the Parliament only. Now the women will lead demonstrations on roads for their demands and we want to caution the Government through you in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow some more members to speak on this issue.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind you and the House through you that the day while this Bill was being referred to the Select Committee the Hon. Prime Minister had assured that this Bill would be passed on the very first day of the session has already passed and now the last day of the session has also come but the Government instead of passing it gradually showing less and less interest in it. The Bill which was initially expected to be passed without any consideration has been rejected three days before after sessions consideration. You must be remembering that Mr.

Speaker was in the Chair and he had suspended even question hour and introduced this Bill. He had said that this Bill would be passed without any discussion. This day would have become a historical day in the name of Indian Parliament in the whole world, but later this Bill was referred to the select Committee. Some of few days earlier when I raised this issue, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said:

[English]

as expeditiously as possible :

[Translation]

When two days after this issue was raised, he said-

[English]

I can only commit that the Government is seriously considering this Bill.

[Translation]

All these things are unfavourable for moving of this Bill, there is nothing in favour of it. And after that this Bill was not taken. Seriously. That day when I raised this issue Shri Chandrashekhar also termed the whole discussion as on-serious.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balia) : This is indeed a non-serious issue. How can we term it a serious issue?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing that after debate all the major political parties without taking suggestions from their raw and fill and without debating on it have decided to include in their manifesto. And if all the major political parties made it the part of their manifesto, then why this Bill is being rejected in the name of consensus and debate. I would like to clear this thing to Dr. Girija Vyas and sister Shrimati Gita Mukherjee and also to Government that this Government brought this as political gimmick because Uttar Pradesh Election was near. To allure the women voters there they are told that they wanted reservation for them and after that they did not pass this Bill. They did not know that it will become a serious issue after it is introduced and expectations of women in whole India will surge up. As Dr. Girija Vyas and sister Shrimati Gita Mukherjee are thinking to fight this battle through demonstrations on roads, I am also with them. This Government is not going to listen, it is totally deaf and dumb. This Government brought this Bill with a bad intention, this bad intention is clear now. Therefore instead we fight on roads, a simple and good suggestions in this regard is that Congress, C.P.I. and C.P.M. may withdraw their support from Government and the Government which we may install jointly, may bring this Bill and pass it on the very first day. Good if this Government falls down with the curse of women and for not serving the cause of women. Then definitely

the next Government will give women's their right. Therefore instead of fighting on roads if you pass the proposal of withdrawing your support to Government only then we will be able to get reservation and riddance from this useless Government.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Sir, I would like to say through you that when this Bill was brought in this House...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Keep in mind the Zero hour is upto one O'Clock. There are other important issues also. Now you may speak.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : At that time this thing was said in the manifestoes of all the parties, at that time we also talked about reservation for women, as we believe in reservation. Reservation for backwards and minorities was also in mind at that time and when this Bill was referred to the Select Committee, debate was held on it and after that we fail to understand this attitude. I would like to say to my mothers and sisters that when things are being discussed for reservation, backwards and minorities should also covered in it. Backward women who want to come forward should also be covered. I would like to say to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, if a question by a women against saying 'Talaq' three times can be made a issue to raise here; then reservation should also be given to divorced ladies so that the women who come here may fight for women. We would like that reservation for women should be taken seriously but backward women and women of minorities should be included in it. This is the only justice. This is the only truth and trust should be brought here...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please see that one member from this side and one from the other side speaks.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, We have discussed this matter at length. I do not think we have reached a stage from where we must go back. I only want to know the Government's stand on this issue. The Leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs are here. It seems both of them are busy. I would like to draw their attention to this issue. It is too late. The Government should come out with a statement making their stand clear as to whether they are going to bring this Bill for consideration and passing within this Session, i.e. today. If they are not going to do that, then they should state clearly as to what is their stand on this issue. Again I request the Government to make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that this is a very serious issue and some people made it the issue exclusively related to men and women.

[English]

The opinion is gaining ground that it is an issue between men and women. But it is not so.

[Translation]

Neither all women are in favour of this Bill nor the all men are opposing it. The issue which is being raised from that side is that reservation should be given to backward women and muslim women. I would like to know from them who is opposing it. Debate on the whole Bill will not take more than one or two days time. It is very sad that excuse is being given to postpone the Bill in the name of backward women, muslim women. Otherwise there is no other reason of it. It has been said about muslim women that divorce takes place. Saying the word 'Divorce' three times, for it you may bring Uniform Civil Code, who opposed it? Yu do not want to give differ this Bill by giving this argument. I am very much agree with Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and would like to request Dr. Girija Vyas and Shrimati Gita Mukherjee that they may not do more than needed. Every time you raise such issues that the Government is not able to bring the Bill and today you are supporting the same Government. You may withdraw the support...(Interruptions) If you are really serious about it and in favour of women, leave aside the issue minoriting women and Muslim Women, and withdraw your support to Government, this Government will fall down by the evening today...(Interruptions) Otherwise, there is no use of standing here again and again. It is better to withdraw the support to Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Sir, what is it that he is saying? Is it not an insult to her?...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I do not think, that word would be allowed to go on record...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, that word should not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will remove that. That will be removed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, on the very first day of this Session, thousands and thousands of women from all over the country have assembled in Delhi; they have demonstrated and demanded that the Bill which could not be passed in the last Session of Lok Sabha and which was referred to the Joint Committee, should be passed by the Parliament in this Session.

Not Recorded.

Now, the Joint Committee deliberated on the Bill. There had been detailed discussions; the Joint Committee scrutinised the Bill and the comments of the Law Ministry were also detained when the clause by clause consideration of the Bill was taken up...(Interruptions) The Joint Committee presented its report on the 9th December and we were told by the hon. Speaker that two days' time would be required to study the report presented by the Joint Committee...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, what are you telling, is an old story. Nothing is new in it.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR (Hapur) : We are waiting for Zero-hour from last one week and Hon. Member is always on his legs...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Then, we were told that the Government was seriously considering it. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here in the House. Last week he informed us that the Government was seriously considering it. At that time, our demand was that since there had been enough discussion in the House and in the Joint Committee, there is no need for further discussion and that the Bill should be brought before the House and passed without discussion. That is our demand. The Minister has to inform us now as to what has happened to that...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may clarify the position. Shri Jena, you may please clarify the position.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Otherwise, the point will be lost. Please hear the Minister now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my point in a minute which is very important...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can allow you to speak but nothing is new in it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is wrong in Hon. Minister's statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, let him speak. I am going to allow only one person now. The rest of the hon. Members may take their seats now. Shri Pappu Yadav.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw of the House attention through you to the fact that on 18th December is Leftist and Socialistic Party called 'Bihar Bandh' raising the issue of corruption in Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What are you saying. Are you talking on this Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about 'Bihar Bandh' called on the issue of corruption...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No other will be raised.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, fight with lathis had taken place there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let this issue be closed first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to speak on women Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on Bandh called by Left Party taking up the issue of corruption in Bihar...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then you may please sit down. I will allow you later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me for one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, please sit down. Except Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reply, nothing will go on record.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There should be some limit to it. I am sorry. Let the Minister reply now.

(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to lose the Zero Hour? I am sorry. Please take your seats. Enough has been said about this Bill. Let the Minister reply now. That is all. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing anyone else now except the Minister. That is all.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, right from the beginning and while introducing the Bill, the intention of the Government has been very clear, that is, to give reservations to women. That was the intention on that day and today also.

This Bill was sent to the Joint Committee - I do not want to go into the details now - and that had been discussed many times. The Joint Committee did not recommend unanimously and it also got divided on the issue. In this vital issue, the intention of the Government is that the House should not be divided and there should be unanimity. The Government is trying its best to persuade and bring unanimity. It is trying its best to come to one point where there will be unanimity and this persuasion needs some time. I hope the House will certainly agree with the Government that it needs little time to bring unanimity and see that reservation of women is passed by the House with unanimity.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria may speak now

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing else will go on record except that of Mr. Katheria.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Which subject are you talking about?

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : We will speak on our subject.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Now Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Chair before asking the Government anything. We are now in eleventh Lok Sabha from 10th Lok Sabha. We have come here as elected members. Government

* Not Recorded.

have adopted an indifferent attitude, all the Hon. Members are present here, therefore I would like to request the Chair before saying anything to Government. When a Hon. Member writes a letter to the Government it is Government's responsibility to reply to it. A language has been adopted that your letter has been sent for further necessary action, in reply of second letter again it is the same language, third time again it is same language. Parliament is supreme in this country. It is supreme House. A member of parliament represents 20 lakh people. If he raise some personal point then it can be ignored but Chair should look into it. Hon. Members wants that any point raised in Parliament should be replied after discussing it in Parliament. Many times these things were discussed in this House but Government is not taking them seriously considering this only her responsibility. My submission is that I have raised this point in this session...*(Interruptions)* Listen Mr. Sagen.

I had raised this point in the beginning of this session that there is a glass factory in Sukhabad in district Ferozabad, three thousand labourers are working there, this factory was lock illegally since 2nd August five months have passed. I met to Minister of Labour, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and all other but now three thousand labourers are on road, no body is there to listen to them and from a week labourers are on demonstration at district head-quarter. Today is the question of employment of three thousand labourers, their children are starving and Government is indulged in corruption of crores of rupees. The labourers are starving. Nobody is there to listen to them. Therefore it is my request to the Chair that he may give some orders to Government in this regard, responsibility should be fixed for acting against labourers, it is my request that you may give some directions to the Government. I am raising this matter in the House second or third time. Who will give its reply? It is my request that Government should give its reply, about three thousand labourers are facing starvation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not stop anyone. Government can give statement.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Government can reply. Government is not dums...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow everybody.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had your say. As not repeat anything. Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government is not deaf and dumb...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There should be some limit to it. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Katheria, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : About three thousand labourers dying due to starvation, this Government is talks of social justice, at least some

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are some other issues also. I am calling names.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Government should say something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have conclude your point. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY (Amalapuram) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Economic Times, dated 12th December, 1996, it has been reported that the Government of India, that is, the Minister of Industry is still considering the revival of the HMT Tractor Division. It is more than a year since the negotiations have been started and still they are not able to finalise which company should take over the revival of the HMT Tractor Division.

We are all interested in preserving the retention of the employees. There should be no retrenchment of the employees in this matter. Since India is the second large market, we should not allow any company to run away with this company. In case foreign knowhow is necessary, it should be obtained but not at the cost of the domestic companies. There are a very large number of companies in the country which have developed this knowhow and they should be given an opportunity to offer their terms and conditions.

A few days back, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had suggested that there should be transparency in every item of Government work. The Official Secrets Act should be scrapped except in the matter of Defence. I would like to submit to the consideration of the hon. Minister of Industry that whatever negotiations are going on in the Ministry of Industry should be open. All those who have competed for this tender should be asked to come and discuss. And what is best for the interest of the country should be decided without any harm to the employees of the HMT Tractor Division.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the

attention of the Minister of Power to district Pudrauna in Uttar Pradesh. Pudrauna is adjoining Bihar-Nepal border. There flows river Narayani which is 100 K.m. long and runs through Bihar. Thousands of villages do not have electricity there even after 50 years of independence. That area is reeling under the terror of 'Jangal Party'. Kidnapping and murders are the order of the day. Taking advantage of the darkness they indulge in committing more and more crimes. I request the Minister to provide electricity connections in hording area pudrauna on priority basis so that the people of that area could carry out their agricultural activities and run their industries smoothly.

SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI (Banshgaon) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir the fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur is lying closed for quite some time. The Government assured that the factory would be made operational within three months, but nothing has been done so far. I urge upon the Government to revive its functioning as soon as possible. Besides, Domingarh bridge has broken down. I would like to request the Minister of Railway Shri Paswan to arrange for making a pucca bridge there...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have called. Mr. Jatia.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : 50 years have passed since the country attained freedom but still disparity and discrimination prevails, so far as the socio-economic and educational conditions of the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned. The ensuing Session of the Parliament would be the Budget Session and the next Five Year Plan would be the Ninth Five Year Plan, a draft of which is being prepared. I urge upon the Government to implement through the budget of 1997-98 and the Planning Commission and the Constitutional provisions made for them which have not been implemented so far. The Planning Commission should consist of two members from Scheduled Castes and one member from Scheduled Tribes.

I want to make one more submission that there has been much delay in implementing the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission set up for the Government employees. It should be presented soon and made effective w.e.f. 1st January 1994...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one Member can speak at one time. I can not call their names at a time.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of unemployed people. Recently Prime Minister's Employment Scheme was implemented to solve the problems of unemployed people. Honourable Finance Minister is sitting in the House and the Leader of the House Hon'ble Ram Vilas Paswanji is also present here. Through you I want to tell the Government that it is December the last month

of the year and four lakh applications have been received under Prime Ministers Employment Scheme. These are the Government figures. Out of these two lakh applications were sent to the banks and 46 thousand application have been accepted. Till December, the last month of this year loans were made available only to eight thousand applicants. I, therefore, would like to submit through you that under the Prime Minister's Employment Scheme the unemployed youth...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : The Government should pay attention towards providing employment to the unemployed youth.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the alleged corruption in Ghaziabad Development Authority. Ghaziabad Development Authority was constituted with a view to allot houses and plots to the poor and middle class people, but the Authority has failed in fulfilling this objective, and it is serving the interests of big builders and influential persons. I could mention several cases of scams in the Ghaziabad Development Authority, involving crores of rupees, but I would cite only a few cases here. Contracts worth crores of rupees were awarded to their own builders and contractors without floating any tenders and this way they were given the benefit of crores of rupees. The land was sold to the builders at cheaper rates but they did not pay the cost of land to the Authority. Even the interest accruing on the amount due against them was waived off. The builders constructed buildings and earned profit worth crores of rupees. My point is that land of farmers is acquired without giving them any compensation. I urge upon the Central Government that until and unless the farmers are not compensated, their land should not be acquired ...*(Interruptions)*

13.02½ hrs.

[English]

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Ramakant D. Khalap.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred and Fifty Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Law Commission on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act. No. 2 of 1974) (Vol. 1 and 2) for the year 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1278/96]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Zero Hour is over now. The House shall now take up for discussion the Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Nitish Bhardwaj.

Shri Nitish Bhardwaj.

(Interruptions)

13.03 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Haradhan Roy came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat.

13.04 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Haradhan Roy went back to his seat.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Sir it was mentioned that those who have not...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It was zero hour till 1.00 P.M. which is now over. This was announced by Hon'ble Speaker. Now Calling Attention will be taken up.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Sir, he was giving notice...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only what Shri Nitish Bhardwaj says will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir with your kind permission.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only Shri Nitish Bhardwaj will speak. Please maintain decorum.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Sir, I have a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : On what subject do you want to raise the point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I am raising a point of order under Rule 376...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There should be some decorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Please at least listen my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes tell me what do you want to speak.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that those Members, who gave notices during the Zero Hour but could not get an opportunity to read out their notices, they were told that they would be given a chance today. My submission is that we may be given a chance today.

13.07 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Sir, Yesterday you gave a ruling that the Members who gave notices yesterday during the Zero Hour but could not get a chance to speak, they all would be given a chance on the next day, i.e. today. I got only one chance during the entire session. I did not get a chance to speak during the discussion under Rule 377 as well, so today a chance should be given to us.

MR. SPEAKER : Then what will you do?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I want your patronage. I may be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : What I may do?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : You please give me a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : You may extend the duration of the House. I have no objection to that. I am prepared to sit even for 10-15-20 more days.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Yesterday you gave such ruling, that is why I am making a request to you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before we take up the Calling Attention, the Prime Minister has to make a statement. He has got some appointment.

13.07½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Decision to Celebrate the Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, recently, concern has been expressed in this House as well as outside about the celebration of birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Let me first of all dispel all doubts in this regard. The Government of India had set up, as far back as in November, 1995, a National Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to celebrate the birth centenary of Netaji in a befitting manner.

The National Committee met on 5th December, 1995 and decided that the celebrations would commence on 23rd January, 1997 and continue for one year thereafter. The National Committee had also constituted a Sub-Committee and had entrusted to it the task of preparing an action plan for the celebrations. This Sub-Committee met on 25th October, 1996 and formulated programmes for the inaugural function on 23rd January, 1997 as well as during the centenary year. I also met the Floor Leaders of both the Houses of Parliament on 9th December, 1996 to discuss the manner in which we should celebrate this event. The Sub-Committee is giving a final shape to the programmes and activities of the centenary year in the light of the suggestions received.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Government shall do its utmost to make the birth centenary celebrations of Netaji, in cooperation with the people of India, a memorable event of our national life befitting the great and momentous contribution made by Netaji to our freedom struggle. Netaji enjoys great respect and affection amongst the people of India from all parts and the celebration would be designed to reflect this in full measure.

There is a suggestion that 23rd January should be declared Rashtriya Sewa Divas (National Service day) or Rashtriya Shourya Divas (National Day of Courage) on the pattern of Children's Day (14th November) and Teachers' Day (5th September). We shall welcome more suggestions in this regard so that the birth day of Netaji is commemorated by posterity in a befitting manner.

It is proposed to declare 23rd January, 1997, the day of the commencement of the centenary celebrations, an administrative holiday and to have an inaugural function on that day at the Red Fort. A commemorative stamp on Netaji will also be released in that function.

During the centenary year, commemorative coins in the memory of Netaji will be issued; a biographical film will be released; and a biography will be published and circulated. Government of India will also give financial support for bringing out the Collected Works of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

The Government also plans to have a suitable memorial for Netaji and the INA. The memorial of Netaji can be in Cuttack, where he was born or any other suitable place. The INA memorial can be at Moirang in Manipur, the Swatantrata Sangram Sangrahalaya and Swatantrata Senani Smarak set up in the Red Fort-Salimgarh Fort Complex will be strengthened.

To ensure that the birth centenary is celebrated throughout the country, Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories have been requested to plan and organise suitable programmes and activities. Seminars, debates, quiz and painting competitions will be organised in schools and colleges throughout the country.

Also, since the birth centenary celebration would eventually overlap with the 50th anniversary of India's Independence, an effort would be made to integrate them in an enriching manner.

I am confident that the cooperation of all the Members of this august House shall be forthcoming in full measure in our endeavour to celebrate this birth centenary in a befitting manner...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Is 23rd January being declared as a National Holiday? (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVE GOWDA : 23rd January is declared as a National Holiday for 1997 only.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Only for 1997. It is not being declared as a National holiday...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister also has stated that you have any suggestion, it is welcome. You can give more suggestions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : A war memorial in Manipur in Imphal is in a very bad shape...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should take note of it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : On the occasion of the birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, I will request the Government to release whatever documents are available with the Defence Ministry regarding the INA. That is very much pertinent and that will dispel many of the confusions that are going on...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Statement says that you can give suggestions, more suggestions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I do not think that we can finish our business like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Bharadwaj.

(Interruptions)

13.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Stripping of a Woman in Mandya district, Karnataka leading to Suicide

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to a matter of urgent public importance with a request that he may make a statement on it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Sir, I have not spoken as yet.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, the hon. Minister will reply first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

ONE HON'BLE MEMBER : Those who had served in I.N.A., their dependents are not getting any pension. I want that on this occasion pension should be announced for them.

[English]

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : I have not explained the incident. I have.

[Translation]

Sir, I have yet completed the format...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded

[English]

I have not yet explained the incident... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I have only said that he may make a statement. I have yet to speak further... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER You first draw the attention of the Minister and the hon. Minister will reply and then you can put questions.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

The situation arising out of reported stripping of a woman in village Murukanahalli of Mandya district, Karnataka in front of her husband leading to suicide by the woman and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) The hon. Member of Parliament who has given the Calling Attention Notice has drawn attention to a news item appearing in *The Times of India* on 10th December, 1996 which alleges, *inter alia*, that a woman committed suicide as a result of her being stripped naked in the presence of the village panchayat. In this connection the Central Government obtained a report from the State Government. The facts of the case as reported by the State are as follows:

- (i) That on 4.12.1996 a complaint was lodged by one Nanjegowda, resident of Murukanahalli village, K.P. Pet Taluka, which is in Karnataka mentioning that his wife Shrimati Thayamma consumed poison and died on account of humiliation caused to her by three women of the village who removed her saree and tied her to the pillar in front of the Panchayat members of the village. This, according to the complainant, was at the instigation of a contractor who had not been given certain portion of the complainant's land. The complainant named 16 persons as responsible for the death of his wife.
- (ii) A case under Section 306 IPC was registered on the complaint. Spot inspection was conducted by the police Sub-Inspector, one poison bottle was seized and body was sent for post mortem. Two accused were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Action against the other accused is in progress. The place of incident was visited later by the senior executive and police officers

of the district. The investigations reveal that the starting point of the incident was not at the instigation of the contractor, as alleged by the husband of the deceased but on account of an altogether different reason.

- (iii) It appears that a few days before the incident, one Shrimati Lalithamma, wife of Suresh, who were neighbours of the deceased, accused Shrimati Thayamma (deceased) of having illicit relationship with her husband and there was reportedly exchange of abuses between them. Subsequently, Shrimati Thayamma (deceased) reportedly started spreading in the village that Suresh told her of his illicit relationship with three other women of the same village. The husbands of these women and Shri Nanjegowda requested the village elders to hold a Panchayat to inquire about the allegations made by Shrimati Thayamma. On 3.12.1996 the village elders and 150-200 persons gathered for the Panchayat where Suresh Nanjegowda and his wife Thayamma were also present. On being queried by the Panchayat as to why Shrimati Thayamma was spreading rumours about other women, during the course of the meeting, accusations and counter-accusations were made and the three women who were accused of extra-marital relations held Thayamma near a pillar and in the melee, the sari of Shrimati Thayamma got removed. The Panchayatdars intervened and restored order and one Panchayatdar even gave his *panche* to Shrimati Thayamma.
- (iv) At her house Shrimati Thayamma consumed some pesticide reportedly bought by her about five back for agricultural purposes. She was taken to K.R. Pet hospital (about three kilometres) by her husband and other family members where she was declared dead at about 0700 hours on 4.12.1996. According to the investigation, the omission of the name of Suresh as an accused despite admission of his illicit relationship with Shrimati Thayamma has also created a doubt about the veracity of the complaint filed by the husband of the deceased.
- (v) As per the enquiries at the village with the family members of the deceased, the neighbour near the Panchayat Katte who claimed to have witnessed the Panchayat, neither Shrimati Thayamma or her husband were brought for the Panchayat forcibly, nor the removal of saree of Shrimati Thayamma was intentional or on the instigation of the Panchayatdars or anybody else as alleged by the deceased's husband. At

the most Shrimati Laxmamma, Shrimati Rathna, and Shrimati Vasanta who were incensed on being accused of illicit relationship, can be held responsible u/s 354 IPC for removal of saree of Shrimati Thayamma, hence, the investigating officer has been instructed to take action against them as per the law. As regards the Panchayatdars, no other case appears to have been made out because the Panchayat was held on the request of Nanjegowda (husband of the deceased) himself to settle a village matter. Instructions to complete the investigation of the case in expeditious manner have been issued.

- (vi) Besides, instructions have been issued to send more frequent police beats to Murukanahalli village and to keep close watch over the developments. The present situation is reportedly peaceful at the village.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs to speak about the type of atrocities being committed on women in this country. My calling attention motion is in this regard. That is why I am feeling pained and getting annoyed. The more shocking aspect is that this incident took place in our respectable Prime Minister's State.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : I have understood this. With due respect to the House, I do not think that this kind of issue can be discussed on the floor of this apex institution. I am sorry, I have a new Member but there are several senior Members here. In a village if something happens, it is the lookout of the State Government. I do not want to enter into the controversy. The hon. Speaker himself has admitted this, so I bow my head but this is not the issue to be discussed in this highest institution.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a State matter actually. In any case you are entitled to put one query.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Under the Rules, you are allowed to put only one query.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have not made any query as yet. I have not even started my speech...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the occasion to speak, you can put a question. You go through the rules, You bring a motion without going through the rules.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, five thousand years ago in this very India Drampadi was stripped and likewise now Thayamma is being stripped then would you leave this matter on the state. Do you find it justified? I am addressing this question to the respected Prime Minister who says it is a matter of state. It is not an ordinary incident. My humble request is that please listen the facts which I am going to narrate to you with seriousness and rapt attention.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, on 9th March, 1994 a question was raised in Rajya Sabha in which it was asked...Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister is not present here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot do that. It is the Home Minister who has to reply to this. How can you ask the Prime Minister to be here?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Sir, on the 9th March 1994, a question was raised in Rajya Sabha asking for the data under the specific head 'stripping of women' and the answer was, 'it is not compiled by the Central Government'. On the third of August, 1995, again a similar answer was given in Rajya Sabha, 'that the data under the heading stripping of women in public is not compiled by the Central Government'.

[Translation]

Even today when I asked the Parliamentary Research Centre to furnish the data for this motion, they told me that it was not available. There was stripping of a woman at a public place. This is such a crime with regard to which data should be compiled and should be discussed in the House. It seems to be a very mean instance. It should be discussed in this apex House of India. The statistics of Government pertaining to rapes, abductions, dowry deaths, cruelty by husband and relatives, harassment, molestation, Sati, immoral trafficking show that these crimes figure 74 thousands in 1991, 79 thousands in 1992 and then these increased to 81 thousands and 83 thousands.

[English]

Molestation and all sorts of atrocities on women in this country are increasing everyday.

[Translation]

and then it would be said that these crimes should not be discussed in this House.

[English]

Every 23 minutes, a woman is molested. Every 45 minutes, there is a rape on a woman. Every 43 minutes, a woman is abducted. Every 22 minutes, there are

atrocities on a women by her husband. Every 50 minutes, there is eve-teasing in this country. Every 52 minutes, there is an illegal trade of ladies' flesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I know that you are a new Member but you should know certain provisions of the Rules of Procedure. You cannot discuss it under this. You can only put a query, only a question.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, before making any query some light would have to be thrown in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have to bring it under a different rule, not under this rule.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, even a senior Member would have given a speech on this incident.

[English]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South) : The Prime Minister intervened and said that it was a State matter. He does not think that it is an important matter. This should be discussed at the highest forum...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Sir, this is an important matter. He cannot just dismiss saying that it is a State subject and walk off from the House. Why am I sitting in this House? It is a grave insult to womanhood and to the honour and dignity of women.

[Translation]

Whenever a point pertaining to women is raised before this Government and yesterday George Sahab also had said that Members start laughing and today also the Members sitting here are laughing. With anguish I am saying that this is an incident of atrocities on women. Now even the Prime Minister has left the House. It would be shocking if this incident is not discussed in this House. So far as stripping of a woman is concerned, my most important point is that in our scriptures it has been said...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have to speak just for a minute.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I can allow only the Member, whose name has been listed here. No other Member is entitled to speak. Why do you not read the rules?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Please listen to me. Do not behave like Dushasan here. Sir, through you I want to draw attention of this House to some facts stated by Mr. Minister in his statement. In his statement it has been stated : She has died on account of humiliation caused to her by three women. It may be noted that her saree was removed by three women and they tied her against a pillar and then she was stripped.

In this year of 50th anniversary of independence of the country, we must reflect on incident of this type that took place five thousand years ago in this country and which led to the great war of Kurukshetra. You appreciated the serial based on it. Whether mere applauding of serial serves our purpose.

It further reads as follows.

[English]

...during the course of the meeting, accusations and counter-accusations were made and the three women who were accused of extra-marital relations held Thayamma near a pillar and in the melee, the saree of Shrimati Thayamma got removed. Also, the Panchayatdars intervened and restored order." When?

[Translation]

But when? When a woman had been dragged to a pillar, tied against that and her saree removed. Till then the Panchayat kept quite. Whether mere touching of clothes of a woman does not tantamount to disgrace to her, why the Panchayat maintained indifferent at the time. When they made advances to strip her.

[English]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Is it not abetment to crime?

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Is it allowed in the Panchayat?

[Translation]

Is it allowed in the Panchayat that Panch should come in action only when a woman has already been stripped...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Nanje Gowda's report reads as follows.

[English]

"When I tried to cover my wife with the cloth, I was prevented from doing so." He has very clearly said that.

[Translation]

Please ask them to stop laughing. One day they will also be stripped and then I will watch the

impressions on their faces...*(Interruptions)* whether every case of atrocity on woman would be handled by this Government in this manner...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you provoking him?

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South) : They are taking the matter very lightly...*(Interruptions)* When the wife was disrobed, her husband was prevented ...*(Interruptions)* When they go to the villages, they do not bother about this...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I express resentment at the behaviour of the Members of this House. This shows how much respect they have for women. While discussion is going on in this house on this sensitive issue, they are jeering and laughing. This shows how much respect the Members of the ruling party have for women...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot say that. She has been permitted. It is enough. I will make way for him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to make two submissions to you in brief

[English]

I understand the rules

[Translation]

But you please ask them to keep quite

[English]

you know that I never speak beyond the rules

[Translation]

When two questions were raised on this issue in Rajya Sabha, in reply thereto it was stated on behalf of the Government.

[English]

What are the policies? The question is How is the Government trying to stop this?

[Translation]

The same thing was stated in both the replies.

[English]

That the media is used to project the women in positive terms.

[Translation]

In this House, through you I want to ask the Government

[English]

I do not see anything which is positive in projecting the women

[Translation]

But what is going on in the media today - Choli Ke Pichhe Kya Hai or Choli Ke Ander Kya Hai - such type of things are being shown on Doordarshan ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you doing my job? I have not asked you to help me. But you are going out of context. Shri Nitish Bharadwaj, I have given you enough opportunity

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : You please ask them to keep quiet, only then I shall be able to express my views

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given you enough opportunity. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : It is clearly evident from the police enquiry that Panchayat tried to depend Suresh who is a son of Panchayat Pradhan.

Here it is mentioned very clearly-

[English]

"nor the removal of saree of Shrimati Thayamma was intentional."

Is it all right if it was not intentional?

[Translation]

It is my first question.

My second question is .

[English]

"At the most Shrimati Laxmamma, Shrimati Rathna and Shrimati Vasanta who were incensed on being accused of illicit relationship, can be held responsible."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday hon'ble Indrajit Gupta, while replying to the point of Umaji said that he also has doubts over the integrity of police, therefore, he has referred this case to CBI. I want to ask whether it is not a clear issue that I express my doubt over integrity of police.

Intentionally or unintentionally no one has right to stripping a woman in this country.

I respect you Mr. Inderjit ji. You have thoughtfully expressed your views during the last six months. But it should not happen like where we talk about man, manliness workmanship and your name 'Indrajit' signifies that you have won Lord 'Indra'. You have power and utilize it in the public interest.

Jenaji, it will not be possible here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if every issue is taken in such a light manner...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhardwaj, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you worried? You have to get the answer only from the Home Minister. Why are you repeating again and again? That does not speak high of you, if you are repeating one thing ten times.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be ensured in the House that this matter should be referred to CBI and its report should be presented in the House on the very first day of the next session. Because intentionally or unintentionally no one has the right to disrob or dishonour woman in India. This is my submission.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I appreciate the agitation felt by the young and a new Member of this House. There is nothing wrong in giving expression to one's concern for an incident which involves the disrobing of a woman. This is a matter of shame, a matter of deep concern to the whole House. But he has not asked any question. If he is making a suggestion that this matter should be referred to the CBI for investigation, that is a question to which I will give my mind because I am awaiting a further detailed report in this matter. The S.P. has informed us that they were continuing their investigation and that they would send us the further report.

Out of sixteen people who have been accused, only two have been arrested. The rest of them are absconding. By any means, this matter is not over. It will

continue and if we find, at any stage, that it is a case worthy of being referred to the CBI, that will also be done, though I do not personally think that all cases of these types should necessarily go to the CBI. The CBI is a very prestigious institution. The CBI is not competent to deal with all types and all manner of cases. However, he has not asked any specific question, but he has tried to link up this episode with the general question of treatment of women. We all know as to what the situation in this country is. A number of cases of atrocities, molestations, etc. are going up.

The Centre has a specific responsibility; generally it has a responsibility for all such cases of crime against women.

It has a more specific responsibility when the persons concerned are either belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. This is not the case in this particular instance. These were not people belonging to those communities. But that is not the point. I will only say that we are probing this case further and people who have been accused, against whom evidence is collected in the investigation will certainly be booked. We hope that the public opinion will everywhere condemn any such incident which leads to insulting and disrobing or dishonouring women in this country.

The hon. lady Member from that side has gone out now. I do not agree with her. I resent very much this kind of allegation that there is some kind of a monopoly on that side for caring about women and nobody on this side bothers about women. I resent it. Personally I resent very much this kind of charge because it is completely unfounded.

Secondly, I cannot reply to the questions of what happened in the Rajya Sabha and who said what in the Rajya Sabha. You know that very well.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister has right now said that issues regarding Harijans and women cannot be held in this House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Who said so. It's wrong to speak like this.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I pay my thanks to the hon'ble Minister. I am leaving the House with heavy heart because the Prime Minister has left the House by saying that this issue is not so important. I feel sorry to have such a Prime Minister

13.42 hrs.

At this stage Shri Nitish Bharadwaj left the House.

13.43 hrs.

INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given a notice opposing the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I have also given a notice.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I was the first to oppose it and I also gave a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it necessary that all the Members should speak?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, there is one piece of information.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not supposed to take all the information of what is happening

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is about the discussion under Rule 193 regarding the sports. My submission is that if the debate could be initiated this time we can take it further to the next Session. That would be comfortable.

MR. SPEAKER : That could be done.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, when will you allow us to initiate the debate?

MR. SPEAKER : I think some of the Bills are also to be deferred. I will come to that. We will see what to do.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, we can initiate the discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : I think your suggestion is a good suggestion. In any case the W.T.O. matter has also to

be disposed of. We will start it and it can be carried over to the next Session. I agree with your suggestion.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : What time can it be started because at 3.30 p.m. the Private Member's Business will be taken up?

MR. SPEAKER : It will be before the Private Members' Business.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the reply on discussion on the W.T.O. has also to be given.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I am asking you to please be here in the House and do not go out.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee speak now.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996. Though the Bill does not propose privatisation of insurance companies *per se*, my apprehension is indirectly this is the first step in the direction of privatisation. Why do I think so? The Statement of Objects and Reasons, in para 2, says and I quote :

"In April, 1993 the Government set up a high-powered Committee headed by Shri R.N. Malhotra, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India to examine the structure of the insurance industry and recommended changes to make it more efficient and competitive keeping in view the structural changes in other parts of the financial system of the country".

So the idea is that keeping in view the structural changes in other parts of the financial system of the economy, the structure of the insurance industry was examined and changes recommended to make it more efficient and competitive by the Malhotra Committee and this Bill is a product of that.

Now, Sir, what are the other trends of structural changes in other parts of the financial economy? Everyone knows that it is towards more and more privatisation. The main reason advanced in favour of privatisation is to make it more efficient and competitive. Therefore, the mention of these phrases in the Statement of Objects and Reasons creates an apprehension in my mind. It is well known through the Press reports that the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram while visiting the USA some time back said that the insurance sector would be opened soon to private companies, Indian and foreign.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 20.12.96.

In the opening lines of the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is said :

"The insurance industry requires a high degree of regulation."

MR. SPEAKER : At this stage, only the constitutional competence of Parliament can be gone into. You cannot go into the merits and objectives of the Bill. The question is whether Parliament is competent. That is the only point you can make.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I am saying this in view of my apprehension that it is a move towards privatisation of insurance. That is why I think Parliament at this stage, without first ascertaining the opinion of Parliament on that question, cannot take up this Bill. This is my substantive objection. I do not think he will win because the growth of our LIC and GIC is much higher than your so-called private sector.

MR. SPEAKER : You should say all these things at the time of the debate.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : At the time of the debate, I shall dwell on all that aspects.

I think there is already a regulatory body and that could be improved. This Bill is not necessary.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill even at this stage on four accounts. Firstly, it contravenes several provisions both in letter and spirit of the Constitution. Even in the Preamble of the Constitution, which has not been amended, we call it Sovereign, Democratic, Social, Secular Republic. In the Constitution, the goals set before the nation are well spelt out as also the means to achieve those goals and the public sector is considered to be one of the very significant and important footsteps to achieve those goals. Now, there is an attempt through the backdoor to undo the spelt out means to achieve those goals, as enshrined in our Constitution. Thirdly, the policy holders as also the general public, the people of India are sovereign. The policy holders and the people of India, according to a survey, had spelt out clearly that they are happy with the functioning of both the insurance companies, GIC and LIC. It is a part of the Malhotra Committee Report. In MARG, it is quoted that the policy holders as also the general public had appeared for evidence.

We have a federal structure. There is one unanimous resolution from the State Legislature of West Bengal that such steps should never be taken which will be detrimental to the social cause, to the public sector because both the insurance companies, LIC and GIC have been playing a very important role, a social role to achieve the national goal. The West Bengal Legislature passed one unanimous resolution on 11th of February, just about one month after this Report was submitted.

So, I oppose this Bill tooth and nail even at this stage, because it contravenes several provisions of the Constitution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, your notice was received at 10.35 a.m. You have to give it before 10.00 a.m. Even then, I am allowing you, as a special case.

13.51 hrs.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a different footing. A reference has been made to the Malhotra Committee here. The report of the Malhotra Committee was neither presented to the House nor was it discussed on the floor of the House. An assurance was given by the former Minister of Finance, Shri Manmohan Singh that the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee would not be implemented. When I was the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, that Committee also examined this subject and the evidence was given there by the Ministry of Finance that the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee were not being implemented by the Government, as there is a very strong opposition from all the federations and unions. Even the Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha had examined this subject and that Committee also recommended that the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee should not be implemented in respect of privatisation of LIC and GIC and opening up of the insurance industry.

Then, the Insurance Regulatory Authority was constituted stealthily and clandestinely in January, 1995 by by-passing the Parliament and keeping the Parliament in dark at that time. What is the necessity to make it a statutory body now? I presume that this is the first step towards opening our insurance sector to private companies. The Minister is saying that if the insurance sector is opened, the LIC and GIC will not be weakened, rather they will be strengthened. But, if the insurance sector is opened, the LIC and GIC will not be strengthened, rather they will be weakened. So, what is the necessity of bringing this Bill on the last day of the Session? What is the purpose? The only purpose is to open up the insurance sector to the multinational companies, private companies and to weaken the public sector undertakings of our country.

In view of this, I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : No; you cannot do it without giving notice. It is only those who have given notice can speak at this stage. You have not given notice. You should have given notice. I cannot allow you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no constitutional ground has been pointed out by any of my hon. friends to oppose the introduction of the Bill at this stage. Under List I, Entry 47 of the Constitution, Parliament has competence to make a Bill. At the moment, I am only introducing a Bill to carry out a statement which I made in the Budget speech that I would introduce a Bill to make the non-statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority as statutory authority. I submit, Sir, none of these objections are valid and I may be granted leave to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

13.55 hrs.

VICE-PRESIDENT PENSION BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce* a Bill to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring Vice-President.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring Vice-President."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : I want to inform the House that Item Nos. 28, 29 and 32 will be deferred. Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377. After this, we shall take up Item Nos. 30 and 31. These two Bills will be passed without discussion. Then, we shall take up Item Nos. 33 and 34, namely, discussions on Singapore Declaration and discussion regarding deterioration in the standard of sports in the country respectively.

13.56 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Evolve Concrete Measures for Utilisation of Funds Allocated for the Development of Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government will be aware of the fact that initiatives were taken to change the procedure which is in vogue for years for giving momentum to the implementation of development works under the tribal sub-plan in Madhya Pradesh. It has been proposed to provide the amount direct to the Adivasi project level. Under the tribal sub-plan, Project Advisory Boards have been constituted for utilisation of funds by the Adivasis for their welfare.

13.57 hrs.

(Shri Basu Deb Acharia in the Chair)

I urge upon the Government that to ensure that the amount being provided under the Adivasi Project is being utilized properly, some positive and concrete steps should be taken for implementation.

- (ii) **Need to Issue Licence for Setting up a Sugar Mill in Unnao District, U.P.**

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, large quantity of sugarcane is provided in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh but in the absence of any sugar Mill nearby, the farmers experience lot of difficulties. Not only farmers but the whole nation is suffering loss as the farmers are not cultivating sugarcane. There is no sugar factory in Unnao. Local people and representatives of the area are demanding for setting up of a sugar mill for the last several years but Govt. is not paying attention to this.

I urge upon the Govt. to grant approval to set up a sugar mill in Unnao district in the national as well as in the interest of farmers so that cultivation of sugarcane in Unnao district is not discontinued.

- (iii) **Need to Give Ownership Right of Forest Land to Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan**

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers in the country, for want of land, are cultivating the forest and revenue land for the last 15-20 years. There are Adivasi places in Udaipur, Durgapur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Sirohi districts in Rajasthan where cultivation is being carried out for the

last 30 years. The houses and wells have been constructed on that land. When Govt.'s attention was drawn way back in 1992, the Govt. decided that the land in possession prior to 1980-85 will be surveyed and the Adivasis and farmers will be given the ownership right of such land. The Govt. conducted a survey. A committee was constituted for the allotment and some initiatives were taken to benefit the farmers but Govt. are not paying attention to the aforesaid work of allotment due to change of regime. I urge upon the Central Govt. to give ownership right to the farmers and Adivasi who have been in possession of forest land and revenue land for the last 15-20 years on humanitarian grounds.

14.00 hrs.

(iv) Need to Expedite Construction of a Youth Hostel at Sogul in District Belgaum, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : The Government of India has called for the tenders for the construction of a Youth Hostel at Sogul, Belgaum District, in Karnataka State.

Though the tenders have been called for long back, the tenders have not yet been accepted and the work has not yet started. Hence, I request the Union Government to complete the formalities for accepting the tender immediately so that work could be started at the earliest.

(v) Need to Set up a Wolframite Based Industry in the District of Bankura West Bengal

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : The Geological Survey of India, in the year 1979 estimated a reserve of 2,44,755 tonnes of ore of WO₃ content varying between 8.05 per cent to 0.63 per cent up to a depth of 30 metres comprising Wolframite bearing quartz veins in Thanpahar, Cheradungri, Purappani and Dhajuri sectors of the Chendapathar area of P.S. Ranibandh, in the district of Bankura in West Bengal.

The Geological investigation and the analytical data of the systematic analysis outcrop samples (both channel and grab samples) and drilled rocks have indicated a significant presence of Tungsten both in the quartz vein and in the associated host rock. It is also interesting to note that besides Tungsten, notable concentration of Copper, Lead, Zinc, Bismuth, Silver etc. is found in the Chendapathar area.

Bankura District is a backward district in West Bengal and Wolframite is a precious mineral which is used in aeroplanes, canons, reflex, filament of bulbs

etc. I urge upon the Union Government to set up a Wolframite based industry in the district of Bankura in West Bengal and restore the honour of common minimum programme of the United Front Government.

(vi) Need for Construction of a Bridge Along the Existing Footpath Near the Palliady Railway Station on the Thiruvnanthapuram-Kanyakumari Railway Line

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Providing a bridge along the existing footpath near the Palliady Railway Station on the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Railway line or to man the existing level crossing therein is the long standing demand, need and necessity of the place. The people of Palliady and neighbourhood on one side and the people of Muruthoorkurichy and neighbourhood on the other are facing a lot of difficulties and inconvenience as vehicles cannot pass through from one side to the other side through this point. The level crossing is not manned. The footpath is very narrow and vehicles cannot pass through it. The people have represented for long to man the level crossing, but it did not materialise. So, the only alternative is to provide a bridge along the existing footpath.

I urge upon the Government to provide a bridge along the existing footpath near the Palliady Railway Station on the Thiruvnanthapuram-Kanyakumari Railway line at the earliest.

(vii) Need to Repair the Road from Gulavathi to Ghaziabad

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : In my constituency the road from Massori bridge to Gulavathi is in a dilapidated condition. This road was constructed in 1974. Since then no repair work has been undertaken and whole stretch of 20 km is in broken state. There are 50 villages on both sides of this road and lakhs of people are living there. The condition of this road is so dilapidated that buses cannot ply on this road. People are facing lot of inconvenience.

I, therefore, request that this road should be reconstructed and widened.

14.05 hrs.

INDIAN CONTRACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA) : Now we shall take up the next item. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap to move the motion further to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Law Commission in its 97th report recommended that Section 28 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 be amended. This suggestion was made because Section 28 as it is on the statute book now has created some sort of uncertainty about a party's rights to enforce their rights under any agreement.

Presently, Section 28 allows parties to an agreement to substitute their own period of limitation in place of the period laid down in the general law of limitation. But they are free to provide that if a party does not sue within a specified period, within the rights accruing under the contract, it shall be forfeited or extinguished or that party shall be discharged from all liability under the contract. This distinction is very fine and a number of litigating contracting parties have found it difficult in practice to ascertain this very fine difference between what is meant by extinguishing of a right and what is meant by extinction of remedy. This anomaly is sought to be cleared by virtue of this Section 28.

This has already been passed by this House and this amendment is overdue because this suggestion came in 1984. The Bill was introduced in 1992 and we are in 1996. This amendment has not been passed so far by this House. Since this is meant for dispelling the difficulties of a large many people, I commend this to the House to kindly consider this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

It has been decided and Hon. Speaker has also observed that both these Bills should be passed without any discussion. But as a special case, I will allow Justice Guman Mal Lodha to speak.

14.08 hrs.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : I am supporting the Bill. It is true that an anomaly is there and that anomaly must be rightly removed. But what I want to submit is that there must be a comprehensive consideration for improving, uplifting and making the Indian Contract Act upto date as it has now become obsolete and requires lot of amendments.

I would only say this much as an example that there are now in the share market several contractors and thousands of small investors are being defrauded

on the ground that they have signed with their free consent. But there are frauds which are being practised at the level of various companies on account of which thousands of investors who have their money in Provident Fund after working for their whole life and who have invested there find no protection for their money and they are defrauded on the ground that they have entered into an agreement with their eyes open.

This is only one example. Since you are saying that this Bill should be passed immediately, I am not going into the details. But there are several such cases after independence in this country where the poor and the down-trodden persons who are not intelligent enough are being defrauded in the name of free consent under the Contract Act and, therefore, I submit that the hon. Law Minister should come out with a series of amendments, give a serious thought and decide which of the amendments are required in the Indian Contract Act because this Act was enacted at the time of Macaulay who did it at a time when this country was a slave and this is a relic of slavery. But nonetheless the amendment with which the Law Minister has come is required and I am supporting it with the request that the investors' money in various transactions at various levels of joint stock companies, chit fund companies, finance companies and other such institutions should not be defrauded. Their money must be saved and such amendments must be made in future.

SHRI BALAJI CHANDRA RAY (Burdwan) : Sir, I support this Bill. But in supporting this Bill, I must point out the anomalies that have again been introduced. Originally, what Section 28 provided was that any contract where the remedy is made unenforceable, is void. It was also provided that a remedy in which a new limitation is introduced, the contract is void. Now what is sought to be introduced is to extinguish the right. Instead of remedy, if you extinguish the right that is void and if you limit the right, that is also void. The difficulty that we are facing in understanding this sub-clause (b) of Clause 28 is the wording of the section. The wording is archaic and should have been made clearer. But more important is the parties to the contract, the weaker parties that are quite often forced into such contracts. But what happens when the weaker States are forced into such contracts? There is no provision for any multinational companies coming into a contract and agreeing to a firm which shall not only be India, not only be the other parties contracting this country but may be the third country where the remedy shall lie. That is not void. The court has already held earlier that such a contract is not void. But it does not appear that the Law Ministry's attention has been drawn to it. The result is that the judicial system in all the countries is not the same and the judicial system in all the countries is not independent of the States other than the organ.

If a third party or a multinational has a right to enter into a contract, the remedy will be in a State where separate system of delivery of justice will be there, then the contracting party the State of India shall be in difficulty. No attention has been given to that.

I would make one final request to the Law Minister to the Act of 1872 which is 125 year old. No comprehensive attention has been given to this Act so that the Act may be revamped and a new Act may be enforced. This should be looked into. Either the Law Commission be requested or some other Commission be requested to go into the problem.

China has introduced one very important law, a joint venture law. Now that we are opening up, we are supposed to be liberalising our economy and introducing and inviting the countries into the joint venture. There should be such of contract laws to regulate those contracts. China has set an example of it as a complete force. We invite the attention of the Law Minister to this to look into the problem and make a joint venture law.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Hon. Members are not wrong when they say that this Act was enacted in 1872. We have now come with an amendment to one Section, namely Section 28 of this Act. Billions of cusecs of water have perhaps flowed down the rivers of our country. Times have also changed and changing times do require new types of legislation. We are aware of the situation. The Law Commission is engaged in studying different Acts and I am proposing different solutions. Today I have laid on the Table of the House the 15th Report of the Law Commission on the Criminal Procedure Code. This particular suggestion of having a second look and a detailed look at the 1872 Act is a very welcome suggestion. We will consider this and we will come up before this House with laws which will be able to stand the test of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up Item No. 31 - Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1996. Shri M. Arunachalam.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, the Speaker has mentioned that I would initiate my discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is another Bill also. When this Bill is passed, then you can initiate your discussion.

14.17 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

APPRENTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

Sir, as the hon. House is aware, the Apprentices Act was enacted in 1961 with the objective of regulating programmes of Apprenticeship in industry for imparting practical training. The Act was amended twice. It was first amended in 1973 to bring within the purview the training of graduate engineers, diploma holders in engineering/technology as graduate/technician apprentices. It was further amended in 1986 to ring within its purview the training of technician (vocational) apprentices from the products of the 10+2 vocational stream of education. In reply to the Question raised in the Rajya Sabha, an assurance was given by the then Union Labour Minister in the 139th Session of Rajya Sabha on 20th August 1986 for taking up a proposal for

bringing about comprehensive amendment of the Apprentices Act.

Sir, in order to undertake the review, suggestions were invited from various Central and State Governments' undertakings, employers' and employees' representatives. The Central Apprenticeship Council, the apex tripartite statutory body set up under the Apprentices Act, considered these suggestions during its various meetings and constituted Working Groups and a Task Force from amongst its own members to propose the amendments.

Sir, the Central Apprenticeship Council in its 22nd meeting on 30th January 1990 accepted the recommendations of the Working Groups and the Task Force after due deliberations. Therefore, they have recommended amendments.

The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 25.8.1995 by the former Union Minister which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare where the matter was fully discussed.

Sir, one of the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee relates to amendment of penalties proposed under Section 31 of the Apprentices Act. The Committee suggested that the penalties may be increased from Rs. 500, at present to a minimum of Rs. 3,000 and a maximum of Rs. 6,000.

It is submitted that the Apprentices Act, 1961 is a piece of welfare legislation and launching of prosecution is not its primary objective. The enhancement of the amount of fine from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3000 may not, by itself, bring about any radical or qualitative change or improvement in the situation.

The Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour needs to play a positive and proactive role in persuading and carrying conviction to employers in the private and public sectors for closer coordination and more effective implementation of the Act rather than going for a punitive approach.

It is submitted for kind information of the Hon. Members, that the Apprentices Amendment Bill 1996 has already been discussed and passed by Rajya Sabha during this Session of Parliament.

If the House approves the proposed amendments, it will be another step in the progressive development of our training schemes.

With these words, I request the House to pass it unanimously.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Apprentice Amendment Bill, 1996 is a progressive step and has urged the House to pass it, but some of the provisions of the Bill are objectionable. I would like to draw your attention to some of them.

Clause 5 of the Bill says :

[English]

(ii) in sub-clause (i), for the words "five hundred", the words "two hundred and fifty" shall be substituted.

[Translation]

I fail to understand as to how the reduction in the stipend to the apprentice from Rs. 500 to Rs. 250 can benefit him when the Consumer Price Index is rising and prices of all Commodities are skyrocketing. The owners of factories will definitely benefit but how can an apprentice benefit from it, is beyond my comprehension. The need is to raise this stipend to Rs. 750 or Rs. 1000 because prices of all essential commodities are rising. This is not a progressive step but a retrograde step – a reactionary step which is not only anti-labour but also anti-people. Therefore I would like to submit that if the hon. Minister thinks that Lok Sabha should pass it without consideration as the Rajya Sabha has already passed it, this would not be appropriate. He should give a justification.

Section 5 of the Bill says that the apprentice will get benefit only during basic training. Earlier the apprentice use to get benefit during both i.e. practical training as well as basic training. This means that the apprentice is being deprived of what he was getting under the original law. This amendment has thus given a bolt to the apprentice. That is why I feel that this Bill is anti-labour, anti people and a retrograde step. I do not understand the justification of this amending Bill. I do not have any objection to other provisions of the bill as more or less they are innocuous. I would like clarification in respect of only one provision. It states :

[English]

(i) "worker" means any person who is employed for wages any in any kind of work and who gets his wages directly from the employer but shall not include an apprentice referred to in clause (aa)

[Translation]

I fail to understand the clause (aa) which has been mentioned here. Will the worker be benefitted by deletion of clause (aa) or not. The hon. Minister must give a clarification.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the apprenticeship amount should be raised instead of reducing it. I support the will broadly, but oppose in particular, clause 5 of the Bill. I hope the hon. Minister would delete it. Only then this will be a progressive step.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Lodhaji, I think the reduction in the figure from 500 to 250 is the number of workers and not the apprenticeship amount.

[English]

The Minister may tell the correct position. What is the correct position?

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the provision of the original Bill have not been given, it is not clear what is this figure of 500. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify it when he replies to the debate.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, then the Apprentices Act, 1961 was enacted in the year 1961, the main purpose was to provide apprenticeships to technicians, engineers and diploma holders.

Now, there is a lacuna in the Act itself. If certain undertakings and industrial units do not follow the mandatory provisions, are there any measures which could be taken? This is not clear in the amending Bill. This is necessary because we have the experience of a number of undertakings, a number of industrial units not following the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

Then, another lacuna in this. Previously, it was obligatory on the part of the employer to give employment to the persons receiving apprenticeship, but this has been dispensed with. The various organisations giving apprenticeship are not bound to give employment to the candidates receiving apprenticeships, not even up to a certain percentage. This happens even where there is a rule. I know particularly of the Railways where a large number of candidates are every year receiving apprenticeships in the various workshops at the various Division of the Indian Railways. This goes on for years together. These candidates, these unemployed, youth who have received such apprenticeships are not provided with employment, even though there is a provision in the rules to give employment, up to twenty per cent. That twenty per cent is not given to these apprentices who receive training. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour a number of times that the provisions are not being followed.

My suggestion is, a certain amendment could be inserted so that some provision could be made and

some compulsion could be introduced on the part of Act the organisation, on the part of the employer to give employment to the apprentices.

There are a number of instances where these Act apprentices are treated equally.

Even diploma holders are treated on par with the degree holders. They are asked to compete with graduate engineers. Then, what is the use of receiving training? This has happened in Kharagpur. Myself and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee fought together, we met Ministers and ultimately a solution was found after one year. They had to wait for three years.

There were four hundred vacancies. Those vacancies were to be filled up. The number of Act Apprentices was 275. So, all those Act Apprentices could have been employed in the Kharagpur workshop. But what did the workshop management do? They held an open competition. No preference was given to them. So, what is the use of giving training?

The Standing Committee on Railways had also recommended in its Report on 'Safety in Railways' that the vacant posts should be filled up by the candidates who have received training in the Railways, as it was observed that the maintenance and rolling stock were not properly done because of the non-fulfilment of vacancies for years together.

My suggestion is that a provision should be incorporated, earmarking a certain percentage of posts for the candidates receiving training for apprenticeship in public sector or in Government organisations or even in private organisations.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : I just stood up to support what Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said. Our experience in Kharagpur was bitter. Actually the boys had to go on a relay hunger strike for a very long period till all of us intervened, that too at the Ministerial level. The Railways spend money for training the candidates. Why should they spend money, if the apprentices are not going to be absorbed?

Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said that a certain percentage of posts should be earmarked for them. But what I would like to suggest is that for those posts for which apprentices have been trained, there the apprentices should be given priority. If there are any vacancies even after that, then those posts could be filled up from among the open candidates. Some provision of this kind should be there in the Bill. That is my feeling.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, answering to the question raised by Justice Lodha regarding the penalty for the defaulting employer, I would like to state that this was recommended by the Standing Committee also. The Committee had recommended that the penalty should be increased from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000 - Rs. 6,000.

In this connection, I would like to submit that the Apprentices Act, 1961 is a piece of welfare legislation and launching prosecution was not its primary objective. On the recommendation of the Standing Committee, we are proposing to increase it. But it would not give any result.

Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, has raised a pertinent question. He has complained that the trainees who have got training in the establishments were not given jobs. I hope the recent judgement of the Supreme Court would take care of this.

The judgment is that those who are getting training or those who are taking apprenticeship training have to be given preference.

With this, I request the House to pass this Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But that has not been complied with.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The judgement has come very recently.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The instructions are issued from the Ministry of Labour particularly to the Ministry of Railways because the Railways recruit a large number of candidates every year. So, such instructions should be issued from the Ministry of Labour to the Ministry of Railways. The Ministry of Railways should also follow that judgment or comply with that judgement.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Very recently that judgment has come. We will follow it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Okay.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961, 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.

Clauses 2 to 8

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title Stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.37 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

(i) India's Stand on Singapore Declaration of World Trade Organisation - Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the House shall take up further discussion regarding Singapore Declaration of WTO. Shri Premchandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion regarding the WTO Conference which was held in Singapore.

Sir, the recently concluded Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held in Singapore brings acute apprehensions to the economic sovereignty of India. Even the Declaration at Singapore Conference of the World Trade Organisation is not clear. It is vague, it is ambiguous and it is indefinite. It can be interpreted in so many ways in future. Hon. Minister of Commerce has also placed a statement regarding the WTO Conference held at Singapore. I would like to say that that statement is also not complete and not comprehensive because the statement which was placed on the Table of the House is only stating the factual situation and other factual things — what happened or what occurred in the Singapore Conference. The mission of the Indian delegation to the Conference has not been stated in the statement. What was the stand of the Government of India, what had been the approach of the Government of India which was taken or which was delegated by the delegation in the Singapore conference were not stated, as a preamble or as a preface to the statement.

Hence I would like to say that the statement which had been tabled in this House itself is not complete, and it will become complete only when the statement starts with the 'objects and aims' which the Government had taken in the Conference is specifically stated as a preamble or as an introduction. We cannot also say, how far the Government of India has deviated from the traditional path of consistency to a shifting stand.

At the outset, I would like to say that this is really a change or a shift from the traditional path of consistency of India. India is having a consistent stand

regarding these issues. Even when we go back a decade ago and see, we are well aware of this stand in the Uruguay Conference and in the Marrakech Conference.

India was well opposed to so many policies which they wanted to introduce as agenda of the World Trade Organisation and also in those conferences. It is well known that we are vehemently opposed to the social clause, including the social clause agenda of the World Trade Organisation and the patent clause also.

I learnt from the newspapers that the Government of India had convened a conference of senior political leaders. It was committed that no new issues will be discussed in the WTO Conference. What happened in that Conference? That is to be looked into. Paragraph 2 of the statement says:

"The major focus of discussions at Singapore pertained to the future work programme of the WTO, including new issues. The new issues included: (i) Core labour standards; (ii) Investment; and (iii) Competition policy."

It very specifically states that we have shifted from our traditional path of consistency. Our traditional stand has been deviated by this. That is why the leading newspapers described that it was a somersault. It is an about-turn stand taken by the Government of India in that Conference.

Coming to the points one by one, the first one is 'core labour standards'. What is the purpose to incorporating it? What is the purpose of including this labour issue 'core labour standards' as an agenda item of the WTO? I could not understand the reason. The Government of India is very proud to state in the statement that we did not sign a treaty or a treaty has not been concluded in the Conference. India has not signed a treaty.

There is the International Labour Organisation dealing with all these labour standards and setting all these deals. What is the reason by which the labour standards have been included in the Conference? That is why the Left parties since the inception of the WTO have been agitating and alleging that the WTO is going to replace the UNO. The ILO is going to be replaced by the WTO or by the study groups which are being constituted. This organ of the UNO would be replaced in future by the WTO. That is why we are vehemently opposing this Motion.

What would be the position if the core labour standards are going to be determined by the WTO considering all the aspects of our country, that is, the carpet industry and also the textile industry? What would be the fate? Suppose the labour standards are being determined, considered and controlled by the WTO. Then, India's future will be in dark. As I have already stated, India is having a good labour force. It is an

exportable commodity. The immigration of labour from our country to another country will also be barred. So many sanctions will be anticipated by including this matter in the agenda itself.

Paragraph 4 of the Declaration very specifically states :

"We renew our commitment to the observance of internationally recognised core labour standards. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the competent body to set and deal with these standards, and we affirm our support for its work in promoting them."

Then, what was the reason by which it was being incorporated and included as an agenda item of the WTO Conference held in Singapore?

Now, I would raise the point about advantage of being a low wage country, like India. The advantage of a low-wage country like India will be questioned in future. There is no doubt about it. Including this matter as an agenda of the WTO Conference is only the beginning. Supposing the next biennial Conference is going to be held in 1998 and some sanctions on labour standards will be determined. I apprehend that will be discussed later and some treaty will come into effect.

Now I come to the point about working groups. It has been very clearly stated in the draft declaration and also the statement presented by the hon. Minister. Two working groups and study groups have been organised or constituted. The first one is regarding trade and investment and the second one in regarding transparency of the Government. India was vehemently opposing it at the beginning of the Conference. Also prior to the Conference, India was opposing to the constitution of the study groups. Why? It was because that in future they will become working groups of the WTO and they will determine the terms and conditions regarding each trade investment and competition. That is why we were opposing it. But unfortunately, we have given sanction of being a party to the Treaty. We have given our consent to constitute two study groups.

Regarding the first one, a justification has been given in the statement in para 20. It is stated that the study groups are only based on TRIMS, that is, Trade Related Investment Measures. It will not lead to multilateral agreement on investment. That is why India has agreed to the Treaty. If our Government and the official delegation were quite confident that it will never lead to the multilateral agreement on investment, why did India oppose the move to constitute the study groups at the beginning of the Conference? Was India not aware of it? Is it not leading to the multilateral agreement on investment? So, it is a going back. I have

stated about the shift in our persistent stand. It is a shift in our consistent stand about constituting these study groups.

Regarding transparency, I would like to read paragraph 21:

"We further agree to establish a working group to conduct a study on transparency in Government procurement practices, taking into account national policies, and, based on this study, to develop elements for inclusion in an appropriate agreement."

What do we mean by the word 'transparency'? What is the extent of transparency? Even the parliamentary democracy in India will be questioned. The supremacy and sovereignty of our country will be questioned by these developed countries.

I do belong to the Standing Committee on Science and Technology. We have examined the new herbal petrol developed by Shri Raman Pillai. Suppose the WTO initiates the study on transparency regarding industry, investment, new investments and innovations, what has the Standing Committee to do about it? Will transparency be examined by the WTO? Is it to be disclosed before the committee or the authorities concerned that we are going to experience such and such a thing and the investment or our economic policy or export policy will be like this? Even before presenting the Budget, is it to be scrutinised by these authorities concerned? How will transparency of the Government be determined? The transparency is going to be looked into. The economic sovereignty of our country will not be trusted. There is a study group. That will become a working group and that will initiate these programmes. As a matter of fact, the country is going to lose in so many things. Political sovereignty and economic sovereignty of the country will be under threat and that will also be curtailed.

The developing countries, like Malaysia, have shifted their stand. I do agree with the G-15 Summit held in Harare. All the countries were in support of us. All the developing countries were following this move. But Malaysia shifted its stand in the Singapore Conference. That is why we have also been forced to endorse the views of the Conference. That also showed that the G-15 Summit was a failure in the sense that India was not able to give leadership to the developing countries. That is also a failure on the part of the Government of India.

Now I come to diplomatic failure of our official delegation. I am not questioning the integrity of the official who led the Indian delegation. It is learnt that in the Marrakash Conference, our official team was led by Shri Anwar-ul-Huda. A criticism has come in some leading newspapers that he has resigned from service

within ten days after the date of the Conference and he has joined the WTO Secretariat. Now also, the delegation has been led by some official. It is learnt from some newspapers also that he is going to retire by 31st December this year. They are very intelligent officers. But it is also to be looked into that at least in future India has a stand of consistency. We are always standing for our economic and political sovereignty, and for integrity of our country. That is going to be curtailed. So, that situation is to be met by the whole country and by this whole House. Hon. Member, Lt. General Prakash Mani Tripathi from BJP, has rightly pointed out that our country is facing so many crises.

These are all criticisms, I admit but what positive measures are to be taken? India should unite together. What is the position of our country? We are faced with the problems of price rise, unemployment, poverty and oil pool deficiency. Everything is adverse to our country. This is the position on the economic side. And on the other side, there is corruption involving crores and crores of rupees. During the income tax raids, malpractices and so many other offences come to light. This way the integrity and image of the country is being lost in the world. The developing countries do not have faith in our country. So, we should stand together to fight against these forces. India should strike to give leadership to the developing countries of the world. We, as democratic sovereign republic, should take the initiative to give the leadership to the Third World countries. Then only we can fight these moves to curtail our sovereignty. India's right to have its own foreign policy can never be curtailed by means of any treaty or accord. This should be kept in mind. In future India should move in this direction. With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the Uruguay Round of Talks, the declaration regarding Labour and Multilateral investment in the recently concluded Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held in Singapore is not insignificant. In the wake of Liberalisation, even though India is known for Neem, Haldi (Turmeric) and Tulsi, foreign countries have got the right to Patent these products. These events are not at all insignificant and do have far reaching implications.

Though it is true that the developed nations would use the provisions related to labour and multilateral investment as a means of exploitation but this does not mean that WTO is all bad. The moot point is that we have to utilise WTO to subserve our interests and how best this can be done, depends on our grft. We are of

the firm conviction that in case of labour the ILO was already functioning and now the WTO should enter this field. The only cause of concern is the way America and other developed nations are influencing the resolutions and declarations of WTO and getting them passed. We are concerned because the study group which has been constituted will become effective and we have been a failure inspite of our best efforts. Earlier also it has been said that we had to change our stand because Malaysia changed its stand. The hon. Prime Minister also said later that we can review the situation after two years and again change our stand if need be. But what is the guarantee that we would be successful at that time when we have been unsuccessful this time. Therefore we have to be cautions from now onwards. We know that we do not have lot of capital and moreover we have lot of labour force. Labour is our strength. We believe that if capital can be invested anywhere and it gets certain benefits, Labour should also get those benefits. Labour is equally important for production as capital. Therefore is capital gets certain benefits and Labour does not get them, it would not be in our interest.

Sir, in the Singapore Conference, we bowed to the wishes of the KWAD nations. We feel that we have been successful but infact we have not been able to get the ban on export of readymade garments to America removed and that is where we have failed. It is said that if we had insisted on our stand, we would have been alienated and ignored. Sir, I think this is not true. You would recall that once we were heading the developing nations but today we are not in that position. We are not successful on the economic front. Unless we revamp our economy and become strong, we will not be able to bad the developing nations. We came to realise the sense of alienation during the elections to the Security Council. Nothing would have happened if one or two countries would have been against us but our interests should have been safeguarded. We know that Indian contribution of world trade is insignificant and this can be raised only when we pay more attention to our agro-industry and cottage industry.

I am glad that India has changed its priorities and emphasized the need for more production. The Planning Commission is working on this. We hope that in the coming days the Government's priority will be to promote cottage industry and agro-industry. This would enable us to increase our contribution to the World Trade. I would like to mention that we should not be afraid of WTO and instead of bowing to their pressure we should try to influence the WTO and be firm on our stand. How one country influences the WTO depends on the skill and ability of that nation. I would like to submit that our delegation to Singapore should have been more strong. Those who have been successful at such forums, like Shri Inder Kumar Gujaral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, should

15.00 hrs.

They can influence people behind the curtain. With these words, I urge the Government to be more cautious in future.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : I fully agree with what the hon. Member has said and would like to thank him through you.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, The Singapore Declaration of the World Trade Organisation is before the House. There is no doubt in the fact that there has been a compromise; there has been a retreat; there has been a shifting of the stand by the Government of India on the various issues. Repeatedly, the Government of India had made its stand clear and it cannot simply be denied that there was a retreat and a compromise on that situation. I do not understand why the Government fights shy of making this admission here, in this House. I am sure that the entire House will rise as one man with the hon. Minister and the Government in the protection of the national interests and for the steps that need to be taken in future. This, however, in one aspect, an important aspect of the entire Declaration.

There is also another aspect. It cannot also be denied that there are important positive aspects of the WTO Declaration. It does have certain positive aspects and the House needs to concede to the Government the credit for these positive aspects. We may take up the various issues one by one and have a bird's eye view of the scene.

Let us take up the question about the Core Labour Standards. The Declaration clearly says, and I quote :

"The International Labour Organisation is the competent body to set and deal with these standards."

That the Declaration concedes that it is the ILO which is the competing body to deal with the issue, is definitely the positive aspect of the entire Declaration, for which the credit has to go to the Government, which has been working against all odds. Not only that, the Declaration further says, and I quote :

"We reject the use of labour standards for protectionists purposes."

This is also a very important positive aspect because the dumping practices have been rejected and some such other practices have also been rejected by the WTO.

Then, the Declaration further goes on to say, and I quote :

"...And agree that the comparative advantage of countries, particularly, low-wage developing

countries must in no way be put into question."

Now, these undoubtedly are the positive aspects as far as the labour standards are concerned. Give even the devil its due. That does not mean that I am calling the Government, devil. It is only a way of emphasising that. Here we have a Government which has been working at heavy odds.

Of course we would have liked and we would have appreciated if the WTO declaration and no reference whatsoever to the labour standards. We would have appreciated that. We would have welcomed that. It is because if today the door opens of the WTO to speak about the labour standards it may give some opinion tomorrow, they may as well think of revising their opinion. That danger is there. But as far as the short-term things are concerned I do not think that there is any immediate danger of any adverse impact on the country's trade.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if we look at the issue concerning trade and environment, the Declaration has only taken note of the work of the Committee on Trade and Environment, and has merely directed that the work should be continued. It has also conceded this and I quote :

"The work of the Committee has underlined the importance of policy coordination at the national and I repeat 'national' level in the area of trade and environment."

So, we find that with respect to labour and with respect to environment, there is no imminent danger or any adverse impact on the country's trade.

However, when we come to the question of trade and investment, there is a serious setback. The Declaration has called for future negotiations or review on trade-related investment measures. A Working Group or a Study Group is there to study the relationship between trade and investment. Of course, here also there are certain minor positive aspects to it. We have succeeded in restricting all this to only trade-related investment measures. Thus the field is restricted. Secondly, it is agreed that the work undertaken shall not prejudice the scope of future negotiations where such negotiations are called for. However, these are minor positive aspects in the matter.

There is a danger of uniform investment policy. We cannot agree to that. That will not only play a havoc with our trade and investment and our economic policy and economic situation but that will also compromise us on the question of our sovereignty. Our sovereignty, our national interests cannot be compromised on any count whatsoever. This, therefore, is one of the serious aspects of the WTO.

Another very serious aspect of the WTO's Singapore Declaration is with respect to the competition policy. India had advocated that the issue be studied in the United Nations' Committee on Trade and Development and not at the WTO. But, however, we failed and the contention has been rejected. The Working Group has been set up to study anti-competitive practices and to identify areas that may merit further consideration in the WTO framework.

Now, Sir, all this will have very serious long-term repercussions. We have to take them very seriously. An attitude of complacency cannot be there.

Then, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the entire statement made by the Minister does not refer at all to one very serious questions, that is, the question of Government procurement. Here, according to the Declaration, India is wide open to the danger of external pressures in future in this respect. If we study the Declaration, we find that, through the Declaration, the Government of India has surprisingly agreed to (1) not only to the establishment of a Working Group to study transparency in Government procurement but also (2) to have appropriate agreement in future based on this study.

Sir, this is a serious threat to our sovereignty and to our whole economic system. This is a serious threat to our national interest. This is a serious threat to our policy with respect to domestic industry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I should conclude by saying that if we study this Singapore Declaration, we find that it is a mixed bag of disappointments and cheers. Therefore, the House must have a balanced approach to the entire question.

Sir, two more points I will hurriedly put and conclude. The first is that the Declaration refers to the Government's coming out hurriedly with legislation needed to implement WTO rules. Members, we are told, must be mindful of their obligation to complete their domestic legislative process without further delay. That is the direction given by the WTO. But I would like to know from the Government, what further legislation is India expected to come up with in order to fulfil the wishes and the rules of the WTO. That is an important aspect with which this House would be concerned. We have already passed certain unfortunate Bills, I would not go into the past and into their details.

The second point which I would like to mention before I conclude is, that we have lost ground as far as the export, say, of garments is concerned. The Government, through the Declaration has failed to secure further liberalisation which would have furthered and promoted our garment exports.

However, we cannot find fault with the Government at every step. The Government was working against

heavy odds. It has secured a mixed bag of disappointment and cheers. The entire Declaration represents the outcome of the art of the possible. But then the Declaration is a challenge to be met in order to protect ourselves for which the work must start in right earnest right now in order to see that our points of view really prevail in the international comity.

In future, more and greater care will have to be taken. The delegations will have to be strengthened and good preparatory work will have to be done before entering into such crucial international meetings. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs to share one information with you. Today my aunt's (father's Sister) son, while coming from Jhansi, was abducted near Moth Police Station by some 20-25 goondas and took him away to some unidentified place. I have just now received a telephonic message from my home at about 1.30 P.M. I have also tried to contact the Superintendent of Police and the D.I.G. of that area on phone. But all the phones are held up and I could not contact any of them. After that I had also tried to ring up the D.I.G. Office at Lucknow, but no official is available there. I seek your protection Sir, out of the members of my family is in the custody of these people and they will certainly kill him. They are 20 to 25 in number and all have Rifles. This is the present situation in Uttar Pradesh, there is no law and order. He has been abducted just in front of the Police Station and Police and nothing. My whole family is disturbed and I fear that we will certainly be killed. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I will sit on a 'Dharna' in the House itself till the Government does not recover my aunt's son and made arrangements to get me in touch with him. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to sit on a 'Dharna' in this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no need to sit on Dharna. You have brought this incident to our notice.

15.16 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ganga Charan Rajput sat on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will request the Government to take action.

[Translation]

If you want action then I am asking the Government. You please take your seat, we will take case of your problem.

[English]

Please go to your seat.

[Translation]

What will you gain from this 'Dharna'. You want action.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then I will be compelled to say...

[English]

Nothing will go on record unless you go to your seat. Please go to your seat. Again I request you, please go to your seat...

[Translation]

see, this is a serious matter, I would like that the Government should take notice of it. I am giving the directions.

15.17 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ganga Charan Rajput went back to his seat.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is to reply now... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let it be completed first.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : Before the Minister replies, I would like the House to take the matter under Rule 193 regarding deterioration in the standard of sports in the country as suggested by the hon. Speaker.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : This has to be first completed.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take up that matter after completing it.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : If you could give me two minutes' time before 3.30 then I will initiate that. The hon. Speaker has suggested it from the Chair.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let him reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Hon'ble Speaker has desired that the discussion on the determination of sports may be initiated before 3.30 P.M.

[English]

so that it can be taken up and the debate can be carried forward to the next Session.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It cannot be done like that.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : It is done like that.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. I understand it, we will get it done.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have listened with great interest to the views expressed by hon. Members of Parliament on both sides of the House in the short duration discussion initiated by Shri Ramendra Kumar and General Tripathi. I am grateful to them for the valuable advice given to me and my Ministry regarding the Singapore Ministerial Conference and future action arising out of them. Please let me begin my reply by assuring the House that the views expressed yesterday and today - actually three days - will be given the utmost consideration.

A number of issues were raised during the discussion. I would like to concentrate on the major issues in my reply. Perhaps, the issue that aroused maximum discussion was that relating to labour standards. In fact, a number of Members have touched on this point. That is why I want to cover this major issue first because the time is going to finish. This issue was raised by all the Members who participated in the discussion. Please let me explain once again the facts of the case.

The proposal of the USA, backed by the Norway and European Union, had been to establish a Working Party in WTO to study the relationship between trade and core labour standards. This was strongly resisted by developing countries, including India and some developed countries which maintained that the issue of labour standards falls within the competence of the ILO and that once a Working Party was established in the WTO it could lead to the formulation of rules which would allow protectionist measures against certain countries allegedly not observing these standards.

The sponsoring developed countries then climbed down very substantially from their original proposal and wanted only a statement made by the WTO members reaffirming the observance of the Core Labour Standards.

Developing countries including India, South Africa, Pakistan, Mexico, Indonesia, Bangladesh and others

then insisted that even if a simple affirmation of commitment is to be made, it should be accompanied by the following specific stipulations;

- (i) That ILO is the competent body to set and deal with labour standards;
- (ii) that labour standards can only be promoted through economic growth and trade liberalisation;
- (iii) that the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes should be categorically rejected;
- (iv) that the comparative advantage of countries, including low wage developing countries should to be called into question;
- (v) no Working Party should be established in WTO to examine the relationship between trade and labour standards.

The Declaration fully meets these stipulations. Hence, it can be considered to be a signal victory for the developing countries. Besides, by including this in the Ministerial Declaration, we have ensured that the issue will never surface again on the WTO Agenda, as the highest decision making body, namely, the Ministerial Conference has considered and given its verdict against WTO taking up any work in this area.

In this connection, I would also like to invite the attention of the hon. Members to the concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Ministerial Conference, namely, the Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore. I quote:

"In the first place, with regard to paragraph 4 - Core Labour Standards - we have agreed on a text which sets out a balanced framework for how this matter should be dealt with. The text embodies the following important elements : *First*, it recognises that the ILO is the competent body to set and deal with labour standards. *Second*, it rejects the use of the labour standards for protectionist purposes. This is a very important safeguard for the multilateral trading system and in particular for developing countries. *Third*, it agrees that the comparative advantage of countries, particularly low wage developing countries, must in no way be put into question. *Fourth*, it does not inscribe the relationship between trade and core labour standards on the WTO Agenda. *Fifth*, there is no authorisation in the text for any new work on this issue. *Sixth*, we note that the WTO and the ILO Secretariats will continue the existing collaboration, as with many other inter-

governmental organisations. The collaboration respects fully the respective and separate mandates of the two organisation. Some delegations have expressed the concern that this text may lead the WTO to undertake further work in the relationship between trade and core labour standards. I want to assure these delegations that this text will not permit such a development".

The second issue raised here by all the participants related to investment and competition policies. India has always consistently taken the stand that the WTO should not undertake negotiations to conclude a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). We have always maintained that the investment policy is related more to development than to trade and therefore the national government must be the sole authority for determining the manner in which the flow of foreign direct investment should be regulated.

India continued to strongly oppose the inclusion of any discussion on a Multilateral Agreement on Investment during the Singapore Ministerial Conference. India also maintained throughout that a separate discussion on MAI was not necessary as Article 9 of the TRIMS Agreement provides for a review for implementation of the Agreement as well as consideration of Investment Policy and Competition Policy issues by the Year 1999 or, as they said, before five years from the date of signing. India's concern in this area was fully taken on board. It was decided that Working Parties will be constituted to study Investment Policy and Competition Policy within the Framework of WTO Agreements including Article 9 of the TRIMS Agreement. It was also mandated that this study will take at least two years and the negotiations, if any, regarding multilateral disciplines in these areas, will take place only after an *explicit consensus* decision is taken among the WTO members regarding such negotiations. It is because we want to ensure that not any single party can be able to veto it at the time of next Ministerial Conference by the year 1998. So, our options were kept tall and we also made it very clear on this point without any hesitation whatsoever. As per the TRIMS Agreement, there is clearly no such provision but we have added to that and made it more security worthy.

The political commitment contained in the Declaration, to the effect that future negotiations, if any, regarding multilateral disciplines in the areas of investment policy and competition policy will take place only after an *explicit consensus* decision is taken in this regard considerably strengthens our position. That is why, I want to refer it to the people to understand what the TRIPS agreement is; what Article 9 says and what

it is that we have to gain now. This is what we have to consider.

The Ministerial decision contemplates two Working Groups, one to examine the relationship between *trade and investment* and the other to study issues raised by Members relating to interaction between *trade and competition policy* including anti-competitive practices. The Declaration also states that these groups shall draw upon each other's work if necessary. Thus a linkage between investment and competition has been established which should be viewed as positive from our perspective. I may point out that developing countries including India succeeded in bringing anti-competitive practices within the scope of the second working group in spite of stiff opposition from both United States of America and European Union.

A third point that was stressed in the debate in this House related to the movement of natural persons. I would like to reiterate that India has been raising this issue at various multilateral and bilateral fora. I raised this issue in my plenary speech. My delegation raised it also at the discussion relating to the Information Technology Agreement. It is, therefore, not true to say that we have been remiss in pressing our case.

Another point raised in the debate related to the decision taken by the G-15 at Harare. It may be noted that the Singapore Declaration was concluded with the agreement of all members of G-15. In fact, several meetings of the G-15 were conducted at Singapore under the Chairmanship of the Malaysian Trade Minister.

With regard to trade and investment relationship, the G-15 Declaration says as follows, "The trade and investment relationship is of a multi-faceted nature encompassing *inter alia* issues of technology transfer, industrialisation and national development objectives. It is necessary to lay the ground for consensus building in a forum such as UNCTAD to determine the implications of the developing countries and arrive at a consensus before embarking on rule making in any forum." In the Singapore Declaration, we have ensured that there can be no further action of embark on rule making without the explicit consensus of all members, that the study will be undertaken within the provisions of the *existing* WTO provisions and that UNCTAD will also have a major role in providing inputs.

With regard to the relationship between Trade and Competition Policy, the Harare Declaration says, "There is therefore a basis for further analytical work and clarification of this interface in preparation for negotiating a possible multilateral instrument". It may be noted that, as in the case of investment only a study has been initiated and that there can be no progress towards further negotiation without the *explicit consensus*.

With regard to labour standards, the Harare Declaration says that "the issue clearly falls within the mandate and specific competence of the International Labour Organisation." This has been recognised in the Singapore Declaration.

Reference was also made by some hon. Members to the discussions of the Forum of Parliamentarians on Intellectual Property and National Working Group on Patent Laws, which conducted an "International Conference on New Patent System, Investment Regime and Emerging Issues in WTO" on 14th and 15th November at New Delhi. In Section III of their Declaration, they have raised various issues relating to the WTO Ministerial Conference. Their main opinions are as follows :-

- (1) The scope of WTO should not be enlarged;
- (2) "The developing countries must therefore reject outright the proposal to put on the Agenda of the Singapore Meeting of WTO, a new multilateral agreement on investment";
- (3) "New rights must not be created in the farm sector to circumscribe the rights of farmers in the use and multiplication of seeds".

I am of the view that these concerns have been taken on board. The scope of WTO has not been enlarged. A new multilateral agreement on investment has not been put on the agenda of WTO; only a study within the provisions of WTO Agreement has been mandated. It is also stipulated that there will be no initiation of negotiation on this matter without explicit consensus. No new rights have also been created in the farm sector.

With regard to textiles, some apprehensions were expressed. In the textiles area, our main concern was that the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) was not being implemented by textile importing countries fully and faithfully. In the Declaration, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to full and faithful implementation of the provisions of the ATC. They have stressed the importance of integrating the textiles and clothing products with the provisions of the GATT. They have committed themselves to use of safeguard measures as sparingly as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramaiah, how much more time you need?

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMIAH : Sir, I will need another five minutes to complete.

The have agreed that the Textiles Monitoring Body, which is a quasi-judicial body, shall achieve transparency in its findings and recommendations. Since the ten

Members of the Textile Monitoring Body act in their personal capacity and since there is no specific committee with membership of government representatives for Textiles and Clothing sector, the Ministerial Declaration has emphasised the responsibility of the Goods Council in overseeing the functioning of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. A specific recognition of the role of Goods Council in overseeing the implementation of ATC is a positive achievement for the developing exporting countries.

In respect of Government Procurement, I would mention to the hon. Members that the Declaration merely provides for establishment of a Working Group to conduct a Study on transparency in Government Procurement practices. It also makes it clear that this study will take into account national policies of procurement. This is in line with our own view that we are in favour of transparency but would like to retain national preferences with regard to government procurement.

There was some discussion on the Information Technology Agreement. I take this opportunity to mention that at Singapore, we expressed positive interest in the ITA, but raised the following issues :-

- (1) We will need more time to study the products proposed to be covered under ITA, particularly the impact of elimination of tariffs on our own domestic industry. Consultation with other Ministries and domestic industry is necessary. Further discussions will also have to be held on the phasing of reduction of tariffs and the extent of reduction.
- (2) While considering the question of reduction of tariffs, we must not lose sight of the need to minimise barriers to movement of skilled personnel across borders.

We, therefore, declined to join the Agreement at this stage.

With regard to telecom services, financial services and so on, I would like to assure the hon. Members who expressed some apprehensions that we made no additional commitments whatsoever. The time schedules mentioned only constitute a reiteration of what has been already agreed to in the respective committees. With regard to agriculture, the Singapore Declaration does not make any change or interpret any aspect of the Agreement on Agriculture. It merely takes on board the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture that a process of analysis and exchange of information may be taken up to better understand the issues involved and allow members to identify their interests in this

area before undertaking further negotiations for continuation of the reform process in this sector as contemplated in Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture. However, the Ministerial Declaration clearly stipulates that the time frames already established will be respected in the case of all built-in agenda items including the built-in agenda in the Agreement on Agriculture. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, before I conclude, I would like to refer to a point raised by the Hon. Members. It was stated that the CII had expressed dissatisfaction with the agenda of the Singapore Ministerial Conference. I would like to draw his attention to the statement of the President of CII, widely reported in newspapers, wherein he has categorically said that the CII welcomes the Declaration. It is also reported that he complimented India's negotiating team for not making significant concessions that would work against Indian industry. I understand that FICCI is also of the same view.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you.

(ii) Deterioration in the Standard of Sports in the Country

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : Mr. Deputy Sepaker. Sir, I rise to raise for discussion the issue of continuous deterioration in the standard of sports in India.

[*English*]

15.34 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar *in the Chair*)

[*Translation*]

Sir, you are well aware that the main reason for bringing this issue for discussion in the House is our deteriorating performance in Atlanta Olympics even when our population is going to cross the 100 crore mark. We could snatch only one bronze medal. This is a matter of shame, we must think over it. It has hurt our self respect. That's why this issue has been raised for discussion in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please take your seat. This discussion will continue further.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Whether it will continue even in the next Session?...(*Interruptions*) Sir, it is a matter of great concern for the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. Now this the time for private Member's Business.

15.36 hrs.

[*English*]

MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh) : I beg to move .

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th December, 1996."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th December, 1996."

The motion was adopted.

15.36½ hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL/HEADING

**Constitution (Amendment) Bill
(Omission of Article 370)**

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Barmulla) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : It should have the concurrence of the President Under Rule 65 (2).

[*English*]

"If the Bill is a Bill which under the Constitution cannot be introduced without the previous sanction or recommendations of the President, the member shall annex to the notice such sanction or recommendation conveyed through a Minister, and the notice shall not be valid until this requirement is complied with."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Which rule you are quoting.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : I am quoting Rule 65 (2)...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What are your objections?

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : The main objection is that it is a Constitution on Amendment Bill, therefore it should have President's concurrence ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, he has no knowledge about it...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : We have been intimated by the Lok Sabha Secretariat that they have received the permission of the President. Therefore, we are allowed to present this Bill.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : If there is a concurrence or recommendation of the President, I have no objection. But where is the concurrence of the President.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : It's already in the file.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : If the concurrence is not received by the Secretariat of Lok Sabha, how can it figure in the list of business?

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : His point is valid. What I am submitting is that if we do not know whether the Lok Sabha Secretariat has got the concurrence of the President...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need to discuss on Lok Sabha Secretariat. Whatever you want to say, please say. You give your statement.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : If the Lok Sabha Secretariat has got the recommendation of the President in this case, that should have been circulated among the Members alongwith the Bill. It is not there. That is why, his point of order is valid...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if it is a fault on the part of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, we cannot be penalised for that. We were told that the President's consent has been obtained...(Interruptions)

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Sir, it is not the fault of the Secretariat. If the Member has got the consent of

the President, then that should be circulated with the Bill. That is the responsibility of the Member ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, first of all, kindly clarify whether the Secretariat has obtained the consent of the President. If it is so, it can be condoned and then from next time onwards, this can be done.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the practice of the House is, when we submit a Private Member's Bill and when the Bill is circulated, it is not brought on the agenda unless the President has given his consent. My friend is a very senior Member. The permission by the President is not circulated to the Members.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have to clarify whether the consent of the President has been obtained or not...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while you examine whether the recommendation of the President has been obtained or not, this Bill can be deferred. We can take it up in the next Session ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, when other Bills are circulated, it is stated that the recommendations of the President has been obtained. It is not stated here in this particular case. So, as long as we are not aware as to whether the consent of the President has been obtained or not, according to me, the point of order is valid. If it is a fault of the Secretariat, you can kindly ask them to rectify it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rule 65(2) says :

"If the Bill is a Bill which under the Constitution cannot be introduced without the previous sanction or recommendation of the President, the member shall annex to the notice such sanction or recommendation conveyed through a Minister, and the notice shall not be valid until this requirement is complied with."

If this is the provision, when the Member has given notice, unless he complies with all the provisions that will not come on the agenda.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Sir, he cannot move the Bill...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please sit down. You have expressed yourself. You have been given full opportunity. This Constitution Amendment Bill is under

Article 368 and he has every right to say all this under it. Then your objection is over ruled.

[English]

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.43½ hrs.

[English]

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new section 63)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

*The motion was adopted.***

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

[E. glish]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 16, etc.)

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH (Chitradurga) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 16A, etc.)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : The question is ;

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

15.45½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of new article for article 285)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

EDUCATION BANK OF INDIA BILL*

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Bank for the purpose of advancing loans to the students for pursuing higher studies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Bank for the

* Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 20-12-96

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 20-12-96

purpose of advancing loans to the students for pursuing higher studies."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

15.46½ hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS BILL*

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted."

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : I have a point of order. I have raised a point of order at that time also. I had opposed it but you did not allow me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is not point of order. Please do not waste the time. Your point has been taken care for. If you are on some other point, I can allow you; otherwise, I cannot allow you. That point has already been disposed of. Please take your seat. Now, Dr. Subbarami Reddy.

15.47 hrs.

COMPULSORY VOTING BILL*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.47½ hrs.

ABOLITION OF BEGGING BILL*

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE BOARD BILL

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Welfare Board for welfare of children and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Welfare Board for welfare of children and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 20-12-96

** Introduced with recommendation of President.

Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-II, dated 20-12-96.

15.48½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion of new article 330A, etc.)

[English]

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH (Chitradurga) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : I introduce the Bill.

15.49½ hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services) Bill*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in posts and services under the control of the Government of India or of a State and in all statutory authorities and autonomous bodies receiving money from the Government of India or of a state and for providing punishment for violation of reservation policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in posts and services under the control of the Government of India or of a State and in all statutory authorities and autonomous bodies receiving monies from the Government of India or of a State and for providing punishment for violation of reservation policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.00 hrs.

PROVISIONS OF EMPLOYMENT BILL

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, Please take the Employment Bill first and the Begging Abolition Bill afterwards so that our could atleast get employment. Otherwise, we already lack employment and we may be deprived of begging also.

15.50½ hrs.

HIGH COURT AT ALLAHABAD (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT MEERUT) BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Sir, I beg to move that Leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Meerut."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

STATE OF UTTARANCHAL BILL*

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the State of Uttaranchal by reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the State of Uttaranchal by reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted ***

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52 hrs.

POPULATION CONTROL BILL*

[Transiation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to control population in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to control population in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52½ hrs.

UNIFORM MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : (Almora) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a

Bill to provide for Uniform Marriage and Divorce Law for all citizens of the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform marriage and divorce law for all citizens of the country."

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the leave for introduction of the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Bill, 1996.

I am quite aware that according to the rules, I cannot go into the merits or demerits of the Bill at this stage. I rise only to say that the Bill is totally unconstitutional and is against the Constitution of India. The Bill makes serious inroads into the Muslim Personal Law. It is violative of the Shariat. As such, it is violative of Article 25 of the Constitution, which gives freedom of religion, the practice of religion and the matters connected and laid down by the religion. The hon. Member has referred to, in his Statement of Aims and Objects, Article 44 of the Constitution (Directive Principles). But even this Article 44 with respect to Uniform Civil Code, which is in the Directive Principles of the Constitution, is subject to and must be read with the Fundamental Rights given by article 25.

As such, I submit that this Bill is not constitutional at all. I know that I cannot raise a point of order on that matter because the Chair never rules on the constitutionality of the Bill. Therefore, I have not raised any point of order. I have only, with your permission, come before this House to appeal to the hon. Member that as his Bill is violative of the Shariat and the Muslim Personal Law and, therefore, violative of the Constitution of India, he should better withdraw the Bill.

The Government of India must be complimented and our Prime Minister must be congratulated that in the last week of August, 1996 the Government filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court saying that the Government has no intention whatsoever of bringing any common Civil Code forcibly. We appreciate that stand of the Government. All the memoranda that the Government had received from the different nooks and corners of the country against the Uniform Civil Code were duly filed by the Government in the Supreme Court along with their affidavit. It is a right step. I congratulate the Government for that stand. But, at the same time, I now appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw this particular Bill which is unconstitutional in nature. We cannot go into the merits and demerits of the Bill at this time. Otherwise, I am constrained to appeal to this august House kindly to reject the motion for leave to introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 20-12-96

** Introduced with recommendation of President

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your response?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : It is mentioned in Article 25 of the Constitution that :-

"(2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law -

(a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity...

(b) providing for social welfare and reform..."

[Translation]

This is clearcut, It has been clearly mentioned in Article 26. Article 44 is also clear. In Sarla Mudgal Case, it was said that the Government will bring the Bill, I have also raised a question about it earlier, I am now compelled to bring this Bill. I have raised a question in the Lok Sabha on 2nd August 1996 to have an Uniform Code for all the citizens. This matter was finally decided by Justice Sahia and Kuldeep Singh Ji.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can put all these things lateron.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Article 25(2) is clear about it, I do not agree with the hon'ble member. and leave be granted to me to introduce this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform marriage and divorce law for all citizens for the country."

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.57½ hrs.

HINDU MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 5, etc.)

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1995.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : I introduce the Bill.

15.58½ hrs.

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservations) Act, 1980.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall take up further consideration on this Bill. Shri Hannan Mollah to speak.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Reddy for bringing in this Private Members' Bill for providing free and compulsory education for all children of this country. It is an avowed dream since Independence. Our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had announced that he would provide education to all the children. Accordingly, people had their aspiration that it would be fulfilled in course of time.

In our Constitution also, in the Chapter on Directive Principles it has been stated that within ten years, this

promise will be fulfilled and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years will be provided. Now we are all aware that we are going to observe the fiftieth anniversary of our Independence this year. But we are still far behind the dream of seeing that all Indians can read and write and they are not forced to put their left thumb impression on the paper. We want to rescue the people from the drudgery of LTI and we want to bring them in the light of education, but still his dream is yet to be fulfilled.

Now in this Bill, the hon. Member has proposed that the Government should make arrangement for providing free and compulsory education in this country. This new United Front Government in their Common Minimum Programme have promised that they will consider the proposal of making education a Fundamental Right. And accordingly, they have appointed certain Committees to discuss the matter. Now I demand that in this fiftieth anniversary of our Independence, if the United Front Government can fulfil this promise, it will be a befitting observation of this anniversary. The hon. Minister of HRD is here. I request him to announce in this Session itself that in the coming Budget Session, they will be able to bring forward the Bill making education a Fundamental Right. This is my request.

You know, even after fifty years of Independence, there are about three to four lakh children who are working as child labour. We have raised the issue on many occasions. You have also raised it many times in this House about the plight of these children as to how the children of our country who are to go to the school and play ground, are forced to work in shops as domestic servants and how they facing the atrocities and torture by their employers. We know the fate of the children working in the fire works factories how they are dying in several accidents.

We know the fate of the children in match factories in Sivakasi. We know the fate of the children in the carpet making industry and we know the fate of the children in the stone cutting industries. They are forced to do all these things.

In that situation, it will be a befitting on the occasion of Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence, if the Government of India make some scheme for rescuing the child labour from the place of drudgery and give them the opportunity to go to school.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak in brief. Three more members have to speak after you. You get three-four minutes time. They also have to speak and the Government have to give reply. If four hours time is taken for only one Bill then other Bill remain undiscussed. Please speak precisely and to the point.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I am concluding.

The second important factor in this regard is the 'literacy campaigning programmes'. I hope that the literacy campaigning programmes will be taken up with all seriousness. Though the money is being spent for these literacy campaigning programmes but the results are not as satisfactory as it should have been. So, the proper monitoring of these literacy programmes should be taken up. In that direction, I will be very much thankful if the Government announces that on the occasion of Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence, Education will be declared as a 'fundamental right'.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPANATH RAI (Ghosi) : I rise to support this bill. If we want to strengthen democracy in this country then we need to provide uniform education. Schools in villages and municipality schools are different. The teachers and other activities in these schools are also different. Third type of schools and colleges are of Doon and Mussoorie category. Their education teachers, their salaries and expenditure on education all are different and better. Fourth type of schools are those schools where children come by cars in school. These are very expensive schools and more than Rs. ten thousand per month is spent on children's education. The education provided to them is different and other activities in these schools are also different from other type of schools. Thus different type of education is being provided in this country. It is a welcome step to provide uniform compulsory education to all. It is also good to provide free compulsory education to children after fifty years of Independence and this provision must be made. I want that uniform education should be provided in the entire country.

Either it is plain or hilly region, Calcutta or Mumbai, there should be same type of schools, same books, same salaries of teachers only than democracy can be saved in this country.

How mental development of the Student who is studying in a village school where classes are held under tree and other students of Doon School can be compared?

It will not be expensive but there is lack of strong will power, that is why same type of schools have not been set up in the country during the last fifty years. I welcome this Bill and would like to say that children should be provided free and compulsory education in the entire country. The Government should make arrangements in this regard. To provide uniform education to all is necessary in this country. Otherwise our country, democracy and language will not get

strengthened and ultimate goal of independence will not be fulfilled.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Sir, this is being discussed in this House since morning that leader of Congress Party ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. You are taking Private Members time.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : The aim of this Bill, moved by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy is to provide free and compulsory education to all children upto senior secondary level in the whole country. The hon. Kalpnath Rai ji is a senior member of this House. He has supported compulsory primary education but to provide free and compulsory education upto senior secondary level is main objective of this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In senior secondary level, primary and secondary level are also covered.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Even after so many years of independence crores of houses and children are illiterate. Their world is different from literate world. This House must pass a resolution in this regard. We have passed this resolution that we the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular Democratic Republic and hereby adopt this constitution. A provision has been made therein that we will achieve this goal within ten years of implementation of the constitution. So many years have lapsed but the Lok Sabha is not concerned about it. I would like to submit that today is the last day of this session. We must pass the resolution thereby we will propagate literacy and fight against illiteracy. The states which are lagging behind in implementation of illiteracy Eradication. Programme there it should be implemented with all determination, which is necessary for unity and integrity of the country. We should perform our duty by providing education to those who are illiterate and superstitious.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on that occasion when the Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say to close traditional schools, colleges and universities for one-two years and implement programme to provide compulsory and free primary education. All teachers, students, public representatives, M.L.A.s and M.P.s should be involved in this task.

It will be a great service to the nation. The objective of the constitution, from which we learn everything, will be preserved through it.

With these words I would like to request the chair that such a resolution must be passed that no house and village remain illiterate. The torch of literacy must be lit everywhere. We should resolve to remove illiteracy from India.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to start with this sanskrit quotation - "Nahim Pavitram Gyanan Sadrishyam". Its meaning in English is

[English]

Nothing is more sacred than Knowledge.

[Translation]

This programme should not be merely to provide education. It is mentioned on page 8 of the common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government.

[English]

"The right to free and compulsory elementary education shall be made a fundamental right and enforced through suitable statutory measures."

[Translation]

Further it is mentioned :-

[English]

Special programmes will also be launched to take care of children and the disabled to eradicate child labour in all occupations in industries.

[Translation]

I rise to support the Private Members Resolution introduced by the hon. Member. When we talk about fundamental rights, we should pass this Bill. The points regarding education have been mentioned in Article 41 and further in Article 238. Every Government have chalked out such programmes but we have to make qualitative improvements in it only then success can be achieved. The aim of the education should be to make good citizens and inculcate national spirit. The youth of the country are confused in this corrupt scenario, and work of nation building is not being done. So qualitative improvement alongwith quantitative improvement should be considered therein, and for this qualified teachers must imbibe good habits and manners in children. We should not forget our culture. We have our culture and cultural heritage alongwith secularism. If we do not tell our children about great persons like Chandragupta Maurya, Maharana Pratap and Vikramaditya from Childhood, they will not be able to learn our culture. The work of nation building can not be done without providing good education to children. The people of all parties either ruling party or opposition should support this Bill and get it passed. I conclude with these words.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : We also want to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Much time has already been taken. There is no time for everyone to speak. You may please speak on next Bill.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is a Bill on the subject of my liking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, but time of five hours for this Bill is over now. Its time has been extended again and again.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Please give two minutes time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right, please speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Sir, I would like to make only two-three points. This Bill is regarding free and compulsory education upto senior secondary level. We have talked about compulsory and free education in the constitution also but people in villages are not able to send their children to schools due to poverty. We can not make education compulsory until we will not provide job oriented education and to make aware poor people of the country about it. So we must try to provide job oriented education.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second point I would like to make that in five lakh villages of India, even schools have not been opened till now. I am talking about primary schools. If schools are there, these are at the distance of four-five kilometers. How small children will attend these schools in rainy season by crossing rivers and rivulets. Therefore, the dream of compulsory and free education can not be achieved until school in every village, whether its population is 200, 300 or 400, will not be set up. Sir, we have to launch a campaign to make primary education compulsory and merely including this provision in the constitution will not serve any purpose. The Government should launch a campaign in this regard and make aware children to attend schools to fulfil our resolve regarding compulsory education.

SHRI P. NAMGAYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I support the Bill introduced by Shri T. Subbarami Reddy regarding compulsory education...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you were interested you should have participated in this discussion earlier. You have expressed your views on this bill earlier also, this Bill is being discussed since long.

SHRI P. NAMGAYAL : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I feel that this Bill is necessary, particularly for children of hilly and tribal areas because there are scattered population and villages are small. The schools are not situated in small villages. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Right to Education should be given to children of those villages where two-three families are residing and a hostel may be set up at centrally located place for such children and the Government should make arrangements for providing them free education. In big villages, schools and teachers are available but in tribal and hilly areas

schools are not set up. Therefore, I would suggest the Government to formulate a rule to set up hostel in centrally located place for children of those areas where schools can not be set up and to make arrangements to provide them education. I conclude with these words.

*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to take part in the discussion on the Bill that has been introduced in this House to provide compulsory education to all the children of the country. At least after 50 years of independence we now think in terms of providing compulsory education and it is heartening to note the gesture of the mover of this Bill. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have pioneered this project. As early as 1950, we introduced free mid day meal scheme in all the primary schools to ensure full attendance and compulsory education. We have been giving priority to education and we have always been supported by the Centre in this regard. The Union Government with various schemes have always been providing funds with which we could take care of our children in the rural areas giving them education and health care. The standard of education in Tamil Nadu is better when compared to several other States.

During the pre-independence era the autocratic feudal lords and well to do men of the rural areas were depriving the poor from having access to education and upward social mobility. I feel very happy to speak on this Bill which seeks to provide compulsory education to all the children of the country. It is also noteworthy that the Bill lays stress on free education. It is not enough to get educated upto class V or completing the middle school level studying Class VI, VII and VIII. It is no use to study upto class VIII and leave it at that. So I would like to demand compulsory education upto degree level. Then alone we can have a meaningful system of education. Then alone we can bring out people who will be employable. Union Government should take note of this. Now we are in the modern computer age. Computer Education should form part of the academic curriculum.

Good education in the modern parlance would mean education with computer orientation. Only with such education our future generation will have the key to success in life. So I would like to emphasise the point that computer education should be introduced in all the classes even in the rural areas. This would facilitate our children to have access to better things in life.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture is about to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras all over the country. They intend to provide vocational training in cattle rearing, poultry farming, operating piggery units, etc. To impart such training, the trainees from the rural areas need to have basic education.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Through this Bill, we have been discussing in this House the need to have compulsory education. It is needless to say that it must be free education, upto degree level. I have also highlighted the need to have vocational training and computer education to form part of the academic studies. I have the Union Government would agree to provide compulsory education to all our children.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in regard to the compulsory education, I do not want to reiterate the points which have already been raised here but I think that there is a confusion in regard to the education and literacy which are altogether two different things. A person may be literate but it doesn't mean that he must be an educated person as well. Without going deep into this subject, I want to assert that the education should invariably be vocation-oriented.

Regarding education system, one point is often made which seeks to incorporate some curriculum and subjects only but whether these are final it is not so. The profession which can earn you a livelihood why it should not be included in the curriculum because it is also an education. You look at potter's occupation, can a person perform that job without being education or trained for that job? A person may say that so and so job is trifle and no education is required for that job but can anybody make pots without having skill in that particular job? As such these trades should be the part of education. If these are included in the curriculum your objectives would be fulfilled to a great extent and a person would be deemed to be literate without having no formal education either. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhanduka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak on Private Member's Bill regarding compulsory Education. I want to draw your attention towards the present condition prevailing in the country in regard to the compulsory Education. We do not pay as much attention towards a child as is required. We do not pay as much regards to a teacher as is required. As a result of it, our youths have lagged behind in the field of education and now we are talking of educating them and our adults as well. I want to say that had we made education from class I to XII compulsory in the beginning itself, the education standard would not have deteriorated to this extent that we see today.

At the some time, as per the sample survey conducted sometime back by the Government it has been claimed that 52 percent youths have been made literate which is not a fact. Only 18 percent youths have been made literate so far. In terms of our annual

expenditure on the spread of education in the country, we spend Rs. 160 per head annually in Karnataka for this purpose Rs. 184 in Kerala while in other States like Bihar and U.P. the expenditure under this head is quite less. Same is the State of affairs in Gujrat. I think we should make provision for more amount for this purpose if we want to spread education and make more and more people literate. Today we have opened schools in our villages but there are not teachers at all. If there are teachers, the buildings of the schools are roof less. Likewise of the school-building has roof, there are no black-boards; if there are black-boards, we do not find benches and two to three classes and accommodated in a single class room. The teacher doesn't teach there, but he ensures that no boy is going outside. We have to have vacations in the rainy-season as well in summer in these schools.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, at the same time I want to know as to what has happened about the points of uniform education raised in the meeting of the State Ministers called by the hon'ble Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please take your seat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am just going to take my seat. But may I have only 2 minutes to conclude my speech. Please let me make a few more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No! the time is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are denying me only two minutes' time, while the time of lakhs of people in those parts is going waste. Young wards of poor people of the country are simply wasting their time by studying in schools and colleges. Their studies are providing no fruits because no equal opportunities exist in the field of education. Children of high-ups and I.A.S. officers are studying in Public and English medium schools and they are even sent abroad for higher education and on the other hand children belonging to poor, common man, tribal people and lower-grade employee are not getting the same facilities in this country and you expect the same results and standard from these children. How it is possible? Such children who didn't get the education of that much higher and good standard, how they could complete with the former category of children. Those children are destitute, hungry and unemployed. They are asking for food from you. Hence I am to make this submission that you should pay your attention to these sentiments... (Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur - U.P.) : Mr. Chairman Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rajput, please sit down. This is not the proper time to raise this point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are asking me to sit down. This is the matter belonging to our family...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, but this time is allotted for Private Member's Bills and discussion thereon. This is not Zero-Hour. You cannot raise your point now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had raised this matter and the Chair had ruled out that I would be intimated after half an hour...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajput ji, Private Members' Bill has been under discussion for an hour. The Chair is not the police. Please sit down at this moment.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman Sir, this is a matter involving one of my family-members and you are saying...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It's all right, but we cannot direct the Government. You are not acceding to our request. Now what ever you speak, would not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a high powered Commission was constituted on Universal education. It proceeded with its business to some extent, but I want to know whether any such commission was constituted regarding Primary education or not? If not, what decision has been taken in this regard and where does this matter stand and by when you propose to implement this proposal? I want to know this much only...(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make submission...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajput ji, you did raise this matter earlier.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : But Sir, nothing has come out so far...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had told you that the Chair is not the Police. The Private Member's Business is still going on. This is not the Zero-hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had raised this matter at quarter past three and this is a matter involving me and my family...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright. Now please take your seat.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman Sir, then I have to resort to 'Dharna'...(Interruptions)

16.34 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ganga Charan Rajput came and sat near the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajput ji, Private Members' business is going on and this time has been allotted for the same. By doing so, you are losing sympathy of the Private Members. What you are doing is not proper. Let this business be disposed of. One cannot combat the Government.

16.35 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ganga Charan Rajput went back to his seat.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill moved by hon. Member Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, is very laudable in its objective. The aim of the Bill is to achieve the goal of universalisation of education. During the last more than four decades, both the Central Government and the State Governments have been doing their best to achieve this goal. But even then, what we find today is that it remains a distant dream.

For the realisation of that goal, the Central and State Governments had initiated some monetary and non-monetary incentives to attract the students, particularly those belonging the Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to ensure their participation.

Moreover, as a supplementary support to the State Governments, the Central Government initiated some schemes, such as, Mid-day Meal, Operation Blackboard, DPEP and other special educational projects. All these, of course, resulted in increasing the enrolment of students substantially and decreasing the number of dropouts...(Interruptions)

Enough attention is being paid to it. But, at the same time, due to the constraint of resources, both the Central and State Governments did not hesitate to seek external aid from the World Bank, the European Community and the United Kingdom for implementation of DPEP and other special educational projects in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Several schemes have been implemented at the moment. In addition to that, the United Front Government is strongly determined to make the nation literate by 2000 AD. It reflects its determination to provide the basic minimum services. It has

determined to make the proposal for right to free education and formal elementary education a Fundamental Right...*(Interruptions)*

Towards that end, the Central Government has already taken some initiative. It has earmarked six per cent of the total GNP by 2000 AD for education.

Therefore, out of the enhanced amount 50 per cent would be available for primary education. The Government have also earmarked Rs. 10 crore for the establishment of Residential primary schools for the children belonging to the poorer sections of the society. Beside this, the Government have also earmarked Rs. 50 crore for construction of Residential quarters for the teachers. In order to make the proposal practicable and achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education with the year 2000 A.D. widespread consultations are necessary with various persons at the political and educational level.

Apart from this, a meeting of the State Education Ministers and State Education Secretaries were held to review the progress of this scheme. In that conference it was recommended that a Committee should be formed with the State Education Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of State for Education for devising a time-bound action plan for this. Now, what has been the basic purpose for constituting this Committee? The Committee would examine and suggest ways for various legal, financial and administrative implications about the right to free and compulsory education becoming a Fundamental Right. All these things are being examined by the Committee. The Committee, so far, had three meetings. The final recommendations of the Committee would be available only in the month of January.

The Government, the Department of Education and the Minister of Human Resources Development are determined to introduce the Bill in the coming Budget Session of Parliament so that we might be able to achieve the goal of universalisation of the primary education. In view of these submission, I think, there is no need for passing this Bill. I, therefore, earnestly appeal to my esteemed colleague Shri Reddy to withdraw this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know, whether the Bill they are going to bring here will cover only Primary education level or it will cover Higher Secondary level.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : It would be about primary education because the

Government is attaching the top most priority for universalisation of elementary education.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Very little time is left now. We have only five minutes for this Bill. So, Shri Reddy please be brief.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, we have spent five hours four discussing this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So many Members have participated in it. You should be happy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I would not add any point. So, many hon. Members, who are intellectuals and are people with commitment, have participated and have given their unstinted and spontaneous support for this Bill which I have moved.

Sir, this is a very important Bill for the country. We must remember that India is the biggest democracy in the world. We maintain great democratic values. To maintain these democratic values, to make every citizen of our country vote properly and to strengthen our democratic system, education is very important. Every body has agreed to this and I need not repeat it. The only concern is that the assurance of the Government is of no use. For the last fifty years there has not been much progress. Of course, our Party was also in power at the Centre.

Even now the same thing is likely to happen. Therefore, this Bill should become a part of the Legislation by bringing an amendment to the Constitution of India. Population is the most burning problem of our country. But it is such a sensitive subject that we cannot force any measure by way of legislation. But education will make every man or every citizen realise that over-population is dangerous for his family and for the country as a whole. Irrespective of Party affiliation, religion, language or culture all the Members have unanimously spoken in favour of this Bill. This is historic, unprecedented and a rare occasion when everybody has come forward in support of Compulsory Education Bill. With this zeal, enthusiasm, determination and inspiration everybody wants this Bill. In the same inspiration it should be passed in the House. I call upon every Member of the House to support it.

I have a great respect for Bommai Sahib. He is a versatile personality. He is a seniormost Member and a good hearted soul. Saikia Sahib is also very nice. I have got all respect for them. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is also here. We are supporting the Government from outside. We appreciate the Government for all the good that it does and at the same time we criticise it for the bad things. This is the time for the United Front Government to show its dynamic power. The Government profess a very challenging philosophy, that is, it is committed to social reforms in the country in such a way that the entire world should feel proud of it. Therefore, this is an opportunity of them.

They should pass this legislation so that tomorrow the Finance Secretary or other Department does not come in its way.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, one minute. The time allotted for this bill is over. If the House agrees, the time limit may be extended by ten minutes. The time is over so the time limit is extended by ten minutes.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I have discussed it with various leaders. I have brought it to the notice of hon. Speaker also. I have discussed it with the Leaders of almost all the Parliamentary Parties and everybody wants that this Bill should be passed of by voting. So, I want only voting. There is no question of giving assurance. This Government must create records. Please do not have a wrong impression. The Private Members' Bill is not a 'Tamasha', that it is just introduced and then withdrawn on the assurance of the Minister. This becomes a 'tamasha'.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : Let me say something.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Now that you have yielded, please take your seat.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I completely agree with the sentiments expressed by Shri Reddy and other Members. When we formed the Government, a Chief Ministers' Conference was called. All Party Chief Ministers were present in that conference. In that conference we unanimously decided that top priority should be given to education and by the end of the century, universal education should be there. This decision has been followed by the Minister of Education and also by the education experts. Within two weeks, the Committee is going to give its report and in the next Session we are going to bring a Bill to make primary education as a fundamental right. There is already a provision in the Directive Principles. I am thankful to Shri Reddy. He has taken the initiative and the Government agree with it. In the next Session we will bring a Bill making education as a fundamental right. Then anybody can go to court. It will be a justiciable right. If there is no school or no teacher anybody can go to the court. Therefore, I appeal to you to withdraw this Bill and make the Government act on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Bārsat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri S.R. Bommai for his categorical assurance.

I have got some apprehensions also. In the House, he says that education will be made a fundamental

right. But he does not say specifically that there will be a Bill for giving universal compulsory free education. He simply assures that if that is not done, I am entitled to go to court. When the Government has committed to this principle, what stands in the way of coming with a direct Bill for giving universal compulsory free education?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDHAR' (Jalesar) : Sir, we were requesting for a long to grant a minute's time to us also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They were seeking clarifications.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : We also want clarifications. Whether the committee, which has been constituted, will include educationists also? You are allocating rupees ten crore. The number of students is twenty crore. How would you do justice?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Dr. Reddy, what you have to say now? Are you withdrawing?

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Assurance from the Hon. Minister is indeed very good. We welcome it and we congratulate the Government. But, however, we should also know the time that the Bill would take in this particular matter. The next session would be only going through the necessary formalities... (Interruptions)

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Already a decision has been taken in the Chief Ministers' Conference to have universal education.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : When was it held?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : In July.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Is it before the introduction of the Bill?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : By the end of the century, there will be universal education.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why are you particular about the end of the century? why not by the end of the year?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : No. You must have so many teachers, school buildings, etc. A practical view has to be taken. It is only three years from now... (Interruptions) It is time-bound. That is what I am saying. Before we go into the next century, we will complete it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, Dr. Reddy, what do you want to do now?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I would like to ask the hon. Minister that when the Government is determined

to implement this Bill, what is wrong in coming up with a legislation in the Parliament which will be an unprecedented historical event. The entire House will be adorned for giving compulsory education. The entire nation will admire you and the hon. Members of this House.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : The entire theme is in the process.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : You have extended it to secondary education and higher education. It cannot be done like that. I would request you with this assurance. You please withdraw. In the next Session, it will be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, what do you want to do now? Do you withdraw?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I have no objection if the other Bills are taken up immediately. But voting for this Bill will go in the next Session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it is not possible. Are you withdrawing or not?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The point is that I have a problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you are not withdrawing, I will put it to the vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : My point is that if you want to put for voting for bringing change in the Constitution, you must have the quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, there are some parliamentary practices also, you should know all those things. Anyway, we have nothing to do with that. Are you withdrawing?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I have a problem
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to reply in one sentence. Are you withdrawing or not?

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : What are you all saying?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has already given an assurance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Time-bound programme would be taken up and the Bill would be coming. You please withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Either you do something or it will lapse automatically. The time is going to be over?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I would request Dr. Reddy to withdraw the Bill in view of the assurances given by the hon. Minister.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I would like to hear once again...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. This is not the system. What are you doing? Are you withdrawing it or not? In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, are you going to withdraw it or not?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am just asking, in case this assurance is not implemented in the next session, what will happen?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : It will be a breach of privilege. I assure you and I am equally sincere if not more sincere than you that this assurance will be implemented.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : You are very sincere. What about the Finance Department?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this happening? Now, I will ask you to take your seat. This House cannot go on like this. Are you going to withdraw your Bill or not?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I must be given an opportunity to know it. It has been debated for more than five hours. We have spent four months on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not know the practice, try to know all those things.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You may put it to vote in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it is not withdrawn, it will be put to vote. You please withdraw it otherwise the discussion is going to lapse.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Nothing will happen to me. The point is that the entire country and the entire House is interested. Now, the Minister has given me a categorical assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I am going to put it to vote. If you are going to withdraw, then tell that you are going to withdraw. This is not the practice followed in this House. You cannot take so much liberty from the Chair.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The Minister has given me a categorical assurance that it will be implemented in the next Session. If it is not implemented, then a Privilege Motion can be brought against him. On that assurance of the hon. Minister, I am withdrawing it.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I withdraw the Bill.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the Minister for parliamentary affairs and the Minister for Home are present here in the House. A few moments back when the hon'ble Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, Shri Ganga Charan Rajput had made a special mention and he had raised this issue. Now, if you have to say anything else, you may say.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : At that time I was not present in the House. The issue, which he had raised shall be brought to the notice of the hon'ble Home Minister and he might take any action if he so desired.

16.58 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS BILL

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

16.59 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

Sir, today I have moved this Bill for the fulfilment of aspiration and desire of the people of Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands. In 1947, our country achieved Independence. Every year we observe Independence Day. This year we are observing the 50th year of the Constituent Assembly. But after 49 years of Independence, the aspiration and desire of the people of Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands, where there are 38 big, medium and small Islands, have not yet been fulfilled.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, a number of times in this very House, a demand was voiced by the various sections of the people that Andaman & Nicobar Islands should also have a

Legislative Assembly. A demand was also made by the Members of this House, a number of times, that Andaman & Nicobar also be given the Statehood.

The demand was made when this House unanimously passed the Delhi State Bill. An assurance was given when the matter was raised by us, particularly by the Member representing Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the last six terms, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. At that time, we were assured that Andaman & Nicobar Islands would also be given the Statehood. That was in the year 1991, when elections were held in Delhi, the Assembly was constituted and a State Government was formed in Delhi. It is functioning for the last three years. But the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are yet to get a Statehood or an Assembly.

Why are we asking Statehood for Andaman & Nicobar Islands? It is not only for a Legislative Assembly but it is the experience of the people after the Pradesh Council started functioning since 1981. Their experience is that there is no proper representation of the people; the voice of the people, the demand of the people, the aspirations of the people and the desire of the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are not properly attended to.

I congratulate the hon. Speaker, who took the initiative, when he was Minister of State for Home. He took the initiative, at least, to give a little representation so that adequate power to the Pradesh Council was given. At that time, we were told that this is not the final thing; that this was a step towards a Legislative Assembly.

Fifteen years have already lapsed since the Pradesh Council was set up when this House and the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were told by the Government of India that the Pradesh Council is not the final thing. It is a step to have State Assembly in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Since 1981 when the Pradesh Council started functioning, till now the demand of the people remains unheeded. It remains unheeded for the last 15 years. It is because Andaman and Nicobar Islands are far away from the main-land. It is because it takes several hours to reach the Andamans through sea. That is why, I made a proposal on the floor of the House to have a leeway with Andaman so as to bring those islands closer to the main land. I made this proposal and a number of Members also supported my proposal. From this feeling, the Feeling of Alienation must be there.

To achieve that, some mechanism has to be worked out and for that closer Centre-State relations have to be developed. To have closer Centre-State relations, a mechanism has to be developed. For this, there must be a State Assembly like Delhi, Pondicherry and Like other small States like Goa.

Now what is the population? As per the 1991 census, the population of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands has already crossed three lakhs although the capacity is 2.75 lakhs. It is because the people are migrating from the main land. That is the problem. Now I am told that the capacity is seven lakhs. So there is still capacity. But I have seen in one of the reports that the capacity is 2.75 lakhs.

Why is it that there is a demand for a State Assembly? What is the experience of the Pradesh Council? How is the Pradesh Council functioning? What is the power delegated to the Pradesh Council? The Pradesh Council is there. It also meet twice or thrice a year. The hon. Member from that island, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta is the ex-officio Member of it. Does this Pradesh Council really have any power? It has not power. It is just a Pradesh Council and it cannot pass a resolution even without the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor. That is the position of the Pradesh Council. The members are elected directly by the people. There are five members in the Pradesh Council. They enjoy facilities like the State Deputy Minister of State. The member of the Pradesh Council have facilities but they do not have any power. They cannot pass a simple resolution to stave off other functions.

The Lieutenant Governor has to approve the Resolution before passing it. The Annual Plan allocation for this group of Islands is Rs. 600 crore. The experience of the people of the Islands is that this amount is also not reaching the grass-root level. The planning, development and utilisation of the money allocated to the Islands are not done properly at all. Now, after the Panchayati Raj Act, three-tier local bodies have been constituted.

In my bill, I have not asked for powers equal to the other major State Assemblies...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Why not? Why should only limited powers be given?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now they have no powers. They will start with limited powers. Later on, we can ask for more powers like those enjoyed by the Members of the Delhi Assembly...*(Interruptions)*. We cannot say that they have no experience. For example, for the last more than ten years, the Pradesh Council is functioning without any powers. I have suggested in my Bill that with limited powers, identical to that of the Delhi State Legislature or similar to the Legislative Assembly can be given to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The issue was discussed in various fora and by various Committees. The Estimates Committee in its two Reports - one in 1989 and another in 1992 or 1993, when Shri Manoranjan Bhakta was the Chairman of the

Committee - have made a number of recommendations. They have recommended that Statehood should be given to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They have gone into the problems faced by this Union Territory. They also come to the conclusion that unless the State Assembly is given some powers, the problems faced by the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands cannot be solved easily.

I would like to quote from the recommendations made by the Estimates Committee, 1992-93 :-

"In order to make Legislature/Pradesh Councils effective, the Committee desire that the powers may be delegated to these bodies in a far liberal manner that has been done hitherto. They also recommend that in the case of a difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and the Legislative/Pradesh Council, the views of the elected representatives should prevail except in matters concerning national security, law and order and such like important areas. For this purpose, necessary amendments in the Government of Union Territories Act should also be effected."

Now, there is no question of any difference. The question is that unless the Lt. Governor desires nothing can be brought in the Pradesh Council. Unless it is approved by the Lt. Governor nothing can be brought out. Even a resolution cannot be passed by the Pradesh Council. Even for consideration of a resolution the approval of the Lt. Governor is required. So, the Pradesh Council has no power.

In another paragraph in the same Report, the Estimates Committee have stated and I quote :-

"The Committee are dismayed to find that even though Executive Councillors/Counsellors have been appointed in various Union Territories in most cases either no files are routed through them or these are routed in a very lackadaisical manner. The Committee desire the Ministry of Home Affairs to issue clear instructions to Administration in all the Union Territories to ensure routing of all files to be submitted by the Lt. Governors through the respective Executive Councillors/Counsellors except where such files relating to reserve subjects which are submitted direct. The Committee would like it to be ensured that no deviation from this instruction is permitted."

I do not know whether, even after submission of this report by a Parliamentary Committee wherein a recommendation was made, instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in regard to the

functioning of the Pradesh Council. Our experience is that this Pradesh Council of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is without any powers. The powers have not been delegated to the Pradesh Council.

Suddenly, some two years back, the Pradesh Council was dissolved without any rhyme and reason. My colleague Shri Manoranjan Bhakta will correct me if I am wrong. There is only one municipality in Port Blair. Even that municipality was also dissolved without any rhyme or reason.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : No. The municipality was not dissolved. Only the Pradesh Council was dissolved.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : So, only the Pradesh Council was dissolved.

There was a movement. I also went there once and took up the matter with the Lt. Governor. There was a movement for the restoration of the Pradesh Council. When there is no Assemble there should at least be some representation of the people in the Pradesh Council. Even that Pradesh Council was also dissolved. It continued like that. The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands continued without any representation of the people for more than two years. There is very little representation of the people in the Pradesh Council.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Is it without representation or with very little representation?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is no Pradesh Council for two years. There was no representation. Two years back that was dissolved without any rhyme or reason.

Without any reason, the Pradesh Council was dissolved and in the Union Territory there was no Pradesh Council for more than two years. Then, the elections to Pradesh Council and the *Panchayat* took place only this year.

Now, there is a change in the planning process because for most of the things the island has to depend on the mainland since they have forest products; they have very little industry. Even for agricultural commodities, they have to depend on the mainland. So, when there is a change in the planning process in our country, unless there is a State Legislature, how can this be materialised? By whom are the schemes implemented? These are implemented by the bureaucrats. The decisions are taken by the bureaucrats and implemented by the bureaucrats. Our experience, before *panchayat raj* was there, is that the schemes were sanctioned, materialised and implemented by the bureaucrats. This is still happening in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, statehood is urgently needed to have a change in the planning process, to have a grass-root level planning and to have a better

State-Centre relations. When Pondicherry and Delhi can have State Legislatures, why can the Andaman and Nicobar Islands not have a State Legislature?

There are a number of problems. Only yesterday, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta raised a very serious problems of the Islands. We have to raise problems regarding the transportation of the people and the commodities from the mainland to the Islands. Sometimes, ships are withdrawn for *Haj* during *Haj* time and the Government, while withdrawing the ships, does not consider the problems of the people of the Islands.

There is a discount in the airfare for the North-Eastern States. Why should this not be for Andaman and Nicobar Islands because air is the main means of transportation? If the people of the North-Eastern States enjoy this concession, why should the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands not have this concession? We have been demanding this, but that is not being considered. Similar is the case in regard to industrialisation. There is a proposal for establishing industries. I do not know whether the proposal is still there. If that is materialised, there will be a danger to the ecological balance of the Islands.

In 1997, Hong Kong will be merged with China. Then there is a proposal that Andaman and Nicobar Islands be converted or be allowed to be converted as a free port like Hong Kong. We should be careful, because the ecological balance may be affected. The environment and forests of the island territory should be protected and nothing should be done which would endanger the environmental balance of these islands.

Then, there are various other problems faced by the people of these islands. There are tribals in the Nicobar Islands and their ethnic culture should be protected. As you are aware, Port Blair is a mini India where you will find people from all the places of our country. Hindi is the language of the people living there. When we go there, we are asked to speak in Hindi, because the three language formula is followed there. The literacy rate there is almost 100 per cent. (Interruptions) I am told that the literacy rate is 80 per cent there. Unemployment problem is also growing in these islands.

In order to tackle all these problems, there is a need for a State Legislature where the aspirations of the people can be voiced and through which the problems of the people can be solved in a democratic manner. Therefore, I demand that the Government should accept this Bill.

Sir, on a number of occasions the Government had assured on the floor of the House that Statehood would be given to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. When the Delhi Statehood Bill was brought in the House in 1991, it was stated that this question would also be

considered. That is also an assurance. So I would request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that he should accept this Bill and give the people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands a State Legislature on the 50th anniversary of the Independence of our country, so that the desires and aspirations of the three lakh people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can be fulfilled.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the bill brought by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I have gone through this bill minutely and have felt that this bill might also have represented our sentiments has the word 'Chandigarh' been also included in it alongwith Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Nothing else needs to be done in this Bill except adding one word.

We have two types of states - some are full fledged states and some are Union Territories. Section 239-A of the Constitution of India provides for the administration of Union Territories and it also deals with the provision of Legislation Assemblies in Union Territories. But when the issue of providing Legislative Assemblies in the Union Territories came up as a matter of policy. I could not understand as to why only Delhi and Pondicherry have been provided with Legislative Assemblies while other Union Territories of the country like Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu have not been considered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you told us that the population of Andamans of Nicobar is about lakhs and the people there want to have a Legislative Assembly. The Union Territory of Chandigarh to which I belong, has a population of about eight lakhs and it is the capital of two States. Chandigarh is a Union Territory and there is no Legislative Assembly. Therefore, the people of this territory are unable to enjoy democratic rights.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of most of the Union Territories are almost the same. All the Union Territories have emerged as cosmopolitan towns and you will find people from all the states of the country in these Union Territories because people of every state have a curiosity to visit Union Territories and they think it good to go there. They wish to go and live there and so if you wish to have a glimpse of mini India, you will find it in any of Union Territories. You pay a visit to my constituency, Chandigarh and you will find people from all over the country living there. But it is sad that in these Union Territories no democratic provision nor any democratic right have been provided and almost all the powers are centred in the hands of officers.

Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, the Union Territories where we have elected representatives like MPs and MLAs and where there are no MLAs and only MPs are the

elected representatives and in some Union Territory there is provision of Corporation and even they do not have any type of democratic involvement. The elected representatives do not have any kind of representation or any say in the development schemes proposed to be implemented or the manner in which the development work is to be carried out. They are not heard at all. Whatever term you like to use, the power are vested in the officers, administrators, Lieutenant Governor.

[English]

Almost all the powers are vested in those officers.

[Translation]

These are the officers who exercise all the powers. Often it is felt that after independence, each and every person got the right to elect a Government and be governed by an elected Government but this is not applicable for the people of Union Territories. The officers of the Union Territories do not have any accountability nor have any responsibility. Even if these officers do any thing wrong, misuse their power they are neither responsible nor accountable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the budget for Union Territories are presented through the Ministry of Home Affairs and this Ministry already have a long list of issues to be discussed and there are plenty of issues to be considered this small issue of Union Territory is not given importance and neither the Members nor the Ministry find enough time to discuss their issues in details. Only two, four, five or eight Members come from these Union Territories and they do not get enough time to raise the issues of their Union Territories. For this, it is essential to make provision for legislative assemblies in the Union Territories so that people could be Governed by their own elected Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have said today, that the officers there do not have any sense of accountability and responsibility nor they have any sort of involvement. You have informed just now that some sort of Council has been constituted in Andaman Nicobar but in many Union Territories including Chandigarh there is no democratic constitution. There is no Advisory Council of Home Minister, no local Advisory Committee nor any Municipal Committee. Recently during this month itself Municipal Corporation has been constituted and the election thereof has been held in one Union Territory. That also represents only a segment not the whole Union Territory. There does not exist any Zila Parishad and election of Panchayat Samiti has not been held. Therefore it is my request from the Union Government through you that the Home Minister is here, I think as a matter of policy he should take an initiative to make provision for legislative assemblies in Union Territories in Union Territories as per the policy of the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, there was a time when our leaders were of the opinion and many parties also thought that development cannot be achieved unless the states are bigger in size but today almost all the major political parties of the country are of the opinion that better development can be achieved when the states are smaller in size and the regional parties were already in favour of this idea. In small states the extent of development is greater. When Himachal Pradesh and Haryana were one state, they could not develop to the extent to which they should have developed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, you yourself belong to Haryana and people of Haryana, today think that had they not been separated from Punjab, probably they could not have achieved this extent of development and progress. The people of Himachal Pradesh also think that they could not have achieved this much progress had they not been made a separate State.

Probably these States could not have developed to the extent to which they have developed. Now, all the major parties have begun to accept the benefit of small states for their pace, and of development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, Achariaji has just now mentioned the problems of Union Territories. All the Union Territories have the same problems. Our city Chandigarh was built to accommodate five lacs people but now about eight lacs people are living in this city. He has said that about three lacs people are already living in Andaman and Nicobar and probably some more arrangement is likely to be made. With the gradual increase in population, Chandigarh is facing lot of problems. The second problem is of unemployment. Though unemployment is a national phenomena but for want of elected Government and legislative assembly in the Union Territory Chandigarh, there is no provision to look into these problems. The working of the Government in this the territory is less as compared to other states. This is why unemployment is on the increase in this Union Territory. There is no elected Government so even for notice, electricity and road one had to depend on the officers. It depends on the officers to think of water and electricity for the next five or seven or eight years but if they do not wish to think about and look into the future development of a Union Territory, there is no such institution to think about and take care of the development works. As a result thereof, we have to face problems and we have to make efforts to resolve the problem at that time. This does not give satisfaction to the people and the problem also do not get solved. The problem is not even considered seriously. This also leads to adverse situations.

Today we have to accept that by and large the whole system in India to a great extent is run by the bureaucracy, in spite of that the major power has been

vested in the elected representatives. But this theory is not applicable to the Union Territory. The final decision is not in the hands of elected representatives because there, no such system and such provision has been made. In many Union Territories there were Advisory Committees of the Home Ministry and at many places there were local advisory committee. But during the last four or five years such institutions were abolished in Chandigarh because the officers did not want any such institution to come up which would expose their wrong doings. Those who are in Union Government feel that they have many more things to do than to think of such trifling matters. The attitude resulted in the centralisation of powers in the hands of the officers. Today, bureaucracy has emerged as very strong system in those Union Territories. I have been elected from Chandigarh Union Territory. Even though being an elected member, I am not apprised of the decisions taken there by the Administration on several occasions. I believe that similar condition would be prevailing in rest of the Union Territories. There are numerous instances when I come to know that the Administration has taken a particular decision whereas people believe that an elected Member must be knowing everything. People hold them responsible for the policies adopted at the particular places. For example if there is a Policy to demolish 500 Jhuggies at a particular places or not to allow preparation of ration cards at some particular place, in that case general public is not able to know that an elected Member has no role in taking all those decisions, rather it is the decision of the bureaucracy. However, it is a elected Member who is held responsible by the common people although he has absolutely nothing to do with all those policies. I would, therefore, like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that while considering the matter regarding Andaman and Nicobar Assembly, he should also consider the proposal of setting up an institution at central level which may provide concrete suggestions regarding the working and problems of Union Territories.

I am happy that Shri Indrajit Gupta happens to be in charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He is such a person who has been concerned with the problems of the people for a long time. He is aware of the problems of common men. I would like to tell Guptaji that I feel much anguished while reading in the newspapers that 400-500 houses have been demolished by the Administration. We are, however, helpless. There is no Municipal Committee or State Assembly to raise all those issues. The Officer claims that he is an Administrator and the Indian Constitution has provided him ample powers. He says he is the final authority, others have no right to give any opinion. He will entertain you only when he wants to do so. If any administrative authority of a certain Union Territory harrases a poor man or a hawker or a jhuggi dweller

or a rickshaw puller, in that case where will he go to ventilate his grievances. The Public Representative can raise their problems. But at present there is no such facility.

I would particularly like to tell Guptaji that while accepting this Bill, he must consider to formulate a central policy regarding the Administration of Union Territories. Union Territories must have all those provisions that are available to States having Assemblies. Number may differ. The number of members may be more or less depending upon the population. There may be a provision of Lt. Governors. The Governor of the neighbouring States may be invested with additional charge. A separate adviser or administrator may be appointed. You may make a policy in that regard. The Administration of all those union territories may be run under that policy.

With this submission I extend my support to the Bill introduced by Shri Acharia. I fully hope that the Government would accept it and that it would not be made applicable to Andaman and Nicobar alone, neither it would be made applicable to all union territories including my constituency of Chandigarh so that the people may have the privilege of being governed by the Government elected by them.

SHRI P. NAMAGAYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by Shri Basudeb Acharia seeking to provide status to legislature. I personally feel that areas that are far way from the main land have got numerous problems. I think those are more than 360 smaller islands and many of them are without population whereas so my Islands are inhabited by people. I feel that such an effort to ensure their welfare should have been made much earlier. Problems of those areas are entirely different. I have seen that leave aside the essential commodities, even construction materials like stone chips and sand are transported there from the mainland. You can now imagine the problems of those places. So far as the Administration is concerned, people have been complaining against it for a long time. Bureaucrats are worried about their own chair. They hardly pay any attention to take welfare measures for the people. If my memory does not betray me, I had gone there in 1982. Even during that time people were complaining the bureaucrats were not concerned about redressal of their grievances. People wanted some system to be introduced, they wanted a legislature so that they may be able to solve their problems themselves.

I feel that far-flung areas which are cut-off from the main land must have their own Legislative Assemblies. There should be elected representatives to look after the management of those areas. Only one M.P. cannot fight for all of their problems. It is a

difficult task for him. I, therefore, support the idea of having a Assembly.

I would like to mention one more thing which is missing in the Bill. There are certain Islands like Central Island or Jorwaj Island whose inhabitants are tribals. They have no connection with the people living in the main land. Their like style is entirely different. A day may dawn when those people with mingle with the majority population. For that situation there should be a provision for them. Notwithstanding, the Bill provides reservation for tribals. At present, there are a set of people who do not accept the administration of the island. Even Government want them to live in their own free style till they themselves mingle with the people of the main land. That type of protection the Government have given to them; but a time may come when they will join the mainstream. In that case there should be a provision of one separate seat for them. This is also one of my suggestions.

I think the Bill has been brought very timely. The Government should approve it without any delay. Besides, I also endorse the idea of having a Legislative Assembly in Chandigarh as has been pointed out by one of our colleagues. Similarly, we do not have Legislative Assemblies in Lakshdweep and Daman and Diu. People of those islands must have a right to elect their representatives. The world is making rapid progress and it is coming closer. I would, therefore, like to submit that the rest of Union Territories must also have Legislative Assemblies. Earlier, Arunachal Pradesh and other Northern Eastern regions which were Union Territories were accorded Legislative Assemblies.

With these words, I extend my support to the present Bill and my compliment to Shri Basudeb Acharia for bringing this Bill very timely.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those who belong to that region will definitely get a chance to express their view.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Island) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to my hon. friend Shri Basu Deb Acharia who has brought forward this Bill before this House. It is a very long pending demand of the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Everybody, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and cutting across party lines, feels that there is a need for the Central Government to consider providing the representative type of Government in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Sir, in the year 1949 in 'Group D States category', there was only one State and that is Andaman and Nicobar Islands. After the Seventh Amendment of our Constitution in 1956, there were following Union Territories namely, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Daman

and Diu, Pondicherry and Chandigarh. Thereafter also, some other State from the North-Eastern regions, out of the then Assam which have come under Group D States.

The question is that wherever there was a violent agitation, wherever there was a threat of the national unity and integrity, the Government of India immediately considered to their demands and came forward for the fulfilment of the people's aspirations. But so far as, these Union Territories particularly, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned where for a long time, we have been agitating peacefully, we have been representing to the Government one after another, no result is coming.

Sir, in this respect, it is also necessary that I should mention to you that the Union Territories are of two kinds. It is not one-system. One system, is, 'the union territory with legislature' and then the other is 'the union territory without legislature.' The question is about the identity of a citizen of India. I must say today that I am an inferior type of citizen in this country that you. You are from Haryana. The people of Haryana have got the right to elect the President of India but the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands do not have the right to elect the President of India as there is no legislature...*(Interruptions)*... You also go when the Assembly's voting is there, he also goes to vote.

That is why I say that so far as the rights of the citizens are concerned, they should be one and equal for all. There cannot be any differences. Whether I live in Andaman and Nicobar Islands or I live in a small territory and you live in a big State, there cannot be differences and citizenship should be one, and everyone should be equal before the Constitution as a citizen of India.

Sir, I also like to draw the attention of this august House that under Article 240 of the Constitution, the Central Government is duty bound to provide a good Government and the development of the Union Territories. But what is happening today? What type of Government have you got? One-man administration, one man who is more powerful than the President of India, one man who is more powerful than the Prime Minister of India, one man who does not require consultation from anybody! He is the Lt. Governor and he can do and undo anything! That is the system!

When we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Independence, do we require to have an inferior type of administrative system in this country or do we need that type of system of administration where all people in this country can feel that 'we are all equal, our system is equal and we can participate in all major issues, whether it is the election of the President of India or whether it is to fulfil the aspirations of the people in this country?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Manoranjan Bhaktaji, I am told that there are thousands of Scheduled Caste people living in Andaman and Nicobar Islands but not even a single has been recognized as a Scheduled Caste. Is it a fact?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, the point is that when the Constitution was written, at that time, there was only 'Scheduled Tribes' and there were hardly a few people who went from the main land to work there.

As such there was nothing written as the Scheduled Caste in the Constitution. But Scheduled Tribes is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, a Scheduled Caste man from some part of the country going to Andamans ceases to be a Scheduled Caste man.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : I am answering your query. Subsequently, when the people migrated from different parts of the country, in that case if the Scheduled Caste has to be recognised, then the Constitution amendment is necessary. What I was given to understand is that this matter was looked into by the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They have said that once somebody is considered a Scheduled Caste in a State, he will be considered a Scheduled Caste all over the country. But, I think there are some differences among the...*(Interruptions)*

17.56 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Thousands of tribals of Chotanagpur have migrated from Bihar to work in Assam Tea Gardens. They are Santhal tribals. They are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes in Assam.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I also want to add to it. After the partition of the country, in the undivided Bengal many citizens recognised as those belonging to the Scheduled Castes, particularly the Namasudras, migrated to other parts of the country, including Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands there was a Government's proposal or project for their rehabilitation. Some refugees have also been taken to Bihar and rehabilitated there. They also belonged to the Scheduled Caste, namely the Namasudra Community. Similarly, Namasudras are there in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa also. They are in many other parts of the country too. They were Scheduled Caste citizens in the undivided Bengal and now they are no more Scheduled Caste people. They are suffering because the privileges and special provisions available in the Constitution are not extended to them. So, through you I want to draw the attention of the Home Minister to have an enquiry and to have a status report on these migrant Scheduled Caste people in different parts of the country after the partition of this country.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : What the hon. Member has mentioned is a very correct position that according to our Constitution, a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe recognised in one State is not automatically recognised in other States until and unless in the Schedule of that particular State that caste name is included. That is why, if anything is to be done, whether it is Andamans or Uttar Pradesh or Bihar...

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to conclude your speech today or do you want to continue next time?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : How can I conclude my speech today? I have just started, Sir. I think it will carry over to the next time.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. You can speak for one more minute today.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The point here is, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we have examined this process many times. Until and unless on this matter a Constitution amendment is not made, if you want to make reservation for any job available in the Islands to the people from the mainland, it will create heart-burning among the local youth who are jobless and who are searching for jobs. That is why, it is essential that this House should look into this in its totality and not in isolation. That is my suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. You may continue next time.

17.59 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-

rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 1996 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

18.00 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we have come to the end of the Winter Session. I thank all the hon. Members for their cooperation extended to the Chair.

I take this opportunity to wish all the hon. Members and the people of India a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Now, hon. Members may stand up for the *Vande Matram*.

18.0½ hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned *sine die*.

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