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Friday, March 2, 2001
Phalguna 11, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Friday, March 2, 2001/Phalguna 11, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of five of our former colleagues namely, Sarvashri Purna Sinha, K.R. Natarajan, Roop Nath Singh Yadav, Prof. Narain Chand Parashar and C.D. Patel.

Shri Purna Sinha was a member of Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Tezpur Parliamentary Constituency of Assam.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Sinha was a member of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament.

An advocate and journalist by profession, Shri Sinha was associated with various educational institutions. He was also Municipal Commissioner of Tezpur.

A keen social and political worker, Shri Sinha worked relentlessly for the uplift of the downtrodden and tribals. He strived for promotion of national integration of people living in Assam and other Eastern States.

A trade unionist, Shri Sinha represented various workers' unions.

A man of letters, Shri Sinha had a number of publications to his credit and he also contributed several articles and short stories to several magazines. He was also founder and Chief Editor of *'Mahajati'* newsmagazine.

Shri Purna Sinha passed away on 25 January, 2001 at Tezpur, Assam at the age of 88.

Shri K.R. Natarajan was a member of Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing Dindigul Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Natarajan was a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings during 1986-1987 and in 1989. He was also a member of the Rules Committee during 1987-89.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Natarajan served as the Public Prosecutor for the State of Tamil Nadu from 1972 to 1976; Government Advocate, High Court, Madras from 1981 to 1984 and Additional Public Prosecutor of the State upto April, 1984.

A keen social and political worker, Shri Natarajan worked relentlessly for the uplift of the poor, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society.

Shri K.R. Natarajan passed away on 11 February, 2001 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu at the age of 71.

Shri Roop Nath Singh Yadav was a member of Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Yadav was a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and served his State as Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Cabinet Minister for Local Self Government during 1967-70.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Yadav was a member of Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House and Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Yadav took active part in the Quit India Movement and suffered imprisonment.

A keen social and political worker, Shri Yadav worked relentlessly for the uplift of the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society.

Shri Roop Nath Singh Yadav passed away on 13 February, 2001 at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 83.

Prof. Narain Chand Prashar was a Member of Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1989 representing Hamirpur parliamentary constituency of Himachal Pradesh.

An active parliamentarian, Prof. Parashar served as a member of Consulatative Committees and Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha.

Earlier, Prof. Parashar was a member of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1977 to 1980 and served as Minister of Education in the State Government.

A great scholar, Prof. Parashar was well-versed with several languages including foreign languages such as Chinese and Japanese. He was associated with various educational, literary and academic institutions. He was instrumental in promoting Pahari language.

A man of letters, Prof. Parashar authored several books in various languages. He was also editor of *Him Dhara*, a Pahari bi-monthly and *Yug Disha*, a Hindi monthly.

A widely travelled person, Prof. Parashar participated in Asian Peace Conference at Ulan Bator, Mongolia in 1974 and was a member of Indian Council of World Affairs in 1979. He was also a member of Indian Delegation to United Nations in 1980.

Prof. Narain Chand Parashar passed away on 21st February, 2001 in New Delhi at the age of 66.

Shri C.D. Patel was a Member of Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1989 representing Surat parliamentary constituency of Gujarat.

Earlier, Shri Patel was a member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly during 1972-74.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Patel was a member of Parliamentary Committee on Papers Laid on the Table during 1980-82 and Subordinate Legislation during 1982-84. He was also a member of Consultative Committees of Ministries of Communication and Commerce.

A keen social and political worker, Shri Patel was associated with various educational institutions.

Shri C.D. Patel passed away on 22nd February, 2001 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat at the age of 70 after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the House expressed its concern over the demolition of statues in Afghanistan. At least the Government should have given a statement in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This matter of urgent public importance. You can raise it in 'Zero Hour', please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker Sir, I gave a notice to raise it during 'Zero Hour'. I think since you are going to direct the Government to make a statement, it is desirable that the Government makes a statement on this....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would you say something?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government should come out with a statement in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, fundamentalism is there in every country. Here Mosque has been demolished and now statues have been demolished there....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Government is ready to say something.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I will request the External Affairs Minister to make a statement in the House, after lunch.

11.08 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Imposition of Limits by State Governments on Vanaspati Stock

*121. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that seveal State Governments have imposed limits on vanaspati stock;

(b) if so, whether this restriction has hindered the free movement of vanaspati and edible oils;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to direct the State Governments to remove the restriction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There is no specific report available with Government to this effect.

(c) and (d) The State Governments have already been advised that the Union Government is opposed to any restriction, formal or informal, statutory or voluntary, on the movement of edible oils.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has admitted that State Governments have imposed limits on edible oil stock. He has also stated that no specific report was available with the Government in that regard. However, he must be aware of those States where ban has been imposed. Ban on storage of edible oils hinders the free inter-state movement of trade. As a result, there remains a vast difference between the supply and prices of edible oils. In some States, prices of edible oils remain very high while in others they remain very low. Just now, hon. Minister has replied in this regard. His reply in Hindi and English versions differ. I would like to request you....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should not request; you should ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

As your supplementary Question.

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: I am asking the supplementary question. I had asked whether directions will be issued to remove the restrictions imposed by the Government. However, he has not replied satisfactorily. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will make efforts to remove these restrictions to facilitate the free inter-State trade movements of edible oils.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Government going to remove the restrictions?

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: In the Budget speech, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has made it very, very clear that the Government proposes to review the operation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and remove many of the restrictions that have been imposed on the free Inter-State movement of foodgrains and agricultural produce and also in the storage and stocking of such commodities. Therefore, after consultations with the State Governments, we will issue necessary directions in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your answer? What is your reply to his supplementary question?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: He would like to know whether the restrictions would be removed or not.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: The Minister has replied that restrictions have been imposed.

MR. SPEAKER: He would like to know whether you would remove the restrictions on the free movement of Vanaspati and edible oils.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not spoil the supplementary question.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: With regard to this stock limit, in a sense, there are restrictions. About the imposition of stock limits on Vanaspati and edible oils, out of 28 States, 21 States have responded; out of 21 States, restrictions are there in nine States, and seven States have not responded to this. Those States that have imposed limits on stocks said that despite all this, there is free movement and there are no hindrances on the free movement.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is regarding the lifting of import restrictions due to which large quantum of oil is being imported in our country. As a result, domestic industries are facing several problems. These industries are suffering losses due to excess imports and the restrictions imposed by the Government. Whether the Government are taking any steps to make the country self-reliant in the field of edible oils by providing maximum facilities to the domestic industries and imposing restrictions on the imports of edible oils?

[English]

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, there is a proposal in the Budget for the year 2001-2002 for restriction on imports. Not only that, the Government is also quite aware of it. The Customs Duties have been increased four times in order to restrict these imports. The Customs Duties have also been increased in the Union Budget for the year 2001-2002 for restricting the imports.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the States where the respective State Governments have imposed quantitative restrictions on vanaspati stock and the limit that have been imposed? The quantity of edible oil being imported from the other countries and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the country self-reliant.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This question has already been answered. Anyway, Mr. Minister, do you have the information?

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, as I have stated earlier, there are nine States that have the restrictions. These States are, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my question relates to the non-producing States in India *Vanaspati* and sugar are materials that are distributed through the Public Distribution System. Now, as per the Budget proposals, the FCI would not be in the picture for long. FCI is, more or less, withdrawing from the scene. The State Governments have been asked to come into the picture and collect the materials. But how can this be assured without restrictions? It is because Kerala is a State where not even a pound of sugar is produced. What would be the state of affairs in that State for maintaining the distribution system and for making sugar available at a moderate rate including *Vanaspati*?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, what is the policy of the Government in regard to the deficit States in India?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister wants to know as to what is your supplementary.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my supplementary is that there must be some kind of a protection for the non-producing States. The States that are not producing sugar, *Vanaspati* etc....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, we would take care of it....*(Interruptions)* The Central Government would take care of it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister says that they are taking care of it.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has already admitted that some States have put restrictions on edible oil and *Vanaspati*. Some of the States are bordering the sea-shores and they have very good port landing facility. Due to the difference in oil rates or in the rates of *Vanaspati* that exist in the restricted areas or States and that is available in the international market, whatever Customs Duty had been imposed does not debar the importers from importing this oil at a cheaper rate and them selling it in the rest of the country. This is one mechanism that had been developed.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what he proposes to do (i) with the States where restrictions have already been there, and (ii) would he make a distinction by imposing Customs Duty on those States where restrictions are there and where restrictions are not there. Is the Government going to follow a double policy as far as the Customs Duty is concerned?

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: The Customs Duty is not going to change from State to State irrespective of

whether there are restrictions or not. The Duty structure of Customs Duty is one and the same.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: The other question that I have asked is, what is the Government going to do in those States where there are restrictions of this movement and where the oil prices are high and the international markets are low if they are going to import. ...*(Interruptions)* This Import Duty tariff regime is going to be useless ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, I have made it clear that there is no hindrance for free movement.

FDI Policy

*122. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether several sectors such as Housing, Defence, Print Media etc., are not permitted for FDI according to existing FDI policy;

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

(c) whether the Government now propose to change the existing policy by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in certain sectors, which were not permitted under the previous policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of sectors in which Foreign Direct Investment has been allowed;

(e) whether the Government propose to give a special dispensation to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for inviting FDI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) FDI policy for various sectors is decided depending upon the sector specific priorities in consultation with the concerned Ministries of the Government. Government has already put in place a transparent, dynamic and investment friendly FDI policy, placing almost all activities under the automatic route for FDI upto 100% except a small list, with a view to attracing more foreign investment into the country. FDI is not permitted in housing and real estate, agriculture, defence industries, and print media, sectors. Government constantly reviews the FDI policy in consultation with the administrative ministries concerned.

(e) and (f) A proposal has recently been received from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and is under active consideration.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Sir, what steps have been taken to remove infrastructure bottlenecks and increase Foreign Direct Investment in the Delhi Metropolitan Rail Corporation for accelerating development of infrastructure network?

Sir, I would like to ask another question also.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your second supplementary. But ask only one supplementary at a time.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the Delhi Metropolitan Rail Corporation has applied exemption to be granted to them for development of real estate and the permission for FDI. The Government is actively considering it and this is there in the reply itself.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Sir keeping in view the general economic slow down in the country, does the Government propose to allow FDI in real estates? If so, the details thereof; and the total FDI allowed during this year as compared with the FDI allowed during the last year.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, this slow down has been taken care of by the growth oriented and investment-friendly Budget that has been presented by my distinguished colleague, the Finance Minister. There is no problem in that. Next year we can have a buoyancy in the growth. There is no doubt about it.

Sir, regarding the FDI allowed so far, I would like to submit that in the year 2001, from January — this calendar year — including GDR and ADR, we have received 4498 million dollars. This is about 4.5 billion dollars.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: What about real estate? Are you allowing it?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: So far there is no decision about real estate.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a specific question regarding the print media. The existing FEMA rules do not permit investment of more than ten per cent or so in the print media and that too with the clear permission of the Reserve Bank of India. But recently there was an IPO by a Multimedia Limited — this has reported in a Mid Day paper that comes — to the tune of Rs. 50 crore. How has the Reserve Bank of India given this permission? This is because rule 2, sub-section 5 prohibits investment in the print media. Many quarters are apprehensive about this. I would like to know if this policy has been relaxed and if so, then when has it been relaxed? If not, is it a correct thing to have print media subscription by foreign investment? If so, then what is the stand of the Government on it and what does the Government propose to do about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a very specific question or a lengthy question!

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, it is a specific question on print media.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) does not fall within my domain. However, I want to clear some of the ambiguities prevalent over it. I knew that this question could be asked and that was why I got clarifications from other Ministries in this regard. The Ministry of Finance wrote to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 15th February, 2001 advising them that no FII was to be allowed in the print media sector. In pursuance of this, on 16th February, 2001, the next day itself, RBI had issued a Notification clarifying that FIIs may not purchase shares or convertible debentures of any Indian company engaged in print media. Finally, the so-called company Mid Day had written a letter to RBI saying that they had decided not to allocate any shares to FIIs in their book-built portion of the public issue of equity shares. They said that they did not want to do anything in contravention of any regulation. So, it is very clear now that the print media has not yet been opened.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: That issue was made on 12th February, 2001.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That is right. It was being talked about. It is over now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir India is far behind in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). This is because of lack of a clear-cut policy on FDI. Investors do not have confidence in the Government and in certain policies of the Government. China is attracting more FDI when compared to India and other countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will come out with a clear-cut policy in regard to FDI to attract more and more investment in the core sector of our country.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I would like to say that FDI policy is constantly reviewed by a Group of Ministers. So, it is a dynamic policy and it cannot be static. At the same time I would say that investment climate is improving in India, especially so after the recent Budget. Recently, AT KEARNEY a famous company has come out with its own findings. It said that India has recovered the lost ground in the eyes of foreign investors. The country was refereed to be in the top ten—previously we were at eleven - as its Index rose by 18 per cent for the year 2001.

I appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member and would like to say that if his Party supports our policy, we will come forward in the House with a lot of proposals.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that FDI is not permitted in housing, real estate, agricultural, defence, industries and print media sectors. What is the reason for not permitting FDI in agriculture when actually private sector investment in this field is meagre? Will FDI in this sector cause any harm to our country?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. This matter is under consideration. So far we have not permitted this. It was a policy decision.

Relief Work In Gujarat

*123. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has been nowhere in the frontline in the matter of providing foodgrains and other food items to the earthquake affected people of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of work done by the Ministry for providing relief after the earthquake;

(d) whether the Government have worked out any concrete plan for providing foodgrains to the affected people, now that the rail and road links have been re-established;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have any plan to procure potatoes, which are rotting in Uttar Pradesh and send the same to Gujarat and scarcity States in the country; and

(g) if so, the details of the plan, and if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has taken the following action to provide relief to the people of Gujarat affected by the recent earthquake:

(i) One lakh tonnes of foodgrains (80,000 tonnes of wheat and 20,000 tonnes of rice) have been allotted to the Government of Gujarat for distribution to the affected people. Ready-to-eat food packets were also air lifted to Gujarat on January 27, 28 and 29, 2001.

(ii) Advance release of 10,000 tonnes of levy sugar has been made in favour of the State Government.

(iii) The State Government has been permitted to lift cattle feed available in FCI godowns, free of cost, for providing relief to the cattle in the areas affected by the earthquake.

(iv) A sum of Rs. 5 crores has been contributed by the Undertakings under the Ministry to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The employees of the Ministry are also donating one day's salary.

The situation is being regularly monitored with a view to providing further relief to the State.

(f) and (g) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of important horticultural items, the prices of which tend to fall below economic level and the farmers have to resort to distress sales. A State Government is required to make a written request to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in case it wants that Department to implement the MIS for a particular horticultural commodity. During the current financial year 2000-2001 no proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for procurement of potatoes under the MIS has been received.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Sir, more efforts are required on the part of the Government to provide relief to the people of Gujarat who are reeling under the grave circumstances. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the plans of the Government for the orphans, widows and disabled. If there is any, what is the plan of action? Secondly, whether there is any pension scheme for the disabled?

The Government have stated in the reply that no proposal has been received from the State Government for the procurement of potato. It is a very serious matter. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh are facing serious situation. Whether the Central Government, in association with the State Government, would try to procure potato crop and will take action on this scheme? If so, by when?

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is not related to the main question. If the State of Gujarat sends information regarding the children who have become orphan or disabled, then the concerned Ministry will certainly look into it. The issues related to my Ministry will be taken up definitely and will be resolved. *...(Interruptions)*

So far as the question of potato crop in Uttar Pradesh is concerned, Central Government on receiving the request from the State Governments, undertake the procurement. However, no such information or request has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard. As far as production of potato crop is concerned in UP, it has been 10-15% lesser than the previous years. Against the 101 lakh tonnes of production of last year, this year it is 85 lakh tonnes. Procurement is done as per the request of the State Government but 50% of the total procurement is lost due to rottening or in transportation while sending the potatoes to various

places. Such losses are to be borne by both Centre and the State Government fifty-fifty. Due to this, very few requests are received for procurement. Any request received from UP Government in this regard will definitely be considered....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, this Question relates to relief work in Gujarat and not about Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN: He has raised question regarding potato crop in Uttar Pradesh....*(Interruptions)* Gujarat Government has not made any demand in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Hon. Minister has not replied whether the Government have some plan to send potatoes to Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is regarding Gujarat and not UP.

[English]

Hon. Member, this is about relief work in Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am specifically asking about the people who have been rendered jobless and are struggling for their livelihood. What plans the Government have for them....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any scheme to transport the potatoes from Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat? That is his Supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN: Gujarat already has the sufficient quantum of potato crop....*(Interruptions)* If demanded, it will certainly be sent to Gujarat.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: It is a very serious question but the hon. Minister is not able to give an appropriate reply. Gujarat is a seriously affected State....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Second Supplementary is regarding Gujarat and not UP.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: It was also related to Gujarat.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider the formation of all party committee to make the relief works in Gujarat more effective. If so, the time by which it is likely to be done so that it can be ascertained whether foodgrains are distributed there properly or not? Whether the poor people are getting the things or not? The House has expected from the Government that the needy and poor people of Gujarat should get the required relief items. Whether the Government propose to constitute an all party committee in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good Supplementary. Is the Government going to set up any Committee to monitor the relief works in Gujarat?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government is making all efforts in this regard. A committee has already been set up under the supervision of Prime Minister. A Secretary level committee is also there under the provision of Cabinet Secretary which keep reviewing the situation by convening regular meetings and does the needful.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not get the appropriate reply of my question. I wish to know whether any committee will be formed so that the allegations levelled against the Government may be removed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that the hon. Prime Minister has already constituted a Committee in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that adequate assistance is being provided on account of earthquake in Gujarat. However, besides this, Gujarat is reeling under

worse circumstances for the past three years due to failure of rains. It has created a shortage of foodgrains there. Gujarat Government has started free distribution of 20 kgs of wheat and 5 kgs. of rice to each earthquake affected family. The Central Government have also provided 80 thousand tonnes of wheat, 20 thousand tonnes of rice and 20 thousand tonnes of leavy sugar but I think this will be insufficient. Therefore, wheat, rice and other foodgrains should be provided to poor people till the State gets good rains. Whether the hon. Minister will make the provision for providing wheat, rice and sugar at the concessional rates till the rains come?

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN: Central Government have provided 80 thousand tonnes of wheat and 20 thousand of rice but only half of it has been lifted till now. If the Gujarat Government makes the additional demand for providing relief to poor, the Central Government will consider it.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Foodgrains are there in the Government store which should be given to the Gujarat Government as per the demand already made.

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duties

*124. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether a large number of countries are dumping their goods such as consumer goods, engineering goods, agro products and life saving drugs in Indian market at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the extent to which the domestic industries/ producers have been affected due to dumping of these goods;

(c) whether the Government have initiated steps to check/discourage the dumping of goods by foreign countries in India;

(d) if so, the details and the names of countries against whom anti-dumping measures have been initiated;

(e) the number of cases and names of countries against whom investigations are still in progress;

(f) the time by which investigation is likely to be completed; and

(g) the further steps proposed to be taken to stop dumping by foreign countries?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Representations have been received from the domestic industry of Consumer Goods, Engineering Goods, Drugs and Chemicals complaining about dumping of goods into the country. The extent of injury varies from product to product and is reflected in the recommendations of Anti-Dumping Duty by the Designated Authority.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. So far the Designated Authority has initiated 87 Anti-Dumping cases. 60 cases have been completed and definitive duty has been recommended by the Designated Authority. Besides, provisional duty has been recommended in 16 cases. The names of the countries against whom Anti-Dumping investigations have been initiated include China, Russia, Mexico, Korea, USA, Japan, Kazakhstan, Germany, Thailand, Denmark, Indonesia, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Austria, France, Taiwan, Malaysia, Ukraine, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, S. Africa, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Singapore, S. Arabia, Iran, Poland, Hungary, Bangladesh, UAE, Netherlands and European Union.

(e) Anti-Dumping investigations are in progress for imposing provisional duty in 11 cases. The names of the countries against whom Anti-Dumping investigations are proceeding include China, Russia, USA, Singapore, Netherlands, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Poland, Japan, Korea, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Iran, UAE, S. Arabia, France, Ukraine and European Union.

(f) The normal time allowed for conclusion and submission of Final Findings is one year from the date of initiation of investigation. However, provisional duty can be imposed after a minimum period of 60 days and secondly, after examination of responses of affected parties who ae entitled to a maximum period of 40 days for submission of their responses to the notices issued on commencement of the proceedings.

(g) Some of the other measures taken by the Government to combat the threat of dumping are as follows:

(i) Import duties in number of items have been increased in the recent past including in the Budget of 2001-02.

(ii) Import of all packaged commodities have been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.

(iii) Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/ exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The list of 131 products includes various food preservatives and additives, powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, I have a suggestion. You can add Q. No. 136 along with this Question. It is also related to anti-dumping duties.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a separate Question.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Then, I have got one supplementary to ask on this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many countries are providing the consumer goods, engineering goods, agriculture goods and life saving drugs to our country at a very low cost. It is a very serious matter as it can shatter our economy. From the reply given by the Minister in this regard, it seems that the matter has not been taken up seriously. In the recent budget, hon. Finance Minister has imposed anti-dumping duties on some goods but still the markets of big cities are full of foreign goods, however, the Government have not taken the necessary steps as required. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have identified the areas where the flow of foreign goods can be restricted so that our domestic industries could be saved?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: There is an Anti-dumping Division in the Ministry of Commerce and there is a Safeguard Division in the Ministry of Finance. We are keenly watching it.

First, regarding the collection of information, there is a Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics in Kolkata. Formely we used to get information details about imports in ten months. Now, it has been shortened to two to three months. This is the position on collection of information. Then, for dissemination of information, we have a Cell in the Ministry of Commerce that would give information to all the people who need it and also to industry associations.

We have been actively monitoring the situation and imposing it, with the result, we are the number one country in the world imposing more anti-dumping duties....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given the notice regarding supplementary question, please sit down.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated that some effective steps have been taken but it is a sorry state of affairs that the Chinese goods reach the Indian market through Nepal and Srilanka which are having free trade policy with India and faces no restriction. The efforts made by the Ministry are so lengthy that they could not restrict the access of foreign goods to our market. I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the action that has been taken by the Government to restrict the flow of goods by smuggling to our country through Nepal and Srilanka. The Government claim to make our economy self-reliant but on the other hand, domestic industries are affected due to the illegal dumping of Chinese goods. It is a very serious matter and the Government should take it seriously. This is what we expect from the Government and would like to know as to what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Dumping and smuggling are two different things. So far as dumping is concerned, we are very serious about it. In fact, according to the WTO Bulletin,.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: How serious are you?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: In the sense that we have a Cell in the Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: You can go to the market and investigate...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is seriously replying. Please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Smuggling is something different. We have removed Q.R. on 700 and odd items....*(Interruptions)* We expected or we apprehended that a lot of import surge would be there. But today's result is that our non-oil imports are negative by 8.16 per cent in dollar terms, and in rupee terms the imports decreased by 15.88 per cent. So, there is no import surge at all that has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Please understand that this is Question Hour and you should not obstruct like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is serious about it and you are not allowing him to give the reply. Please sit down. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Verma, please take your seat. Nothing should go on record except the Minister.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He is replying. What is it that you are doing? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has to reply first. Why are you standing now?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: We should not forget the fact that our export to China has increased by over 60 per cent this year. So, suddenly we should not dampen our relations with China also.

The other hon. Member has mentioned about cycles. They have created 'folded cycles' with an alloy and what are we doing here? We are one of the first manufacturers of cycles in the world, but our people have not innovated it.

Product differentiation is one thing and keeping quiet is another thing. We should encourage competition. The competitiveness should be encouraged. That is the first answer or that is the answer to the question about China. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is a second name in the list of questions. You may please see that. You are not seeing the second name.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the reply, I would like to ask about the figures of legalised and illegal imports. Besides, I would also like to know about the steps taken to stop the illegal business of foreign goods in our country. The information regarding the action taken by the Government in this regard should also be given.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Regarding the market and smuggling, the Finance Ministry is taking effective steps. Regarding the Chinese goods, I want to quote the headlines of some of the newspapers. *The Economic Times* says: "Government kills Q.R. bogey — Little rise in imports, post-opening up." The percentage of Chinese imports has increased by almost 30." These are the figures.

Regarding smuggling we are taking effective steps and the Finance Ministry is also taking effective steps.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should be given the information regarding the figures in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, Finance Ministry is taking steps in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the designated authority has already initiated about 60 prosecutions against different countries, including the U.S.A. High-tech economic zone was recently inaugurated, a foundation stone was laid by our Commerce Minister in my district at Naganeri. Will this anti-dumping tariffs

*Not recorded.

affect these type of countries to participate in the world market? What is India's contribution towards the establishment of high-tech economic zone? What is the percentage of investment of other countries including the U.S.A.? At WTO, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have signed an agreement for import of cheese, butter, ice creams and milk powder. Will it not affect the farmers' interest in India? What is the Government going to do to redeem the farmers in India?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, his first question is about economic zone inaugurated in his constituency. For all practical purposes, the zones will be considered as foreign territory. So, no taxes will be levied on them. Whatever is produced should go to the port. If they come to the domestic area, naturally they have to pay the domestic tariffs.

Secondly, we have got several weapons to stop import surge. One of them is raising the tariff wall which the Finance Minister has done day before yesterday. We will continue to do so. Third is about the Safeguards Mechanism to be applied. For that I am going to bring a Bill so that we can bring back Q Rs. temporarily if import reaches a dangerous level.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: The matter relates to agriculture. Our economy is an agriculture economy. Our farming community has got a lot of faith in their land. If they lose that faith, our economy is going to be affected like anything from bottom to the top. There are so many instances where items like rice and mutton are dumped in our market. Our country is going to be a dumping yard. It is on account of the results of agreements with GATT, WTO and several other agreements under WTO. I suggest that let there be a full-fledged discussion on WTO, GATT and several other agreements.

MR. SPEAKER: For your information, we are going to discuss agriculture and other issues of farmers on 12th and 13th of this month.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: This relates not only to agriculture. WTO affects several other aspects also. It relates to industry, horticulture etc. So many other branches are there.

MR. SPEAKER: Just now the Minister has stated that he is going to bring a legislation against anti-dumping.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: It not only affects anti-dumping. For example, take mobile phone. Our cell phone costs about Rs. 7 to Rs. 7.50. This matter is covered under WTO. Whereas the Chinese cell phone costs only Re. 1. Essel is sold at Rs. 0.60 in Calcutta. I have seen with my own eyes it costs only Re. 1 in Bangalore. That is Chinese made cell phone. Our people who have taken loans for these industries, will not be able to return the loans to the banks. They are going to be closed down completely. Take the case of mutton.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Australian mutton is ice packed and hygenically packed. It is sold at Rs. 40 per kilo in Mangalore in Karnataka. It comes through ship. Our mutton costs Rs. 100 to Rs. 120. Who will purchase our mutton? A kilo of rice is available at Rs. 5 to Rs. 6, whereas here it costs Rs. 8 to 12. In the open market it costs Rs. 15. You take it from me, everything is going to be dumped into our market.

MR. SPEAKER: So, your supplementary is, will the Government sell our mutton only.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Through you, Sir, I demand, let there be an immediate check so that our farming community do not lose faith in their own land. They are contributing a lot to the agricultural economy. If it crumbles down, take it from me, your industrial economy will go to dogs. That is the state of affairs which is prevailing. The Government should initiate immediate action with regard to anti-dumping duty and checking smuggling of goods into our country. Also, instead of allowing all the goods under WTO, the Government should put a check on this. What action the Government has initiated in this regard?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I would like to assure Shri Bangarappa as also other hon. Members of the House that we will not allow India to go as a dumping ground. We will take enough precautions. We have been raising the tariffs including in, the Union Budget announced day before yesterday. The duty on milk powder has been raised from 0 per cent to 60 per cent; duty on chicken meat has been raised from 35 per cent to hundred per cent; duty on wheat has been raised from zero to 50 per cent; duty on rice in husk, namely broken rice has been raised from zero per cent to 80 per cent and in the case of tea it has been raised from 35 per cent to 70 per cent.

We have done our best. This is the first step. But in spite of this if something is coming in by way of a surge, we will definitely take action. As you have rightly said, we are bringing a Bill where we can discuss in detail. To my knowledge mutton is not being imported.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: We are not importing mutton but it is coming into our country. What action the Government has taken in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Smuggling is taking place from time immemorial.

Closure of HMT Units

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*125. SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) the number of units of Hindustan Machine Tools Limited closed down so far, or revived during the last three years;

(b) the number of employees who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(c) the number of cases of VRS settled so far and number of cases pending with the Government for settlement;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to train the workers of HMT in other trade, who are left idle after closure of its units; and

(e) if so, the broad strategy chalked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The turnaround plan approved by the Government involves cash infusion and financial & organizational restructuring of HMT. It also involves closure of its five perennially loss making, unviable units. Four of the unviable units have so far been closed.

(b) and (c) 4432 employees have taken VRS in the last three years. 241 applications are pending with the company.

(d) and (e) The company has redeployed some of the workers from the units which were to be closed and they are being trained in new trades.

[Translation]

SHRI PUSP JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this public undertaking namely Hindustan Machines Tools was having a good reputation not only in our country but in the foreign countries also. There was a good demand for HMT watches, tractors and machinery produced by this undertaking. People used to purchase the HMT watches on premium but gradually its demand in the market reduced. Through you, I would like to know from the Government the reason for a such a pitiable condition of HMT and for the losses incurred by it. Whether the Government have formulated any plan so that the undertaking may not suffer losses in future?

[English]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: The HMT Company will achieve its reputation once again, not only in the case of watches but also in the case of machine tools. Therefore, a turn around plan was approved by the Government in a meeting held on 18th July, 2000. With this turn around plan, we are confident that the HMT Company will be able to regain its own status.

[Translation]

SHRI PUSP JAIN: Sir, hon. Minister has stated that a package has been announced. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan to increase the sale of its products through the purchases of Defence Ministry and to establish the indigenous products of HMT in local market?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the matter has been discussed with the hon. Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes. Defence Ministry has planned to purchase the watches from HMT factory in Kashmir for its full requirement. The expectation that the hon. Member has shown regarding the improvement in the condition of HMT will be achieved from this.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the hon. Minister will state the details of total equity, licence, labour force and the revival plan so that the HMT could complete with the other competitors.

[English]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, before the turn around plan came into existence, the total number of workers were approximately 20,000 and about 6000 workers have agreed to opt for VRS. Therefore, after these workers take VRS, there will be about 14,000 workers in the company. There are a number of items on which turn around plan has been approved. Some of them are, conversion of Government of India loan of Rs. 39.70

lakh, inclusion of freight equity of Rs. 250 crore, five unviable units are to be closed, Government guarantee to issue bonds to HMT to raise Rs. 469 crore for funding VRS for retiring 6493 employees in two years has also been agreed and the Macine Tools and Watch Group would be converted into subsidiaries. Different subsidiaries are being created. Due to all these steps and such other steps which have been taken, the Government is confident that those subsidiaries which are to be revived, would be revived and those units which are to be closed would be closed shortly.

SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Sir, this is a very serious matter concerning the industry. This industry was established in Hyderabad. In the beginning, there were 6000 employees in this company. But year after year, they are closing down all the units. Now, the strength is only 1200 employees. Now, one unit, namely, Watch Case Division, is already closed. After taking VRS, only 56 employees have remained and these employees have already been transferred to various places of the country.

Is there any proposal to extend the Tractor Unit which is existing there? Is there any proposal to adjust all those 56 employees in Hyderabad itself?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, there are three units in Hyderabad which are proposed to be closed. In fact, they have been closed. Sir, the Watch Case Division. Hyderabad where the cases were manufactured, the old technology was the reason for its closure. At the time of purchasing itself, it should not have been done. But it was done long back. As regards, the Lamp Unit in Hyderabad, there was some cost overrun. That is why, it was put to loss. The third unit was the Central Meal Farming Institute. In this Institute, there were only 28 employees.

Sir, we have considered this matter very seriously. Most of the workers who were working in the company have been deployed at different places in Hyderabad itself. But we could not accommodate all of them there. But this might be the only case where most of the workers who wanted to work have been allowed to work. They have not become jobless. Sir, the hon. Member took keen interest. Sir, he is aware that I had also took personal interest in the matter. So, we have seen to it that nobody becomes unemployed at Hyderabad.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister would be aware that one HMT unit at Ranchi has been closed since long. A large number of educated women used to work there....*(Interruptions)* What action is being contemplated by the Government to revive the unit and to re-establish the women rendered jobless?

[English]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, it is not possible to restart the Ranchi Unit as it is closed since a long time. But we are envisaging a scheme whereby work could be made available to those employees who have opted for VRS and to those who have become unemployed, particularly the widows. Therefore, the problem can be resolved to a certain extent.

12.00 hrs.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Six thousand people have opted for the VRS. In fact, it was thrust upon them. Three units were closed in Hyderabad. The latest one is the Watch Case Unit. As per the turn over of these units, totally five units were to be closed. My question to the hon. Minister is, why the Food Processing Unit in Aurangabad has not been closed. The names of the other four units have also not been given. With the intention to force the employees to go in for VRS, the Hyderabad people have been shifted to Siliguri, Assam and other places. After 490 people, 130 more have opted for VRS. Still these people are being shifted out. This is a grave injustice. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why the Aurangabad unit which was to be closed on 31st December 2000 has not been closed as yet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister can send a written reply to the hon. Member.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Yes, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Talwar Committee Report on Weak Banks

[English]

*126. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Talwar Panel has submitted its report on weak banks;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions/recommendations made by the panel;

(c) whether these recommendations have been examined by the Government; and

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

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

(b) The High Level Group under Shri S P Talwar, Dy Governor, RBI which examined the restructuring plans of three weak nationalized banks considered the various options and concluded that restructuring of the weak banks with requisite capital infusion by the Govt. of India is the best alternative for turn-around of the three weak nationalized banks.

It recommended recapitalisation assistance of Rs. 2300 crores over two years for the three weak banks to enable them to achieve/maintain prescribed capital adequacy ratio.

The proposed comprehensive restructuring plans of the three weak banks contain financial as well as non financial parameters including reduction in cost of deposits, acceleration of NPA recovery, reduction in overhead costs and operating expenses, rationalization of branch network, hiving off of unprofitable subsidiaries, closure of unviable overseas operations, growth of non-fund business, better cash management, optimum redeployment of staff, technology upgradation, image building and proper successsion planning etc.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Group are under examination of the Government.

Achievement of Disinvestment Target

*127. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have failed to achieve the expected target of disinvestment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the main hurdles the Government have faced in the process of disinvestment; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to remove those hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As against the target of Rs. 10,000 crore, an amount of Rs. 1,829 crore was raised through disinvestment during the year 2000-2001. For the current financial year the target is fixed at 10,000 crore.

(b) Out of the 40 Central Public Sector Enterprises in which disinvestment of Government equity was carried out till 31st March, 2000, minority stakes were sold in 39 cases. Only in one case, *viz.* Modern Foods Industries Ltd., strategic sale was conducted. In view of the inherent advantages of disinvestment trough strategic sales as compared to sale of minority stakes, the emphasis was laid on adopting strategic sale method of disinvestment in most of the Public Sector Enterprises. Typically, the time period taken to complete the strategic sale transactions is longer than the time taken to complete minority sales. Further, disinvestment in the Central Public Sector Enterprises is carried out as per a prescribed transparent process. The completion of the disinvestment exercise depends on various factors like market conditions, time taken by the prospective bidders for due diligence, finalization of the agreements, response from the investors to the stake offered etc. In view of such market related factors it is not possible to adhere to any strict time schedule for disinvestment. Moreover, Government is committed not to disinvest in distress to met any targets whatsoever. Nevertheless, every attempt is made to ensure that delay is avoided, by streamlining procedure.

(c) and (d) The disinvestment is carried out in accordance with a transparent and prescribed procedure. The transparency of the process is never sacrificed, for the sake of meeting targets. From time to time, the process of disinvestment is reviewed with a view to making it.

Financial Institutions Assistance to Projects in Backward Areas

*128. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial institutions hesitate to lend enough money at concessional rates for setting up of projects in backward areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Financial Institutions and banks finance viable projects, including those in backward areas, across the country, based on their viability with respect to technical feasibility and economic, financial, and commercial parameters. All viable projects are assisted by FIs irrespective of their location. With the introduction of financial sector reforms, institutions' access to low cost funds from Government/ RBI or availability of tax concessions has been phased out and the Institutions have to access the markets for resource mobilization at market rates. In the circumstances, it is not possible for financial institutions to provide financial assistance at concessional rates to projects anywhere.

Tea Industry in Assam

*129. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea industry in the country, particularly in Assam is passing through difficult times because of low prices, cheap tea imports from other countries and stiff competition from other beverages;

(b) whether Indian tea in other countries is being substituted by other varieties of tea; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to help tea industry to come out of this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) While there has been a decline in the all India average auction price of tea during the year 2000 as compared to 1999, the prices for Assam tea are prevailing at a higher level in January-February 2001 as compared to the prices in January-February 2000. The average auction price of Assam tea was Rs. 86.97 per kg. during January-February 2001 as compared to Rs. 72.59 per kg. in January-February 2000. This shows an increase of Rs. 14.38 per kg. The table below gives average auction price of tea during the last five years:—

(Rs. per Kg.)

Year	Assam Tea	All Indian Tea
1996	51.65	48.77
1997	70.66	66.89
1998	80.34	76.43
1999	82.04	72.83
2000	72.83	61.96

Import of tea during the year 1999-2000 was 9.79 m.kgs. against total production of 816.06 m.kgs. Import of tea being just about 1% of country's total production, is unlikely to have any adverse effect on the domestic tea industry including Assam. It is a fact that the domestic tea industry is facing stiff competition from other beverages as well. Despite the competition, domestic consumption of tea increased from 648 mn. kgs. in 1998-99 to 657 mn. kgs. in 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The share of Indian tea in some of the markets abroad suffered during the year 1999-2000 due to various factors such as increased domestic demand, competition from other producing countries such as Sri Lanka, Kenya etc. and decline in export to Kazakhstan, UAE, Iraq, ARE, Turkey etc.

With a view to sustain market share of Indian teas abroad, various steps have been taken by the Govt./Tea Board which include programmes on consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas in select markets, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, media campaigns, exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries, etc.

Govt./Tea Board has received complaints about mislabeling of teas produced by other countries as Indian tea in some markets abroad. With a view to prevent this undersirable practice, the Tea Board has taken steps to register Indian Tea Logo in major importing countries. Tea Board has also launched media campaign in important markets to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol.

Further in other to help the tea industry, Govt./Tea Board has taken various steps which include;

- implementation a price subsidy scheme through the Tea Board with effect from 1.5.2000 under which subsidy is provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg. subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg.
- amendment of Tea Marketing Control Order 1984 to remove the condition of obligatory sale of 75% of tea production through public tea auctions.
- launch of a Quality Upgradation Programme in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers.

- increase in basic customs duty on tea from 35% to 70% as announced in the Budget of 2001-2002; and
- ban on sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

Ratio of Insurance Premium to GDP

*130. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ratio of insurance premium to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is low at 1.2 percent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government are considering to take the penetration level to atleast 18 percent of GDP;

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

(d) whether it is also a fact that 40 percent of LIC's incremental business is coming from the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to popularise insurance in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Total insurance premium (both life and non-life) as a percentage of GDP as on 31.3.2000 at current prices is 2.12%.

(b) and (c) The main objective of opening of the insurance sector was to increase the penetration of insurance. With the entry of new insurance companies it is expected that penetration of insurance would increase in the coming years. IRDA has so far issued Certificate of Registration to 10 Indian Insurance Companies, 6 in life insurance business and 4 in general insurance business in India, some of whom have already started their business.

(d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that 41.45% of the total first premium income under new individual life insurance policies during the year 1999-2000 is from rural areas. With a view to popularising insurance in rural areas, more than 50% of LIC's total branches presently operate in rural areas which are manned by a large field force supported by Development Officers. LIC has also been undertaking measures to popularise life insurance through the print and electronic media.

(e) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural or Social Sectors) Regulations, 2000 prescribe that every insurer shall transact specified percentage of business in rural and social sectors. This would result in increasing insurance penetration in rural areas.

Floor Rate of Sales Tax

*131. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a meeting of State Chief Ministers held on November 16, 1999, a consensus was arrived at by all the Chief Ministers to implement floor rates of sales tax and to abolish sales tax based incentive schemes with effect from January 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of States and Union Territories who have not implemented this decision; and

(c) the steps the Government are contemplating to bring about compliance by these States/Union Territories?

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

(b) and (c) The Member Secretary, Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers constituted by the Central Government to monitor the implementation of sales tax reforms, has reported that all the States/Union territories have, by and large, implemented the uniform floor rates of sales tax. The sales tax related incentives have been discontinued by all the States/Union Territories except for special Category States, which have been exempted by the Empowered Committee, due to their special situation.

[Translation]

New Advertisement Policy

*132. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Advertisements Policy for releasing advertisements to the regional newspapers;

(b) if so, the time by which the said policy is likely to be formulated;

(c) whether the DAVP has revised and circulate the rates of advertisements for the newspapers particularly for Regional newspapers for the year 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has issued the revised Advertisement Policy and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP, in February, 2001. The new policy and guidelines are applicable to all the newspapers, including the regional newspapers.

(c) to (e) The advertisement rates of DAVP are normally revised every four years. The rates were last revised on 1.1.1999 and therefore no revision was required in the year 2000-2001. The basic unit rates are equally applicable to all newspapers including regional newspapers.

[English]

Restructuring of Film Division and DAVP

*133. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to reorganize and restructure the Film Division and DAVP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expenses incurred by the Government for the production of films, documentaries and short films are increasing every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of the expenses incurred in each of the last three years; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the standard of the Film Division unit and the productions carried out alongwith the special schemes to promote the film production activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The working of media units like Films Division and Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity is kept under constant review and changes made from time to time to enable better performance.

(c) and (d) No inordinate increase in expenses incurred by the Government on production of films, documentaries and short films is noticed.

(e) Efforts are made to give an impetus to the growth of the documentary film movement in India by assigning Films Division productions to independent film makers. The Films Division organizes the biennial Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films which provides an opportunity to documentary film makers to showcase their films before the Indian and international audience. Films Division also organizes Documentary Film Festivals in different State capitals throughout the year. In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Entertainment Industry including 'Films' has been specified as an approved activity under "Industrial concern" under the IDBI Act.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion By Private Sector Companies

*134. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken cognizance of the cases of tax evasion being committed by private sector companies;

(b) if so, the names of companies against whom action has been taken during the last one year, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a task force to take comprehensive action against the companies involved in tax evasion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The names of the companies against whom cases of evasion of income-tax, excise duty and customs duty, have been detected are given in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Regional Economic Intelligence Committees have already been set-up at 18 stations located all over India, with the objective of bringing operational co-ordination amongst intelligence and investigative agencies dealing with fiscal offences in their region and for ensuring exchange of information on important cases booked by one agency with the other agencies in the Committee. Moreover, the Directorate of Income Tax (investigation), the Directorate General General of Central Excise Intelligence, and the Directorate General Revenue Intelligence, already exists, which are assigned with the task of collection of intelligence and detection of cases of evasion. Therefore, there does not appear to be any requirement for constituting a separate task force.

Statement

(i) Income Tax

List of companies in which penalty under section 271(1)(c)/158BFA(2) of Income Tax Act has been levied during Financial Year 2000-2001 (upto 31.1.2001) for concealment of Income of Rs. one crore or above.

Sl. No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	NEPC Textiles Ltd.
2.	NEPC Agro Foods Ltd.
3.	Kedia Continental Pvt. Ltd.
4.	Shristi Carriers Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Sitapur Plywood Mfg.
6.	Helios Finance & Inv. Ltd.
7.	Sal Service Station Ltd.
8.	Elceps Capacitors
9.	Gulabdas Flexipack Inds. Ltd.
10.	Satish & Manish Mercantile Ltd.
11.	Sabdeep Inds. Ltd.
12.	SYP Agro Foods Ltd.
13.	Pan India Forest Land Dev. Ltd.
14.	Gaylord India Ltd.
15.	Marine Cargo Ltd.
16.	Growell Finance Ltd.
17.	Inditrol Hydrolics Co. Pvt. Ltd.
18.	Amrut Industries Ltd.
19.	Neelkamal Jewellery Exports Pvt. Ltd.
20.	Maharashtra Organo Chemicals
21.	Kulon Trading P. Ltd.
22.	Orion Laboratories Ltd.
23.	Sea Horse Ship Agencies P. Ltd.
24.	Nishachandra Steel & Chem. P. Ltd.
25.	Chogule Loha and Rasayana P. Ltd.
26.	Imperial Dyeing Ltd.
27.	Konark Engg.
28.	Hofland Finance Ltd.
29.	Capital Services Ltd.
30.	AKG Acoustic (I) Ltd.
31.	Altos (I) Ltd.
32.	Chokhani Shipyard (Bengal) Ltd.
33.	Moser Bear (I) Ltd.
34.	Inertia India Ltd.
35.	Pertech Computer Ltd.
36.	India Cerious Ltd.
37.	Northland Sugar Complex
38.	JVG Securities
39.	LLC Steel Pvt. Ltd.
40.	Okara Agro Inds.
41.	Pal Aromatics Pvt Ltd.
42.	Gulmohar Estate Ltd.
43.	Neha Exports Pvt. Ltd.
44.	Unicorp Industries Ltd.
45.	Shewatambri Leasing & Finance Ltd.
46.	Varsha Spinning Mill Ltd.

List of companies (Search cases) which have declared undisclosed Income of Rs. one crore or above in block returns filed under the Income tax Act during Financial Year 2000-2001 (upto 31.1.2001)

Sl. No.	Name of the Company
1.	Dalmia Laminators Ltd.
2.	Apeejay Pvt. Ltd.
3.	BPL Ltd.
4.	Parekh Marine Agencies
5.	Magna Laboratories (Guj) Ltd.
6.	Depe Global Shipping Agencies Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Magna Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd.
8.	Sterlite Industries India Ltd.
9.	Bharati Shipyard Ltd.
10.	Manish Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
11.	Lupin Laboratories Ltd.
12.	Freight Wing & Travels P. Ltd.
13.	Ray Construction Ltd.
14.	Container Marine Agencies P. Ltd.
15.	Tips Films Pvt. Ltd.
16.	Koatex Infra Structure Ltd.
17.	ABC & Sons Ltd.

(ii) Central Excise

S. No.	Name of the Private Companies against whom, for major cases of alleged evasion of Central Excise duty (Rupees 100 lakhs and above), Show-Cause Notices were issued during last 1 year (1st April, 2000 to 31st January, 2001)
1	2
1.	Indian Gypsum Ltd., Jind (Haryana)
2.	Kraftech Products Inc., Silvassa
3.	Urisan Cosmetics Ltd., Mumbai
4.	Haryana Sheet glass Ltd. Sonepat
5.	Maruti Udyog Ltd., Gurgaon
6.	Sangeet Syntex P. Ltd., Silvassa
7.	Jay Pee Textiles, Silvassa
8.	Avani Petrochem Ltd., Vadodara
9.	Viacom Electronics P. Ltd. Vadodara
10.	White Cliff Tea Co. Ltd.
11.	Premier Synthetics Ltd., Plot No. 9 Rungta Ind. Estate, Daman
12.	Asia Polytex (I) Ltd., 66 C, Silvassa
13.	Emtee Poly Yarn Ltd., Unit No. 1, Pipariya, Silvassa
14.	Mehratex Industries Ltd., Unit III, Silvassa
15.	Nufab Indusries Ltd., Achhad
16.	Filatex India Ltd., Dadra, Silvassa
17.	Aryamma Polytex Ltd., Halol
18.	Unimin India Ltd., Daman
19.	Palghar Plywood Products P. Ltd., Palghar, Thane
20.	Silverchem Industries (Bombay) P. Ltd., Taloja
21.	Bhagyashali Textile Mills (P) Ltd., Murbad
22.	D-Tec India, Chembur
23.	Maniyar Plast Ltd., Jalgaon
24.	I.G. Petrochemicals Ltd., Taloja
25.	North Eastern Tabacco Co. Shillong Commissionerate
26.	North Eastern Tobacco Co. Shillong Commissionerate
27.	Alps Overseas Pvt. Ltd.
28.	Promising Estates
29.	Amar Nath Enviroplast
30.	Coastal Papers Ltd., M.R. Palem, A.P.
31.	Thejo Engg. Services Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
32.	MRF Ltd., Sadashivpet, A.P.
33.	Restile Ceramics Ltd., Narsapur
34.	Futura Polymers Ltd., Chennai

1	2
35.	Jumbo Bags Ltd., Panjetty
36.	Blow Plast Ltd., Ergonomics Division, Chennai.
37.	Sri Vishnu Cements Ltd., Nalgonda
38.	M/s. GTC Ind. Ltd. Vadodara
39.	Shyam Intermediates AHD
40.	AARVEE Denims & Exports Ltd., Ahmedabad
41.	Binal Textiles & Others
42.	Ashirvad Yarn, P. Ltd.
43.	Abhuday Synth. P. Ltd.
44.	Indonippon Filaments Ltd.
45.	Bhagat Ram Paramanand/Opal Fabrics (100% EOU)
46.	Begani Dyeing & Printing Mills P. Ltd., Surat.
47.	M/s. Enkay Texo Food Ind. Ltd. Silvassa (100% EOU)
48.	Paras Ship Breaking Shor, Bhavnagar
49.	Zeneca ICI Agro Chemicals Ltd.
50.	Carborandum Universal Ltd.
51.	Jyothi Laboratories
52.	Hatsun Food Company
53.	Suriya Fine Chemicals Ltd.
54.	Kuber International
55.	Kuber Tobacco
56.	D.P. Industries
57.	Treasure Tech Electronics Ltd.
58.	J.B.M. Tools Ltd.
59.	Eicher Tractors Ltd.
60.	Escorts Tractors Ltd.
61.	Asahi India Safety Glass Ltd.
62.	Peshawar Soap & Chemicals Ltd. Gurgaon
63.	Euro Cotspin Ltd.
64.	Atma Tube Products Ltd., Derabassi

1	2
65.	Ellora Steels
66.	Pepsi Foods Ltd. (Snacks Div). Channo
67.	Nestle India Ltd. Moga
68.	M/s Mahindra Ugine Steel Co. Ltd.
69.	M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. Yavatmal
70.	M/s Sanket Food Products Pvt. Ltd. Jalna
71.	M/s Sabroe Refrigeration India Ltd.
72.	Brindavan Phosphates
73.	Gemini dyeing and printing
74.	I.T.C. Ltd.
75.	Light Metal Extrusions, Mysore
76.	M.K. Steels, Bellary
77.	Jindal Praxair Oxygen Co. Ltd., Toranagallu
78.	Kalyani ferrous Inds. Ltd.
79.	BS Textiles
80.	KLR Rigs
81.	Sanghi textiles
82.	Radha Madhav Engg Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
83.	Elegant Chemicals
84.	Coastal Papes Ltd.
85.	Deccan Veneers Pvt. Ltd.
86.	Bajrang Ispat Ltd.
87.	M/s German Remedies
88.	M/s Techno Craft Inds. (I) Ltd.
89.	M/s Bright Brothers
90.	M/s Miranda Tools
91.	Devidayal Aluminium Industries Pvt. Ltd., 149, GT Road, Sahibabad
92.	Dabur India Ltd., Ghaziabad
93.	Kitply Inds., Rampur
94.	Hindalco Industries Ltd., Renukoot, Distt., Sonebhadra

1	2
95.	Scan Synthetics, Bhiwadi
96.	Pushpa Silk Mill Pvt. Ltd., (100% EOU) Dungarpur
97.	The Industrial Gases Ltd., Chittorgarh
98.	B.R. Assoc. Magnum Steels Ltd., IRS Ind. Pvt. Ltd., Banmore
99.	Ranbaxy Lab Ltd., Dewas
100.	Sonic Electro Chem., Pithampur
101.	Prestige Exports Pvt. Ltd., Pithampur

(iii) Customs Duty

List of the Private Sector Companies Against whom cases of Evasion of Customs Duty to the tune of rupees one crore or more have been detected by the field formations of customs department including D.R.I. during the period from 1.2.2000 to 31.1.2001.

S. No.	Name of the company
1	2
1.	Structural India Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Hussain Industries Ltd.
3.	IOC Ltd., Barauni
4.	Devi Dayal Aluminium Industries Ltd., Sahibabad
5.	Dabur India Ltd., Ghaziabad
6.	BSL, Bhilwara
7.	RSWM, Gulabpura
8.	RSWM, Banswara
9.	Kansara Modler Ltd., Jodhpur
10.	Mallya (Bangalore) Hospital
11.	Microvillage Communications Ltd.
12.	Taurus Novelties Ltd.
13.	Metropoli Overseas Ltd.
14.	Cochin Plastics (P) Ltd., Cochin
15.	Essar Steels Ltd.
16.	Indian Potash Ltd.
17.	Honda SIEL
18.	Ramakrishna Sales Pvt. Ltd.
19.	BARE Corporation Ltd.
20.	Ganpati Commerce Ltd.
21.	Ganpati Combine Ltd.
22.	Jersey India Ltd.
23.	Mehrasons Pvt. Ltd.
24.	Sundram Exports Ltd.
25.	Super Cassette Industries Ltd.
26.	Sajawat Industries
27.	Asianet Communication (P) Ltd.
28.	Harsh International
29.	Wagad Synthetics Pvt. Ltd., Surat
30.	Rajwani Synthetics Pvt. Ltd.
31.	Shivani Sizees Pvt. Ltd. Surat
32.	Sarvottam Yarn Marketing (P) Ltd.
33.	Saudagar Exports
34.	Shasum Chemicals
35.	Tina Electronics Ltd., Hyderabad
36.	Denmur Fax Rolls Ltd., Coimbatore
37.	Meerut Exim
38.	Pradeep Masterbatches Pvt. Ltd.
39.	Livia Exports, Jaipur
40.	Kanhiya Exports (Pvt) Ltd.
41.	Ramapati Exports
42.	Saurashtra Cement Ltd.
43.	Gujarat Sidhi Cement
44.	RSI Ltd.
45.	Reliance Industries
46.	Amar Taran, Bangalore

1	2
47.	Shipra International
48.	Chandra Gems
49.	Associated Industries
50.	Jindal Vijay Nagar Steel Ltd., Bangalore
51.	DSQ Industries
52.	ITW Signnode (I) Ltd.
53.	Agarwal Exports
54.	More International
55.	Hindustan National Bags & Burlup Co. (P) Ltd.
56.	M.K. Exports
57.	Uniexcel International
58.	National Impex
59.	Ketan Construction Co.
60.	Hallburton Offshore Services Inc.
61.	Resham Exports, Gujarat
62.	Rama Syntex P. Ltd.
63.	Deep Enterprises
64.	Kaleida Exports.
65.	Euro Asia
66.	Resent
67.	Trade Link
68.	Indage
69.	Cresset
70.	Sterlite Industries
71.	Consolidated Photo Finvest Ltd.
72.	Jindal Photo Films Ltd.
73.	Mathur Imports & Exports P. Ltd.
74.	Frontier Trading
75.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
76.	Poona Medical Foundation

Decline in Bank Deposits Due to Reduction in Rate of Interest

*135. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bank deposits have decline considerably as a result of reduction in the rate of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch other alternative schemes to attract the customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. In fact, deposits of scheduled commercial banks during the current financial year up to February 9, 2001 have increased by Rs. 1,28,442 crore (15.8 per cent) as compared to an increase of Rs. 84,588 crore (11.8 per cent) during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the reply above.

Impact of WTO Agreements

*136. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) the details of agreements signed by the Government relating to farm sector with WTO;

(b) whether these agreements have adversely affected the interests of Indian farmers;

(c) if so, whether now the Government have taken into consideration the concerns of farmers in regard to security and livelihood for negotiation at WTO;

(d) if so, whether the farm experts and ASSOCHAM have also made some suggestions in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have mobilised the support of other developing countries on this issue for negotiation at WTO;

(g) if so, the names of countries who have agreed to support India's concern on farm sector; and

(h) the other steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian farmers from the adverse impact of WTO agreements?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (h) India has signed the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and is also a party to General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Agreements on Agriculture and 14 other multilateral agreements under WTO. The WTO agreements which have a direct bearing on the farm sector include the Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Safeguards, Anti Dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and the Understanding on Rules and Procedures governing the Settlement of Disputes.

By virtue of signing of WTO agreement, India is automatically entitled to get from other WTO members, the most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment for its exports. In the wake of removal of QRs which were being maintained on Balance of Payment grounds, Government have also put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard actions as well as imposition of countervailing duties under certain specified circumstances.

During the wide ranging consultations held by the Government, there was a general perception that food security and livelihood concern is of paramount importance to India and there was a near unanimous view including that of some farm experts and ASSOCHAM, that India in its negotiating proposals must highlight its food security and livelihood concerns.

Accordingly, India in its proposals submitted to WTO for the ongoing negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, has made a detailed proposal on "Food Security" demanding the creation of a "Food Security Box". In this proposal, it has been, interalia, demanded that sufficient flexibility should be available to the developing countries for taking domestic policy measures for poverty alleviation, rural development, rural employment and diversification of agriculture and that a special safeguard mechanism should be made available to the developing countries to protect domestic producers against any surge in imports or against any decline in international prices below a predetermined level with a view to protect the livelihood of a large percentage of their population.

Concerted efforts have been made by Government to garner support for its proposals from the member countries of the WTO. In this regard, India had also co-sponsored a paper on "Market Access" along with Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti. Government have also held consultations with some developing countries for mobilising support for its negotiating proposals in the areas of Market Access, Domestic Support, Export Competition and Food Security. In the discussions which have taken place till now in the Special Sessions of the Committee on Agriculture, India's proposal were generally supported by many developing countries including Columbia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Hungary, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Paraguay and Venezuela. Further consultations with member countries are being continued to mobilise their support for our proposals.

Hurdles for Investors

*137. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the slow implementation of economic policies is creating hurdles for investors;

(b) if so, whether these hurdles are affecting both foreign and Indian investors; and

(c) if so, the steps being contemplated to remove the hurdles and to attract Foreign Direct Investment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Government, in its commitment towards economic reforms and with the objective of attracting more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has already put in place a transparent, dynamic and investment friendly FDI policy placing almost all activities under the automatic route for FDI upto 100% except a small list.

A company with foreign direct investment on incorporation in India becomes an India entity and all laws of the land are applicable to such company.

(c) Government constantly reviews the FDI policy with the objective of further refining the policy and enhancing

India's attractiveness as an investment destination. FDI policy liberalisation is a continuous and consultative process involving consultations among various Departments and Ministries of the Government from time to time based on the sector specific requirements for FDI.

With a view to removing procedural delays in setting up of projects as also to create an atmosphere congenial to foreign direct investment, Government has set up a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority for providing an inter face between foreign investors and Government machinery both at the Centre and State Level.

[Translation]

Increase in the Price of PDS Items

*138. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have increased the procurement price of wheat, rice and sugar several times meant for sale through the PDS during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made assessment of the cost of production before increasing the price of procurement;

(d) if so, the cost of production at the time of each price increase made effective in this regard;

(e) the criteria fixed for price increase in this regard;

(f) whether the Public Distribution System has been badly affected due to price rise of PDS commodities in different States particularly in Bihar;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the details of the loss suffered by FCI due to delay in releasing of foodgrains quota to various States under PDS particularly to Bihar; and

(i) the steps initiated by the Government to improve situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The details of procurement prices of wheat and levy rice for the last three years are indicated in the Statements-I & II.

The Government of India notifies Zonal ex-factory levy sugar prices for every sugar season. The Zonal ex-factory levy sugar prices for the sugar seasons 1997-98 to 2000-2001 are at Statement-III.

(c) to (e) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities are fixed by the Government taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors. While recommending MSPs, the CACP keeps in view the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for developing a production pattern broadly in the light of national requirements, the need to ensure rational utilisation of land, water and other production resources, and the likely effect of price policy on the rest of the economy, particularly on the cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc.

The cost of production of levy sugar used for Public Distribution System is determined after taking into account the Statutory Minimum Price notified for sugarcane, manufacturing cost of sugar, i.e., conversion cost and duty or tax, if any, paid or payable thereon prescribed under sub section 3(c) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. While fixing the ex-factory levy sugar price, a reasonable return on the capital employed is also taken into account. The manufacturing cost of sugar is computed on the basis of cost schedules recommended by an expert body like the Tariff Commission/Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance.

The details in regard to the cost of production of paddy, wheat and sugar are given in statements IV to VI.

(f) and (g) The offtake of wheat and rice for the whole country under TPDS during the period from April 2000 to January, 2001 and the corresponding period last year was as follows:

(Fig. in Lakh Tonnes)

	2000-2001		1999-2000	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
BPL	30.68	50.64	23.76	31.76
APL	1.68	15.24	23.87	60.15

The offtake in Bihar was as follows:

	2000-2001		1999-2000	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
BPL	3.83	1.29	5.5	1.9
APL	0.01	0.01	0.37	0.02

(h) & (i) The position is being ascertained.

Statement I

Minimum Support Prices of wheat for the last three years

(Rs. per quintal)

Marketing year	Wheat
1997-98	475.00@
1998-99	510.00 $
1999-2000	550.00
2000-2001	580.00

@ - including Bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal from 17.3.97 to 30.6.97
($) - Including Bonus of Rs. 55/- per quintal from 1.4.98 to 30.6.98

Statement-II

Procurement Prices for Levy Rice (Raw & Parboiled) During 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 Kharif Marketing Season.

PRICE OF LEVY RICE — Rate: Rs./Qutls

Region	1997-98				1998-99				1999-2000				2000-2001			
	Common		Grade "A"		Common		Grade "A"		Common		Grade "A"		Common		Grade "A"	
	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled	Raw	Par-Boiled
Punjab	736.60	740.20	786.00	788.80	788.40	791.20	838.00	840.10	870.90	872.50	920.40	921.30	903.60	904.70	953.70	954.00
Haryana	729.40	733.10	778.20	781.20	780.70	783.60	829.80	831.90	864.20	865.90	913.30	914.20	904.20	905.30	954.30	954.70
U.P.	707.20	711.20	754.50	757.80	757.20	760.40	804.60	807.20	838.00	840.10	885.50	886.80	86890	870.00	917.00	918.00
Rajasthan	720.20	724.00	768.40	771.50	767.70	770.80	815.90	818.20	849.70	851.60	897.90	899.10	881.30	882.70	930.00	930.70
Delhi	729.40	733.10	778.20	781.20	780.70	783.60	829.80	831.90	864.20	865.90	913.30	914.20	896.50	897.50	946.20	946.60
UT. C Garh	716.50	720.40	764.40	767.60	763.70	766.90	811.60	814.10	845.30	847.30	893.20	894.50	876.70	878.20	925.10	925.90
A. Pradesh	735.10	738.70	784.40	787.20	783.40	786.30	832.70	834.80	867.30	868.90	916.50	917.40	899.80	900.90	949.60	950.00
Karnataka	679.40	683.80	724.60	728.80	724.30	728.10	769.60	772.60	801.40	804.00	846.70	848.60	830.40	832.60	876.20	877.70
M.P.	679.40	683.80	724.60	728.80	724.30	728.10	769.60	772.60	802.90	805.50	848.20	850.10	839.50	841.70	886.00	887.30
Maharashtra	680.50	684.90	725.70	729.40	725.50	729.20	770.60	773.70	802.50	805.10	847.70	849.60	831.50	833.70	877.20	878.70
W. Bengal	676.30	680.70	721.30	725.00	721.00	724.80	766.00	769.20	797.80	800.40	842.80	844.80	826.60	828.80	872.10	873.70
Pondicherry	673.20	677.70	717.90	721.80	717.80	721.60	762.50	765.70	794.10	796.80	838.90	841.00	822.70	825.00	868.00	869.70
Orissa	710.30	714.30	757.80	761.60	757.20	760.40	804.60	807.20	838.00	840.10	885.50	886.80	869.00	870.60	917.00	917.90
Assam	691.80	696.00	737.90	741.40	737.50	741.00	783.60	786.40	816.10	818.50	862.50	863.90	845.90	847.80	892.50	893.80
Bihar	704.20	708.20	751.20	754.50	—	—	—	—	830.70	832.90	877.70	879.20	861.20	863.00	908.80	909.80
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	721.00	724.80	766.00	769.20	792.80	800.40	842.80	844.80	826.80	828.80	872.10	873.70

Statement-III

The Zonal Ex-Factory Levy Sugar Prices for Three Sugar seasons viz. 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Rs./Qtl

S. No.	Zones	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Punjab	1044.76	1082.32	1075.18	1278.57
2.	Haryana	1000.80	1056.51	1053.25	1150.08
3.	Rajasthan	1101.44	1194.89	1139.07	1210.14
4.	West Uttar Pradesh	1011.17	1039.79	1051.67	1135.75
5.	Central Uttar Pradesh	1012.61	1049.09	1075.41	1160.81
6.	East Uttar Pradesh	1045.55	1137.79	1160.20	1263.48
7.	North Bihar	1125.81	1171.51	1085.43	1165.24
8.	South Gujarat	930.66	981.57	1050.78	1104.90
9.	Saurashtra	1062.45	1051.89	1126.38	1130.92
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1088.04	1117.30	1175.73	1265.34
11.	Central Maharashtra	985.31	1008.49	1086.45	1119.42
12.	South Maharashtra	991.35	1028.74	1118.63	1169.54
13.	North Maharashtra	1019.11	1081.67	1169.03	1186.40
14.	N.W. Karnataka	993.02	1008.28	1143.59	1190.72
15.	Rest of Karnataka	1009.11	1028.37	1102.72	1147.24
16.	Andhra Pradesh	1087.07	1092.77	1189.34	1239.02
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	1048.54	1069.82	1177.93	1220.49
18.	Assam/West Bengal/Orissa/Nagaland	1438.14	1460.58	1091.51	1171.63
19.	Kerala/Goa/Co. Karnataka	1086.12	1125.07	1232.44	1283.56

Statement-IV

Cost of Cultivation of Paddy (C-3)

Rs. Per Qtl.

S.No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	439	485	518
2.	Assam	444	521	517

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Haryana	521	559	569
4.	Madhya pradesh	413	492	502
5.	Orissa	383	410	434
6.	Punjab	350	388	425
7.	Uttar Pardesh	—	391	426
8.	West Bengal	410	459	497

Cost C3: Total cost including managerial input of the farmers.

Statement-V

Cost of Cultivation of Wheat (C-3)

Rs. Per Qtl.

S.No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Gujarat	470.21	531	529
2.	Haryana	407.25	415	459
3.	Madhya Pradesh	541.90	550	590
4.	Punjab	443.70	450	466
5.	Rajasthan	456.59	466	499
6.	Uttar Pardesh	—	436	470

Cost C3: Total cost including managerial inputs of the farmers

Statement-VI

Zonal Cost of Production Considered at the time of fixation of Ex-Factory Levy Sugar Prices

Rs./Qtl.

S. No.	Zones	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	924.47	961.51	942.56	1152.19
2.	Haryana	880.51	935.70	920.63	1023.70
3.	Rajasthan	981.15	1074.08	1006.45	1083.76
4.	West Uttar Pradesh	890.88	918.98	919.05	1009.37
5.	Central Uttar Pradesh	892.32	928.28	942.79	1034.43
6.	East Uttar Pradesh	925.26	1016.98	1027.58	1137.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	North Bihar	1005.52	1050.70	952.81	1038.86
8.	South Gujarat	810.37	860.76	918.16	978.52
9.	Saurashtra	942.16	931.08	993.76	1004.54
10.	Madhya Pradesh	967.75	996.49	1043.11	1138.96
11.	Central Maharashtra	865.02	887.68	953.83	993.04
12.	South Maharashtra	871.06	907.93	986.01	1043.16
13.	North Maharashtra	898.82	960.86	1036.41	1060.02
14.	N.W. Karnataka	872.73	887.47	1010.97	1064.34
15.	Rest of Karnataka	888.82	907.56	970.10	1020.86
16.	Andhra Pradesh	966.78	971.96	1056.72	1112.64
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	928.25	949.01	1045.31	1094.11
18.	Assam/W.B./Orissa/ Nagaland	1317.85	1339.77	958.89	1045.25
19.	Kerala/Goa/Co. Karnataka	965.83	1004.26	1099.82	1157.18

Consumer Movement

*139. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether in the recent past, consumer movement in the country has received a tremendous boost due to consumer courts, media and consumer cooperative organisations;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to give further boost to consumer movement;

(c) whether several organisations of traders, both wholesale, retail and middlemen are trying to weaken the consumer movement in the country; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to break these cartels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the growth of the consumer movement in an ongoing process and continuous efforts are being undertaken by the Central and State Governments, Consumer Courts, voluntary organizations and others to spread the consumer awareness and consumer movement in the country.

Government have decided to assist the Voluntary Consumer Organisations from the Consumer Welfare Fund, to set up of District Information Centre in each district to disseminate useful information for the support and guidance of the consumers. Government is also taking up publicity measures through audio, video and print media to generate consumer awareness. Government proposes to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 for quicker disposal of cases in the consumer disputes redressal forums for better protection of the interests of consumers.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware of alleged activities said to being undertaken by the organizations traders, both wholesale and retail, and middlemen to weaken the consumer movement in the country. However, Government monitors the open market prices of selected essential commodities regularly, keeps liaison with State Governments for prevention of blackmarketing, if any, by traders and watches the supply of selected essential goods to the consumers in the open market on a continuous basis.

[English]

Specialised Branches of Banks for Women Entrepreneurs

*140. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued directions to all public sector banks to set up one specialised branch in every district to cater exclusively to women entrpreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time limit fixed by RBI to implement these directives; and

(c) the bank-wise number of such branches set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Public Sector Banks on 12th December 2000 to take appropriate action in regard to opening of specialized branches in every district of the country over the next one year for financing women entrepreneurs.

(c) RBI has so far not received any request from banks for opening of such branches.

Demand and Supply of Vanaspati

1219. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether demand for Vanaspati is in excess of its production of supply;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand of Vanaspati in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The demand for vanaspati has not been separately assessed. However; demand for edible oils (vanaspati is nothing but a processed edbile oil) has been made.

The demand and supply of edible oils for the Oil Year (Nov. to Oct.) 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are estimated as under:-

(Figures is lakh MTs)

Oil-Year	Demand	Supply*
1999-2000	96.43	61.50
2000-2001	100.96	56.16

* Computed on the basis of the oilseeds production figures of the Agriculture Ministry.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of vanaspati are:

(i) The import duty structure has been designed so as to encourage the domestic processing industry, including vanaspati in terms of better capacity utilisation and higher value addition.

(ii) Duties on crude oil meant for processing have been kept lower than those on refined edible oils.

(iii) The duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) imported for manufacture of vanaspati has been kept are the lowest level of 25%. The basic reason has been to enable a level playing field to the indigenous vanaspati industry against the vanaspati imported from other countries, such as Nepal, duty free, quantity free and license free.

(iv) Vanaspati has been exempted from excise duty.

Foreign Assistance for Projects

1220. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total credit received by the Union Government from foreign countries/institutions for State Projects in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of country/institutions project-wise; and

(c) the amount of interest payable by the Union Government on this total credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The total credit received by the Union Government from foreign Countries/institutions for State Projects during the years

1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 4780.00 Cr., Rs. 5962.11 Cr., and Rs. 7632.94 Cr. respectively.

(b) The project-wise details are as per Statement attached.

(c) The total payments of interest made by the Union Government against foreign loans during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were Rs. 4110.00 Cr., Rs. 4364.08 and Rs. 4507.81 Cr. respectively.

Statement

Foreign Assistance for Projects

Sl.	Name of the Project	Source	Date of Approval	Currency	Loan (DC in Million)	Disbursement during the year (Rupees in Crore)		
						1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	ANDHRA PRADESH							
1.	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Cyclone	IDA	9.7.97	US $	100.00	31.41	83.56	99.68
2.	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency	IBRD	3.6.97	US $	50.00	—	0.00	0.00
3.	AP Forestry	IDA	9.3.94	US $	77.40	60.72	55.75	70.69
4.	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector	IBRD	5.3.99	US $	210.00	—	43.05	196.67
5.	Srisailam Left Bank Power Stn. Pjt. I	Japan	10.2.88	Jap. Yen	26101.00	107.41	14.98	—
6.	Srisailam Power Transmission Sys	Japan	21.12.92	Jap. Yen	3806.00	5.00	45.28	28.82
7.	Srisailam Left Bank Power Stn. Pjt. II	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	22567.00	145.65	85.82	92.48
8.	Srisailam Power Trmn. Sys Pjt. II	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	9546.00	9.99	69.15	128.05
9.	Kothagudam A Ther Power Stn. Rehabilitation	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	5092.00	40.20	13.79	11.62
10.	Simhadri and Vizag Trmn. System	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	10629.00	0.00	0.00	2.45
11.	Srisailam Left Bank Power Stn.	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	14499.00	20.89	46.49	147.80
12.	Royalseema Thermal Power	ADB	14.3.90	Jap. Yen	178.20	0.49	—	—
13.	AP State Highway	IBRD	30.7.97	US $	350.00	45.95	44.02	174.47
14.	Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitation	IDA	25.5.90	US $	79.00	37.13	29.04	—
15.	AP Irrigation-III	IDA	3.6.97	US $	150.00	216.60	37.00	59.64
16.	AP Irrigation	IBRD	3.6.97	US $	175.00	—	0.00	0.00
17.	Kurnool Cuddappah Canal	Japan	25.1.96	Jap. Yen	16049.00	0.00	3.56	56.43
18.	AP Referral Health System	IDA	22.12.94	US $	133.00	70.79	130.90	78.11
19.	3103-IN AP Economic Restructuring	IDA	4.2.99	US $	241.90	—	123.21	118.44
20.	4360-IN AP Economic Restructuring	IBRD	4.2.99	US $	301.30	—	137.09	174.49
21.	AP Tribal Development	IFAD	5.5.91	US $	7.20	—	6.80	19.46
22.	AP Participatory Tribal Development	IFAD	13.5.94	US $	26.71	—	11.11	8.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	ASSAM							
1.	Assam Rural Infrastructure	IDA	6.6.95	US $	126.00	6.23	29.31	44.71
	BIHAR							
1.	Bihar Plateau Development	IDA	7.12.92	US $	117.00	50.08	100.35	88.87
2.	DPEP-III	IDA	3.2.98	US $	152.00	17.75	33.45	37.14
	GUJARAT							
1.	Environmental Management Capacity Bldg	IDA	14.3.97	US $	50.00	10.73	3.63	7.71
2.	Gujarat Forestry	Japan	25.1.96	Jap. Yen	15760.00	100.28	110.04	118.17
3.	Ship Breaking Dev. at Pipavav	Japan	5.1.96	Jap. Yen	7046.00	53.67	80.77	69.92
4.	Gujarat Public Sector Resource Mgnt.	ADB	20.12.96	US $	250.00	0.00	0.00	215.00
	HARYANA							
1.	Mewat Area Development	IFAD	29.5.95	US $	15.08	0.18	5.93	3.49
2.	Haryana Power Restructuring	IBRD	16.1.98	US $	60.00	0.00	78.29	57.38
3.	Water Resources Consolidation	IDA	6.4.94	US $	258.00	105.46	81.33	142.35
	HIMACHAL PRADESH							
1.	Shimla Sewerage Project	OPEC	21.8.97	US $	10.00	0.06	0.02	0.02
2.	Environment Programme	Norway	13.12.94	Nor. Kronor	12.00	1.32	0.57	0.17
	KARNATAKA							
1.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation	Japan	25.2.1997	Jap. Yen	15968.00	27.17	78.13	84.84
2.	Raichur Thermal Power Stn. Expansion	Japan	15.12.88	Ja. Yen	23142.00	6.95	—	—
3.	Kalinadi Hydro Electric Plt Stage-II	Kuwait Fund	12.2.86	Kuw. Dinar	7.00	8.76	2.65	0.67
4.	Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation & Ren.	Japan	15.12.88	Jap. Yen	2381.00	35.96	16.69	—
5.	Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	IDA	4.6.1993	US $	92.00	30.75	123.47	130.56
6.	Upper Krishna Ph. III	IBRD	16.6.89	US $	6.82	12.36	—	—
7.	Karnataka Water Supply Mgnt.	IBRD	23.12.99	US $	1.50	—	—	0.00
8.	Raichur District Hospital	OPEC	6.6.91	US $	9.00	2.61	7.36	7.46
9.	Bangalore Water Supply	Japan	25.1.96	Jap. Yen	28452.00	7.24	23.88	106.20
10.	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Dev.	ADB	10.5.96	US $	85.00	10.33	22.30	66.75
	KERALA							
1.	Kerala Fishries Prawn Culture Dev.	Kuwait Fund	2.12.00	Kuw. Dinar	7.00	0.00	0.00	—
2.	Kerala Rainfed Farming Development	OPEC	27.6.91	US $	10.00	1.46	3.04	4.68
3.	Kerala Forestry	IDA	13.8.98	US $	39.00	—	16.60	20.63
4.	Attapaddy Wasteland Development	Japan	25.1.96	Jap. Yen	5112.00	0.66	0.21	3.82
5.	Kerala Water Supply	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	11997.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	MADHYA PRADESH							
1.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry	IDA	11.4.95	US $	58.00	39.50	61.20	79.58
2.	Lake Bhopal Conservation & Mgt.	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	7055.00	10.31	17.65	24.77
3.	Madhya Pradesh Sericulture	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	2212.00	0.00	1.77	5.54
4.	Rajghat Canal Irrigation	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	13222.00	0.00	20.19	32.22
5.	Rewa Hospital	OPEC	8.2.89	US $	10.00	1.46	9.62	7.26
6.	MP Public Resources Management	ADB	14.12.99	US $	250.00	—	—	434.90
	MAHARASHTRA							
1.	Maharashtra Forestry	IDA	29.1.92	US $	107.82	30.99	82.53	34.39
2.	Maharashtra Power	IBRD	11.9.89	US $	337,00	230.34	180.35	—
3.	Second Maharashtra Power	IBRD	8.7.92	US $	112.25	0.00	0.00	—
4.	Ghatghar Pumped Storage	Japan	15.12.88	Jap. Yen	11414.00	6.36	26.17	27.73
5.	Uran Combine Cycle Power Stn.	Germany	22.11.90	Deut. Mark	308.48	0.67	—	—
6.	Maharashtra State Elec. Board. Uran	Germany	11.12.95	Deut. Mark	29.74	21.79	3.03	0.00
7.	Private Infrastructure (ILOFS)	IDA	10.7.96	US $	5.00	0.00	1.74	1.11
8.	Mah. Rural Water Supply	IDA	5.6.91	US $	109.90	49.96	83.62	—
9.	Minor Irrigation	Germany	31.12.98	Deut.Mark	45.00	61.63	0.00	0.00
10.	Maharashtra Health System Dev.	IDA	14.1.99	US $	134.00	—	13.08	0.00
11.	Maharashtra Rural Credit	IFAD	1.6.93	US$	29.44	8.16	9.33	14.24
12.	Bombay Sewage Disposal	IBRD	28.12.95	US $	167.00	100.07	65.29	66.55
	MANIPUR							
1.	Manipur Sericulture	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	3962.00	0.00	7.36	6.19
	MEGHALAYA							
1.	Umiam Hydro Power Stn. Renovation	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	1700.00	0.00	0.00	0.62
	ORISSA							
1.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	IBRD	10.7.96	US $	350.00	15.86	31.48	236.54
2.	India Orissa Power Sector Reforms	UK	29.8.96	UK Pound	42.00	17.24	83.15	23.48
3.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	IDA	5.1.96	US $	290.90	153.53	127.57	124.52
4.	Upper Kolab Irrigation	Japan	15.12.88	Jap. Yen	3769.00	11.50	12.52	—
5.	Upper Indravati Irrigation	Japan	15.12.88	Jap. Yen	3744.00	17.24	18.21	—
6.	Rengali Irrigation	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	7760.00	4.30	21.80	41.28
7.	Lift Irrigation, Orissa	Germany	19.2.93	Deut. Mark	55.00	17.96	20.49	15.73
8.	Orissa Health Systems Dev.	IDA	13.8.98	US $	76.40	—	15.26	2.79
	PUNJAB							
1.	Punjab Afforestation	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	6193.00	1.92	19.53	33.19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Punjab Irrigation	IDA	9.2.90	US $	145.29	61.39	91.22	—
	RAJASTHAN							
1.	A.D.P. Rajasthan Agriculture Dev.	IDA	17.12.92	US $	106.00	42.38	55.66	36.76
2.	Indira Gandhi Afforestation	Japan	23.1.91	Jap. Yen	7869.00	17.79	18.35	14.79
3.	Afforestation Project Aravalli Hills	Japan	9.1.92	Jap. Yen	8095.00	36.96	38.40	38.52
4.	Rajasthan Forestry Development	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	4219.00	26.40	29.32	29.97
5.	Rajasthan District Primary Education	IDA	6.7.99	US $	81.90	—	—	15.07
6.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph.I	Germany	17.6.94	Deut. Mark	40.00	22.38	19.50	7.85
7.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure	ADB	1.12.99	US $	250.00	—	—	0.00
	TAMIL NADU							
1.	Tamilnadu Agricultural Dev.	IDA		US $	92.00	41.33	24.46	—
2.	Tamilnadu Agricultural Dev	IBRD		US $	20.00	0.00	39.26	—
3.	Tamilnadu Afforestation	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	13324.00	32.48	58.91	78.13
4.	Basin Bridge Gas Turbine-II	Japan	27.3.90	Jap. Yen	11450.00	17.76	—	—
5.	Expansion of Lignite Mine & Power Stn.	Germany	13.3.97	Deut.Mark	375.20	39.15	259.78	—
6.	North Madras Thermal Power	ADB	21.1.87	US $	112.98	-25.55	-8.28	—
7.	Second North Madras Thrml. Power	ADB	6.12.90	US $	170.00	26.74	28.51	4.19
8.	TN Water Resources Consolidation	IDA	22.9.95	US $	282.90	7.41	81.52	249.52
9.	Second Madras Water Supply	IBRD	20.11.95	US $	86.50	36.79	55.83	86.32
10.	Second Tamilnadu Urban Dev.	IBRD	14.7.99	US $	105.00	—	—	63.01
11.	Tamilnadu Urban Dev.	IDA	16.9.88	US $	254.73	97.56	—	—
12.	Chennai Sewarage Reno. & Funct. Improvement	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	17098.00	6.51	2.46	33.65
	UTTAR PRADESH							
1.	UP Sodic Land Reclamation	IDA	24.6.93	US $	54.70	30.43	51.40	45.20
2.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	IDA	30.7.98	US $	50.00	—	23.14	24.53
3.	UP Sodic Land Reclamation-II	IDA	1.9.99	US $	194.10	—	—	32.76
4.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	IBRD	30.7.98	US $	79.90	—	0.00	0.00
5.	UP Forestry	IDA	30.12.97	US $	52.94	0.00	30.81	29.11
6.	Anpara Power Transmission System-I	Japan	13.6.91	Jap. Yen	19318.00	155.32	74.70	—
7.	Anpara 'B'	Japan	24.1.94	Jap. Yen	17638.00	85.54	38.53	33.03
8.	Anpara Power Transmission-II	Japan	25.1.96	Jap. Yen	12020.00	102.90	45.62	48.99
9.	UP Rural Water Supply & Env. San.	IBRD	22.7.96	US $	52.40	2.62	25.99	23.66
10.	UP Primary Education	IDA	7.7.96	US $	165.00	124.90	85.33	51.54
11.	UP Basic Eduation-II	IDA	3.3.98	US $	59.40	29.58	87.07	70.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12.	Basti Distt. Hospital	OPEC	4.5.90	US $	6.50	5.52	0.00	10.11
	WEST BENGAL							
1.	West Bengal Forestry	IDA	25.3.92	US $	34.00	1375.00	4.30	—
2	Industrial Pollution Control	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	1525.00	3.45	3.20	3.61
3.	Teesta Canal HEP-IDP-40	Japan	18.12.86	Jap. Yen	8025.00	14.21	14.13	10.89
4.	Teesta Canal HEP-IDP-72	Japan	23.1.91	Jap. Yen	6222.00	30.91	18.09	20.28
5.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project	Japan	24.1.94	Jap. Yen	27069.00	384.19	313.16	—
6.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Unit-3 Extension	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	8659.00	70.90	184.76	24.56
7.	Purulia Pumped Storage	Japan	28.2.95	Jap. Yen	20520.00	14.81	12.97	17.56
8.	West Bengal Transmission System	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	11087.00	1.92	2.55	25.45
9.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Project-II	Japan	12.12.97	Jap. Yen	34151.00	0.13	379.62	438.80
10.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit-3	Japan	24.3.99	Jap. Yen	11537.00	—	0.00	167.83
11.	Calcutta Transport Infrastructure	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	10679.00	10.33	2.82	19.46
12.	Calcutta Water Supply, Sewarage and Drainage	IBRD	23.7.99	US $	2.50	—	—	0.00
	DELHI							
1.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System	Japan	25.2.97	Jap. Yen	14760.00	0.00	8.76	41.49
2.	Delhi Water Supply & Sanitation	IBRD	20.4.99	US $	2.50	—	0.00	0.00
	MULTISTATE PROJECTS (Names of Participating States below Project Name)							
1.	Integerated Watershed Dev. (Plains) Guj. Raj. Ori.	IDA	22.8.90	US $	55.00	45.00	34.99	—
2.	Integrated Water Shed Dev. (Hills) HP, J&K, Pb, Har.	IDA	11.1.91	US $	75.00	26.79	50.61	4.49
3.	Shrimp & Fish Culture AP, BR, OR, UP, WB	IDA	29.1.92	US $	36.49	0.00	34.05	3.70
4.	Agriculture & Human Resources AP, HAR, TN	IDA	11.4.1995	US $	59.50	26.72	32.72	47.75
5.	Integrated Water Shed Dev. Proj. (Hills)	IDA	14.7.99	US $	50.18	—	—	40.65
6.	Second National Highway HAR, OR, PB, TN	IDA	18.6.92	US $	163.63	158.16	152.55	3.41
7.	States Road Project BR, MAH, UP, RAJ	IBRD	17.11.88	US $	103.38	17.43	0.17	—
8.	Road Improvement Project AP, KTK, TN	ADB	27.12.88	US $	172.86	66.95	10.89	—
9.	Road Infra, Dev. Tech. Asst. Pr. AP,GUJ, HAR, RAJ, TN	IBRD	15.1.1999	US $	51.50	—	—	52.89
10.	Second Road Project-1041-IND AP, UP, OR, WB, RAJ, KTK, KER	ADB	28.5.1991	US $	250.00	151.18	46.15	42.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Second Port Project AP	ADB	10.8.90	US $	109.26	24.57	—	—
12.	Mixed Project MAH, MAN, WB	France	25.1.98	Fren. Fr.	88.02	—	3.22	25.77
13.	Dam Safety Project (R.F) UP, RAJ, OR, TN, WB	IDA	10.6.1991	US $	92.97	61.42	77.17	73.33
14.	Hydrology in India AP, GUJ, HAR, MAH, KER, OR, TN	IDA	22.9.95	US $	142.00	23.40	69.18	61.79
15.	Tech Education-II (R.F.)-2223-IN AP, ASM, HAR, HP, MAH, WB, TN, PB, PO	IDA		US $	255.73	113.79	114.05	275.24
16.	Tech Education BR, GUJ, KTK, KER, MP, RAJ, UP, OR, GO, WB	IDA		US $	210.74	95.25	152.75	—
17.	Integrated Child Dev. Services AP, OR, MP	IDA	23.10.90	US $	74.35	76.48	7.10	—
18.	Family Welfare ASM, KTK, RAJ	IDA	24.6.94	US $	88.60	53.67	41.21	30.12
19.	IInd Distt. Primary Education ASM, GUJ, HAR, HP, KTK, KER, MAH, MP	IDA	15.7.1996	US $	425.20	62.79	271.20	341.89
20.	Rural Women's Development BR, GUJ, HAR, KTK, MP, UP	IDA	14.9.98	US $	19.50	—	0.00	0.00
21.	Women & Child Development KER, RAJ, TN, UP, MAH	IDA	6.7.99	US $	300.00	—	—	43.35
22.	T.B. Control	IDA	14.3.97	US $	142.40	18.31	0.00	—
23.	Rural Women's Dev. & Empower. BR, GUJ, HAR, KTK, MP, UP	IFAD	27.3.97	US $	18.44	—	0.00	0.00
24.	North East. Reg. Community Res. ASM, MNPR, MEGH	IFAD	20.5.97	US $	27.12	—	0.00	5.22
25.	Ajanta Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev.	Japan	9.1.92	Jap. Yen	3745.00	—	15.64	10.60

Central Assistance for Controlling Drug Abuse in Karnataka

1221. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government for financial assistance on evolving Master Plan for Drug Abuse Control in the States;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance sought by Government of Karnataka for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have released the funds;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be furnished.

Growth of Trade Among SAARC Countries

1222. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the growth of trade among SAARC countries after removal of trade barriers under WTO agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the performance of India's trade with other countries in comparison to SAARC nations during financial year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The WTO agreement came into effect from 1.1.1995. The details of India's trade with other SAARC member countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from 1994-95 onwards given in the statement attached.

(c) India's exports to and imports from all countries during the financial year 2000-2001 (April-November 2000) were worth Rs. 128151.39 crores & Rs. 155392.04 crores respectively out of which exports to and imports from SAARC member countries were worth Rs. 4950.01 crores & Rs. 1264.77 crores respectively.

Statement

India's Trade with SAARC Member Countries

(Value in Rupees Crores)

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		April - Nov. 99		April-Nov '00	
Country	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Bangladesh	2024.13	119.85	3469.91	262.14	2912.41	210.42	2922.87	188.85	4188.50	262.52	2789.02	348.56	1739.93	194.04	2140.80	179.31
Bhutan	34.83	57.4	57.56	107.2	69.44	102.51	49.53	49.95	40.22	25.77	32.83	79.83	32.51	49.64	4.32	42.30
Maldives	48.28	0.73	52.52	0.55	36.08	0.61	32.46	0.89	35.24	0.22	33.85	1.40	20.93	0.83	78.97	0.37
Nepal	377	114.89	536.45	166.95	588.3	227.75	631.99	353.64	514.96	609.40	663.77	489.90	466.28	456.91	396.60	654.24
Pakistan	179.71	165.61	256.8	150.8	557.83	129.55	532.02	165.19	466.38	902.19	405.35	296.74	237.84	197.53	506.38	260.66
Sri Lanka	1151.06	96.49	1335.62	145.83	1678.25	189.06	1818.23	112.26	1839.01	158.50	2196.16	192.79	1368.21	137.23	1822.94	127.89
Total	3815.03	554.97	5708.86	853.47	5841.22	859.88	6987.1	1052.78	7084.31	1958.6	6100.98	1409.22	3865.70	1036.18	4950.01	1264.77

Sales Tax on Petroleum Products

1223. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the levy of uniform sales tax on petroleum products has led to fixation of much higher sale price of the same in Union Territory of Chandigarh as compared to its satellite towns in Punjab and Haryana; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to bring the sale price of all the petroleum products in Union Territory of Chandigarh at par with those prevailing in Punjab and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The sale price of petrol is slightly higher in the Union Territory of Chandigarh compared to its satellite towns in Punjab and Haryana as there is Central Sales-Tax (CST) liability for Chandigarh, but not for Haryana or Punjab.

(b) The Union Territory administration of Chandigarh has intimated that a site has been allotted to the Bharat Petroleum Limited in Chandigarh for setting up a depot. This will enable Chandigarh to get supplies locally and there will be no Central Sales Tax (CST) liability.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units in SC/ST Areas

1224. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether no export-oriented unit has been setup so far in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes areas of the country including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise, details of such areas where the export oriented units have been set up;

(d) the details of such units which have fulfilled their exports commitments alongwith the earnings thereof;

(e) the details of such units, which have failed to fulfil their export commitments alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to watch the performance of export oriented units in fulfilling their export commitments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No separate record is being maintained regarding location of EOUs in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes areas of the country.

(d) to (f) Export Oriented Units (EOUs) have a five year period to fulfill their export commitments. The monitoring of their performance is done on annual and cumulative basis subject to their having completed one year of production. Accordingly export performance of 1051 units which had completed one year of production as on 31st March, 99 was monitored which reveals that 670 units have either achieved the export commitment or there was a marginal shortfall in their case. In case of 81 units the shortfall in export performance was not more than 10% and their performance was kept under watch. In the case of 300 units the shortfall in export performance was more than 10% and these cases were referred to Director General of Foreign Trade for penal action as per guidelines. The EOUs. effected exports of Rs. 12,058.27 crores during that year. The reasons for poor performance were lack of marketing, financial or managerial problems and high transaction cost in India. External marketing efforts of the units are assisted by the Govt. of India by organising trade exhibitions and buyer-seller meets, under Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

[English]

SEBI Control on Capital Markets

1225. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has failed to make the capital markets a safer place for investors and the same have become dens of gambling;

(b) if so, whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Disclosure; SEBI's shady secrets" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated August 26, 2000; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take to make the capital markets a safer place for small investors in particular and other in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has taken note of the news item under reference.

(c) The Government and the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are committed to promoting investors' awareness of the risk-return trade off associated with various capital market instruments and protecting the interest of investors. In this context, the relevant legislation is constantly reviewed. Over the years, SEBI has taken various measures such as introduction of disclosure norms, tightening of entry norms of initial public offerings, introduction of book building mechanism for issue of securities, enforcing of lock-in provisions etc. with a view to enhancing the safety, integrity and transparency of the securities market.

[Translation]

Projects under Infrastructural Balance Scheme

1226. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects of the Bihar Government launched under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the first three years of the Ninth Five year Plan;

(b) the total amount sanctioned under each project;

(c) the amount released by the Union Government in regard to each project;

(d) the progress made so far under each project;

(e) whether the State Government have requested the Union Government to carry out amendment in the cost etc. of any project;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme became operative only in the last financial year of the Eighth Plan during which no proposals were received from Bihar Government and as such no project was sanctioned.

(b) and (c) Projects sanctioned in the IXth Plan are as follows:

Amount (Rs. in lacs)

Name of the Project	Sanctioned	Released
Setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plant at Export Promotion Industrial Park, Hajipur	70.62	35.31
Storm water drainage at Export Promotion Industrial Park, Hajipur	44.15	24.15
33 KVA electricity line for Export Promotion Industrial Park, Hajipur.	8.65	4.35
Strengthening of Hajipur—Jandaha road	72.06	36.00

(d) to (g) No progress reports have been received nor has the State Government requested the Union Government to carry out amendments in the cost.

Import of Honey from China

1227. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard honey at cheaper rates is being imported from China as a result of which lakhs of poor families engaged in honey production are likely to be rendered jobless;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the import of honey from China; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote export of high quality Indian honey?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No honey was imported from China during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. The total import of honey from China during the year 1999-2000 was worth only Rs. 18,000/-. Again there was no import of honey from China during the period April-September, 2000. As can be seen, with the present level of imports there is no threat to domestic honey farmers from import from China. Further, import of honey attracts total customs duty of 44.04%. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers.

Import of all edible goods is examined at the port to ensure its suitability for human consumption. Consignments not meeting the prescribed norms would be appropriately dealt with by the authorities through measures including, but not limited to, denial of entry at the port of disembarkment and/or reshipment.

The Government operates various schemes to promote exports, wherein the duties/taxes incurred on various inputs required for export production are exempted/ reimbursed.

[English]

FDI Proposals

1228. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of FDI proposals cleared by the Government since October, 2000 onwards till date along with the value, sector, country and names of States for which these proposals have been cleared;

(b) whether any proposals of Netherland based Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. were among the proposers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) A total of 352 FDI proposals involving an amount of Rs. 8777.61 crore have been approved from October, 2000 till December, 2000. Sector-wise, Country-wise and State-wise details of these proposals are at Statements I, II and III respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government has granted two financial collaboration approvals to Netherlands based Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. on 24.10.2000 for (i) for increase in foreign equity upto 74% by way of acquisition of shares through public offer in the paid up capital of M/s. Philips India Ltd, engaged in manufacture of consumer electronics, lighting, appliances, business electronics, plastics and components and (II) for increase in foreign equity upto 76.40% by way of acquisition of shares through public offer in the paid up capital of M/s. Punjab Anand Lamps Industries Ltd., engaged in manufacture of incandescent lamps, flurescent tubes and glass shells. Both the approvals are subject to SEBI (Substantial acquisition of shares and takeovers) Regulations, 1997 and issue/transfer/valuation of shares in accordance with SEBI/RBI guidelines.

Statement-I

Sector-wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved by Government during the post-policy period from (01/10/2000 to 31/12/2000

(Amt in crore)

S. No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			Amount of FDI Approved	%to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Electricals Equipment	140	8	132	4636.22	52.82
2.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	19	5	14	1874.16	21.35
3.	Drugs and Pharaceuticals	14	9	5	944.76	10.76
4.	Telecommunications	24	2	22	526.09	5.99
5.	Miscellaneous Industries	47	17	30	225.07	2.56
6.	Trading	9	1	8	140.14	1.60
7.	Transportation Industry	23	9	14	135.95	1.55
8.	Service Sector	14	1	13	72.30	0.82
9.	Hotel & Tourism	13	2	11	67.38	0.77
10.	Metallurgical Industries	9	2	7	49.72	0.57
11.	Chemicals (other than fertilizers)	20	11	9	24.07	0.27
12.	Consultancy services	21	2	19	18.13	0.21
13.	Industrial Machinery	22	8	14	16.03	0.18
14.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	27	10	17	14.48	0.16
15.	Machine Tools	3	0	3	11.21	0.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Glass	6	0	6	10.61	0.12
17.	Food Processing Industries	14	5	9	3.54	0.04
18.	Ceramics	2	0	2	2.30	0.03
19.	Textiles (Includ Dyed. Printed)	9	3	6	1.98	0.02
20.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	5	0	5	1.82	0.02
21.	Rubber Goods	3	1	2	0.75	0.01
22.	Agriculture Machinery	1	0	1	0.65	0.01
23.	Industrial Instruments	3	2	1	0.25	0.00
24.	Earth-Moving Machinery	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
25.	Scientific Instruments	2	1	1	0.00	0.00
26.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Products	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
27.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
28.	Cement and Gypsum Products	3	3	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	456	104	352	8777.61	

Statement-II

Country wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Technology Cases (FTCs) approved by Government during October 2000 to December 2000

(Rs. Crore)

S. No.	Name of Country	No. of Approvals			Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved
		Total	Tech.	Fin.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Australia	5	0	5	16.21
2.	Austria	2	1	1	0.09
3.	Belgium	5	1	4	1.37
4.	Canada	3	2	1	0.00
5.	Cayman Island	3	0	3	17.48
6.	China	5	5	0	0.00
7.	Cyprus	2	0	2	2.02
8.	Denmark	5	0	5	7.87
9.	Finland	2	2	0	0.00
10.	France	12	3	9	24.96

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Germany	49	19	30	188.17
12.	Hongkong	8	0	8	46.25
13.	Indonesia	1	0	1	0.00
14.	Ireland	2	0	2	13.95
15.	Italy	12	6	6	4.87
16.	Japan	20	12	8	-4.17
17.	Korea (South)	4	2	2	0.21
18.	Kuwait	2	1	1	0.43
19.	Malaysia	8	2	6	7.73
20.	Mauritius	32	1	31	2318.29
21.	NRI	38	0	38	773.91
22.	Netherlands	19	5	14	41.82
23.	Nigeria	1	0	1	3.00
24.	Norway	1	0	1	0.04
25.	Oman	1	0	1	2.41
26.	Philippines	1	0	1	0.43
27.	Russia	2	2	0	0.00
28.	Singapore	18	0	18	175.15
29.	South Africa	1	1	0	0.00
30.	Spain	4	1	3	0.77
31.	Sweden	1	0	1	4.60
32.	Switzerland	21	10	11	5.80
33.	Thailand	2	2	0	0.00
34.	U.A.E.	1	0	1	3.84
35.	U.K.	42	11	31	131.99
36.	U.S.A.	110	14	96	300.35
37.	Euro Issues (GDR)	4	0	4	4685.50
38.	British Virginia	1	0	1	0.50
39.	Yugoslavia	1	0	1	1.00
40.	Unindicated Country	3	1	2	0.00
41.	Iran	1	0	1	0.26
42.	Kenya	1	0	1	0.49
	Total	456	104	352	8777.61

Statement-III

State-wise Break-up of Foreign Collaboration & Foreign Direct Investment Proposals approved by Government during (October, 2000 to December, 2000)

(Rs. crore)

State	No. of Approvals			Amount of FDI Approved	%to Total
	Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	27	3	24	2652.18	30.22
Bihar	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	22	12	10	4.12	0.05
Haryana	9	2	7	7.58	0.09
Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	72	10	62	124.59	1.42
Kerala	15	4	11	15.03	0.17
Madhya Pradesh	4	1	3	3.98	0.05
Maharashtra	122	44	78	1024.05	11.67
Orissa	1	0	1	0.05	0.00
Punjab	4	0	4	13.02	0.15
Rajasthan	7	0	7	51.47	0.59
Tamil Nadu	47	9	38	2045.39	23.30
Uttar Pradesh	8	3	5	74.50	0.85
West Bengal	10	2	8	13.34	0.15
Chandigarh	3	2	1	1.24	0.01
Delhi	64	5	59	417.02	4.75
Goa	3	1	2	1.11	0.01
State not indicated	36	4	32	2328.94	26.53
Total	456	104	352	8777.61	

Delivery of Mishandled Baggage Through Couriers

1229. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major initiative taken by the Customs Authorities at the IGI Airport, the international airlines have been asked to deliver the mishandled baggages to passengers through couriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the baggages of 7% of the total passengers at IGI airport is mishandled or does not arrive on the same flight;

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

(e) whether this clause applicable on both national and international flights; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The customs authorities at the IGI Airport, New Delhi have introduced a simplied procedure for the clearance of mishandled baggage. The facility is only available to baggage that are non-dutiable and free of any import restriction, arriving from non sensitive flights. The mishandled baggage is cleared by the concerned Airlines based on the authorization/declaration of the passenger and is deliver to the passenger, either by courier companies or as suitable to the airlines.

(c) As there are no record of the total number of bags brought by the passenger, it is not possible to say in percentage terms the quantum of mishandled baggage.

(d) The other steps taken to streamline, storage and clearance of mishandled baggage include appointment of Central Warehousing Corporation as the custodian of mishandled baggage & setting up of a special counter for expeditious clearance of baggage.

(e) and (f) The simplied procedure of mishandled baggage is applicable only to the international flights.

Public Financial Institutions

1230. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 and Companies Act, 1956 with a view to maintain uniformity in the definitions of Public Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Public Financial Institutions (PFIs) (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 provide for obligations of PFIs as to fidelity and secrecy and it prohibits PFI from divulging any information relating to, or to the affairs of, its constituents. The definition of PFIs under the said Act does not include all the institutions named as such under the Companies Act, 1956. Ordinarily a definition in the Act is relevant for the interpretation and understanding of the terms used in that enactment. The matter concerning common definition would require further examination and consultation and as such there is no consensus/decision at this stage to amend the said Acts.

Syllabus in Film Institute, Pune

1231. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the students of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune have requested the Institute to revert to the three year revised syllabus designed in 1996;

(b) if so, whether the syllabus designed in 1996 was accepted in principle by the Academic Council;

(c) if so, the reasons for replacing the syllabus designed in 1996; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, while approving the same, in principle, the Academic Council desired that the syllabus be examined keeping in view the availability of infrastructure, budget, faculty, time frame and coordination between various departments. A Committee of the faculty set up for this purpose recommended to the Academic Council in April, 1999 that the syllabus required restructuring and revision to bring it up-to-date. This was accepted by the Academic Council and in August, 1999, the revised and restructured syllabus drawn up was approved.

(d) In view of (a) above, a Review Committee was set up in October, 2000 to review the current syllabus. A final decision on the recommendations of the Review Committee has not been taken.

Export of Steel

1232. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries to whom steel and steel items are being exported;

(b) the names of public as well as private sector steel companies, which are exporting the steel and steel items;

(c) whether several countries have levelled dumping charges on those items;

(d) if so, the names of such countries and upto what extent; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The major markets for export of Indian steel items have been Indonesia, Italy, Middle East, Nepal, Taiwan, USA, Belgium, Canada, Malaysia, Japan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand and EU Member Countries.

(b) The major Indian exporters of steel and steel items are: Steel Authority of India, Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Essar Steel Ltd., Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd., Ispat Industries *and* Jindal Iron and Steel Co.,

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the Anti-dumping duties levied by different countries against exports of steel and steel items during the last three calendar years are given below:

Country	Item	Year	Rate of Anti-dumping duty imposed on the item
1	2	3	4
USA	Cut-to length Carbon Steel Plate	1999	72.49%
Canada	1. Certain Stainless Steel Round Bar	1998	Duty Ranging from 18.8% to 52.4%
	2. Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Plate	2000	14.9%
South Africa	Paper insulated, lead covered cables	1999	Duty ranging from 2.14% to 34.7%
Indonesia	Steel Wire Rod	1998	23%
European Union	1. Stainless Steel Fastners and parts	1998	Duty Ranging from 11.2% to 54%

1	2	3	4
	2. Steel Ropes and Cables	1999	Duty ranging from 23.8% to 30.8% (In view of the price undertaking given by the Indian exporter M/s Usha Martin Industries & Usha Beltron Ltd., the above mentioned duty not to be levied till the undertaking remain operative)
	3. Stainless Steel Wire with a diameter of 1mm or more	1999	Duty ranging from 1.2% to 35.8%
	4. Certain flat rolled product of iron or non-alloy steel.	2000	Duty ranging from 1.5% to 11.5%
	5. Quarto Plates	2000	22.3% against all exporters from India. Since Steel Authority of India the only exporter specifically targeted, has given a price undertaking, this duty will not be collected against them till the undertaking remains operative.

(e) The Indian industry has been defending the Anti-dumping cases initiated against the import of steel and steel items with the active assistance and support of the Government.

Stoppage of AIR News Bulletin in Kashmiri Language

1233. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped AIR News-Bulletin in Kashmiri recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Investment Centre

1234. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for strengthening the Indian Investment Centre; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government is presently reviewing the functioning of the Indian Investment Centre.

Renaming the Name of Film Institute

1235. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for renaming the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Film and Television Institute of India has given representation against the renaming of name of the Institute; and

(d) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Various proposals were received for renaming the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. The Society of FTII considered the matter and unanimously decided that the name of the Institute would not be changed as it has a brand name which is acknowledged at the national and international level. Government has accepted this decision.

[Translation]

Dumping of Goods from Nepal

1236. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal is misusing the Indo-Nepal trade agreement and flooding the Indian market by its goods;

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

(c) whether the Government have assessed the estimated loss incurred by the country as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have made efforts to tide over the above situation through negotiation on the said trade agreement; and

(f) if so, the outcome of the negotiation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) Bilateral trade between India and Nepal is governed by Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade which provides, inter-alia, that GOI will give access to the Indian market free of customs duties and quantitative restrictions for all articles manufactured in Nepal except for the items in an agreed Negative List. The Treaty also provides that in the event of this facility leading to surge in the imports generally or in the import of any particular article, the two governments shall enter into consultations with a view to taking appropriate measures.

There have been complaints from Indian industry and others that this facility has led to increased imports of

some of the manufactured articles from Nepal which has adversely affected the Indian industry. Though no estimate has been made of the revenue loss to Government of account of duty free entry for imports from Nepal, action has been initiated to start the process of consultations with Government of Nepal for taking appropriate measures, as provided in the Treaty.

[English]

Export Credit Rules

1237. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have relaxed export credit rules to earthquake affected areas of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Reserve Bank of India vide its circular dated 6th February, 2001 has extended the following concessions to exporters affected by earthquake in Gujarat;

(i) Extension of pre-shipment credit

In cases where shipment is likely to be delayed beyond the specified time due to the calamity, Banks may, after satisfying themselves of the genuineness of the case, extend pre-shipment credit granted for periods less than 180 days (based on the production cycle) upto 180 days, at the interest rate applicable for the period upto 180 days (10 per cent per annum). For the period beyond 180 days and upto 360 days banks may charge the concessional rate applicable for the period beyond 180 days and upto 270 days, (13 percent per annum) Extension of credit beyond 360 days may also be considered, where necessary, on the basis of bank's commercial judgement and discretion at the rate applicable for Export Credit Not Otherwise Specified (ECNOS)-Pre shipment' and with the approval, of the bank's Board.

In cases where the pre-shipment credit has been granted in foreign currency, extension beyond 180 days may be allowed as per the actual cost of roll-over instead of applying 2 percent over the rate charged for the period upto 180 days as per extant instructions.

(ii) Conversion of dues into short term loans

Banks may convert the overdue pre-shipment credit, wherever considered necessary, into a short term loan repayable within a reasonable period of time after taking into account the settlement of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) claim, if any, in respect of guarantees taken by the bank Penal interest should not be charged from the date of advance in case of non-shipment in such cases.

(iii) Application of asset classification norm

Banks need not classify pre-shipment credit granted to the exporters where the period of credit has been extended in terms of paragraph (i) above or where the pre-shipment credit has been converted into short term loan in terms of paragraph (ii) above as Non Performing Asset (NPA). The advances will be treated as NPA if the interest and/or instalment of principal remains unpaid for 180 days after it has become overdue taking into account the revised due dates fixed by the banks after extension of the period or conversion of the pre-shipment credit, as the case may be.

Trade Relations with Algeria

1238. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established bilateral ties with Algeria;

(b) if so, the areas in which trade relation has been established between the two countries;

(c) whether any fresh agreement has been signed between two countries recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of proposals mooted for the establishment of trade between India and Algeria in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India already has well established bilateral ties with Algeria. The Indo-Algerian trade has registered a growth of more than 128% during last five years and is presently over US$ 25 million. The prominent items exported from India to Algeria include Coffee, Machinery and Instruments, Textiles and Garments and Handicrafts. Indian imports from Algeria are mainly the Non-ferrous metals, Transport equipments, iron & steel, organic chemicals and inorganic chemicals.

(c) and (d) A number of agreements have been signed recently by India and Algeria in the field of Air Services, Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion, Phyto-Sanitary Control and Veterinary Sanitary regulations. All these agreements provide for facilitating greater bilateral economic interaction and increasing the bilateral trade.

(e) A large number of areas have been identified and important decisions taken for cooperation during the last meeting of Indo-Algerian Joint Commission held in Algiers in June, 2000 and during recent visit of Algerian President to India in January, 2001. Necessary follow-up action is being taken on these decisions to further strengthen Indo-Algerian trade and economic relations.

Vending Machines for Small Changes

1239. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of vending machines so far set up by the Reserve Bank of India to meet the demand for small changes;

(b) whether Public Sector banks have also been requested to have such vending machines; and

(c) if so, the names of the banks which have set up such vending machines, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has installed seven coin vending machines, one each in its offices at Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Chandigarh & Calcutta and two at Bangalore, on experimental basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Export of Organic Foods

1240. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of organic foods has not picked up under APEDA;

(b) whether despite a vast expertise, APEDA is encouraging organic certification for exports;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have been a recent book entitled "Alternatives to Pesticides in tropical countries" from Vigyan Prasar by a noted scientist, which deals with this problems across the world;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a Task Force to implement various pragmatic findings in the above Book; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The role of APEDA is to promote the export of agricultural and processed food items which includes organically produced items also. No separate data on exports of organic products has been maintained. However, from available information, exports of organic food items handled by APEDA has increased from an estimated Rs. 26.06 lakhs in 1998-99 to an estimated level of about Rs. 2.82 crores during 1999-2000; Organic production and its commercial marketing is comparatively a new area for interest commercially. The exports of organic products in the international markets requires certification by recognized bodies. Since a well developed certification system for organic products has not been in place in India to meet the international requirements, APEDA and other commodity Boards promoting the reports of organic products are in the process of developing a certification system for organic exports.

(d) The book published by Vigyan Prasar titled "Alternatives to Pesticides in Tropical Countries" does not specifically deal with the problem of export of organic food not picking up under APEDA or encouraging the organic certification for exports.

(e) There is no specific proposal for setting up a Task Force.

(f) Does not arise.

Meeting with EU Delegation

1241. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India raised the question of anti-dumping of goods with the Commissioner of External Relation of European Union who visited India recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether a joint consultative group has been set up to resolve issues and to see that relation between two sides remain cordial; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The question of EC's anti-dumping actions against Indian goods was not specifically raised with the Commissioner of External Relations of EU. However, during the Indo-EU Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 6.2.2001, the issue was discussed and the possibility of establishing a bilateral Technical Working Group on Trade Defence was considered with a view to avoiding trade disputes.

Outstanding Excise Duty

1242. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 2006 dated August 4, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of outstanding central excise received from each one of the companies?

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

Telecast of Hindi Films

1243. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi Films shown by Doordarshan in each of the last three years without having rights approved by the producer of the Film;

(b) the number of complaints received from producers of such films during the said period;

(c) the details of amount of compensation paid by the Government to each producer; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the officials responsible for such lapses in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Nil, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan takes Hindi feature films from marketing agents on minimum guarantee basis. The marketing agents are responsible for acquiring the rights from the producers and they provide Doordarhsan with an Indemnity Bond and affidavit against any litigation or claim for the rights of the films.

(b) Two such complaints were received in Doordarshan and both have been forwarded to the marketing agents for settlement of dispute.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Higher Allocation of Sugar in Delhi

1244. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of sugar was disproportionately higher in Delhi as compared to other States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the offtake of foodgrains was very low through public distribution system in food surplus States of Punjab and Haryana;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matters; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As against the norm of minimum 500 gms. per capita per month, levy sugar is being allocated to certain States at higher rate due to special circumstances prevailing there. The rate of allocation in respect of these States is as under:

Name of the States/UTs	Norms (gms)
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar	1008
Chandigarh	611
Delhi	1271
Lakshadweep	1625
Jammu & Kashmir	700
Pondicherry	583
Nagaland	700
Arunachal Pradesh	700
1	2
Assam	700
Tripura	700
Meghalaya	700
Mizoram	700
Manipur	700
Himachal Pradesh	700
Uttaranchal	700

(c) to (f) Allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat) during April 2000 to January 2001 is as under:

(in M.Ts)

Rice

	Allocation			Offtake		
State	BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
Punjab	13840	2800	16640	256	70	326
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—

Wheat

	Allocation			Offtake		
State	BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
Punjab	73678	15100	88778	6474	1515	7989
Haryana	146598	7200	153798	38374	—	38374

The offtake of foodgrains under TPDS depends on several factors including availability of foodgrains in the open market and parity between the central issue prices and the open market prices of foodgrains. Recently the Government have taken several steps to increase offtake of foodgrains from central pool under TPDS, Welfare Schemes, etc.

Credit Rating Agencies

1245. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has given any permission to Credit Rating Agencies to operate in the country;

(b) if so, the details of foreing credit Rating Agencies which are at present operating in the country;

(c) whether they have to pay any fees to the RBI;

(d) if so, the details of the fees charged by RBI and the services rendered;

(e) whether RBI stipulates the fees that such agencies can charge; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) All the credit rating agencies operating in India are incorporated under Indian Companies Act, 1956. Credit rating agencies are regulated by SEBI, not by RBI. SEBI grants registration to credit rating agencies for rating of securities only.

(b) Foreign rating agencies have invested in India based credit rating agencies. The details of investments made are provided in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of investments made by Foreign rating agencies

Sl. No.	Name of the Foreign rating agency	Name of Indian Company	% equity held by foreign rating agency
1.	Duff & Phelps Credit Rating USA	B.R. Sule Gateway Building Apollo Bonder Mumbai 400 001	54.00%
2.	M/s. Thomson Bankwatch Inc. NEWYORK, USA	Bankwatch (India) Ltd., B-6/6, Commercial Complex, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi 110 029	51.00%
3.	Moodys' Investors Service Inc. USA	ICRA Ltd. 4th Floor, Kailash Building 26, K.G. Marg, New Delhi 110 001	12.15%
4.	Standard & Poor's Financial Services, USA	Credit Rating Information Services India Ltd. (CRISIL)	9.68%

Proposal for Disinvestment in AI AND IA

1246. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposed disinvestment of the Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) the total assets, held by Air India and the Indian Airlines inside and outside the country, separately in terms of Indian rupees;

(c) whether any offer has been received from any private parties to participate in the disinvestment programme of the Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) In response to the public advertisements inviting Expression of interest, responses from the prospective Parties were received. Thereafter, Bid Packs containing Information Memorandum, Confidentiality Agreement, drafts of the Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement have been issued to certain prospective bidders. The Technical Bids received by the Global Advisors are under scrutiny and the process of obtaining Security Clearance in respect of the interest bidders is underway.

(b) The excise of evaluating the assets of both Air India and Indian Airlines is yet to commence.

(c) and (d) The process is in initial stages. As such, it would be premature to disclose more details as doing so may adversely affect the process of transaction.

[Translation]

Fake Revenue Stamps

1247. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of fake revenue stamps are in circulation in the country and causing loss of crores of rupees to the exchequer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the responsible persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Revenue Stamps are printed in India Security Press, Nashik and distributed by the Department of Posts. As per the records of Department of Posts, the total value of fake revenue stamps detected during the last three years is Rs. 6,94,734. In addition, India Security Press, Nashik has received reports about 10,461 fake stamps (valued at Rs. 10,461) during the last three years from various authorities. Appropriate criminal action has been initiated against the departmental officials and outsiders involved in this malpractice.

[English]

Smuggling Through Samjhauta Express

1248. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of smuggling is on the increase in Samjhauta Express during the last six months:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether actions are being taken to prevent the smuggling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) A number of measures have been taken by Government in the recent past, to prevent smuggling through Samjhauta Express. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as under:-

(i) Escorting of Samjhauta Express from zero point to Attari Road Land Customs Station and vice versa jointly by Customs and Border Security Force.

(ii) 100% physical examination and screening through baggage X-ray machines of baggage imported by incoming passengers.

(iii) Imposition of deterrent redemption fine and personal penalty on passengers carrying goods in trade/commercial quantities.

(iv) Reduction of free baggage allowance from Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- in respect of passengers and tourists coming from Pakistan by land route.

(v) Ban on entry of railway collies at platform no. 2 & 3 at Attari Railway Station.

(vi) Holding of regular joint coordination meetings between officers of various enforcement agencies posted at Attari Railway Station, such as Customs, Immigration, I.B. and Police.

(vii) Joint rummaging of Samjhauta Express by officers of Customs, GRP and Immigration.

(viii) All the entry/exist gates of the Attari Railway Station are manned jointly by Customs, G.R.P. & Immigration.

SCs/STs in Song and Drama Division

1249. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to recruit/ appoint persons from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of posts/vacancies reserved for this community as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of artists such as Singers Dancers, Musical Instrumentalists and other artists appointed by the Song and Drama Division during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of persons from SC/ST community among them and their percentage as compared to the total appointments during the last three years; and

(e) the reasons for non-implementation of the above recommendations satisfactorily?

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

(b) This Ministry had initiated special recruitment drives to fill up backlog vacancies and the vacancies were also intimated to respective recruitment agencies like the Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and Employment Exchanges.

(c) and (d) The requisite details are given in the attached statement.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Year-wise details of artistes appointed in Song and Drama Division during the last three years (Percentages are given in brackets).

		Total	SC	ST
1998	Nil			
1999	Singer	14	02	01
	Stage Assistant	20	04	01
	Instrumentalist	38	09	01
	Dancer	10	04	00
	Make up Artist	05	01	—
	Actor	09	01	—
	Performer	56	15	04
	Training Assistant	02	01	01
	Ward Robe Assistant	01	—	—
	Green Room Assistant	03	01	—
	Line Man (Sound)	04	02	—
	Line Man (Light)	03	—	—
2000	Singer	03	—	—
	Instrumentalist	01	—	—
	Performer	32	06	03
	Line Man (Sound)	02	01	—
	Stage Assistant	04	01	—
	Training Assistant	01	—	01
	Total	208	48	12
			(23%)	(5.76%)

[Translation]

Service Charges by Private Financial Institutions.

1250. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to redress the complaints regarding charging of money in the name of service charges from the depositors by the private financial institutions; and

(b) the measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India to tackle the highhandedness shown in fixing the maturity period for returning the deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the regulatory authority for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) including Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs). RBI has permitted in terms of paragraph 4A of the RNBCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1987, the RNBCs to charge to a new depository/subscriber a one time (non-refundable) sum not exceeding Rs. 80/- (Rupees eight only) towards the cost of expenses for issuing brochure, application form and servicing the depositor's account where the aggregate yearly subscription of such deposit is Rs. 500/- or above. Where the amount of deposit collected is less than Rs. 500/-, there shall be a pro-rata reduction in the said one time non-refundable amount of Rs. 80/-. However, no such amount is allowed to be collected on the deposits, received under daily deposit schemes. The NBFCs other than RNBCs are not permitted to levy any service charges on their depositors.

Irregularities in Super Bazar

1251. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

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

(a) whether CBI is yet to complete its inquiry into the cases of irregularities/corruption in Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether irregularities and malpractices continue in the Super Bazar unabatedly; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to check these irregularities in Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of such cases is given in the attached statement.

(c) No action is required to be taken at this stage.

(d) and (e) Management of Super Bazar aided by its vigilance officials oversees the functioning of Super Bazar as per rules. Action is taken whenever any instance comes to notice or is reported. Surprise checking of branches is also done by Vigilance Department of Super Bazar.

Statement

1. Purchase of inferior equality of pulses without the approval of Quality Testing Laboratory of Super Bazar.
2. Placing of bulk orders of pulses on the eve of reduction in excise duty.
3. Out-of-turn payments to the suppliers by the then Chairman, Super Bazar without any proper procedure.
4. Purchase of inferior quality of potatotes resulting in losses.
5. Allowing a private trader (M/s Bips Systems Ltd.) to open a shop in the Super Bazar.
6. Irregularities in the purchase of spices at higher rates than quoted by the NCCF.
7. Irregularities in the award of contract to M/s. V.V. Construction by Super Bazar to construct "Longowal Tower" in Rajendra Place.
8. Acceptance of resignation of Shri I.S. Aggarwal, AGM (Purchase).
9. Pressurizing Smt. Deepa Aggarwal, Manager (P) in the matter of appointment and promotion of two officials of Super Bazar.

War Among Private TV Channels

1252. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the ongoing war among the private television channels which has badly hit the consumers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to protect the consumer interests;

(c) whether the Government are considering to set up a regulatory body on the lines of TRAI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that there is increasing competition between the various private channels.

(b) to (d) In addition to application of provisions of the recent amendments to Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, vide Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2000, other relevant laws of the land like Consumer Protection Act and Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Act are also available to protect the interests of viewers. As reported recently in the newspapers, the Monopoly & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had issued notices to TV networks for overcharging subscribers of pay channels.

Storage Space with FCI

1253. SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) the number of godowns with FCI in each State/ U.T. both covered and uncovered separately;

(b) the exact quantity and value of Foodgrains lying in the open with FCI at present, foodgrain-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to cover the open godowns by FCI to stop further rotting of the foodgrains;

(d) whether any monitoring agency is available to check the rotting of foodgrain with FCI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The information is given in the attached statement.

(b) The exact quantity and value of foodgrains lying in the CAP storage with FCI as on 31-1-2001 is as under:-

Quantity in Lakh Tonnes
Value in Rs. Crores

Commodity	Qty.	Value
Wheat	39.78	2798.96
Rice (Paddy in terms of rice)	14.27	1420.58

(c) to (e) The stocks of foodgrains with FCI are preserved on scientific lines to prevent damage. The following steps are also taken to preserve foodgrains:-

(i) Foodgrains are stored in rodent and damp proof godowns.

(ii) Pest control measures are undertaken regularly.

(iii) Qualified and technically trained staff is deployed for conducting periodical inspection for proper upkeep of foodgrains.

(iv) To avoid damage in transit, the foodgrains are moved in covered wagons, as far as possible. When moved in open wagons, the same are covered with tarpauline etc.

(v) They are subjected to prophylatic and curative treatments also.

(vi) In CAP Storage, the stocks are stored in wodden crates and covered with low density black polythene covers (LDPE) which are water proof. These are tied with nylon ropes to prevent damage by ballooning of covers during high velocity winds.

Statement

State-wise no. of Godowns with FCI as on 31-12-2000

State/U.T.	Covered			CAP (Open)			Grand Total
	Owned	Hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total	
Bihar	20	32	52	3	—	3	55
Orissa	22	31	53	—	—	--	53
West Bengal	26	26	52	—	—	—	52
Sikkim	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
Assam	18	24	42	—	—	—	42
Arunachal Pradesh	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
Meghalaya	2	3	5	—	—	—	5
Manipur	2	2	4	—	—	—	4
Mizoram	4	1	5	—	—	—	5
Nagaland	4	2	6	—	—	—	6
Tripura	2	5	7	—	—	—	7
Delhi	7	1	8	4	—	4	12
Haryana	37	97	134	24	5	29	163
Himachal Pradesh	4	12	16	—	—	—	16
Jammu & Kashmir	11	6	17	—	—	—	17
Punjab	111	265	376	89	109	198	574
Chandigarh	4	9	13	4	5	9	22
Rajasthan	35	38	73	14	14	28	101
Uttar Pradesh	56	98	154	31	5	36	190
Andhra Pradesh	35	169	204	11	1	12	216
Kerala	22	2	24	6	—	6	30
Karnataka	16	59	75	12	4	16	91
Tamil Nadu	16	20	36	10	—	10	46
Pondicherry	3	—	3	2	1	3	6
Gujarat	15	22	37	13	8	21	58
Maharashtra	17	46	63	10	2	12	75
Goa	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Madhya Pradesh	41	86	127	16	7	23	150
Grand Total (All India)	536	1057	1593	249	161	410	2003

Claims of Earthquake Victims

1254. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Companies have refused to compensate the policy holders for the damage caused to their properties in Gujarat as a result of earthquake on January 26, 2001 on the plea that earthquake clause was not mentioned in the insurance policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ask the General Insurance Companies in Gujarat to view the miseries of earthquake victims sympathetically and on humanitarian grounds;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The general insurance companies have informed that the insurance policies cover only the insured perils and compensation can not be given to those policy holders who have not taken the earthquake cover.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The insurance companies have drawn up an action plan for expeditious settlement of claims and have also dispensed with many of its normal requirements for claim settlements such as-

(i) Waiver of post mortem report.

(ii) If Death Certificate is not available, a letter from Sarpanch, Talati, Mamlatdar etc. can be obtained. In the absence of any of these, death claims are settled merely on the basis of Letter of Indemnity on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 20/-.

(iii) Police panchanama and Meteorological Report not to be insisted upon in case of property claims.

(iv) No driving licence in case of motor claims will be insisted upon.

(v) Where salvage has been removed by the authorities alongwith debris, requirement for collection of salvage may be waived after obtaining affidavit or Indemnity Bond.

(vi) For death claims below Rs. 5 lakhs, successor may be certified by way of an affidavit before Magistrate or Mamlatdar.

(vii) Higher financial authority has been delegated to Regional/Divisional incharge.

(viii) Officers have been authorised to dispose off claims as "individual" for application of financial authority.

(ix) Time schedule for Surveyors has been fixed for submission of the survey reports.

Ban on Sponsorship of Sports Evènts

1255. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to give sponsorship of sports and cultural programmes on electronic media to those companies which are involved in manufacturing cigarettes, Bidi, Gutka and other tobacco products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated loss to the Government every year as a result of stoppage on advertisements in DD/AIR and Films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not give sponsorship of sports and cultural programmes, on electronic media to any company. Prasar Bharati has informed that they have not taken any decision of not giving sponsorship of sports and cultural programmes, on electronic media, to companies, which are involved in manufacturing cigarettes, Bidi, Gutka and other tobacco products.

(c) The revenue from exhibiting advertisements on Doordarshan does not accrue to the Government.

[Translation]

Non-Distribution of Subsidised Commodities by States

1256. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Gareebon ko ration vitran nahin karne wale rojgar ki khadyann subsidy band hogi" appearing in the *Hindustan* dated January 21, 2001;

(b) the States which are not distributing ration to poor and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to stop the subsidy to such States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have received no such information.

(c) and (d) Government does not provide subsidy directly to any State Government except those who have agreed to undertake procurement of foodgrains i.e. wheat and rice under the decentralised scheme of procurement. Presently, Governments of West Bengal, Madhya Praesh and Uttar Pradesh only undertake procurement and distribution of foodgrains under the decentralised procurement scheme. Payment of subsidy has not been stopped to them. However, since the current financial year is about to close, these State Governments have been requested to furnish the utilisation certificates to enable the Department to clear their remaining claims.

[English]

Access to PDS

1257. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

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

(a) the total number of persons presently registered and drawing food items under the Public Distribution System, State-wise;

(b) whether a large number of persons living below the poverty line are deprived of access to the PDS; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to extend the same to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) A Statement indicating Statewise number of households possessing ration cards (APL and BPL) as per reports received from State Governments/UT Administrations is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the large number of BPL families in the country, the possibility of omission of some of the deserving families from the list of BPL beneficiaries and issue of BPL cards to them cannot be ruled out.

Identification of beneficiaries namely the population living below poverty line (BPL) is one of the most important features of TPDS which is carried out by States/ UTs. Under the guidelines for implementation of TPDS the States/UTs have been asked to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society under the BPL category and actively involve the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats in the identification process. The State Governments/UTs have been asked to review the list of BPL families on regular intervals so that the poor and needy are not deprived of the benefits under the TPDS.

Statement

Statewise No. of Households, No. of BPL Households, And No. of Ration cards.

(As on 20.2.2001)

State/UT	Projected Population 2000 (in Lakhs)	% BPL As Per Expert Group	No. of House-Holds 2000 (In lakhs)	No. of BPL Households 2000 (in Lakhs)				Reported As on
1	2	3	4	5				6
Andhra Pradesh	754.66	25.68	158.21	40.63	113.60	53.97	167.57	Nov. 2000
Arunachal Pradesh	11.92	40.86	2.42	0.99	0.82	2.75	3.57	Sept.2000
Assam	261.96	40.86	44.93	18.36	18.82	25.72	44.54	Nov.2000
Bihar	999.42	54.96	162.24	89.17	84.26	88.74	173.00	Nov.97

1	2	3	4	5				6
Goa	15.95	14.92	3.20	0.48	0.08	3.05	3.13	Dec.2000
Gujarat	482.52	24.21	87.57	21.20	33.89	72.38	106.27	Nov.2000
Haryana	198.31	25.05	31.48	7.89	5.83	38.18	44.01	Dec.2000
Himachal Pradesh	67.11	40.86	12.57	5.14	2.86	9.39	12.25	Aug.2000
Jammu & Kashmir	99.45	40.86	18.02	7.36	3.36	10.12	13.48	Sep. 97
Karnataka	520.91	33.16	94.37	31.29	62.83	49.16	111.99	Nov. 2000
Kerala	322.62	25.43	61.10	15.54	20.47	42.54	63.01	Dec. 2000
Madhya Pradesh	797.47	42.52	141.15	60.01	43.65	134.18	177.83	Mar.-00
Maharashtra	911.15	36.86	177.27	65.34	58.11	136.27	194.38	Apr.2000
Manipur	25.18	40.86	4.07	1.66	0.67	1.13	1.80	Jun-97
Meghalaya	24.34	40.86	4.49	1.83	0.97	0.98	1.95	Mar.-97
Mizoram	9.52	40.86	1.67	0.68	N.A	1.66	1.66	Apr.-00
Nagaland	16.84	40.86	3.02	1.24	0.96	1.05	2.01	Mar-99
Orissa	358.57	48.56	67.91	32.98	41.23	39.85	81.08	Dec-99
Punjab	235.36	11.77	39.76	4.68	5.00	50.00	55.00	Dec.2000
Rajasthan	535.59	27.41	88.67	24.31	22.87	81.36	104.23	Jun-00
Sikkim	5.59	41.43	1.05	0.43	N.A.	N.A.	0.66	Oct-97
Tamilnadu	617.74	35.03	138.82	48.63	65.51	92.24	157.75	Dec.2000
Tripura	37.82	40.86	7.22	2.95	2.31	4.55	6.86	Aug.2000
Uttar Pradesh	1701.88	40.85	273.61	111.77	95.48	159.96	255.44	July 98
West Bengal	790.06	35.66	145.23	51.79	46.49	110.14	156.63	Aug.2000
A&N Islands	3.86	34.47	0.81	0.28	0.12	0.74	0.86	Sep. 2000
Chandigarh	8.88	11.35	2.03	0.23	0.00	2.12	2.12	Apr-00
D&N Haveli	1.90	50.84	0.36	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.32	Dec.2000
Daman & Diu	1.40	15.80	0.26	0.04	0.02	0.28	0.30	May-00
Delhi	139.64	14.69	27.82	4.09	NA	36.55	36.55	Oct.2000
Lakshadweep	0.71	25.04	0.11	0.03	N.A	0.13	0.13	Nov.2000
Pondicherry	11.11	37.40	2.24	0.84	0.90	1.66	2.56	Dec.2000
Total	9969.44		1803.68	652.04	731.27	1251.01	1982.94	

Funds Allocated by Tenth/Eleventh Finance Commission

1258. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to various States by the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) whether some States have not fully utilised the funds allocated to them by the Tenth Finance Commission so far;

(c) if so, the details in this regard with the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any changes have been made in the heads of expenditure to be incurred or the laid down norms by the Tenth Finance Commission; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) A statement showing total estimated under the recommendations of the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for non-utilisation of grants in full have, generally been late formulation/execution of action plans, non-availability of land, litigation, non-conduct of elections to local bodies and non-submission of utilisation certificates in respect of the grants released by this Ministry.

(d) and (e) The grants for upgradation, special problems and for local bodies were released to the States as per the guidelines framed for utilisation of the provisions recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission. The guidelines were framed keeping in view also the recommendations of the Commission.

Statement

Estimated Total Transfers recommended by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission

(Rupees Crore)

		Tenth Finance Commission (1995-2000)						Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-05)					
Sl. No.	State	Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col.2to6)	Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfers (Col.8to12)
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16325.94	686.45	153.88	424.94	490.33	18081.54	28980.25	0.00	285.23	924.90	820.80	31011.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1360.03	307.60	68.31	4.63	27.79	1768.36	918.22	1228.02	90.59	28.52	49.83	2315.18
3.	Assam	7064.14	712.03	206.86	147.56	197.46	8328.05	12362.05	110.68	132.54	254.99	420.60	13280.86
4.	Bihar	23302.45	333.06	240.63	574.28	205.14	24655.56	54934.90	0.00	401.60	878.94	512.46	56727.90
5.	Goa	524.06	77.26	10.79	5.91	4.23	622.25	775.22	0.00	27.28	13.91	5.15	821.56
6.	Gujarat	8014.95	0.00	50.00	259.47	551.17	8875.59	10615.93	0.00	234.85	480.56	668.88	12000.22
7.	Haryana	2554.96	0.00	40.00	99.22	98.93	2793.11	3552.44	0.00	132.65	183.73	336.95	4205.77
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3743.81	772.18	105.03	34.23	106.41	4761.66	2570.25	4549.26	91.16	69.56	180.20	7460.43
9.	Jammu & Kashmi	5904.70	1184.13	105.77	49.68	77.80	7322.08	4854.50	11211.19	127.82	90.07	144.64	16428.22
10.	Karnataka	10034.64	0.00	29.00	291.96	165.23	10520.83	18552.48	0.00	311.53	518.94	309.03	19691.98
11.	Kerala	7217.00	0.00	81.83	204.24	218.74	7721.81	11504.04	0.00	129.14	404.88	278.66	12316.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15275.50	0.00	206.37	410.43	201.67	16093.97	33258.98	0.00	494.52	871.48	373.40	34998.38
13.	Maharashtra	12859.84	0.00	100.00	479.96	269.28	13709.08	17431.05	0.00	331.97	972.98	651.49	19387.49
14.	Manipur	1689.63	350.92	74.74	11.54	9.79	2136.62	1377.32	1744.94	58.59	23.17	11.89	3215.91

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15.	Meghalaya	1534.58	316.42	16.72	10.12	11.01	1888.85	1287.01	1572.38	57.39	28.31	16.32	2961.41
16.	Mizoram	1398.37	331.19	64.13	3.32	5.00	1802.01	745.11	1676.30	89.84	11.70	12.32	2535.27
17.	Nagaland	2197.38	529.78	53.96	5.21	6.71	2793.04	827.90	3536.24	62.84	14.66	8.12	4449.76
18	Orissa	8783.41	371.74	137.79	220.10	193.51	9706.55	19026.64	673.60	215.05	385.55	453.66	20754.50
19.	Punjab	3160.41	0.00	81.31	133.95	213.80	3589.47	4316.37	284.21	110.01	209.37	508.57	5428.53
20.	Rajasthan	10255.26	33.45	149.87	255.40	706.89	11400.87	20595.88	1244.68	299.85	590.37	857.85	23588.63
21.	Sikkim	562.07	105.69	10.06	2.48	18.59	698.89	692.43	840.58	66.78	5.50	28.63	1633.92
22.	Tamilnadu	12622.54	0.00	100.84	402.86	234.33	13360.57	20264.72	0.00	251.86	659.49	425.36	21601.43
23.	Tripura	2325.81	488.78	25.90	14.97	17.75	2873.21	1832.67	2414.16	60.18	32.48	21.55	4361.04
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33526.67	982.00	275.54	880.70	494.00	36158.91	74501.56	1026.74	669.91	1570.76	740.33	78509.30
25.	West Bengal	14104.85	0.00	219.17	453.77	202.63	14980.42	30540.09	3246.09	239.45	775.22	419.00	35219.85
	Total	206343.00	7582.68	2608.50	5380.93	4728.19	226643.30	376318.01	35359.07	4972.63	10000.00	8255.69	434905.40

Non-Possession of Ration Cards by BPL

1259. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state:

(a) whether several families below poverty line category do not have ration cards;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(c) if so, how the benefits of targeted public distribution system will reach them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The number of BPL families in the country on the basis of the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 is 6.52 crores. Keeping in view the larg number of BPL families in the country, the possibility of omission of some of the deserving families from lists of bPL beneficiaries and issue of ration cards to them in the States/UTs cannot be ruled out.

Identification of beneficiaries namely the population living below poverty line (BPL) is one of the most important features of TPDS which is carried out by States/ UTs. Under the guidelines for implementation of TPDS the States/UTs have been asked to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society under the BPL category and actively involve the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats in the identification process. The State Governments/UTs have been asked to conduct checking of raion cards on regular intervals so that the poor and needy are not deprived of the benefits under the TPDS.

[Translation]

Inadequate Storage Facility

1260. DR. BALIRAM:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to launch National warehousing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a huge quantity of wheat and rice procured in Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are lying in open for want of adequate storage facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether arrangements have been made for storage of wheat and rice to be procured in the next season; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified on July, 4, 2000 a National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in order to reduce storage and transit losses and to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(b) The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign for creation of bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities in the country. A copy of the Resolution dated July 4, 2000 on the policy is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) No rice procured by the FCI and its agencies in Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh is lying in open storage with the FCI. However, as on 1.1.2001, 16.55 Lakh MT of wheat has been stored in CAP (Cover and Plinth) complexes in Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh due to paucity of covered storage space. These stocks have been stored in scientific manner and proper care is being taken for its preservation. The State wise stock position of wheat in CAP storage is given below:-

State	Quantity in Lakh MT
Delhi	00.81
Punjab	12.67
Uttar Pradesh	03.07
Total	16.55

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Necessary arrangements are being made for the storage of wheat and rice to be procured in the next season. Additional storage capacities are being in Punjab for the storage of foodgrains. Besides, the foodgrains (wheat and rice) stored in Punjab are being despatched to other States for storage/for distribution so that the necessary storage space may be made available during the coming wheat and rice season. Government is also taking steps to liquidate wheat stocks through open market sales (domestic) and exports.

Statement

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE EXTRA ORDINARY GAZETTE OF INDIA PART-I, SECTION-I

TFC-14/99-Vol. III
Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution
Department of Public Distribution

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated: July 4, 2000

RESOLUTION

In order to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains at farm and commercial level, to modernise the system of handling, storage and transporation of the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and to bring in additionality of resources through private sector involvement, the Government has approved a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains, details of which are given below:-

1. Objectives of the Policy

The main objectives of the policy are:

(i) to reduce storage and transit losses at farm level where about 70% of the total foodgrain production is retained and consumed and also to encourage the farmers to adopt scientific storage methods.

(ii) to modernise the system of handling, storage and transportation of the foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(iii) to harness efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure and introduction of bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country.

2. Policy for House-hold storage

2.1 Since the house-hold sector retains about 70% of the total production and substantial quantities of foodgrains are wasted due to improper storage at farm level, the major focus is on the improvement of storage standards at farm level. Presently, the only scheme targetting this need is the Save Grain Campaign, which popularises the use of metallic and non-metallic storage structures and educates the farmers about the adoption of scientific storage methods. The scheme also aims at development/improvement of non-metallic traditional storage structures.

2.2 In order to have a greater success in this area, following initiatives have been approved:-

(i) introduction of a scheme to encourage use of metal bins as well as non-metallic storage structures at individual farm level and construction of RCC bins at community level with appropriate financial incentives.

(ii) strengthening of the existing research and training components of the Save Grain Campaign Scheme for scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains and their propagation among farmers.

3. Modernisation and Upgradation of Bulk Grain Handling Infrastructure

3.1 In order to reduce storage losses, it is necessary to develop and modernise the infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation in India. The thrust of the policy should be:-

(i) encouragement of mechanical harvesting, cleaning and drying at farm and mandi level.

(ii) transportation of grains from farm to silos by specially designed trucks.

(iii) construction of a chain of silos at procurement as well as distribution points.

(iv) transporation of grain from silos to railhead and thereafter to pre-determined destinations by specially designed trucks/rail wagons (with top filling and bottom discharge mechanism)/ dedicated trains.

(v) declaration of foodgrains storage as infrastructure.

3.2 For storage of foodgrains procured by the FCI, integrated bulk handling facilities with silos of large capacity for wheat along with testing facilities for quality control would be created at about 20 identified central locations in producing and consumping areas as well as a few port towns. These facilities, including the infrastructure for bulk transportation to these centres, will be created and maintained in the private sector under the overall co-ordination of the FCI. The design of special to filling and bottom discharge wagons would be decided in consultation with the Ministry of Railways. The Ministry of Railways will also be consulted while deciding the locations and the circuits where these wagons would ply. FCI will guarantee utilisation of these facilities to the extent of 100% for the first ten years and 75% for the next ten years. From these points, secondary transportation of foodgrains would be made in bag form to about 500 godowns in important central locations in different States to be owned and maintained by the FCI. Further transportation to the consuming centres for retail distribution under the Public Distribution System will be carried out by the State Governments.

3.3 The private sector will be encouraged to build storage capacities in which they will store and maintain foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be entitled to storage charges.

3.4 The private sector participation should be sought and encouraged for development of infrastructure for the integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation through—

(i) measures such as Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Lease-Develop-Operates (LDO), Joint Ventures etc.

(ii) generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises.

(iii) automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%

(iv) loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings

(v) fiscal incentives as given below:

(a) 100% deduction in profit for the purpose of Income Tax for the first five years and 30% deduction in profit for the next five years.

(b) deduction of 40% of the profits derived by financial institutions financing such projects, as provided to financial corporations engaged, inter-alia, in providing long term finance for agricultural development.

(c) customs duty exemption for items not manufactured in India, on a case-to-case basis, subject to a list of such equipment being submitted in advance.

4. Development of Infrastructure Facilities at Ports

India has been traditionally the importer of foodgrains and, therefore, the infrastructure facilities available at the ports are basically meant for unloading operations and not for exports. For unloading operations, ship gears are normally used. Even the latest mechanised facilities at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Navi Mumbai have been designed for import purposes only. There is also lack of general cargo berths at the major ports and very limited warehousing facilities are available for the storage of foodgrains at ports. For creating the proper port facilities for foodgrains meant for export in due course, the infrastructure facilities would have to be developed for which following actions are required:

(i) identification of ports to be developed for purposes of export of foodgrains. The distribution of foodgrains traffic may spread over to the non-traditional ports which have spare capacity like New Mangalore and Cochin ports;

(ii) development of more general cargo berths at the ports through ports' own investment/private participation;

(iii) water front/berths can be leased to the uses who may be encouraged to put up their own facilities; and

(iv) development of dedicated modern foodgrains handling facilities at selected ports.

5. Role of the Central Government

The Central Government would:

(a) facilitate speedy clearance of projects concerning development of infrastructure for bulk handling, transportation and storage of foodgrains by setting up an Approval Board competent to take final decision;

(b) enter into bilateral agreements with other countries/international agencies for providing technical/financial assistance;

(c) take necessary legislative/administrative measures for removing impediments with regard

to stock control of Orders/movement control Orders framed by various State Governments;

(d) utilize the services of an existing independent regulatory mechanism for fixing/regulating tariff for various operations, such as cleaning, drying, storage, transportation, etc.;

(e) make available facilities of the Railways for bulk transportation;

(f) promote negotiable Warehouse Receipt System by which farmers could hold their grains back from market and meet their working capital/short term requirement by borrowing from Banks against these receipts; and

(g) promote research for development of alternate storage technologies like Vaccum Process Storage (VPS) technology which would ensure longer shelf life of foodgrains and help export of foodgrains in vacuum packs.

6. *Role of the State Government*

The State Government would help in:

(a) acquisition of land required for various projects as for public purpose; and

(b) making available other facilities such as water, power, road, etc.

Sd/-
(B.K. BAL)
4.7.2000
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

ORDERED that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of Inida, Planning Commission, Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and UT Administrations, Chairmen and Managing Directors of the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation.

ORDERED also that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/-
(B.K. BAL)
4.7.2000
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

To

The Manager,
Government Printing Press,
Faridabad.

[English]

Foreign Banks Vs. Indian Banks

1261. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign banks operating in the country;

(b) whether the foreign banks are earning much more profit in comparison to Indian banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the comparative data of profit earned and loss suffered by the above banks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that at present 42 foreign banks are operating in India through branches.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The net profits earned by Indian banks and foreign banks during the last 3 years is given below:-

(Rs. in Crores)

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
(i)	*Indian Banks* (SBI and Associate Banks, Nationalised Banks and Private Sector Banks)	5812.92	3971.00	6338.37
(ii)	*Foreign Banks*	632.11	529.41	967.99

Revival of Sick Industries in Kerala

1262. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for revival of sick industries referred to BIFR from the State of Kerala during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the BIFR thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 31.12.2000, 82 sick industrial companies from the State of Kerala were registered with the Board under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The details of these companies are given in the attached statement.

Out of 82 cases, 59 cases have been disposed off and 23 cases were pending with the Board of various stages of inquiry. Out of 59 cases disposed, in respect of 11 companies, sanctioned rehabilitation schemes are under implementation.

Statement

List of Kerala Cases - Statewise

Date 31.12.2000

S. N.	Case No.	Company
1	2	3
Revival Scheme Sanctioned under Section 18(4)		
1.	39/1987	Premier Tyres Ltd.
2.	232/1987	Travancore Rayons
3.	198/1988	South India Wire Rope
4.	173/1989	Sudarshan Clay
5.	614/1992	Steel Complex Ltd.
6.	619/1992	Keltron Counters Ltd.
7.	621/1992	Kerala State Detergent & Chemicals Ltd.
8.	630/1992	Kerala Automobiles Ltd.
9.	617/1993	Trivandrum Spinning Mills Ltd.
10.	610/1995	Transformers & Electricals Kerala Ltd.
11.	106/1998	Hindustan Cylinder Comapny Ltd.
Dismissed as non Maintainable		
1.	172/1987	Punalar Paper Mills Ltd.
2.	119/1988	Kidrowave Product (I) Ltd.
3.	220/1988	Nerhaid Marine Products
4.	299/1998	Travancore Oxygen Ltd.
5.	126/1989	Allarapalli Bros. Ltd.
6.	79/1991	T.K. Chemicals Ltd.
7.	50/1992	Punalur Paper Ltd.
8.	73/1992	Century Peripherals Ltd.
9.	91/1992	Bhawati Beverages Ltd.
10.	626/1992	Kerala Stae Salicylates & Chemicals Ltd.
11.	603/1993	Keala State Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
12.	604/1993	Kerala State Wood Industries Ltd.
13.	612/1993	Trivancore Plywood Industries Ltd.
14.	621/1993	Kerala Soaps and Oils Ltd.
15.	27/1994	Optima Packaging Ltd.
16.	143/1994	Universal Gloves Pvt. Ltd.
17.	8/1995	Century Peripherals Ltd.
18.	13/1996	Travancore Sulphate ltd.
19.	602/1996	Keltron Crystal Ltd.
20.	244/1999	Star Refineries Rt. Ltd.
21.	332/1999	Koputhara Exports Ltd.
22.	106/2000	Sri Sai Mahaney Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd.
Draft Schemes Circulated		
1.	608/1995	The Trivancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd.

1	2	3
Winding up Recommended Under section 20(1)		
1.	62/1987	Pearlite Wire Products.
2.	103/1987	Premier Morarji Chem.
3.	183/1987	Kerala Acids & Chemicals
4.	169/1987	Veltron Prefeb Elements Ltd.
5.	229/1987	Vanjinad Leathers
6.	232/1988	Laxmi Starch Ltd.
7.	26/1989	Trichar Cotton Mills
8.	34/1990	K.T.C. Tyres (India) Ltd.
9.	32/1991	Veneers & laxminations (India) Ltd.
10.	62/1991	Premier Cables Company Ltd.
11.	89/1991	Toshiba Anand Batteries Ltd.
12.	118/1991	Thompson Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.
13.	52/1992	Oriental Plastics & Laminations Ltd.
14.	67/1992	Seven Seas Nylons Ltd.
15.	18/1993	Premier Poly qaters Ltd.
16.	15/1994	Chancellor Paper Mills Ltd.
Winding up Notice Issued		
1.	605/1992	Keltron Recifiers Ltd.
2.	21/1996	Overseas Latex Pvt. Ltd.
3.	266/1998	Malabar Organics Limited
Under Inquiry		
1.	1/1999	Gujarat Inject (Kerala) Limited
2.	210/1999	Innovative Marine Foods Ltd.
3.	32/2000	Amison Foods Ltd.
4.	76/2000	Emtex International Ltd.
5.	158/2000	Covena Filaments Ltd.
6.	161/2000.	Madhumilan Syntex Ltd.
7.	251/2000	Teaktex Processing Complex Ltd.
8.	289/2000	Uniroyal Marine Exports Ltd.
9.	290/2000	Sri Sai Maharaj Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd.
10.	382/2000	Kounthara Exports Ltd.
11.	396/2000	Superstar Distilleries & Foods Ltd.
Failed & Reopened		
1.	6/1989	Tiruvepathi Mills
2.	89/1990	Pigments India
3.	604/1992	Autokast Ltd.
4.	606/1992	Keltron Power Devices Ltd.
5.	105/1994	Electra Substrates Ltd.
6.	63/1997	Southern Refineries Ltd.
Remanded By AAIFR		
1.	604/1999	Kerala Hitech Industries Ltd.
Stay Order By Courts		
1.	93/1987	Aluminium Industries
Declared no Longer Sick		
1.	94/1988	Kathayee Cotton Mills
2.	104/1988	Carbon & Chemicals
3.	24/1989	Keala Electric Lamp Works Ltd.
4.	182/1989	Toshiba Anand Batteries Ltd.
5.	137/1991	Peninsula Polymers Ltd.
6.	147/1991	PSI Data Systems
7.	608/1992	Steel and Industrial Forging Ltd.
8.	623/1992	Keltron Electro Ceramic
9.	628/1992	Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.
10.	171/1994	Tata Keltron Ltd.

Auto Policy

1263. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to bring out "Auto Policy";

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to commence;

(d) whether car manufacturing industry has requested to abolish the essentiality to export while framing the new Auto Policy;

(e) if so, whether their view point has been considered by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Policy is under formulation and it will be announced once it is finalized. While formulating the policy, suggestions received from different quarters will be taken into consideration.

Export of Sugar

1264. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have fixed a target for export of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries which sugar is being exported alongwith its price and quantity;

(d) if not the reasons therefor alongwith the estimated quantum of sugar in the country by the end of December, 2000;

(e) whether India sugar is not being lifted by other countries due to its higher price than in the international market;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the demand of Indian sugar in Pakistan is increasing; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government have allowed export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar during the licensing year 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Calcutta, during financial year 2000-2001 (upto November, 2000), a quantity of about 1,40,863 MTs has been exported. The country-wise details and its value are given in the statement enclosed.

As per the latest available information from the exporters, a quantity of about 3.72 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been physically exported upto 17.02.2001. Besides preferential quota exports to EEC and USA, the country-wise exports of sugar from September, 2000 to 17th February, 2001 are as under:-

(Provisional)
(Quantity in MTs)

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Quantity
1.	Bangladesh	51,750
2.	SriLanka	37,350
3.	Pakistan	1,70,735
4.	Yemen	6,000
5.	Afghanistan	420
6.	Destination not known	1,05,315
	Total	3,71,570 (P)

Since exports of sugar are being undertaken by various private exporters, the details such as price of sugar exported etc. are not available.

The stock position of sugar in the country as on 31.12.2000 was around 108.32 lakh tonnes.

(e) and (f) Due to high cost of production of sugar in the country and the prevailing low level of prices of sugar in the international market exports are not providing viable. In order to make exports of sugar viable, Government have taken the following measures:-

(i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation. This exemption, wich was initially available for a period of six months, commencing from 1st June 2000, has been extended upto 31.3.2001.

(ii) It has been decided to treat the quantity exported for commercial exports as advance free sale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.

(iii) It has also been decided that the levy exemption on the quantity of sugar meant for commercial exports, if it cannot be availed by the sugar factory out of 1999-2000 season's production due to the completion of its levy obligation, may be availed by the concerned sugar factory from the production in the ensuing sugar season.

(iv) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the F.O.B. value of exports of sugar has been allowed.

(g) and (h) Out of the total physical export of around 3.72 lakh tonnes of sugar made upto 17.02.2001, a quantity of about 1.71 lakh tonnes has been exported to Pakistan.

Statement

Country-wise Export of Sugar and its value during the financial year 2000-2001 (upto November, 2000).

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Quantity in MTs	Value in Rs./Crores
1	2	3	4
1.	Australia	151	0.13
2.	Bangladesh	14898	18.59
3.	Bhutan	110	0.16
4.	Canada	108	0.25
5.	Italy	126	0.30
6.	Malaysia	5579	5.57
7.	Nepal	981	1.55
8.	Pakistan	95746	133.02
9.	Portugal	340	0.47
10.	Singapore	167	0.18
11.	Srilanka	13799	17.66
12.	U.Arab EMTS.	232	0.39
13.	U.S.A.	241	0.93
14.	Yemen Rep.	7307	9.27
15.	Other destinations	1078	1.65
	Total	1,40,863	190.12

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Calcutta.

Excise Duty Evasion Case against I.T.C.

1265. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an excise duty evasion case of I.T.C. was brought to the notice of the Government a few years back;

(b) if so, the amount that was alleged to have been evaded by the I.T.C; and

(c) the present status of that excise duty case and the steps the Government are considering to realise and recover the duty payable by I.T.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a major case show-cause notice alleging evasion of Central Excise duty to the tune of Rs. 803.79 crore was issued to M/s ITC Ltd. and their job workers in 1987.

(c) An amount of Rs. 799 crore was confirmed against M/s ITC and its job workers and penalties were imposed on various persons by the adjudicator. M/s ITC and the job workers preferred an appeal in Customs Excise Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT), which heard the case on a pre-deposit of Rs. 350 crores by M/s ITC. Order was issued confirming the demand only against M/s ITC and with directions to the adjudicator to re-quantity the duty. Both Department and M/s ITC have filed appeals against said order of CEGAT before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which is *sub-judice*. The

Adjudicator has re-quantified the duty but is constrained from passing the order in view of directions of the Supreme Court to this effect.

Government Equity in Public Sector Undertakings

1266. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Undertakings which have been disinvested so far and the present percentage of Government equity share in these undertakings; and

(b) the details of disinvestment proposed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) A list of the companies in which disinvestments has been carried out so far indicating therein the percentage of disinvestments and the present percentage of Government holding of equity is given in the attached statement.

(b) The process of disinvestment in 31 PSUs/ subsidiaries is in different stages of implementation such as appointment of advisors, calling for Expression of Interest (EoI), shortlisting of bidders, finalisation of terms and conditions of sale etc.

Statement

PSU-wise percentage of disinvestment and present Government share holding

S. No.	Name of the PSE	As on 26.02.2001	
		Percentage of Disinvestment	Percentage of Government holding
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrew Yule	9.60	62.84**
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	39.19*	60.81
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.	24.14	75.86
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	32.28	67.72
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	33.80	66.20
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petro Chem. Ltd.	25.54	74.46
7.	CMC Ltd.	16.69	83.31
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	6.12	55.04**
9.	Container Corp. of India Ltd.	36.92	63.08
10.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	1.44	98.56
11.	Engineers India Ltd.	5.98	94.02
12.	Fert. & Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.	1.70	97.38**
13.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	32.66	67.34

1	2	3	4
14.	HMT Ltd.	8.44	91.56
15.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	1.04	98.96
16.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	1.24	98.76
17.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	41.39*	58.61
18.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.	48.94*	51.06
19.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	9.87	90.13
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	24.08	75.92
21.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.	17.85	82.03
22.	Indian Petro Chemicals Corp. Ltd.	40.05*	59.95
23.	IRCON International Ltd.	0.27	99.73
24.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	22.98	76.67**
25.	India Tourism & Dev. Corp.	10.03	89.97
26.	Kudredemukh Iron & Ore Corp. Ltd.	1.00	99.00
27.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	16.92	53.80**
28.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	43.80*	56.20
29.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. Ltd.	0.67	99.33
30.	National Aluminium Ltd.	12.85	87.15
31.	National Fertilizes Ltd.	2.35	97.65
32.	National Mineral Dev. Corp. Ltd.	1.62	96.36**
33.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn.	6.01	93.99
34.	Oil & Natural Gas Corp.	16.36	83.64
35.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fert. Ltd.	7.50	92.50
36.	Shipping Corpn. of India Ltd.	19.88	80.12
37.	State Trading Corp.	8.97	91.03
38.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	14.18*	85.82
39.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	47.04	52.96
40.	Modern Foods Industries Ltd.	74.00	26.00

* Including dilution of Government Share holding by Public Issue/GDR Issue.

** The balance equity is held by State Govts./other collaborators.

Excess Foodgrains for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1267. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to divert the excess foodgrains stored in our FCI godowns for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan of diversion of excess foodgrains to Government run old age homes and orphanages also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) Government has decided to issue foodgrains at Central Issue Price applicable for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for all welfare schemes, including the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, implemented by the Ministries of Government of India. Foodgrains at BPL rates are also allotted to State Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as orphanages, beggar homes, Nari Niketans etc.

Performance of Public Sector Undertakings in Orissa

1268. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Public Sector Undertakings located in Orissa during each of the last three years, PSUs-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 1999-2000, which was laid on Parliament on 27.2.2001, there were five Public Sector Undertakings located in Orissa as on 31.3.2000. The PSU-wise performance in terms of turnover and profitability for the last three years is given in the attached statement.

(b) The performance improvement is a continuous process. Enterprises specific steps are taken by the administrative Ministries/Departments/Management of PSUs from time to time. However, some of the steps include managerial and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, upgradation of technology, modernisation of plants and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies as the case may be.

Statement

Performance of PSUs located in Orissa in terms of Turnover & Profitability for last three years.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the PSU	Turnover			Net Profit/Loss (-)		
		1990-00	1998-99	1997-98	1990-00	1998-99	1997-98
1.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	159627	155818	155287	37655	40631	43411
2.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	214232	150665	185354	51153	24825	54697
3.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	281	142	381	-97	-94	-71
4.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	88777	100319	116802	-10575	-5795	-10553
5.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	27	45	53	-103	-69	-48
	Total	462944	406989	457877	78033	59498	87436

Smuggling of Chinese Goods

1269. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unabated smuggling of inferior and sub-standard Chinese goods into the country through Nepal;

(b) if so, whether any assessment regarding the annual flow of such Chinese goods into the country has been made by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the loss to Government exchequer due to this smuggling; and

(e) the steps have been taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to make any assessment about the quantum of smuggled goods. However, the intelligence and reports available do indicate smuggling of goods of Chinese origin into India through Indo-Nepal border.

(e) All the field formations of the Customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are on alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including smuggling of goods of Chinese origin. They have also been instructed to take stringent action against under invoicing of Chinese and other foreign goods.

Setting up of Additional Benches of State Consumer Commission

1270. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra had requested in October, 1999 to permit the State Government to set up Additional Benches of State Consumer Commission at Nagpur and Aurangabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government have repeated their request again in December, 1999.

(d) whether the Union Government have taken any decision on these requests;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) to (f) Setting up of benches of the State Commissions requires amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Which is under consideration of the Government.

Shifting of Regional Office of United Commercial Bank

1271. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the regional office of United Commercial Bank from Silchar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the extant branch licensing policy, the question of opening, closing or shifting of regional/administrative/ zonal, controlling offices of banks is left to the discretion of the banks. UCO Bank has reported that it is considering a proposal for re-organisation of its administrative structure in the north-eastern States and its Silchar regional office would fall under the ambit of the proposal. UCO Bank has further reported that it has not taken any decision in the matter of shifting its regional office from Silchar.

(c) and (d) The bank has further reported that it has received a letter from Shri Karnendu Bhattacharjee, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) regarding closing of the bank's regional office at Silchar, which has been replied to by the bank.

Disinvestment of ITDC Hotels

1272. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell eight India Tourism Development Corporation Hotels in Delhi including Ashok Hotel, to private sector;

(b) if so, whether eighteen other ITDC hotels in various States are also being sold to the private sector;

(c) if so, whether the Government have already issued expression of intent for lease-cum-management contract for Ashok Hotel, New Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Accepting the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, the Government has decided to disinvest all the 26 hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation, in the following manner;

1. The four hotels, namely, Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, Hotel Samrat, New Delhi, Bangalore Ashok, Bangalore and Hotel Lalitha Mahal Palace, Mysore on lease-cum-management basis; and

2. The other 22 hotels on sale basis.

Expressions of Interest have already been invited for 17 hotels, namely, Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, Hotel Samrat, New Delhi, Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi, Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi, Qutab Hotel, New Delhi, Hotel Janpath, New Delhi, Hotel Ranjt, New Delhi, Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi, Laxmi Vilas Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur and Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi, Bangalore Ashok, Bangalore, Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra, Hotel Madurai Ashok, Madurai, Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali, Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, Bodhgaya, Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan, Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram.

Disinvestment of Non-Core Companies

1273. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Public Sector Undertakings categorised as "non-crore" companies and recommended for disinvestment by Disinvestment Commission; and

(b) the criteria laid down for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment Commission has listed certain PSUs as 'Core' and 'Non-core' in the first report of February, 1997 and at the time of making recommendations in case of individual companies in different reports. A list of 37 such PSUs which have been clearly classified by Disinvestment Commission as non-core is attached as statement.

(b) The criteria laid down by Disinvestment Commission in classification of PSUs as core and non-core are as under:

"In sectors which are capital or technology intensive, the most prevalent market structure may be an oliogopoly. With the entry of private sector into these capital intensive areas, there may be a tendency towards an oligopolistic market structure. Examples are telecom, power generation and transmission or petroleum exploration and refining industries. It has been felt that the presence of the public sector will be necessary for sometime as a countervailing force and prevent concentration of private economic power. At the same time a proper regulatory mechanism should be put in place in order to regulate industries particularly in a non-competitive market for protecting interests of consumers.

In addition, it may be appropriate to look at basic industries with extensive and dispersed forward linkages. In some of these sectors, PSUs have a considerable market presence and the private sector is yet to mature fully. Hence it may be desirable to continue public sector presence in these basic industries till such time that the market becomes fully competitive.

By this analysis, such industries may be classified as "core" and public sector disinvestment be limited to a maximum of 49%. However, it may be noted that the composition of "core" industries may change over a period of time as further private investments make the market fully competitive and PSUs may not be required to play a special role. In addition, it is expected that a proper regulatory mechanism would be in place to protect the interest of consumers. The question of disinvesting beyond 49% may be considered at that time.

Non-core Group;

Over the last four decades, private sector investments have grown considerably in many industries. The presence of a large number of players including matured private sector players, and the forces of competition in these industries have made these markets fully contestable. These would ensure that the consumer's interests are well protected. It can therefore be concluded that the initial objectives of the public sector in such industries have been met. Further investments in such industries will be driven more by demand — supply imbalances and Public investment may no longer be necessary. It may be useful to categorise such industries as non-core. The existing public sector in these industries may not have any unique or special responsibilities. Therefore, it would be desirable to disinvest upto 74% or more in such cases."

Statement

S. No.	Name of PSUs
1	2
1.	Modern Food Industries India Ltd. (MFIL)
2.	Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
3.	HTL Limited (HTL)
4.	ITI Limited (ITI)
5.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)
6.	Manganese Ore India Ltd. (MOIL)
7.	Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)
8.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI)
9.	Engineering Projects (India) Limited (EPIL)
10.	Hindustan Prefab Limited (HGPL)
11.	NEPA Ltd. (NEPA)
12.	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation
13.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd.
14.	Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation (ET&T)
15.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd. (HVOC)
16.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL)
17.	Pyrites Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)
18.	Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)
19.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)
20.	National Fertiliser Ltd. (NFL)
21.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. (HSCL)
22.	State Trading Corporation (STC)
23.	Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC)
24.	Pardeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)
25.	Projects & Equipment Corporation Ltd. (PEC)
26.	MECON Ltd. (MECON)
27.	MSTC Ltd. (MSTC)
28.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL)
29.	Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL)
30.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)
31.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL)
32.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL)
33.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd. (RCFL)
34.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)
35.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.
36.	Hindustan Latex Ltd.
37.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO)*

* Initially classified as core but later as 'non-core'.

Industrial Zone in Arunachal Pradesh

1274. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposals sent by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for Central approval, in connection with establishment of industrial zones at few suitable locations in the State;

(b) whether the State Government has furnished necessary documents and have compiled with the relevant procedure, and if so, the reasons for delay in according the Central approval for notifying the concerned zones.

(c) whether there is any change in the Union Government policy of encouraging industrial development in the North East, including withdrawal of certain tax/ excise benefits extended earlier for the purpose as an incentive for encouraging industrial ventures in this economically backward State; and

(d) if so, reasons for such withdrawals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh have sent a list of industrial areas/Integrated Infrastructure Development Centers for being notified for the purpose of excise duty exemption. However, the legal boundaries of these areas have not been given. These are required for issuing the necessary notification.

(c) and (d) There is no change in the tax benefits extended earlier, except that cigarettes, being demerit goods, have been excluded from the scheme of excise duty exemptions applicable to units in the North East.

[Translation]

Export of Cattle Fodder

1275. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export cattle fodder from the country; and

(b) if so, the quantum of cattle fodder approved for export and the estimated amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently, the Government have allowed export of fodder within an overall ceiling of 15,000 MTs for wheat/rice straw and 10,000 MTs for pulses straw, fixed for the current financial year. The estimated amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned on account of above export is US $ 3.5 millions approximately.

[English]

Increase in Commission

1276. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

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

(a) whether the fair price shop owners in Delhi and other parts of the country are demanding increase in their commission;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered their demand in right earnest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Commission for fair price shop owners is fixed by State Governments/UT Administrations and revised by them from time to time in case of wheat, rice and edible oils. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997, the States/UTs have been instructed to fix the retail issue prices of foodgrains at the FPS level at not more than 50 paise per kg. inclusive of expenses towards transportation and margin for FPS dealers over the CIP for BPL population.

Regarding kerosene the Government has revised the rates of dealers commission for wholesale dealers of PDS kerosene on 27th October, 2000 as follows:

Wholesalers (with Form XIII) Rs./KL.	Rs. 170/-
Wholesalers (other than Form XIII dealers) Rs./KL-	Rs. 127/-

These revised rates of wholesale dealers' commission will serve as guidelines to the district/local authorities in fixing the retail (consumer) selling prices of kerosene in

urban/semi-urban areas and rural areas. If any State/ Union territory has revised the rates of commission on their own, they have been advised to consider reworking to bring them on lines with the guidelines of Government of India.

In case of sugar margins are revised by the Government for whole salers and retailers of each State/ UT on receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Export of Wheat

1277. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Flour mills demand export of maida not wheat" appearing in the *Business Standard* dated January 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of memorandum submitted by flour mills;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the point made therein and facts of the matters; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per statement attached.

(c) and (d) No decision to export wheat products has been taken.

Statement

The Maharashtra Roller Flour Millers' Association has indicated that its members are prepared to export about 2 lakh MTs of Maida per month. The Association has also suggested the following options:-

(a) its members will negotiate with foreign buyers, obtain confirmed orders alongwith L/C. They will then approach FCI for allotment of wheat at the international price of US $ 90.00 FOB for milling purposes. 50% of the resultant maida will be exported. Relevant documents will be submitted to FCI as a proof of export, on clearance of shipments;

(b) the millers will manufacture 50% maida for export from already existing stock of wheat available with them. FCI should given assurance for reimbursing 100% of the wheat utilised at the export rate of US $ 90.00 FOB on production of requisite documents by the millers;

(c) if wheat is made available to the millers at the export rate of US $ 90.00 FOB, whereas the present market rate is Rs. 7240/- per MT, the miller propose to give bank guarantee for the differential cost, which will be returned to the millers at the end of the export transaction.

Closure of PSUs

1278. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-ministerial group has been entrusted with the task of considering the closure of unviable public sector undertakings in phased manner in order to check losses to public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per available information no such group has been formed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Abolition of Temporary Posts

1279. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to abolish all temporary posts in the Central Government offices apart from cut of ten percent permanent posts;

(b) if so, the time by which all the temporary posts are likely to be abolished and ten percent cut achieved;

(c) whether the above scheme will be applicable in the Government controlled cooperative consumer societies and federations; and

(d) if so, the details of the staff in excess of the requirement of the Government and consumer cooperative societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The Government has ordered a 10% cut on the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.92. A review of temporary posts is also to be carried out. These instructions are applicable to all Central Government Offices including autonomous bodies, funded fully or partly by the Central Government. These exercise are to be carried out by all the Ministries/Departments in respect of various offices under their control. No centralised data is maintained in the Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

Fake Currency Notes of Rs. 500

1280. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the circulation of the fake currency note of Rs. 500 denomination has alarmingly increased;

(b) if so, whether the Government have released new Notes of Rs. 500 denomination to check this and have issued directions to the banks to issue only the new notes;

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government against the banks not complying with the directions;

(d) whether the Government are also aware that despite the directions from the Government, the banks are giving old currency notes to the customers; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Instances have come to the notice of the Government about circulation of fake notes of Rs. 500 denomination. But, the number of counterfeit notes of this denomination detected so far is miniscule as compared to the total number of notes of this denomination in circulation. Rs. 500 denomination note with a new design has been issued with instructions to banks to exchange them against notes of old design of 1987 series with Ashoka Pillar watermark, as counterfeit notes were largely detected in this series. The Reserve Bank of India has advised the public sector banks not to reissue the 1987 series notes of Rs. 500 denomination to the public. However, the notes of Rs. 500 denomination with 'Mahatma Gandhi' watermark will continue to be re-issued by the banks.

(c) and (d) No specific instances have come to the notice of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Restructuring of Prasar Bharati Board

1281. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Board has been restructured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the performance of the Prasar Bharati has been reviewed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government had constituted a 3 member Committee to study the working of Prasar Bharati. The Committee has submitted its report on 20th May, 2000 and its recommendations, amongst others, relate to mission and objective for Prasar Bharati, accountability and structures of Prasar Bharati, financing and funding mechanism, channel positioning, programming content and production, restructuring of transmission and engineering services, improvement in marketing, human resource development and exploitation of new technology and includes staffing pattern of Prasar Bharati. A copy of the report is available at Ministry's website mib.nic.in.

Cases of Central Excise and Customs

1282. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases of Central Excise and Customs has come down substantially following the liberalization of the import policy by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the huge establishment expenditure in view of reduced work load;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the position reported above notwithstanding in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the administration and reduce expenditure on establishment, a proposal for integrated cadre re-structuring is under consideration for Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' cadres in Customs and Central Excise department and the proposal if accepted, may result in reduction of about 5% of total staff strength and recurring saving.

Export of Rice

1283. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: .
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to export rice as the stock of rice is more than the domestic demand in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rice is not being lifted for export as the prices of rice in the international market are low at present;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the rates of rice in major international market during December, 2000 and January, 2001; and

(f) the price at which India has decided to sell rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Since the stock of rice in the Central Pool was 132.14 lakh MTs on 01.10.2000 against the corresponding buffer norm of 65 lakh MTs, which meant an excess stock of 67.14 lakh MTs, FCI has been authorized to offer 20 lakh metric tonnes of rice upto 31st March, 2001 for the purpose of export through open tender.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) As per the statement enclosed.

(f) Export of rice has not commenced.

Statement

International Prices of Rice (US$/MT)

	5% Broken				10% Broken				15% Broken				20%		25% Broken			35% Broken			
Country	India	Pak	Thai-land	Viet-nam	India	Pak	Thai-land	Viet-nam	India	Pak	Thai-land	Viet-nam	Pak	India	Pak	Thai land	Viet nam	India	Pak	Thai land	Viet nam
December 2000	237		181	171	-	170	174	166	-	154	170	160	149	220	145	155	150	-		150	146
January 2001	237		178	170		170	174	165	—	154	169	159	149	220	145	155	149			151	145

Egypt

Month	Grade-I 3% Broken	Grade-2 6% Broken	Grade-3 12% Broken	Grade-3 15% Broken	Grade-3 20% Broken
December 2000	237-262	221-247	212-235	204	198-220
January 2001	237-262	221-247	212-235	204	198-220

United State of America

Month	Long grain 2/4	Long grain 5/20	Long grain 2/4/75
December 2000	13.00	10.75	11.75
January 2001	13.00	10.75	11.75

Value US $
Quantity per 100 Lbs
Source: London Rice Broker's Associates, London.

Registered Hindi Newspapers/Magazines

1284. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi newspapers/magazines registered with the Office of Registrar Newspapers;

(b) the number of newspapers/magazines out of it which get Government advertisements;

(c) the value of advertisement given to Hindi newspapers/magazines/during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken to improve the level of Hindi newspapers/ magazines?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per records maintained by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), 20210 Hindi newspapers/magazines were registered with the RNI as on 31.12.2000.

(b) 3746 Hindi Newspapers/magazines were empanelled with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for release of Government advertisements during the year 1999-2000.

(c) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) DAVP releases advertisements to Hindi newspapers and periodicals, keeping in view the Government's publicity requirements and the availability of funds.

Statement

State-wise details of the value of advertisements issued by DAVP to Hindi Newspapers/Magazines during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Amount Committed (in Rupees)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,30,816	7,13,991	7,26,068
2.	Assam	1,35,872	2,28,242	2,77,557
3.	Bihar	1,18,92,188	1,51,99,401	1,74,05,869
4.	Chandigarh	14,23,551	17,27,643	17,59,268
5.	Delhi	3,62,24,230	4,52,23,133	5,47,10,522
6.	Gujarat	18,47,484	21,07,558	23,35,489
7.	Haryana	29,55,048	28,82,918	33,58,745

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11,67,041	18,75,400	24,22,816
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6,82,363	9,94,627	11,69,363
10.	Karnataka	79,250	1,49,283	2,11,658
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2,36,96,349	3,04,04,522	3,37,71,221
12.	Maharashtra	39,75,267	58,47,796	66,44,364
13.	Orissa	2,20,742	3,90,935	4,13,581
14.	Punjab	1,39,58,066	1,73,49,295	2,20,84,483
15.	Rajasthan	2,03,21,367	2,90,64,431	3,64,41,061
16.	Tamilnadu	4,797	—	84,366
17.	Uttar Pradesh	3,73,00,869	4,63,53,230	5,03,16,886
18.	West Bengal	33,41,215	41,66,212	50,06,229
	Total	15,98,56,515	20,46,78,617	23,91,39,546

[English]

Protection of Domestic Cardamom Growers

1285. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several foreign countries have flooded Indian markets with cardamom;

(b) if so, the details of those countries;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the domestic cardamom growers in a face of stiff competition; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the small cardamom growers in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Domestic cardamom growers are not facing any hardships which is evident from the increase in production and exports of small cardamom as compared to the last year. Domestic cardamom growers are also fetching remunerative prices for their produce. The average auction price of cardamom in January 2001 is Rs. 617.35 per kg compared to Rs. 444.47 per kg in January 2000.

(d) Some of the steps taken to help the small and marginal cardamom growers include implementation of schemes like production and distribution of quality planting materials, replantating of old, senile and uneconomic plantations, irrigation, land development etc.

[Translation]

UTI's New Scheme for Women

1286. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has floated a special scheme recently for the women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of the said scheme; and

(d) the extent to which the said scheme is likely to be beneficial for women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) UTI is in the process of launching a scheme named 'UTI Mahila Unit Scheme' exclusively for women from 8th March, 2001.

(b) Once the scheme is launched, details of the scheme will be available with offices of UTI and their agents/representatives.

(c) and (d) The objective of the scheme is to encourage women to channel their savings into an investment vehicle. Investors can make use of their investments in this scheme for various social obligations/ requirements.

Growth Centre

1287. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to open a "Growth Centre" in Ambala district;

(b) if so, the location where it is proposed to be opened;

(c) whether the land has been acquired to start the said project;

(d) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to the State Government for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the present status of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, one growth centre has been sanctioned at Saha in Ambala district of Haryana under the growth centre scheme.

(c) to (e) According to the information furnished by the State Government of Haryana, land admeasuring 301 acre 5 Kanal has been acquired by the State Government for this growth centre. The Central Government has released Rs. 200 lakhs and a total expenditure of Rs. 1091.60 lakh has been incurred by the State Government on the implementation of this project. This project is in the implementation phase.

[English]

Disinvestment of Hindustan Cables Limited

1288. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest its entire share in Hindustan Cables Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Government have, in February 2001, invited Expression of Interest from interested investors for 74 per cent of the equity of Hindustan Cables Limited.

I.T. Exemption to NGOs

1289. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of NGOs have applied for income-tax exemption under section 80G for drought/ cyclone/social service in the affected areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of NGOs applied for such exemption in Gujarat circle during last three years and are pending with the Government till date;

(c) the reasons for the delay in disposing-of these applications; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Approval under section 80G is allowed by the concerned Commissioner of Income-tax. No centralized information is maintained in the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

(b) During the financial year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 27-02-2001), 8222 NGOs applied for exemption under section 80G. Out of which as on 27-02-2001, 802 applications are pending.

(c) The applications were found to be either procedurally incomplete or defective. These applications will be disposed off after the defects are removed.

(d) Most of these applications will be disposed of by 31-3-2001 subject to rectification of defects by the applicants. In any case, these will be disposed off within

the limitation period of six months from the date of application as provided under Rule 11AA(6) of the I.T. Rule.

[Translation]

Poor Customer Services

1290. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received complaints regarding poor customer services in various public sector banks;

(b) if so, the action taken against the bank officials found guilty; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve customer services in public sector banks keeping in view of the tough competition from private and foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Complaints relating to customer service in public sector banks are received by Government from time to time.

(b) Banks are advised to look into the complaints for remedial action. In appropriate cases, banks are also advised to examine staff accountability and take suitable action against erring staff.

(c) Comprehensive grievances redressal machinery exists in every public sector bank. A senior officer has been designated as Nodal Officer in each bank to monitor proper redressal of customer grievances. Banking Ombudsman Scheme is in operation since 1995 and the RBI has appointed 15 Banking Obudsmen for expeditious and inexepensive resolution of customer complaints. 36 Customer Service Centres have also been set up. A Citizens' Charter has been formulated by each public sector bank as a code for fair banking. The redressal of public grievances in public sector banks is monitored by the Government of India on monthly basis. Status of customer service is also reviewed by the Boards of public sector banks.

Analysts in News Bulletins

1291. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the number of news bulletins aired on Doordarshan daily;

(b) the time slot fixed therefor;

(c) whether an expert or analyst is invited each of these bulletins;

(d) if so, the time slot fixed for them in the bulletins;

(e) the amount of honorarium paid to the above experts by the Doordarshan; and

(f) the norms laid down for the selection of such experts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that 25 News bulletins are being telecast daily from News Headquarters, Delhi. Two additional news bulletins are telecast on Sundays namely;

(i) News in Sanskrit.

(ii) News for Hearing Impaired.

When Parliament is in session, in addition to the regular news bulletins, Parliament News is also telecast both in Hindi and English. 48 news bulletins in regional languages are telecast daily.

(b) The details of the time slots allotted to news bulletins are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. Experts are called in the following four news bulletins telecast from Delhi at

(i) 4.00 p.m.

(ii) 4.30 p.m.

(iii) 8.00 p.m.

(iv) 8.30 p.m.

(d) Depending on the news fall of the day, 5-10 minutes time is fixed/allotted for the experts in the above referred bulletins.

(e) A fee of Rs. 2000/- per day is paid to the expert appearing in the National/News Channel bulletins.

(f) The expertise of the experts and the requirement of the news stories on a particular day determine the choice/selection of the experts.

Statement

Details of News Bulletins Telecast from Delhi (Headquarters) and Regional News Units of Doordarshan

(A) Details of News Bulletins Telecast from Delhi (HQS)

S. No.	Language	Time	Duration
1.	Hindi	0700	15 mts.
2.	English	0800	15 mts.
3.	Hindi (News Headlines)	0900	02 mts.
4.	English (Headlines)	1000	02 mts.
5.	Hindi (Headlines)	1100	02 mts.
6.	Hindi (Bharat Samachar)	1130	15 mts.
7.	English (Headlines)	1200	02 mts.
8.	Hindi (Headlines)	1300	02 mts.
9.	Hindi	1400	10 mts.
10.	English	1410	10 mts.
11.	Urdu	1450	10 mts.
12.	Hindi (Headlines)	1500	02 mts.
13.	English (Headlines)	1600	02 mts.
14.	Hindi (Headlines)	1700	02 mts.
15.	English (Headlines)	1800	02 mts.
16.	Hindi	1603	25 mts.
17.	English	1630	25 mts.
18.	English	1703	15 mts.
19.	Hindi (Regional)	1900	15 mts.
20.	English (Prime-time)	2000	**30 mts.
21.	Hindi (Prime-time)	2030	**30 mts.
22.	Hindi	2100	30 mts.
23.	English	2130	30 mts.
24.	Hindi (Headlines)	2300	02 mts.
25.	English (Headlines)	2400	02 mts.
On Sundays (News Magazines)			
1.	Hearing Impaired	1420	15 mts.
2.	Sanskrit	1435	10 mts.
** Parliament News (During-Parliament in Session)			
1.	English	2020	10 mts.
2.	Hindi	2050	10 mts.

(B) Details of News Bulletins Telecast from Different Regional News Units in Doordarshan as on 30.1.2001.

S.No.	Kendra	Language	Time	Duration
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarati	(i) 0830-0850 (Mon to Sat) 0900-0920 (on Sunday)	20 mts.
			(ii) 1600-1605	5 mts.
			(iii) 1900-1920	20 mts.
2.	Bangalore	Kannada	(i) 0745-0755	10 mts.
			(ii) 1900-1915	15 mts.
3.	Bhubaneswar	Oriya	(i) 1900-1915	15 mts.
4.	Bhopal	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915	15 mts.
5.	Calcutta	Bengali	(i) 0615-0655	10 mts.
			(ii) 0850-0900	10 mts.
			(iii) 1002-1007	05 mts.
			(iv) 1700-1710	10 mts.
			(v) 1900-1915	15 mts.
			(vi) 2225-2235	10 mts.
		Urdu	(vii) 1915-1925	10 mts.
6.	Chennai	Tamil	(i) 0700-0715	15 mts.
			0715-0720 (From News Papers)	05 mts.
			(ii) 1200-1205	05 mts.
			(iii) 1430-1440	10 mts.
			(iv) 1900-1903 (Sat. and Sunday)	03 mts.
			(v) 2030-2100	30 mts.
7.	Guwahati	Assamese	(i) 0902-0907	05 mts.
			(ii) 1915-1930	15 mts.
		English	(iii) 1900-1915	10 mts.
8.	Hyderabad	Telugu	(i) 0750-0800	10 mts.
			(ii) 1900-1915	15 mts.
		Urdu	(iii) 1915-1925	10 mts.
9.	Jaipur	Rajasthani	(i) 1600-1615	15 mts.
		Hindi	(ii) 1900-1915	15 mts.
10.	Jalandhar	Punjabi	(i) 0815-0830	15 mts.
			(ii) 1700-1705	05 mts.
			(iii) 1900-1915	15 mts.
11.	Jammu	Dogri	(i) 1900-1910	10 mts.
12.	Lucknow	Hindi	(i) 1900-1910	15 mts.
		Urdu	(ii) 1915-1920	05 mts.

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Mumbai	Marathi	(i) 0830-0840 (On Mon. to Sat.)	10 mts.
			0900-0910 (On Sunday)	10 mts.
			(ii) 1430-1440	10 mts.
			(iii) 1900-1915	15 mts.
			(iv) 2130-2200	30 mts.
14.	Patna	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915	15 mts.
		Urdu	(ii) 1915-1925	10 mts.
15.	Srinagar	Kashmiri	(i) 0900-0905	05 mts.
			(ii) 1430-1435	05 mts.
			(iii) 1900-1915	15 mts.
		Urdu	(iv) 1915-1930	15 mts.
			(v) 1930-1935 (News Magazine Programme)	05 mts.
16.	Shimla	Hindi	(i) 1900-1915	15 mts.
17.	Trivandrum	Malayalam	(i) 0815-0825	10 mts.
			(ii) 1700-1705	05 mts.
			(iii) 1900-1915	15 mts.

Note:—

(1) Specially Assembly news is broadcast by all Regional News Units during Assembly sessions in the evening after 1900 bulletin.

(2) The timings of evening regional news bulletins on SUNDAYS have been changed/shifted to 1830 from 1900 hrs. with effect from 1.3.2000.

[English]

Sick Public Sector Undertakings

1292. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) the total number of Central Public Sector Undertakings functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the financial condition of each Central PSU, State-wise particularly of Bihar and Punjab;

(c) the number of Central PSUs either closed down or declared sick, undertakings-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to revive them to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The required information is contained in the Public Enterprises Survey 1999-2000 which was laid in the Lok Sabha on 27.2.2001 and is a published document.

(c) A State-wise list of BIFR referred sick Central Government Enterprises with their status is attached as statement I. A list of loss making Central PSUs which have been recommended by the BIFR/Government for winding up is given in the attached statement-II.

(d) The measures taken/being taken by the Government for revival and improving the performance of sick/loss making Central PSUs include periodical reviews by the administrative Ministries/Departments, technology upgradation, diversification and change in product mix, financial and business restructuring, formation of joint ventures, rationalization of manpower, modernization of plants and machinery, improved marketing strategies, professinalisation of management and restructuring of Boards of CPSUs etc. as the case may be.

Statement-I

Statewise list of BIFR Referred Central Govt. Enterprises with Status as on 31.12.2000

Sr.	Name of the Company	Status
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	Failed & Reopen
2.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
3.	Praga Tools Ltd.	Under Enquiry
Assam		
1.	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
Bihar		
1.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
3.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Dropped as Net worth Become Positive
4.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
5.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	Under Enquiry
Delhi		
1.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
2.	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
3.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	Under Enquiry
4.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
5.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
Gujarat		
1.	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
Haryana		
1.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
Karnataka		
1.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
3.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
4.	NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, & Mahe) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
Madhya Pradesh		
1.	NEPA Ltd.	Under Enquiry

1	2	3
2.	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
Maharashtra		
1.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanction
2.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
3.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
4.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
5.	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
6.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	Under Enquiry
Manipur		
1.	Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	Dismissed as Non-Maintainable
Nagaland		
1.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	Dismissed as Non-Maintainable
Orissa		
1.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
Rajasthan		
1.	Instrumentation Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	Under Enquiry
Tamilnadu		
1.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	Winding up Notice Issued
Uttar Pradesh		
1.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
3.	British India Corporation Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
4.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
5.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
6.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
7.	Scooters India Ltd.	Dismissed As Non-Maintainable
8.	Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
9.	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	Winding up Notice Issued
10.	U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Winding up Notice Issued

1	2	3
West Bengal		
1.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
3.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
4.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
5.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
6.	National Instruments Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
7.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
8.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
9.	Weighbird (India) Ltd.	Winding up Recommended
10.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	Dismissed As Non-Maintainable
11.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
12.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
13.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
14.	R B L Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
15.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
16.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	Stay Order by Court
17.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	Under Enquiry
18.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Under Enquiry
19.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
20.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	Under Enquiry
21.	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued

Statement-II

State wise list of loss making Central PSEs which are recommended for Winding-up by BIFR/Govt.

S. No.	Name of PSU
1	2
Karnataka	
1.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.*
2.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.*
Maharashtra	
3.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.*

1	2
4.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.*
Uttar Pradesh	
5.	British India Corporation Ltd.*
6.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.*
7.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.*
8.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.*
West Bengal	
9.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.*
10.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.*
11.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.
12.	Rehabilitation Industries Corpn. Ltd.
13.	Tea Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
14.	Weighbird (India) Ltd.*
Delhi	
15.	Electronics Trade & Technology Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
16.	Indian Road Construction Corpn. Ltd.

* Winding-up Recommended by BIFR. Rest as per Govt. decision.

[Translation]

Multinational Companies in Heavy Industry Sector

1293. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many multinational companies are working in heavy industry sector;

(b) if so, the names of MNCs and details of items produced by them sector-wise;

(c) whether the domestic companies have been adversely affected by advent of MNCs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make domestic companies to stay in the competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) There is no formal classification of industries as "heavy". It is, therefore, not possible to give the required information. However, during the period from 1.8.1991 to 31.10.2000, 18,287 foreign collaboration proposals for investments amounting to Rs. 242294.52 crore have been approved for setting up of industries in metallurgical, electrical equipment, transportation, engineering goods etc. The details of such proposals including items of manufacture/ activity are published in the monthly news letter of the Secretariat for industrial Approvals (SIA) which is widely circulated, including to the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Performance of companies depends upon a number of factors including financial health, competitiveness, market demand etc. Government is taking various policy initiatives which inter-alia include rationalization of tariff structure, infrastructure development etc. for improving the performance and international competitiveness of companies.

Buffer Stock of Sugar

1294. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are not in favour of keeping a buffer stock of sugar in view of large scale production of sugar;

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

(c) whether the Sugar Industry has demanded to create a buffer stock of twenty lakh tonnes in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the buffer stock of sugar is in the interest of country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (f) The apex organizations of the sugar industry viz. Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. (NFCSF) have represented to the Government for creation of buffer stock of twenty lakh tonnes of sugar in view of large closing stocks of sugar.

The creation and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar is different from that of the creation and maintenance of buffer stock of foodgrains. In the creation and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar, Government does not actually purchase the sugar and store in its godowns but reimburses the interest, insurance and storage charges as per the provisions of the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983, to the sugar mills for the quantity taken on buffer stock.

The creation and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar does not result in reduction of stocks. The reduction of stocks can be achieved through higher releases of sugar and through export of sugar, Government has been making higher release of freesale sugar keeping in view the likely increase in demand, availability of alternative sweeteners like gur, khandsari and the need to maintain a certain level of prices. Government has also allowed export of 10 lakh MTs of sugar in the financial year 2000-2001. In order to boost export of sugar, Government has given the following incentives:

- Sugar factories exporting sugar have been allowed exemption from levy on the quantity of sugar exported by them. This exemption is available till 31.3.2001.
- Sugar factories exporting sugar have been given the benefit of adjustment of the exported quantity in their freesale stocks at the end of 12 months from the date of export.
- DEPB benefit @ 5% of the f.o.b. value of exports has been allowed on export of sugar.

[English]

Coffee Retention Plan

1295. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given clearance to coffee retention plan;

(b) if so, whether the Coffee Board has finalised the modalities of the implementation of the above plan;

(c) the share of India in coffee in the world market;

(d) the impact of this plan on the India's share in coffee in the world market; and

(e) the advantages of implementating the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of India has approved, in principle, India's participation in the retention scheme of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC). The Coffee Board has already initiated action for implementation of the retention scheme.

(c) India's share of coffee exports in the world market is 4.69%.

(d) and (e) As per retention plan of ACPC, the coffee producing countries are required to retain 20% of exportable coffee to be exported from each country in order to stabilise the falling coffee prices. It is hoped that the implementation of the said plan for Indian coffee will help in boosting the prices of coffee.

Coffee Board in North-Eastern States

1296. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any measures to strengthen the functioning of Coffee Board in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to broaden the activities of Coffee Board in the State of Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For development of coffee in North Eastern States, the Coffee Board has established a network of extension offices under the Joint Director (Extension) Shillong (Meghalaya) covering all the seven States of the Region for rendering technical expertise and implementation of various Plan programmes of the Board. For expansion of scientific/ modern/improved methods of coffee plantations, five Coffee Demonstration Farms have also been functioning in the Region. A Regional Coffee Research Station at Diphu in Assam is also functioning to tackle the coffee cultivation related problems and also to evolve suitable location specific package of practices aimed at increasing production and productivity level of coffee.

(c) For coffee expansion and infrastructural facilities in the State of Nagaland, Coffee Board has established Offices of Senior Liaison Officer and Jr. Liaison Officer at Dimapur and Mokokchung respectively. Further, for passing the scientific and improved methods of coffee plantations to the coffee growers of the State, a Coffee Demonstration Farm at Kiruphema is also functioning since 1981.

Time Slot for Malayalam Programmes

1297. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Doordarshan has reduced the time slot set for Malayalam programmes; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there had never been any slot for telecast of Malayalam programmes in the regional service of DDK, Delhi i.e. Delhi-LPT or Single Metro. The question of reduction of time, therefore, does not arise.

Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal

1298. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of benches of Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT) at present in the country and location thereof;

(b) whether these benches are sufficient to settle the pending cases;

(c) the number of cases pending at each bench at present;

(d) whether keeping in view the bulk of pending cases and their timely disposal the Government propose to open some more benches;

(e) if so, the details thereof and locations thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there is full time President of CEGAT; and

(h) if not, the time by which a full time President is to be provided at CEGAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir, there are 11 (eleven) benches of Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT), located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of cases pending as on 31.12.2000 are as follows:-

Delhi	:	2,426
Mumbai		17,037
Kolkata		541
Chennai & Bangalore*	:	8,407
Total Pendency	:	28,411

*(The Bench at Bangalore was notified on 14.12.2000 and its jurisdiction carved out of the erstwhile Southern Regional Bench at Chennai. Therefore, the pendency for Chennai and Bangalore has been clubbed).

(d) to (f) Since the pendency at Mumbai is high, it has been decided to shift four Members from Delhi to Mumbai.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Agreement Between Karnataka and Singapore

1299. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether a trade agreement was signed recently between Singapore and the Government of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether a high power delegation led by Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore visited Bangalore during November, 2000; and

(c) the details of the projects on which both the parties have undertaken to work together?

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

(b) A delegation led by the Minister for Trade & Industry visited Bangalore in November 2000 to participate in the Bangalore IT. Com 2000 Exhibition & Seminar and also to have joint discussions on matters of mutual interest.

(c) No specific projects were identified during the discussions.

Smuggling of Silk

1300. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of raw silk is taking place in to the country due to its low prices in the international market; and

(b) if so, the steps mooted by the Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Smuggling of Raw Silk takes place as duty evaded, provides extra margin of profit.

(b) The field formations of Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods, including raw silk.

[Translation]

Financial Institutions Investment in Bihar Projects

1301. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector financial institutions have given loans to private sector for setting up industrial projects in Bihar during the last three years;

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

(c) the terms and condition laid down for sanctioning loans and the manner in which the projects have been set up with these loans; and

(d) the details of the projects set up with this loan during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Talks Between India and Germany

1302. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Germany have agreed to have an extensive exchanges of information on pension reforms during his recent visit to that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talk was held between the two countries in regard to Chairmanship of G-20;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other areas where both the countries have agreed to cooperate in the finance sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) During a bilateral meeting of the Finance Ministers of India and Germany in January 2001 in New Delhi, it was agreed that extensive exchange of views on Pension Reforms and on the potential role of pension funds should be continued.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. This issue was raised in the aforesaid meeting of the Finance Ministers in New Delhi. Finance Minister expressed the view that the Chairmanship of G-20 should alternate between developing and developed nations.

(e) In the New Delhi Meeting, issues relating to International Financial Institutions, Insurance, Privatisation and Financial co-operation in a Federal System were discussed to identify areas of co-operation.

Assured Career Promotion Scheme In Indian Investment Centre

1303. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assured Career Promotion Scheme implemented in Indian Investment Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the number of persons benefited or likely to be benefited;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented in Indian Investment Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is presently reviewing the functioning of the Indian Investment Centre. A decision on introduction of the Assured Career Progression Scheme in the Indian Investment Centre would depend on the outcome of such a review.

Amendment in RBI Act, 1934

1304. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, with a view to define "wilful default" due to the increasing number of default cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has submitted proposal for amendment to RBI Act, 1934 which, inter-alia, includes provision to disclose the names of wilful defaulters. The matter is under examination of the Government.

Import of Oilseeds and Pulses

1305. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to import oilseeds/pulses and other agriculture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alognwith the quantity proposed to be imported, percentage of import duty levied and impact thereof on consumers and farmers;

(c) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alognwith the details of steps initiated/proposed to be initiated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The import of oils and pulses is under OGL.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

SBI into Insurance Sector

1306. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has identified 100 branches under it to start insurance business;

(b) if so, the details of such SBI branches;

(c) the criteria followed by SBI to select these branches;

(d) whether the majority of such branches are in urban areas; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the SBI to start its insurance business in rural areas also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) SBI has reported that it has not finalised distribution plans pending the grant of licence to the subsidiary for commencement of insurance business.

Noise and Air Pollution Limit on Crackers

1307. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has given directions to cracker manufacturers that the noise and air pollution limit on each cracker should be printed from November 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to ensure compliance of the directions;

(c) whether the fireworks and cracker manufacturers are despatching more quantity to the wholesalers in the country much in excess of the licnece quantity; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check this violation?

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

(b) The Department of Explosives has introduced additional conditions in the licence form prohibiting manufacture of fireworks exceeding the prescribed noise level as per notification No. GSR 682 (E) dated 5.10.99 to ensure compliance with the Delhi High Court directives.

(c) and (d) The manufacturers are not sending consignment of fireworks/crackers more than the licensed capacity to the wholesalers. Under the rules excess storage of manufactured fireworks is permitted upto 125 kgs. by charging prescribed fees and then issuing temporary permits. Regular inspections are carried out in the licensed premises by District Administration, Police Authorities and Officers of the Department of Explosives. If any violation is noticed action for suspension/cancellation of licence is taken as per Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosive Rules, 1983.

Uncovered Areas of West Bengal

1308. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in West Bengal, where telecast and broadcast facilities of Doordarshan and Akashvani have not been made available so far;

(b) whether the Government proposed to provide telecast/broadcast facilities in such places, particularly in North Bengal sector of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details of places identified for this purpose and the steps taken/being taken by the Govt. to provide these facilities expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Whereas entire West Bengal is covered by Radio signal, TV coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 96.2% population of the State (including the population in fringe areas). Further expansion of Radio and TV coverage in West Bengal includes installation of 10 KW FM Tr. & studio at Siliguri, Local Radio Station with 3 KW FM Tr. & MP Studios at Shantiniketan, Relay Centre with 10 KW FM Tr. at Darjeeling and HPTs at Balurghat, Krishnangar, Kharagpur, Shantiniketan, Asansol and an LPT at Jhalda. Out of these, projects at Siliguri, Balurghat and Darjeeling fall in North Bengal Region. All steps are being taken to ensure timely completion of the projects.

IDBI Equity in Non-Priority Sector

1309. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI proposes to divert its equity in non-priority consumer industries;

(b) whether huge sum of IDBI are held up in non-priority sector companies;

(c) whether any assessment has been made on the market value of the equity held by IDBI in non-priority consumer sector; and

(d) if so, the value of such equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) IDBI does not maintain any separate classification for its total investment in equity in non-priority consumer sector companies. As on December 31, 2000 its total investment in equity of industrial companies was Rs. 1687.78 crore only as against its total assets of Rs. 72,523 crores.

(c) and (d) IDBI, based on the guidelines issued by RBI for classification and valuation of investment, undertakes the exercise on regular basis for valuation of its entire investment portfolio globally to the satisfaction of the statutory auditors. As on December 31, 2000 the total value of IDBI investment in industrial companies, as per valuation norms of RBI, was Rs. 1788.79 crores.

Cut in Bank Rate

1310. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has cut bank rates recently;

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

(c) its likely effects on the economy particularly on inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the Bank Rate by one half of one percentage point i.e. from 8.0 per cent per annum to 7.5 per cent per annum with effect from February 16, 2001 after a review of recent developments in the international and domestic and financial markets.

(c) RBI feels that a cut in Bank Rate may spur the growth of industrial and commercial sectors. There may not be any direct impact of the Bank Rate cut on inflation.

Production of Coffee

1311. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) whether India is growing about 4% of total production of coffee in the world and exporting about 75% of its total production;

(b) if so, the details of annual production and percentage of domestic consumption of coffee;

(c) whether country's coffee production during the current year would be as per the target fixed;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the production target and to expand the domestic consumption;

(f) whether the prices of coffee in the domestic market are falling continuously; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to arrest the falling prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of coffee in the country during 1999-2000 was 2,92,000 MTs. The domestic consumption of coffee is around 19% of the total coffee produced in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Against the coffee production target of 2.80 lakh tonnes for the year 2000-01, the production of coffee is estimated at 2.95 lakh tonnes.

(e) In order to achieve the production targets, the Government of India through the Coffee Board, besides, operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting, quality improvement and water augmentation, has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary backup support likely supply of seed for planting purposes, etc.

In order to expand domestic consumption of coffee, the Coffee Board has been organising coffee festivals and imparting training for coffee brewing to the Hotel Sector apart from participating in all major internal trade fairs and strengthening the performance of coffee houses operated by the Board and campaigning through Audio/ Video and print media.

(f) and (g) In the recent months, the international coffee prices have fallen due to surplus supply to over production. Since nearly 80% of the coffee produced in India is exported, the industry is mainly dependent on the international coffee prices. Hence, the Indian coffee growers are not getting the same remunerative prices today as they were getting 2-3 years ago. Govt. of India has recently approved, in principle, India's participation in the retention scheme of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC). It is hoped that the implementation of the said plan for Indian coffee will help in boosting the prices of coffee.

Import of Vegetable Oil

1312. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the import of vegetable oil from various countries in view of large scale production of vegetable oil in the country during last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this move will enable the farmers to get better minimum support price for their produce; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Government has thrice revised the duty structure of edible oils in a span of eleven months. A major objective of the rationalisation of the duty structure has been to reduce the level of import of edible oils.

(b) As per information available from DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce the imports of edible oils have gone down from 38.59 lakh MTs in 1998-99 to 34.55 lakh MTs in 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) Another objective of the measure has been to enable better minimum support price to the farmers for their produce. Currently the wholesale prices of mustard/rapeseed and groundnut (in shell) which together constitute around 60% of the total oilseeds production have been higher than their corresponding MSPs as shown below:-

(Rs./Quintal)

Seed	MSP	Wholesale price as on 23.2.2001
Mustard/Rapessed	1100	1205
Groundnut (in Shell)	1220	1435

CRISIL

1313. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's leading credit rating agency Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL) recently downgraded the bond ratings of various Maharashtra Government owned entities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) CRISIL has intimated that they have downgraded the rating assigned to bond programmes of the following Government of Maharashtra owned entities on 5.2.2001;

(i) Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation

(ii) Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation

(iii) Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation

(iv) Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation

(b) CRISIL has further intimated that since the bond issuers are unlikely to generate adequate revenues for debt servicing, budgetary support would be needed from the Government of Maharashtra. According to CRISIL, the ratings are reflective of the credit quality of Government of Maharashtra.

(c) State Governments are responsible for the financial health of state owned entities. From time to time, the Union Government has emphasized the importance of increasing the productivity of State owned entities.

World Bank Aid to Karnataka

1314. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has adopted Karnataka State as one of the focus State in the country;

(b) if so, the projects in the State for which World Bank assistance is being obtained; and

(c) the details of progress made in the negotiations to obtain such financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Karnataka is one of the States which the World Bank has suggested to be their focus State.

(b) and (c) A statement showing projects in respect of Karnataka which have been posed to the World Bank for financial assistance, is attached. These projects are under consideration of the World Bank.

Statement

Projects in the State of Karnataka which have been posed to the World Bank for financial assistance.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Progress/Status
1.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project	Posed to the World Bank on 4.6.2000
2.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Improvement Project	Posed to the World Bank on 5.10.2000.
3.	Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project Phase-II	Posed to the World Bank on 25.5.99
4.	Karnataka Water & Urban Management Project	Project Preparation Facility (PPF) was signed in January 2000
5.	Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project	Project is under preparation with Technical Assistance from the World Bank
6.	Karnataka Economic Restructuring Programme	Posed to the World Bank

Disinvestment of Hindustan Vegetable Oils

1315. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to disinvest its share in Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The Government considered recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and has decided that it is not feasible to attempt revival/rehabilitation of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd. (HVOC) or any of its units. The Government has also decided to offer Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) to all its employees. Accordingly, the BIFR, which has declared HVOC a sick company, has been informed and the VSS is being implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution which is the administrative Ministry for HVOC.

Dr. M. Govind Rao Committee on Service Tax

1316. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2067 dated December 1, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Expert Group, under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. Govind Rao, has submitted its final Report;

(b) if so, highlights of the Report; and

(c) if not, reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) The Expert Group on Service Tax has sought for extension of time upto 31st March, 2001, to enable them to examine a number of issues relevant to taxation of services and to undertake consultation with the experts of trade and industry and public at large, for submission of their final report.

[Translation]

Tenth Finance Commission

1317. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 616.75 crore for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have received Rs. 360.86 crore till the scheduled date of 31.3.2000;

(c) whether request for extension in time has been acceded to for utilization of the remaining funds;

(d) the amount provided by the Tenth Finance Commission for rural development in Madhya Pradesh and amount out of it utilised by the State Government;

(e) whether the extension in time is likely to be given for utilisation of the remaining funds for rural development; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (f) Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) had recommended a grant of Rs. 616.80 crore to the State of Madhya Pradesh under upgradation, special problem and for the local bodies. The scheme-wise details of grant allocated and grant released upto 31.3.2000 is as under:-

	Scheme	Grant Allocated (Rs. crores)	Grant Released (Rs. crores)
1.	Upgradation and Special Problem Grant	206.37	129.99
2.	Grants for Local Bodies		
	(a) Panchayati Raj Institutions	348.69	342.86
	(b) Urban Local Bodies	61.74	58.65
	Total	616.80	531.50

On the request of State Governments extension of time has been granted upto 31.3.2001 for completion of those ongoing capital works, undertaken out of upgradation and special problem grants, which were in progress as on 31.3.2000. The extension of time is not applicable for local bodies grant.

PAN Card

1318. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise number of persons who have applied for Permanent Account Number (PAN) as on date;

(b) whether most of the persons have not been issued Permanent Account Number card so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to issue these PAN cards as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of the number of Permanent Account Number (PAN applications received are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) Upto December, 2000, Permanent Account Number cards have been issued to 1,61,70,360 applicants out of a total of 1,82,66,786 cases in which the PAN has been allotted. The reasons for non-allotment of PAN and/ or non-issue of PAN card is the existence of core deficiency in many application forms and also because many applications have come recently.

(d) All steps are continuously taken by the Government for expeditious allotment of PAN and issue of PAN cards to the applicants.

Statement

Year wise Status of PAN Applications

	No. of applications received during the year
1995-96	992,447
1996-97	830,062
1997-98	885,076
1998-99	14,623,988
1999-2000	1,566,577
2000-2001 (upto 31.12.2000)	1,373,419
Total	20,271,569

[English]

Export Promotion Councils

1319. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to create more Export Promotion Councils in the country to facilitate the export of garments, leather, gems and precious stones, spices and food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the next three years;

(c) whether these Export Promotion Councils are instrumental in the total exports from India, fetching millions of dollars as foreign exchange every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the magnitude of the exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are set up by the Industry to promote exports of products relating to a particular segment of the Industry and then recognised by the Government on fulfilling criteria for recognition of new EPCs. Approved EPCs to facilitate and promote the exports of garments, leather, gems and precious stones are already in existence and no request or proposal has been received from the Industry to create more EPCs for export of these products. Similarly, Spices Board for exports of spices and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority for export of food products are already working. However, the Government have recently finalised revised guidelines for setting up of new export promotion councils subject to fulfilling prescribed criteria and these have been circulated on 11th October, 2000 to the Industry through EPCs etc., for guidance.

(c) and (d) The Export Promotion Councils are playing an important role in stimulating and diversifying the country's export trade by undertaking following activities:

1. Planning strategies, both on medium and short term basis to stimulate exports of products and commodities from India
2. Organising market surveys, sponsoring trade delegations, arranging participation in trade fairs/ exhibitions and buyer-seller meets abroad.
3. Sponsoring sales cum study tours and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions by individual exporters.
4. Undertaking publicity and advertisement in overseas markets to popularise Indian products.
5. Contesting anti-dumping duty and counter vailing duty cases abroad.
6. Collecting market intelligence data and disseminating to their members.

(e) Keeping in view the market conditions in various countries, efforts are made to exploit such market potential to achieve maximum gains in trade. Recently, all EPCs, Commodity Boards Export Development Authorities were requested to finalise medium term export strategies for the next five years to enhance exports of products and commodities from India by engaging experts/consultants.

A brain storming session was also organised in December, 2000 under the aegis of Federation of Indian Export Organisations in New Delhi wherein senior functionaries of EPCs Commodity Boards and Department of Commerce participated to review the existing export promotion measures and to make suggestions on ways and means to further improve their efficacy.

Export promotion is a continuous process and the Government has taken various measures which, inter-alia, include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Export-Import Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions for giving special attention. The Government also supports various activities/efforts of the Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards etc. by providing financial assistance under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

[Translation]

Ban on Advertisement of Tobacco and its Products

1320. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently taken a decision to completely ban the advertisement and publicity of tobacco and tobacco products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above decision is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Cable Television Networks Rules 1994, as amended through a notification on 8.9.2000, prohibit advertisement, which, inter-alia, promote, directly or indirectly, production, sale or consumption of cigarettes and tobacco products.

[English]

Meeting of PM's Economic Advisory Council

1321. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council meeting was held on 1st December, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the main item discussed was about cheap imports;

(c) if so, whether pressure is being mounted by major sections of the Indian Industry to go slow on tariff reforms for giving the local manufacturers more time to face competition;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other issues discussed in the meeting;

(e) whether any concrete decision about the cheap imports was taken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No meeting of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council was held on 1st December, 2000. However, a meeting was held on 30th November, 2000 to discuss roadmap on economic reforms. Suggestions made in the meeting are being examined by the respective departments.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

Merger of IBPL with HPCL/BPCL

1322. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of Nitin Sengupta Committee report for merger of IBPL with either Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited or Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited;

(b) whether the recommendations in regard to Indo-Burma Petroleum Limited have categorically been rejected by Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Disinvestment

Commission had recommended that Government, while retaining 26% of equity in IBP, might offer the balance to an Indian oil company or joint sector oil company or foreign oil companies, through an international global bidding process. However, after considering various options including the one recommended in Nitish Sengupta Committee Report and all aspects, it was decided that Government would retain only 26% equity in IBP Co. Limited and disinvestment of the balance 33.6% may be carried out through international competitive bidding in which the domestic oil companies can participate.

[Translation]

Production of Corn

1323. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of corn in each State of the country this year;

(b) the quantum of corn purchased by Food Corporation of India from each State during the last year; and

(c) the reasons for not purchasing corn from Bihar by FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The State-wise production of miaze is known only after the agriculture year is over. However, as per the advance estimates made by the Ministry of Agriculture, the production of maize for Kharif season of 2000 is 9.69 million tonnes for the country as a whole.

(b) No corn was procured by Food Corporation of India from any of the States during the Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000.

(c) As the prices of the Corn (Maize) conforming to FAQ specifications fixed by Government of India were ruling above the MSP i.e. more than Rs. 415/- per quintal during the year 1999-2000, no procurement under PDS could be effected.

[English]

Time Bound Action Plan for Recovery of Taxes

1324. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time bound action plan has been formulated by the Government to recover outstanding income-tax, corporation-tax, customs duty and central excise duty amounting to Rs. 62,392 crore;

(b) the details of top 100 tax defaulters indicating dues against each; and

(c) the quantum of amount recovered from each one of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No time limit can be fixed for recovery of dues. In respect of cases which are under dispute, the assessees generally do not pay up the confirmed demands of taxes considered due by Department, until they exhaust all the legal remedies. In case of outstanding demands that are not under stay or in dispute, recovery is a continuous process and persuasive and coercive action is prescribed under the relevant laws is taken.

(b) and (c) the details of top 100 tax defaulters indicating the outstanding amount against as on 31.3.2000, and the reduction/recovery in each case during 1.4.2000 to 30.6.2000, are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Top 100 Tax Defaulters

(in Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Name	Amount outstanding as on 31-3-2K	Reduction		Collection	
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Harshad S. Mehta	542324	—	—	2350	—
2.	Hiten P. Dalal	141087	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	92425	—	9672	29200	—
4.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd. (SISI	83092	176	—	—	—
5.	Bhupendra C. Dalal	74545	—	—	—	—
6.	Ashwin S. Mehta	63775	—	—	491	—
7.	S. Ramaswamy	56489	—	—	—	—
8.	Jyoti H. Mehta.	55330	—	—	504	—
9.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.	54953	—	—	—	699
10.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission	46383	—	46383	—	—
11.	Ganapati Exports Ltd.	32877	—	27631	—	—
12.	I.F.C.I. Ltd.	31438	—	—	—	1288
13.	I.D.B.I.	31026	—	—	—	—
14.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	28696	—	1253	1500	9607
15.	GTC Industries Ltd.	26157	—	—	—	—
16.	Growmore Research & Assets Manage. Ltd.	25207	2126	—	—	—
17.	Surendra M. Khandar	24539	—	258	—	—
18.	Tata Chemicals Ltd.	23930	—	1375	—	1871
19.	Sudhir S. Mehta	23849	—	—	277	—
20.	The Peerless General Finance & Inv. Co. Ltd.	21855	—	—	—	408
21.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.	21845	—	—	—	—
22.	The Premier Automobiles Ltd.	20352	—	—	—	—
23.	Asia Satellite Telecommunication Co. Ltd.	19570	—	2180	—	—
24.	Canara Bank	19235	19235	—	—	—
25.	Subrato Roy	19142	—	7811	—	9
26.	Tata Sons Ltd.	18798	—	1070	—	6400
27.	Ganapati Combines Ltd.	18040	—	—	—	—
28.	Tata Power Co. Ltd.	17354	—	—	—	—
29.	Dhanraj Mills P. Ltd.	16632	473	—	—	—
30.	East West Travel & Trade Links Ltd.	16292	—	—	—	—
31.	Cascade Holding P. Ltd.	16017	—	—	—	—
32.	Larson & Toubro Ltd.	15703	780	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	Mideast India Ltd.	15561	—	—	—	—
34.	Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd.	15480	—	—	—	—
35.	R.E.P.L. Engg. Ltd.	15277	—	—	—	—
36.	Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. (IPCL)	15223	—	556	—	145
37.	Harshad S. Mehta (W.T.)	14873	—	—	—	—
38.	N.E.P.C. Micon Ltd.	14834	—	—	—	—
39.	Kedia Castle Delion Industries Ltd.	14776	—	—	—	—
40.	Rajendra Steels Ltd.	14627	—	—	—	—
41.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.	14468	—	10415	—	—
42.	M. Vishvasaraya Industrial RE. & Dev. CE	14311	—	—	150	28
43.	R.M. Machines (P) Ltd.	14037	—	—	—	—
44.	Caribjet Inc.	13265	—	—	—	—
45.	J.P. Gandhi	12947	—	—	—	—
46.	Niranjan J. Shah.	12719	—	—	—	—
47.	Sabre Group	12632	—	—	—	—
48.	Lucent Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	12587	—	—	—	—
49.	Sahara India (Firm)	12552	—	—	—	116
50.	Nokia Network	11981	—	598	—	—
51.	Northern Coal Fields Ltd.	11904	—	3041	—	—
52.	Tata Engg. & Locomotive Co. Ltd.	11585	—	—	—	5192
53.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	11458	—	—	1000	3522
54.	Western Coal Field Ltd.	11308	—	2541	—	3963
55.	Growmore Leasing & Invest. P. Ltd.	11006	—	—	—	—
56.	Pallav S. Sheth	10931	—	—	—	—
57.	Asea Brown Boveri Ltd.	10838	—	—	3550	—
58.	P.K. Sharma	10423	—	—	—	—
59.	Andhra Valley Power Supply Co. Ltd.	10313	—	—	—	—
60.	Uday M. Acharya	10204	300	—	—	—
61.	Arvind Mills Ltd.	10033	—	1483	2420	—
62.	Shaw Wallace & Co. Ltd.	10012	—	—	50	—
63.	Allied Signal Inc.	9750	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
64.	Dipesh Chandak & Sons.	9703	—	—	—	—
65.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	9640	—	—	—	—
66.	Metropolitan Co-op. Bank Ltd.	9464	—	—	—	—
67.	Asian Consolidated Industries Ltd.	8807	—	—	—	—
68.	Tata Electric Co.	8735	—	—	402	—
69.	Tata Finance Ltd.	8650	—	—	1100	500
70.	C.R.B. Capital Market Co. Ltd.	8631	—	—	—	—
71.	Shirish C. Shah	8595	—	—	—	—
72.	Indian Hotel Co. Ltd.	8530	—	—	10	85
73.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	8507	—	—	—	—
74.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	8462	—	—	—	260
75.	Bombay Burmah Trading Corpn. Ltd.	8328	—	—	—	—
76.	Federal Bank Ltd.	8319	—	—	—	—
77.	Kalpesh L. Thakkar	8313	—	—	—	—
78.	Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.	8200	—	160	2719	—
79.	Wood Crafts Products Ltd.	8150	7892	—	256	—
80.	S.K. Jain (Director of B.E.C. Ltd.)	7984	—	—	—	—
81.	Orson Electronics Ltd.	7507	—	—	—	—
82.	Rushabh Capital & Finance Ltd.	7323	—	—	—	—
83.	Spectrum Power Generation Ltd.	7300	—	—	160	60
84.	Gujarat Electricity Board	7102	—	67	—	—
85.	Ericsson Radio Systems A.B.	6940	—	409	—	—
86.	Bimal S. Gandhi	6906	—	—	—	—
87.	Tata Hydro Electric Power Supply Co. Ltd.	6848	—	—	—	—
88.	Apollo Tubes & Steel Industries Ltd.	6515	—	—	—	—
89.	Okara Agro Products Pvt. Ltd.	6502	—	—	—	—
90.	A.D. Narottam	6485	—	—	—	—
91.	J.V.G. Finance Ltd.	6413	—	—	—	—
92.	Trident Steel Ltd.	6359	—	—	—	—
93.	Pratima H. Mehta.	6316	—	—	203	—
94.	Board of Control of Cricket in India	6238	29	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
95.	Rishi Financial Services	6137	—	—	—	—
96.	Pathija Forgings & Auto Parts Mfg. Co.	6010	—	—	—	—
97.	Chinar Cigaratees P. Ltd.	5925	—	—	—	—
98.	Essar Projects Ltd.	5894	217	—	—	—
99.	Satellite Television Asian Region Ltd.	5876	—	—	—	—
100.	Amadeus Marketing	5807	—	—	1000	—
		2368293	31228	116903	47342	34153

[Translation]

Customs Warehouse

1325. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goods worth of lakhs of rupees being stolen frequently from the custom warehouse situated at Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the stolen cases came to the notice of Government during the last three years;

(c) whether these thefts are being committed with the connivance of the employees of Customs Department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, there have been 9 cases of theft from the Customs Warehouse situated at Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi during the last three years. The details are given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

	No. of Cases	Value
1998-1999	Nil	Nil
1999-2000	1	1.90
2000-2001	8	27.28

(c) and (d) FIRs in all cases have been lodged and the Police is conducting enquiry. Most of these cases are theft by housebreaking by outsiders and as on date, no connivance of any of the Customs Officer has come to light in the enquiry in progress. In a departmental equiry in the case of 1999, negligence of some officers has been brought out and suitable departmental proceedings are being initiated.

[English]

Administrative Expenditure

1326. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the various steps proposed to be taken for that purpose;

(c) whether the Government propose to downsize the posts of IAS, IPS and other Allied Cadres Posts;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the ministerial staff strength should also be downsized;

(f) if so, the details in this regard;

(g) whether any other reform measures proposed with a view to curb expenditure; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (h)

It is Government's constant endeavour to contain administrative expenditure and accordingly instructions for austerity in Govt. expenditure are issued from time to time. The Expenditure Reforms Commission has also been set up to, inter-alia, recommend a roadmap for reducing the functions, activities and administratives structure of the Central Government and also to recommend measures for rationalising the staff and cadres of different services covering the Central Ministries, attached offices and institutions. The terms of reference of Expenditure Reforms Commission are as under:

(1) Keeping in view the evolving role of Government, the need to foster convergence and avoiding overlap in the functions of different Central Government Ministries, Departments and attached organisations and the role of the State Governments, suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government;

(2) Review the framework of all subsidies, both explicit and implicit, examine the economic rationale for their continuance and make recommendations for making subsidies transparent and suggest measures for maximising their impact on the target population at minimum cost;

(3) Review the framework for determination of user charges of Departmental and commercial entities and suggest an effective strategy for cost recovery through user charges;

(4) Review the adequacy of staffing under Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions and suggest measures for rationalising the staff and cadres of different services. In this context also review the existing arrangements for re-deployment and re-training of surplus staff to ensure that any additional manpower for new areas of Government activities are met by re-deployment;

(5) Review the procedure for setting up Government funded autonomous institutions and their pattern of funding and suggest measures for effecting improvement and reducing budgetary support for their activities; and

(6) Consider any other relevant issue concerning expenditure management in Government and make suitable recommendations.

SEZs in Kakinada

1327. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kakinada-Vizag Special Economic Zone project has been approved;

(b) if so, the States involved and the amount to be invested; and

(c) the industries likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) In principle approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone between Kakinada and Vishakhapatnam on the basis of request received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Formal proposal indicating all details, including amount to be invested and the industries likely to be benefited by the project, is awaited from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs and Gold

1328. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold and narcotic drugs confiscated by the Customs and Excise Department in the country during the last three months upto January 2001 and the estimated value thereof;

(b) the number of persons arrested in the connection; and

(c) the stegs taken to check such illegal smuggling of gold and narcotic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of Gold and Narcotic drugs seized by the field formations of Customs & Central Excise Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, during the period from November 2000 to January 2001 and the number of persons arrested in this connection are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) All the field formations of Customs & Central Excise Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to detect, prevent and smuggling of contraband goods including Gold and Narcotic Drugs, in addition, Narcotics and Explosives detectors have been deployed at four major international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai to detect smuggling of Narcotic Drug & Explosives.

Statement

Details of Seizure of Gold & Narcotic Drugs by the field formations of Customs & Central Excise Department and persons arrested in connection thereto from 1.11.2000 to 31.1.2001

Sl. No.	Item	Quantity (in kgs)	Seizure value (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of persons Arrested
1.	Gold	205.931	848.85	29
2.	Narcotic Drugs			
	(a) Heroin	64.680	475.41	13
	(b) Ganja	4183.150	133.10	12
	(c) Hashish	58.314	40.31	2
	(d) Charas	125.000	38.40	3
	(e) Diazepam	1.528	0.75	3
		4432.672	687.97	33

[Translation]

Entertainment Sector in the Purview of Central Government

1329. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to withdraw the entertainment sector from the State subject and bring of under the jurisdiction of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Surplus Foodgrains

1330. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

(a) whether the country is facing the problem of surplus foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is obligatory for India to import specified quantity of foodgrains even there are surplus foodgrains in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Stock position of wheat and rice in the Central pool as on 1st February, 2001 as compared to the buffer norms is as under:

Figs. in lakh tonnes

Commodity	Stock as on 1.2.2001	Buffer norms as on 1.1.2001	Excess
Wheat	241.18	84	157.18
Rice	223.96	84	139.96

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to rectify the situation:

(i) Open sale of wheat at reduced prices has been started from 11.07.2000;

(ii) Open sale of rice has been started from 4.9.2000;

(iii) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice were revised down-wards on 25.7.2000.

(iv) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of rice and wheat for APL families were fixed at 100% of the economic cost or the open market sale price decided by the FCI from time to time, whichever is lower. The open market rates, being less than the economic cost, the State Governments could avail of this offer and make food grains available to APL population at the reduced rates;

(v) The allocation of food grains for BPL families @ 20 kg per family per month is now made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.

(vi) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Governments @ 5 kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/backward class students/homes for Nari Niketans etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Food grain can now be allocated under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.

(vii) Food grains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

(viii) Food grains at the rates applicable for BPL families will be allotted to the State Governments for undertaking 'Food-for-Work' programmes in the States, as also for the Greening India Campaign.

(ix) Foodgrain will be allocated at BPL rates for development Schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme.

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

[Translation]

Projects Executed by BHEL in Power Sector

1331. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects being executed at present by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in the power sector in the country and abroad; and

(b) the details of projects which are earning profit/ suffering losses, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) BHEL is an engineering and manufacturing organization which supplies power plant equipment and does erection & commissioning of these equipments for the power projects set by the power utilities/promoters.

Details of the power projects in the country and abroad to which BHEL is currently supplying equipment and services are enclosed as statement.

(b) Supplies to Power Sector has been a major part of BHEL's business and BHEL has been making profits continuously since 1971-72. The profitability of BHEL is worked out manufacturing unit/Division-wise. BHEL's scope generally does not cover the total project and its operation and hence details of profits/losses of the projects are not available with BHEL.

Statement

List of power projects under execution in India & abroad for which BHEL is supplying equipment & services

I. IN INDIA

S. No.	Project Customer/utility State	Scope	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
A.	*Thermal Power Projects*:		
1.	Bakreswar WBPDCL, West Bengal	Turnkey*	3x210
2.	Khaperkheda MSEB, Maharashtra	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG & C&I	2x210
3.	Panipat-6 HPGCL, Haryana	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG	1x210
4.	Raichur-7 KPCL, Karnataka	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG	1x210
5.	Simhadri NTPC, Andhra Pradesh	Turnkey*	2x500
6.	Suratgarh RSEB, Rajasthan	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG & C&I	3x250
7.	Suratlignite GIPCL, Gujarat	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG	2x125
8.	Talcher GIPCL, Orissa	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG	4x500
9.	Unchahar NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG & C&I	2x210
10.	Vindhyachal NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	Supply, Erection of Boiler, TG & C&I	2x500
B.	*Gas based and combined Cycle Projects*:		
1.	Faridabad CCP NTPC, Haryana	Turnkey*	430
2.	Kayamkulam CCP NTPC, Kerala	Turnkey*	350

1	2	3	4
3.	Kochi BSES, Kerala	Supply, Erection of TG & Auxiliaries	39
4.	Kovilkallapal TNEB, Tamil Nadu.	Turnkey*	107
5.	DVB Pragati DVB, Delhi	Turnkey*	330
6.	Perungulam TNEB, Tamilnadu	Turnkey*	95
7.	Rokhia GOT, Tripura	Supply, Erection of GT & Auxiliaries	21
8.	Baramura GOT, Tripura	Supply, Erection of GT & Auxiliaries	21
9.	Kathalguri CCP NEEPCO, Assam	Turnkey except Civil works	2x34+ 3x30

• BHEL's scope in Turnkey contracts generally includes supply, erection & commissioning of Boiler, TG, C&I, Auxiliaries & civil works within defined limits.

C. Nuclear power projects:

1.	RAPP NPC, Rajasthan	Supply, Erection of TG & Auxiliaries	2x220
2.	TAPP NPC, Maharashtra	Supply, Erection of TG & Auxiliaries	2x500

D. Hydro Projects:

1.	Bansagar Ph.II Madhya Pradesh	Supply, erection and commissioning of TG sets.	2x15
2.	Malana Himachal Pradesh	Supply, erection and Commissioning of TG sets.	2x43
3.	Kopili St. II Assam	Supply of TG set.	1x25
4.	Ghatghar (jointly with NIC, Japan) Maharashtra	Part supply of TG set.	2x125 (Part supply)
5.	Indira Sagar Madhya Pradesh	Supply of TG set	8x125
6.	Sardar Sarovar PSS (Jointly with Sumitomo, Japan) Gujarat	Part supply of TG set.	6x200 (Part supply)
7.	Kabini Karnataka	Supply, erection and commissioning of TG sets.	2x10

1	2	3	4
8.	Tala Bhutan	Supply, erection and commissioning of TG sets.	6x170
9.	Kurichu unit-IV Bhutan	Supply of TG Set.	1x15
10.	Larji Bhutan	Supply, erection and commissioning of TG sets, Transformers & GIS.	3x42
11.	Pykara Ultimate Tamil Nadu	Supply, erection and commissioning of TG sets.	3x50
12.	Renganadi North East	Supply of TG set.	3x135
13.	Srisailm LBPS (Jointly with Sumitomo, Japan) Andhra Pradesh	Part supply of TG set.	6x200
14.	Gerusoppa-2, 3&4 Karnataka	Supply of TG set.	3x60
15.	S.S. Canal Gujarat	Supply of TG set.	5x50
16.	Bansagar Ph. III Gujarat	Supply, erection and commissioning of TG sets.	3x20
17.	Chandil Bihar	Supply of TG set.	2x4
18.	Upper Sindh-2 & 3 J&K	Supply of TG set	2x35
19.	Kurichu-1, 2 & 3 Bhutan	Supply of TG set.	3x15
II. ABROAD			
1.	Beji unit 1 & 2 Iraq	Supply of Gas Turbine Power plant & auxiliaries.	2x150
2.	Beji Unit 3 & 4 Iraq	Supply of Gas Turbine Power plant & auxiliaries.	2x150
3.	Rehab Zambia	330 kv sub-station	330 kv
4.	Baghabari Bangladesh	Gas Turbine Power Plant	100
5.	Mingechaur Azerbaijan	Hydro Generator Package	78.2 MVA

[English]

Review of PDS

1332. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have effected/propose to effect some changes in the policy pertaining to eligibility etc., under Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Govt. has initiated the following policy changes under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country.

(i) Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(ii) Foodgrains under TPDS are being allotted to States/UTs for families living below poverty line (BPL) based on population projection of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of 1995.

(iii) States/UTs have been authorised to lift rice and wheat against APL allocation at APL rates i.e., 100% of the economic cost or open market sale rates whichever are lower provided that it will not be less than price of rice for the State.

(iv) The Antyoda Anna Yojana launched by the Prime Minister on the 25th December, 2000 contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with foodgrains @ 25 kg. per family per month at highly subsidised rates — Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice.

(v) With a view to restructuring of PDS for levy sugar, the Government has decided that w.e.f. 1st February, 2001, levy sugar supply under PDS will be restricted to BPL families only except in case of North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where the existing arrangements will continue. The Government have also decided to that the population to be covered for supply of sugar under PDS would be on the basis of projected population as on 1st March, 2000. The per capita norm has been enhanced from 425 gms to 500 grams per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get benefited further.

Growth Centres

1333. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) the number and location of growth centres opened so far till date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funding pattern of these centres;

(c) the Central assistance released to these growth centres till date, year-wise and centre-wise;

(d) the extent to which objectives have been achieved by these growth centres in each State;

(e) whether the Government propose to open some more growth centres in the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if so, the location-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Out of the 71 growth centres to be developed throughout the country, 68 growth centres have been sanctioned by the Central Government so far. Their State-wise number and location and the amount of Central assistance released year-wise and State-wise have been given in the statement-I enclosed.

Under the financing pattern evolved in 1995, the Central Government provides Rs. 10 crore for each growth centre by way of equity. This has been enhanced to Rs. 15 crore in the case of growth centres in the North Eastern States. Balance funds are to be raised by the State Government and its agencies who implement the project.

(d) The objective of the Growth Centre Scheme is to develop basic infrastructure at selected sites in backward areas to enable the States to attract industries. Details State-wise are given in the Statement II enclosed.

(e) and (f) 3 growth centres remain to be sanctioned which are proposed to be set up one each in Assam, Sikkim and Uttaranchal States.

Statement-I

Details of Central Assistance Released to Growth Centres

Rs. in Lakhs

Sl. No	Name of the Growth Centre	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (upto 26.2.2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
I.	ANDHRA PRADESH												
1.	Hindupur	50	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200
2.	Khammam	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
3.	Bobbilli	50	150	—	—	—	100	140	—	100	11	—	551
4	Ongole	50	150	—	—	—	100	—	150	200	—	—	650
II.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH												
5.	Niklok Ngorlung	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	48	50	—	148
III.	ASSAM												
6.	Chariduar	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	150	100	300
7.	Matia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	100	100	250
IV	BIHAR												
8	Begusarai	—	—	—	—	—	250	50	—	—	—	—	300
9.	Bhagalpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
10.	Chhapra	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
11.	Darbhanga	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	50
12.	Muzaffarpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
V.	CHHATISGARH												
13.	Borai	100	100	100	—	68	200	100	—	—	125	—	793
14.	Siltara	50	150	—	—	666	134	—	—	—	—	—	1000
15.	Electronic City	—	50	—	—	474	—	—	150	—	—	—	674
VI.	GUJARAT												
16.	Gandhidham	—	50	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	250	350
17.	Palanpur	—	50	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	150	250
18.	Vagra	—	50	150	100	660	40	—	—	—	—	—	1000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
VII.	HARYANA												
19.	Bawal	—	200	—	—	800	—	—	—	—	—	—	1000
20.	Saha	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	150	200
VIII.	HIMACHAL PRADESH												
21.	Kangra	—	—	—	—	—	—	450	—	—	—	—	450
IX.	JAMMU & KASHMIR												
22.	Lassipora	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	200	250
23.	Samba	50	150	—	—	—	—	400	—	50	200	—	850
X.	JHARKHAND												
24.	Hazaribagh	—	—	—	—	—	150	50	—	—	—	—	200
XI.	KARNATAKA												
25.	Dharwad	50	150	—	100	120	380	200	—	—	—	—	1000
26.	Raichur	50	150	—	—	120	140	220	—	120	—	—	800
27.	Hassan	50	150	—	—	100	500	140	60	—	—	—	1000
XII.	KERALA												
28.	Alappuzha-Malappuram	—	50	—	—	118	100	—	200	532	—	—	1000
29.	Kannur-Kozhikode	—	50	—	—	434	400	116	—	—	—	—	1000
XIII.	MADHYA PRADESH												
30.	Chainpura	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
31.	Ghirongi	100	100	300	100	400	—	—	—	—	—	—	1000
32.	Kheda	100	—	200	100	23	577	—	—	—	—	—	1000
33.	Satlapur	—	—	50	—	—	135	250	—	—	—	100	535
XIV.	MAHARASHTRA												
34.	Akola	—	200	—	—	—	—	100	450	—	200	—	950
35.	Chandrapur	—	200	—	—	—	100	—	100	200	60	—	660
36.	Dhule	—	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	200	50	500
37.	Nanded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	550	—	200	50	800
38.	Ratnagiri	—	200	—	—	—	—	40	200	—	—	—	440
XV.	MANIPUR												
39.	Lamlai-Napet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	100	150

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
XVI.	MEGHALAYA												
40.	Mehandipathar	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
XVII.	MIZORAM												
41.	Luangmual	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	250	300
XVIII.	NAGALAND												
42.	Ganeshnagar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	500	500	—	1050
XIX.	ORISSA												
43.	Chatrapur	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
44.	Kalinganagar-Duburi	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	50	—	150
45.	Jharsuguda	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
46	Kesinga	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
XX.	PONDICHERRY												
47.	Polagam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	250	—	300
XXI.	PUNJAB												
48.	Bhantida	100	—	500	100	200	100	—	—	—	—	—	1000
49.	Pathankot	50	150	74	—	526	200	—	—	—	—	—	1000
XXII.	RAJASTHAN												
50	Abu Road	50	150	—	—	300	360	140	—	—	—	—	1000
51.	Khara	50	150	—	—	100	—	—	50	—	100	—	450
52	Bhilwara	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	150	—	300
53.	Dholpur	—	—	50	—	150	50	—	70	—	—	—	320
54	Jhalawar	50	—	—	—	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	300
XXIII	TAMILNADU												
55	Erode	50	—	—	100	850	—	—	—	—	—	—	1000
56.	Tirunelveli	50	150	—	—	730	—	—	—	—	—	—	930
57	Oragadam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	150	200
XXIV.	TRIPURA												
58.	Bodhjung Nagar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250	300
XXV.	UTTAR PRADESH												
59.	Bijauli	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	200	350

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
60.	Jamaur	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	250
61.	Pakbara	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	250
62.	Dibiapur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50	100
63.	Khurja	—	—	50	—	—	200	—	170	—	—	—	420
64.	Satharia	50	—	—	—	—	400	—	—	—	—	—	450
65.	Sahjanwa	50	—	—	100	850	—	—	—	—	—	—	1000
XXVI.	WEST BENGAL												
66.	Bolpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
67.	Jalpaiguri	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
68.	Malda	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	50
	Total	1500	3650	1474	700	8039	4616	2896	2500	2000	2496	2550	32371

Statement-II

Objectives achieved under the Growth Centre Scheme State-wise.
(As on 15.09.2000)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Functioning Growth Centres where allotment of Industrial Plots has commenced	No. of Industrial Units established	Capital Investment (Rs. in Lakh)	Employment generated
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01	—	—	—
2.	Chhattisgarh	02	41	62483.00	2861
3.	Goa	01	69	28617.18	5953
4.	Gujarat	01	—	—	—
5.	Haryana	01	15	30000.00	300
6.	Himachal Pradesh	01	41	—	—
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	01	—	—	—
8.	Karnataka	03	300	509323.00	2686
9.	Kerala	01	—	51.50	25
10.	Madhya Pradesh	02	43	146732.40	8769
11.	Maharashtra	02	—	361.30	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Punjab	02	01	—	—
13.	Rajasthan	04	136	4031.00	1342
14.	Tamilnadu	01	07	1036.50	323
15.	Tripura	01	—	—	—
16.	Uttar Pradesh	03	133	6499.09	2856
	Total	27	786	789134.97	25115

Investment By China

1334. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese are eyeing several key sectors in the Indian Industry for investment opportunities and joint ventures and have sought a more positive Indian business outlook to enhance the existing volume of trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the extent to which the trade between the two countries have improved during the current financial year;

(c) the steps being taken further to improve the trade between the two countries;

(d) whether China has made it clear to the Indian industries that there is no threat to the Indian market from Chinese goods which account for 2.4 percent of India's total imports;

(e) if so, whether China has also suggested that Indian companies must expedite the vast potential for investment in the Chinese market; and

(f) if so, the extent to which India has been able to enter into the Chinese market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) With the steady liberalization of Indian FDI regime, many countries including China have evinced interest in key sectors for investment in India. In the post-liberalisation period, more than 90% of the approved Chinese investment has been in telecommunications and metallurgical industries.

(b) The Indo-China trade during April-October 2000-01, as compared to the April-October 1999-2000, has registered a growth of 36.90% in Rupee terms.

(c) Government of India works towards the improvement and expansion of trade with China. The various steps taken include exchange of delegations, holding of JBC meetings, exchange of commercial information, participation in fairs and exhibitions, etc.

(d) Chinese Authorities have stated that they are ready to cooperate with India in stopping illegal in ports from China which harms the interests of legitimate Chinese exports to India.

(e) It was agreed at the Government level and the JBC level between the two countries to facilitate and enhance bilateral investment between the two countries.

(f) A number of proposals of Indian businessmen have been approved for wholly-owned subsidiaries and joint ventures in China including that of M/s. Wockhardt Ltd., Cipla Ltd., Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., Mekaster International Pvt. Ltd., Orine Exports Ltd., etc.

[Translation]

Irregularities in the Bank of Rajasthan

1335. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints/representations on irregularities in The Bank of Rajasthan Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken so far in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have constituted any enquiry Committee in this regard; and

(e) if so, the findings of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Letters have been received from the All India Bank of Rajasthan Officers' Federation as well as Bank of Rajasthan Employees Union regarding the affairs of the Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its inspection of the Bank of Rajasthan Ltd. with reference to its financial position as on 31.12.1995 and the special scrutiny conducted by it thereafter, had revealed serious irregularities in the conduct of the Bank's business, most of which had occurred in respect of certain borrowal accounts connected with the Bangur Group. Consequently, two promoter directors of the Bank belonging to the Bangur Group were removed by RBI from the Bank's Board in October 1997. RBI has further reported that the Rajasthan High Court had in its judgement dated 27th July, 1999, on a writ petition filed by the Akhil Bharatiya Bank of Rajasthan Karmachari Sangh, directed RBI to take immediate action for restraining the nominees of the Bangur Group to participate in the affairs of the Bank of Rajasthan. Accordingly, two more directors of the Bank, who were nominees of the Bangur Group, were removed by RBI from the Bank's Board and 4 more directors, who were also nominees of the Bangur Group, ceased to be directors of the Bank's Board, since they were not re-elected. Further, the Rajasthan High Court had in its order dated 27th September, 1999, on a writ petition filed by the Akhil Bharatiya Karmachari Sangh, directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to enquire into the siphoning of funds by the Bangur Group and submit its report within a period of 6 months from the date of the order. Since the CBI has not been able to complete the enquiry, it has sought extension of time for a further period of 6 months from the Hon'ble Court to complete the enquiry.

[English]

Non-Banking Companies in Orissa

1336. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-banking companies functioning in Orissa;

(b) the number of depositors who have deposited their money in non-banking companies during the last three years and the amount thereof;

(c) the number of non-banking companies out of the above mentioned non-banking companies disappeared after collecting money from depositors;

(d) the action taken by the Government against those non-banking companies; and

(e) the measures adopted to stop such malpractices of non-banking companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 187 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which were incorporated in Orissa State have sent their applications for Certificate of Registration to the Reserve Bank.

(b) The information regarding number of persons who deposited their money with these companies during the last three years is not available with the RBI. However, based on the available information, the outstanding public deposits with the NBFCs registered in Orissa State during the last three years were as under:-

31.03.1998	Rs. 787.70 lacs
31.03.1999	Rs. 771.43 lacs
31.03.2000	Rs. 1005.44 lacs

(c) RBI has reported that 12 companies were untraceable at the address available with RBI.

(d) &(e) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes inter-alia compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has recently introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha which is expected to provide better safeguards to the depositors of NBFCs.

Khosla Committee on Censor Board

1337. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khosla Committee set up to review the viability of film censorship have made certain recommendations/suggestions for the restructure of Censor Board and the related rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Khosla Committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri G.D. Khosla, former Chief Justice, Punjab, had submitted its report on the 26th July, 1969. The recommendations of the Committee which included, inter-alia, introduction of a system of three fold classification of films and preparation of certification guidelines instead of censorship code were duly taken into consideration while formulating the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983.

VRS for RBI Employees

1338. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Voluntary Retirement Scheme is being introduced in Reserve Bank of India also; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it does not at present, intend to introduce a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its staff.

(b) Does not arise.

Filling up the Vacant SC/ST Posts

1339. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes posts vacant in promotional posts in various commissionerate of Central Excise and Customs of India in last three years, specially Patna commissionerate;

(b) whether some posts in same category have been dereserved;

(c) if so, the details of such dereservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes posts in last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons of dereserve the 10 posts of superintendent in Central Excise Commissionerate at Patna which was meant for SC and ST candidates by ignoring eligible SC candidates available for promotion in same grade?

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

(d) In accordance with the extent instructions relating to promotion and preparation of panel by Departmental Promotion Committee, panels are to be prepared year-wise and clubbing of vacancies are not permissible. Since the eligible SC/ST officers were available within the extended zone of consideration for the particular year of vacancies and clubbing of vacancies are not permissible, the proposal of the Central Excise Commissionerate, Patna for de-reserving the 10 posts for SC/ST was agreed to by the Ministry.

Economic Transition Plan by CII

1340. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CII has urged the Government to draw up an economic transition plan till 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CII has also identified and suggested certain measures to boost the economy till 2005; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

However, in a Memorandum entitled "24 Factors Leading to 8% p.a., GDP growth in the Medium Term — CII Analysis", the CII has listed 24 factors which will reverse the decline in industrial production.

The major factors include increase in millennium deposit inflows; reduction in subsidy and expenditure

through the fiscal responsibility act; financial sector deregulation; disinvestment and privatisation and strong export growth including software exports.

Strengthening of PDS

1341. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken several steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take other steps ensuring qualitative supply of wheat and rice to the people through the public distribution system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Government has undertaken as series of measures to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) throughout the country including rural areas.

(i) Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(ii) Additional requirement of foodgrains for any State, is met by the Government at economic cost.

(iii) Foodgrains under TPDS are allotted to States/ UTs for families living below poverty line (BPL) based on population projection of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of 1995.

(iv) Financial assistance under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Construction of godowns' is provided to the States/Union Territories for construction of godowns upto 2000 Metric tonnes capacity to ensure smooth flow of PDS commodities especially in rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas. Financial assistance has also been provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Purchase of vans' especially in remote and far flung areas for use as mobile fair price shops and also as carrier of foodgrains to the FPS for effective door delivery.

(v) In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption.

(vi) Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

(vii) Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched on 25.12.2000 to make TPDS more targeted to the poorest of the 5% of the population who may be called 'hungry'.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken following steps to improve the quality of foodgrains distributed through PDS:

(i) The Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of foodgrains (wheat and rice) free from insect infestation and conforming to PFA norms are issued to the State Governments with their full satisfaction regarding quality and quantity.

(ii) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments to inspect the stocks prior to issue from FCI godowns. The instructions have been issued by this Department to all the State Governments that the officer not below the rank of inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before issue in FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Government and FCI from the stocks to be issued under TPDS to be displayed at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of Government of India conduct surprise checks of FPSs to oversee the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

Release of Kerosene

1342. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is more release of kerosene to urban areas as compared to rural areas as also between the developed and backward States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of corrective measures taken/proposed to ensure equitable release of kerosene and other essential articles to the States strictly as per norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System. The allocation of Kerosene is made on historical basis i.e. last year's allocation plus additional allocation out of increase given at the national level based on the principal of giving higher increase to the States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-state disparity. Distribution of kerosene within the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

Foodgrains under TPDS are allocated to the States/ UTs based on the Statewise poverty estimates of Planning Commission. Allocation for BPL families has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2000 and allocation for APL families has been retained at the same level as at the time of introduction of TPDS in 1997.

Allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has been further been increased w.e.f. 1.12.2000 by shifting the base to population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of earlier population projection of 1995.

With regard to allocation of levy sugar, the Government have decided that w.e.f. 1st February, 2001, levy sugar under PDS will be restricted to BPL families only except in case of North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where the existing arrangements will continue. The Government have also decided that the population to be covered for supply of sugar under PDS would be on the basis of projected population as on 1st March, 2000. The per capita norm has been enhanced from 425 gms per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get benefited further.

Selection of TV Serials

1343. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down any policy regarding selection of TV serials and their duration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the popular serials abruptly taken off are being re-introduced on Doordarshan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has not laid down any policy. However, Doordarshan while selecting programmes, makes endeavour to strike a proper balance between entertainment, education and information in various formats such as documentary, telefilms, serials, series, features, songs, musical programmes, variety programmes etc. on various themes, to sustain the interest of viewers.

As per the guidelines the Selection Committee, while granting approval to any programme, specifies the number of episodes. Further extension beyond the specified number of episodes is granted by Doordarshan keeping in view the popularity of the programme, commercial return, quality of production and programme requirement etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export Promotion Industrial Parks

1344. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides Central grants to the State Governments for establishment of Export Promotion Industrial Parks in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of EPIPs established in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up more such parks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of proposals pending with the Government for clearance; and

(e) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(b) to (e) Approvals have so far been given for setting up of 23 Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIPs) on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments as per the statement enclosed. Proposals for setting up of EPIP in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura are pending for want of certain information from the respective State Governments.

Statement

Name of the States	Location of EPIP
Kerala	Kakkanad, Distt. Ernakulam
Maharashtra	Ambarnath, Distt. Thane.
Karnataka	(1) Hoodi, Distt. Bangalore.
	(2) Mangalore*
Rajasthan	(1) Sitapura, Distt. Jaipur.
	(2) Tapukara, Distt. Alwar*
U.P.	(1) Surajpur, Distt. Gautambudhnagar
	(2) Agra
Tamil Nadu	Gummidipoondi, Chengalpattu Distt.
Assam	Amingaon near Guwahati Distt. Kamrup.
A.P.	Pashamylaram, Distt. Medak.
Haryana	Kundli, Distt. Sonipat.
Punjab	Dhandari Kalan, Distt. Ludhiana
H.P.	Baddi, Distt. Solan.
Gujarat	Savli, Distt. Baroda.
Bihar	Hajipur, Distt. Vaishali.
Meghalaya	Byrnihat, Distt. Ribhoi.
M.P.	Pithampur, Distt. Dhar.
West Bengal	Durgapur, Distt. Burdwan.
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar, Distt. Khurda.
J&K	Samba, Distt. Jammu.
Nagaland	Ganeshnagar, Dimapur
Manipur	Khunuta Chingjin (Thoubal Distt).

* Proposal approved in principle.

[Translation]

NABARD Loan for Construction of Roads and Bridges

1345. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have asked for loans from the NABARD for construction of metalled roads/bridges in rural areas;

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

(c) the number of roads/bridges being constructed with the assistance of NABARD in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the mount given to Uttar Pradesh for construction of roads/bridges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Uttar Pradesh have requested for loans under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for construction of 254 metalled rural road projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 44.68 crore. For these projects NABARD has proposed to sanction Rs. 40.21 crore under RIDF and State Government contribution would be to the order of Rs. 4.47 crore.

(c) The details of road and bridge projects sanctioned by NABARD under different Branches of RIDF in Uttar Pradesh are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Tranch	Rural Road		Rural Bridge	
	No. of Roads	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Bridge	Amount Sanctioned
RIDF-II	1525	215.99	80	112.38
RIDF-III	1333	146.64	25	27.09
RIDF-IV	2455	340.38	102	140.06
RIDF-V	1081	125.16	39	79.57
RIDF-VI	1217	177.79	1	0.76

(d) The year-wise amount disbursed to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and during the current year, so far, are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Disbursed	
	Rural Road	Rural Bridge
1997-98	20.99	16.05
1998-99	99.20	10.45
1999-2000	153.21	30.27
2000-2001	78.74	27.69

[English]

Opening Foreign Bank Branches in Rural Areas

1346. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the foreign Banks generally set up their branches in metropolitan cities or large cities;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to make it obligatory on their part to set up branches in towns and rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The choice of centres where they shall open their branches is decided by the foreign banks purely on commercial considerations.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Prizes to Promote Hindi

1347. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Department of Official Language to give prizes to those staff/officers of Income Tax Department who do their work in Hindi;

(b) the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) whether the guidelines/criterial issued in O.M. of Department of Official Language are completely complied with specially in Income Tax Office of Ahmedabad in Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The guidelines and criteria laid by Department of Official Language from time are *ipso facto* applicable to Income Tax Department.

(b) Criteria in this regard are fixed by Department of Official Language. The same are applied to the Income Tax Department. The criteria are:

First Prize (2 prizes)	Rs. 200/- each
Second Prize (3 prizes)	Rs. 400/- each
Third Prize (5 prizes)	Rs. 300/- each

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

New Laws for Sick Companies

1348. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is coming up with a new law for insolvent and sick industries as reported in "The Economic Times" dated January 8, 2000;

(b) if so, the Government's stand relating to SICA and BIFR;

(c) whether the views/objections of Labour Ministry are also being taken into consideration;

(d) the manner by which the interests of workers are being protected;

(e) whether there is any proposal to create a Solvency Fund instead of scrapping BIFR and SICA; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Eradi Committee on Law Relating to Insolvency and Winding up of companies submitted its report to the Government on 31.8.2000. The Eradi Committee has inter-alia suggested setting up of a National Tribunal with the functions and powers presently exercised by (a) Company Law Board (CLB) (b) by High Court on winding up of Companies, amalgamation schemes or arrangement matters and (c) by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction/Appellate Authority for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 for rehabilitation of sick industrial units.

In view of the recommendations of the Eradi Committee a proposal to repeal Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and amendments to Companies Act, 1956 are under active consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Minister of Labour is one of the Members of the Group of Ministers on repeal of SICA and related matters. The proposed new law for

constitution of National Company Law Tribunal would incorporate necessary provisions to protect the interests of labour.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reward to Informers on Tax Evasion

1349. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any scheme to reward those who provide information in regard to tax evasion; and

(b) if so, the number of persons, who have been awarded during the last three years and the amount of income tax accrued to the Government from tax evaders on the basis of such information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The payment of reward to informants who provide information in regard to tax evasion is governed by 'Guidelines for grant of Rewards to Informants, 1993.'

(b) The total number of persons who have been sanctioned reward during the last three years is 563 and the aggregate amount of taxes collected on the basis of such information is Rs. 7687.06 lakhs (except Mumbai charge).

[English]

Budget Estimations of the Ministries

1350. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether faulty budget estimation and the undesirable tendency of the Ministries to grossly overestimate their funds required, not only lead to inefficient use of funds but also deprive other important sectors of the economy of the much needed resources; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) General Financial Rules provide the methodology for correct estimation of requirements of funds. Excesses/ savings over the approved Grants have not been significant. The trend of expenditure is reviewed by the Ministries concerned in consultation with the Finance Ministry and suitable adjustments are made at the Revised Estimates stage. Instances of savings and excesses over the approved appropriations are also commented upon in the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, which are examined by the Public Accounts Committee and their recommendations placed before the Parliament.

Recruitment of Sportsmen

1351. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sportsmen/sportswomen recruited by his Ministry and public sector undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years, zone-wise and discipline-wise, separately;

(b) whether the performance of all these sports personnel were satisfatory in the national and international events;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) During the years 1998 to 2000, only one candidate has been appointed as LDC in the Ministry and its public sector undertakings against sports quota on the recommendations of Staff Selection Commission. This appointment falls in the Delhi Zone and is of Judo discipline.

(b) and (c) The sportsman appointed in the Ministry won bronze medal in an International Judo Championship held in Bangkok during December, 2000 and secured second position in Senior Judo Championship held by Haryana State Judo Association in March, 2000. He was also selected by Department of Youth Affairs to undergo training in this discipline in Japan in the year 2000, which, he has completed successfully.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment Made by LIC on Fake Death Certificate

1352. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether payments have been made on fake death certificates by the Life Insurance Corporation to the tune of lacs of rupees;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of the Government in each of the last three years; and

(c) the action against the LIC officials responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has stated that a few cases have come to their notice wherein payments have been made on the basis of fake death certificates. Details for the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of vigilance Cases registered	No. of policies involved
1998-99	1	1
1999-2000	2	4
2000-2001	2	13

(c) As regards the case of relating to year 1998-99, the services of agents responsible have been terminated and the medical examiner has been removed from the panel of LIC. As regards two cases relating to year 1999-2000, the services of the agent responsible have been terminated and disciplinary proceedings against a development officer and other responsible officials are being contemplated by the LIC. In so far as two cases relating to year 2000-2001, LIC has referred the matter to CBI for detailed investigation in one case and in the second case, LIC is taking action against the responsible officials.

[Translation]

Industries in Bihar

1353. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public/private industries functioning in Bihar as on date;

(b) whether any Government or Non-Government Organisations have provided funds for the revival of the closed industries of Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made any efforts to encourage small scale industries in Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) After the announcement of New Industrial Policy in 1991, till 31st January, 2001, 15 non-SSI units have been set up in the State of Bihar. In addition 83,073 SSI units are reported to have been set up as on 31st December, 1999 in that State.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units, which include guidelines of RBI to banks; amalgamation of sick units with healthy units; setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act (SICA). These measures are applicable to the industrial units in all States/Union Territories including Bihar.

(d) and (e) The Central Government on 30th August, 2000 announced a comprehensive policy for promotion and development of the small scale sector in the country including Bihar. This policy provides fiscal/credit incentives together with infrastructural, technological and marketing support. The central policies for the SSI sector serve as guidelines, while each State evolves its own policy and package of incentives.

[English]

FERA cases Against Film Personalities

1354. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4156 on August 18, 2000 and state:

(a) the reasons for not taking action under FERA against the film personalities from whom US $ 11 60,000 were seized;

(b) whether assessments in remaining cases have been completed; and

(c) if so, details thereof and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) FDRs worth US$ 11,60,000 seized from the premises of M/s. Super Cassettes Industries Ltd. have been made out of export proceeds as the assessee is engaged in the manufacture as well as expert of Audio cassettes, CDs etc. In view of this prima facie ther was no case for reference to FERA. The block assessment proceedings have already been initiated and the appropriate conclusion will be drawn when the assessement is finalised.

(b) and (c) The block assessment proceedings were initiated in consequence of search and the result of assessments are mentioned in the attached statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of case	Details of Assessment		
		Date of Search	Assessed income (Rs. in lakhs)	Tax Collected Till Date (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jitendra Kapoor (Actor)	15.12.1997	156.68	15.66
2.	Basant Kumar Patel (Financer)	20.10.1997	54.20	63.58
3	R.P.. Manikchand (Distributor)	20.07.1997	15.02	Nil
4.	Krishan Kumar (Individual) Actor	10.12.1998	4.40	No Tax Collected so far
	Super Cassettes Industries	Answer to Part (a) refers		
5.	M. Kartik	18.12.1997	50.28	18.23
6.	P.D. Abraham (Producer)	24.07.1997	274.00	42.00
7.	Roja Combines Production & Khwaja Moinuddin (Producer)	25.11.1997	The Block Asstt. have been set aside by the CIT (A) for being done afresh. The department has appealed against the orders of CIT (A) before the Appellate Tribunal	Nil
8.	Akkiniyayeamman (Distributor)	17.03.1998	The assessee has filed an application before the Settlement Commission & the application has been	10.16

1	2	3	4	5
			admitted by the Commission. The final orders are yet to be passed by the Settlement Commission.	
9.	V. Shekhar (Director)	08.05.1997	07.31	03.63
10.	Fazil (Director)	24.07.1997	129.93	20.25
11.	Ms. S. Tamil Selvi (Costume Designer)	02.07.1997	8.26	1.63

Coffee Plantations in Orissa

1355. SHRI PRAEHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the coffee growing areas in Orissa and other States, State-wise;

(b) the achievement made on coffee plantation in these States as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government had a proposal for the expansion of areas under coffee plantation in these States during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) In the State of Orissa main coffee growing areas are Koraput and Phulbani Districts. The main coffee growing areas in other traditional coffee growing States are given below:

Karnataka	-	Chikmagalur, Coorg, Hassan, Mysore etc.
Kerala	-	Wynad, Travancore, Nelliampathies.
Tamilnadu	-	Pulneys, Nilgris, Shevroys (Salem), Anamalais (Coimbatore)

In addition, coffee is also grown in some non-traditional/non-conventional areas in Andhra Pradesh and North Eastern Region.

(b) The total area under coffee cultivation is around 3.40 lakh hectares. The State-wise break-up is as under:

Karnataka	-	1,92,130 ha.
Kerala	-	84,139 ha.
Tamil Nadu	-	30,681 ha.
Andhra Pradesh	-	20,100 ha.
Orissa	-	1,862 ha.
NER States	-	8,394 ha.
Non-Conventional Areas	-	3,000 ha.

(c) and (d) For development of coffee both in traditional and non-traditional areas, a number of plan schemes are being operated by the Coffee Board during the 9th Five Year Plan. The Government of India through the Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting programmes, quality improvement programmes and water augmentation programmes has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary backup support like supply of seed for planting purposes, etc.

For the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, in particular, a "Special Area Programme" is being operated by the Board, which envisages expansion of coffee in areas identified as suitable for coffee cultivation, consolidation of existing coffee holdings through maintenance of adequae plant population and adoption of intensive cultivation measures and upgradation of coffee

quality through supply of coffee processing machineries like pulpers and hullers. The Board provides a subsidy of Rs. 15,000/- per ha. for expansion and consolidation of coffee. The cost of coffee processing machines like pulpers and hullers is also subsidised to an extent of 50% of their cost.

Investment by Banks on Government Securities

1356. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2219 on December 1, 2000 and state:

(a) the actual interest earned by public sector banks by investing in the Government securities during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether some of the public sector banks have also been investing public money in stock markets and have suffered losses therein; and

(c) if so, exact loss suffered by these banks on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The information regarding interest earned by the public sector banks on Government securities during the last three years, bank-wise, is given in the attached statement.

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

Statement

Interest Earned by the Public Sector Banks on Government Securities During the Last three Years

(Rupees in Crores)

		1999-2000 Interest Earned on Government Securities	1998-1999 Interested Earned on Government Securities	1997-1998 Interest Earned on Government Securities
		1	2	3
1.	Allahabad Bank	890.27	772.51	654.19
2.	Andhra Bank	616.49	362.75	340.86
3.	Bank of Baroda	1397.21	1298.95	1165.72
4.	Bank of India	938.34	819.48	335.02
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	589.30	360.23	340.88
6.	Canara Bank	1273.24	1132.69	993.75
7.	Central Bank of India	1409.87	1349.49	835.08
8.	Corporation Bank	461.01	323.94	383.97
9.	Dena Bank	462.72	635.58	464.69
10.	Indian Bank	805.49	708.39	572.77
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	656.45	552.88	451.89
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	815.98	609.96	371.36
13.	Punjab National Bank	2426.34	1914.85	1822.97
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	534.21	452.72	388.66
15.	Syndicate Bank	652.99	624.10	680.60

		1	2	3
16.	UCO Bank	1052.15	419.72	589.21
17.	Union Bank of India	1074.57	926.60	799.15
18.	United Bank of India	810.00	673.00	552.64
19.	Vijaya Bank	388.79	310.72	299.51
	Total Nationalised Banks	17255.42	14248.55	12042.92
20.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	404.82	358.12	292.16
21.	State Bank of Hyderabad	596.20	420.45	348.85
22.	State Bank of India	7644.79	5217.63	4567.67
23.	State Bank of Indore	242.01	194.78	157.52
24.	State Bank of Mysore	318.43	259.36	229.59
25.	State Bank of Patiala	392.21	325.26	346.25
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	210.31	175.72	150.55
27.	State Bank of Travancore	560.00	470.27	371.54
	Total SBI Group	10368.77	7421.59	6464.13
	Total Public Sector Banks	27624.20	21670.15	18507.05

[Translation]

UTI into Mutual Fund

1357. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to convert the UTI in to Mutual Fund by abolishing UTI Act, 1963;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure security of amount invested by the investors in the various schemes of UTI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) UTI is an autonomous body created by an Act of Parliament. As per the UTI Act, the Board of Trustees, in discharging its functions, acts on business principles, keeping in view the interests of units holders. All schemes floated by UTI after July 1994 are within the regulatory purview of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Most of the schemes launched prior to 1994 have also been voluntarily subjected to supervision and inspection by SEBI and compliance with its guidelines for mutual funds. In July, 2000, as suggested by Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning to review its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual fund industry.

[English]

Permission to Karnataka to Export Sugar

1358. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given permission to Karnataka to export sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated value of sugar stocks piled up in several sugar factories in Karnataka; and

(d) the action taken to clear the huge stocks and to allow export of more sugar from Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government have allowed export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar from the country during the licensing year 2000-2001. No specific quantity has been allotted for export to any State Government. The exports of sugar are being undertaken by the sugar factories/traders under the Exim policy of the Government.

(c) The value of the stocks held by the sugar factories varies with the prices of freesale sugar in the open market and as such it is not possible to indicate the value of sugar stocks held by Karnataka sugar factories:-

(d) In order to boost exports of sugar which can reduce the stocks, Government has taken the following measures:

(i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation. This exemption, which was initially available for a period of six months, commencing from 1st June, 2000, has been extended upto 31.3.2001.

(ii) It has been decided to treat the quantity exported for commercial exports as advance free sale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.

(iii) It has also been decided that the levy exemption on the quantity of sugar meant for commercial exports, if it cannot be availed by the sugar factory out of 1999-2000 season's production due to the completion of its levy obligation, may be availed by the concerned sugar factory from the production in the ensuing sugar season.

(iv) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the F.O.B. value of exports of sugar has been allowed.

In addition, higher releases of freesale sugar in the domestic market are being made.

Mutual Funds Business by Banks

1359. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has asked the public sector banks to establish their mutual fund business; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by each public sector bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Central Government had issued a Gazette Notification on 29th June, 1987 whereby a banking company may engage in mutual fund business, under Section 6(1) (0) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Thereafter, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had advised all commercial banks to seek prior approval of RBI for setting up mutual fund business. RBI had granted approval to the following banks to set up mutual funds in the form of a 'Trust', in consultation with Government of India:-

(i) State Bank of India

(ii) Canara Bank

(iii) Punjab National Bank

(iv) Bank of India

(v) Indian Bank

(vi) Bank of Baroda.

Office of Tea Board in Nagaland

1360. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Tea-Board and its subsidiary office in the State of Nagaland;

(b) if so, the details of the studies conducted in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Tea Board has maintained close liaison with the State Government of Nagaland for the last two decades for encouraging tea developmental activities. Feasibility study conducted in the districts of Toensung, Phek, Kohima, Zhenoboto and Mokokchung during 1998 an 1999 revealed suitable climatic conditions for growing tea in these areas. Tea development activity to a certain extent has already taken place in Mon and Mokokchung districts.

Tea Board's field offices located in Jorhat and Guwahati are adequately equipped to monitor tea developmental activities of the State and to extend financial assistance under the on-going tea developmental schemes. As such it is felt that there is no immediate need for opening a field office in Nagaland.

Norms for Export Items

1361. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) propose to set up an input and output norm for some new export items;

(b) if so, the details thereof and norms so decided;

(c) the details of the items for which the said norms have been set; and

(d) the extent to which these norms are likely to be helpful to importer and exporter in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Duty Exemption Scheme under the Export and Import Policy allows import of Duty free inputs for export production of various export items on the basis of the Standard Input Output Norms (SION) published by the DGFT in the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. 2). These Standard Input Output Norms (SION) facilitate issue of Duty Free Licences under the Duty Exemption Scheme speedily and on uniform basis to the exporters. In view of the rapid scientific and technological developments in the country and the changing international trade scenario, the exercise of standardisation and notification of Input Output Norms is a continuous and ongoing process. More than 4,500 Input Output Norms have been standardised and notified upto 31.3.2000 published in the form of Hand Book of Procedure (Vol. 2). Further 279 new Norms have been fixed during the period from 1.4.2000 to 01.02.2001 and the same have been published from time to time vide various Public Notices in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-I Section-1.

Use of Anti-Dumping Laws

1362. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director-General of World Trade Organisation (WTO) has advised the Indian Government to make use of its anti-dumping laws against the farm products from developed countries being dumped into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether he has also suggested a separate panel to address the concerns of the affecting countries; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No such advice has been formally received from the Director General of World Trade Organisation in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

RBI Guidelines Regarding Settlement of NPA

1363. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued any directions to nationalised banks to carefully settle all offer of non-performing loans expeditiously;

(b) if so, the main points of the guidelines issued to the banks;

(c) whether RBI monitors implementation of such guidelines to settle outstanding loans in rural areas also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines in July, 2000 to all public sector banks for recovery of dues relating to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) through a simplified, non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism. These guidelines cover:

(i) All NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become 'doubtful' or 'loss' as on 31st March, 1997, as well as 'sub-standard' as on 31.3.1997 which have subsequently become 'doubtful' or 'loss' category, with outstanding balance of Rs. 5 crore and below on the cut-off date.

(ii) Cases pending before Courts/DRTs/BIFR.

These guidelines also contain the settlement formula, mode of payment etc. As regards NPAs of Rs. 5 crore and above, these guidelines provide for personal supervision of such cases by the Chairman & Managing Directors and either evolving of policy guidelines by the

Board of Directors for one-time settlement of such cases or taking appropriate legal action. The guidelines will remain operative upto 31.3.2001.

(c) and (d) RBI monitors the recovery of NPAs, including those pertaining to rural areas, under these guidelines, on an ongoing basis. RBI has convened a series of meetings with the Chief Executives of the public sector banks with a view to ensuring that they bestow attention to the implementation of these guidelines and to provide clarifications on operational issues as also to review the progress in recovery. RBI has advised the Chief Executives to review the implementation of these guidelines in a Board Meeting specially convened for the purpose and also to set up Task Forces at Regional/ Zonal/Controlling offices to monitor the progress of recovery

Training Courses for Tea Growers

1364. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Board had prepared a scheme to impart a short-term training course for small tea growers;

(b) if so, the States in which such training courses have been launched as on December 31, 2000; and

(c) the States in which this training course is likely to be launched during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Tea Board in its on-going Small Growers Development Scheme arrange training programme for the benefit of small tea growers through the following agencies:-

(1) Assam Agricultural University for the small growers in North-Eastern States.

(2) North-Bengal University and the Tea Research Association for the growers in North-Bengal, Bihar & Sikkim.

(3) HPKVV under Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR) Palampur for the growers in Himachal Pradesh.

(4) United Planters Association of Southern India (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) for the small tea growers in South India. A special programme for creating awareness amongst the small growers and bought leaf factories owners has been launched in South India during 2000. The programme is being extended shortly to Assam and North-Bengal.

Investigation Made by Enforcement Directorate

1365. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate informed the Delhi High Court that they had completed the investigations against the three TV channels - Zee-Star and Sony for their alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973;

(b) if so, whether the Delhi High Court had given its final verdict;

(c) if so, the action the Ministry has taken against these three TV channels; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such violations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir, in respect of Star TV and Sony TV, the Enforcement Directorate has apprised the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi about the completion of investigations concerning advertisements. Investigation in the case of Zee TV has been completed in respect of CWP 5369/99, but in the case of Crl. W.P. 818/98, certain matters are still pending.

(b) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has disposed of CWP 5369/99 without further direction vide order dated 18.12.2000. In respect of Crl. W.P. 818/98 the case is listed for next hearing on 23.3.2001.

(c) Adjudication proceedings against Zee T.V. and connected parties have been initiated and show cause notices have been issued. Adjudication proceedings against Star and Sony T.V. are also being contemplated.

(d) Wherever violation of FERA/FEMA is noticed, action is taken as per law.

Expenditure Reforms Commission Report

1366. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has submitted its third report in addition to earlier reports;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the third report;

(c) the progress made in the implementation of earlier reports; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Commission in the third report?

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

(b) The third report deals with restructuring of the Department of Economic Affairs including its attached and subordinate offices.

(c) As regards the first report, the recommendation regarding modification of economic cost of wheat and rice, has been implemented. The remaining reports have already been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/ Departments for examination/implementation.

(d) On the basis of recommendations made in the third report of ERC, the Government has announced abolition of 3 Secretary/Special Secretary level posts, 2 Joint Secretary level posts and 44 posts of the level of Director and below, in the Department of Economic Affairs. In addition, abolition of 1675 posts in the Currency & Coinage Division and downsizing of the National Savings Organisation from a level of 1191 staff to about 25 has also been announced.

Indo-Russia Joint Commission

1367. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHIRMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of !ndo-Russian joint commission was held at Moscow recently;

(b) if so, the details of the bilateral and International issues discussed therein;

(c) the details regarding review of rupee-rouble trade agreement over the past three years and percetions for the future;

(d) the outcome of the meeting; and

(e) the details of the agreements and MoU's signed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The 7th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) was held in Moscow on 15 January, 2001.

(b) During the IRIGC meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the inherent strength of Indo-Russian relations which had been consolidated into a strategic partnership with the signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation in October, 2000. The IRIGC noted that there have been positive trends in the development of trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation. The two sides, however, acknowledged that the volume of bilateral trade did not correspond to the existing potential and agreed to take appropriate measures towards its further expansion and diversification. The issues considered included export from India to the Russian Federation of additional quantities of tea, possibility of export of agricultural goods, export of hi-tech items and import of rough diamonds from the Russian Federation into India. Cooperation in the energy sector between India and the Russian Federation, where there are considerable prospects, was also discussed. The Commission also noted the overall progress in bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and technology, power and non-conventional energy sources, metallurgy, coal, information technology, environment and natural resources, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals and culture.

(c) & (d) The issue of utilisation of funds available under the Rupee debt repayment route was deliberated upon during the 7th Session of the IRIGC. It was agreed by the Indian and the Russian side, that all efforts need to be made both at the governmental level and through increased interaction among Indian and Russian businessmen to prepare for trading through normal commercial channels when the annual Rupee debt repayments will get reduced considerably and ultimately get depleted.

(e) A Protocol of the 7th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission (IRIGC) was signed at the conclusion of the meeting by the Co-Chairmen of the IRIGC, Finance Minister of India and the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Mr. Ilya Klebanov.

Duties Paid By Software Companies

1368. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total income-tax, excise duty and customs duty paid by each of the leading Software Companies i.e. Penta Soft, Satyam, H.C.L., NIIT and Wipro during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether any case of customs duty evasion by any of the above companies has been detected;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action already taken/proposed to be taken for evasion of tax by those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The figures of total income-tax paid by these companies during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till date) are as follows:-

Name of the Company	Rs. in Crore
Penta Soft	04.16
Satyam	30.37
NIIT HCL Infosystems	11.00
HCL Technologies	07.75
NIIT	36.28
Wipro	60.73

Information relating to customs duty paid by these companies, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) Two cases of evasion of Customs Duty have been detected against the following Software Companies during the year 1999-2000, the details of which are as follows:-

Name of the Company	Duty evaded (Rs. in lakh)	Action taken
M/s Wipro Acer, Ltd., Bangalore	19.23	Case Adjudicated, and the party paid the differential duty and the penalty of Rs. 18.50 lakhs
M/s Wipro Ltd., Bangalore,	Rs. 73.94	Show Cause Notice Issued.

[Translation]

Regional Rural Banks

1369. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The profit/losses incurred by each Regional Rural Bank during the last three years;

(b) the total amount as loan provided by these banks during the above period and the amount recovered out of it;

(c) the total NPA of these banks as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the NPA of these banks and revive the lose making banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The profit/loss of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), loan provided by them during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000 and recovery percentage as on 30th June, 1997, 1998&1999 are furnished RRB-wise in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) The total NPA of the RRBs was Rs. 3039 crore as on 31st March, 2000. The steps taken to reduce the NPA of RRBs and revive the loss making banks are as under:-

(i) Sponsor Banks have formulated Development Action Plan (DAPs)/Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for ensuring time bound performance on the part of their RRBs for reduction of NPA and reviving loss making RRBs;

(ii) Guidelines on income recognition, assett classification and provisioning were made effective to RRBs since the year ending 31st March, 1996 and NPAs are identified by each RRB under these guidelines with reference to the year-end position NPAs are fundamentally based on the recovery position of the banks who were advised to evolve strategies to reduce NPAs by concentrating on recovery of old dues.

(iii) The RRBs have been asked to initiate sustained efforts towards monitoring and recovery of NPAs and avoid creation of new NPAs.

The above steps have resulted in reduction of NPAs by RBBs. During the last four years, the NPAs of RRBs stand reduced from the level of 43% as at the end of March, 1996 to 36.8% as at the end of March, 1997, 32.8% as at the end of March 1998, 27.7% as at the end of March, 1999 and 23.1% at the end of March, 2000.

Statement

Profit/Loss, Loans issued and Recovery (%) of Regional Rural Banks

Rs. Lakh

S.No	Name of RRB	Profit/Loss			Loans issued			Recovery (%) As on 30 June		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Haryana Ksh. Gramin Bank	17.99	110.67	149.87	3329.22	3209.52	4238.75	55.07	53.44	60.18
2.	Gurgaon Gramin Bank	1230.01	1355.98	1507.36	6559.00	8583.49	10459.47	87.99	85.49	86.54
3.	Hissar-Sirsa Ksh. Gramin Bank	158.06	218.67	258.03	20911.00	3025.41	4571.22	84.65	80.42	83.65
4.	Ambala Kurushetra Gramin Bank	85.69	109.67	176.27	2773.27	3180.63	3346.38	79.30	73.19	69.10
5.	Himachal Gramin Bank	109.52	265.65	404.14	2549.78	3549.40	5475.27	67.71	68.89	74.94
6.	Parvatiya Gramin Bank	46.64	116.24	160.53	603.25	733.51	908.21	72.08	69.30	71.01
7.	Jammu Rural Bank	507.70	713.92	531.81	1608.38	1749.87	1872.62	30.74	34.77	47.18
8.	Ellaqui Dehati Bank	-722.86	-359.13	-493.31	199.61	223.41	290.10	0.00	1.72	1.72
9.	Kamraj Rural Bank	-299.90	-303.60	-225.33	675.00	825.00	1035.36	40.10	40.55	52.33
10.	Shivalik Ksh. Gramin Bank	261.18	404.76	504.25	1536.00	1736.89	2141.92	65.05	76.10	80.54
11.	Kapurthala-Ferozpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	53.34	103.10	141.32	972.66	1310.50	2014.12	39.00	48.95	70.21
12.	Gurdaspur-Amritsar Ksh. Gramin Bank	76.75	285.52	491.40	2084.26	2253.79	3391.60	69.30	64.76	75.96
13.	Malwa Gramin Bank	283.14	311.76	401.99	3851.43	4350.14	5098.36	95.00	94.90	94.55
14.	Faridkot Bhatinda Ksh. Gramin Bank	150.01	157.88	169.61	1287.11	1621.64	1848.22	73.33	74.85	80.89
15.	Jaipur Nagapur Anchlik Gramin Bank	-76.63	451.84	828.32	3447.65	4038.36	6417.69	53.11	55.58	65.38
16.	Marwar Gramin Bank	65.74	137.51	268.38	4541.38	6421.70	7048.10	84.37	90.15	91.01
17.	Shekhawati Gramin Bank	33.16	113.24	255.90	2328.00	2659.11	2952.68	60.28	60.19	48.15
18.	Marudhar Ksh. Gramin Bank	-393.96	-385.18	-281.18	1152.33	1597.65	1778.56	54.38	62.19	74.09
19.	Alwar-Bharatpur Anchlik Gramin Bank	-26.07	-163.92	107.54	2146.76	2629.34	4372.39	47.18	49.91	61.35
20.	Aravali Ksh. Gramin Bank	-234.46	-274.92	-329.80	1899.20	1675.90	1870.50	45.51	53.61	53.73
21.	Hadoti Ksh. Gramin Bank	-187.58	-90.36	197.05	2259.50	2602.74	2753.55	46.19	47.70	51.66
22.	Mewar Anchlik Gramin Bank	-105.55	-100.31	101.83	1096.37	1332.87	1703.01	49.73	55.26	61.17
23.	Thar Anchlik Gramin Bank	-104.10	-185.39	-121.66	942.57	1194.74	1452.49	60.39	61.59	64.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	Bundi-Chittorgarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	40.38	36.19	49.11	1660.95	2520.44	2201.35	68.79	62.37	69.48
25.	Bhilwara-Ajmer Ksh. Gramin Bank	108.71	137.23	270.97	2279.15	2454.41	3303.57	69.66	71.17	61.05
26.	Dungarpur-Banswara Ksh. Gramin Bank	-81.75	2.24	6.39	1040.81	1188.72	1187.84	45.23	61.35	62.75
27.	Sringanganar Ksh Gramin Bank	-38.18	3.46	93.42	2074.25	2846.77	3180.23	78.02	83.83	83.72
28.	Bikaner Ksh. Gramin Bank	-36.55	-35.51	4.03	592.40	717.45	1100.00	60.03	78.30	77.64
29.	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	8.03	20.31	55.05	1112.82	899.84	456.62	49.70	55.17	54.00
30.	Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank	318.45	-194.51	170.38	2068.42	2300.11	2494.92	25.03	23.62	29.48
31.	Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank	797.06	101.01	143.53	981.56	1138.91	1389.95	22.98	61.16	62.92
32.	Cachar Gramin Bank	-125.16	92.42	132.65	518.31	796.63	1268.13	32.45	33.74	52.07
33.	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	-198.69	-131.25	-83.45	285.69	315.75	308.95	26.64	24.88	26.69
34.	Subansiri Gaonlia Bank	65.10	176.98	74.27	195.82	336.57	485.45	18.07	18.45	11.78
35.	Manipu Rural Bank	-64.13	-53.30	-47.81	157.85	101.18	252.44	24.03	29.53	33.69
36.	Khasi Jaintia Rural Ka Bank	312.99	292.27	344.40	800.80	892.06	981.11	32.05	41.19	41.74
37.	Mizoram Rural Bank	64.50	61.27	34.41	481.43	387.46	528.68	63.31	58.70	63.39
38.	Nagaland Rural Bank	3.33	7.68	7.24	21.46	23.71	51.04	54.25	32.77	48.84
39.	Tripura Gramin Bank	-1297.52	-738.16	-669.43	1250.32	1603.87	1783.84	10.71	11.61	15.78
40.	Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank	466.92	408.09	431.24	3222.00	2932.50	2779.31	30.35	50.12	55.09
41.	Champaran Ksh. Gramin Bank	-862.82	-928.69	-598.07	430.00	730.000	1560.48	22.81	32.39	59.57
42.	Magadh Gramin Bank	122.25	464.62	623.79	1636.84	2889.10	2496.72	35.38	36.10	39.66
43.	Kosi Ksh. Gramin Bank	-803.53	-587.12	-433.66	897.88	1075.38	1409.49	36.47	34.54	33.17
44	Vaishali Ksh. Gramin Bank	-962.50	-647.58	-320.66	1668.47	1501.17	2003.30	38.40	13.18	41.18
45.	Monghyr Ksh. Gramin Bank	12.18	-1311.46	-70.64	1025.10	1386.61	1467.00	44.26	18.67	13.90
46.	Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	-102.66	106.35	172.53	1224.44	1343.86	913.33	18.70	28.39	21.26
47.	Madhubani Ksh. Gramin Bank	-627.01	-541.43	-487.56	645.40	647.00	733.25	8.36	8.36	52.94
48.	Nalanda Gramin Bank	-691.30	-537.72	-356.17	624.15	725.32	889.27	32.68	50.20	57.59
49.	Singhbhum Ksh. Gramin Bank	19.80	22.08	6.06	1303.80	1326.20	1604.00	19.83	35.44	38.68
50.	Mithila Ksh. Gramin Bank	-449.87	-351.26	-262.29	442.28	823.43	906.21	43.85	47.42	41.87
51.	Samastipur Ksh. Gramin Bank	-308.93	-91.67	200.12	1143.39	1303.67	1218.49	55.12	77.12	57.70
52.	Palamau Ksh. Gramin Bank	-331.60	-178.84	67.03	820.00	908.00	978.00	56.43	30.82	22.26
53.	Ranchi Ksh. Gramin Bank	-250.69	-105.15	-176.32	795.24	1010.99	1101.36	49.57	55.40	60.29
54.	Gopalganj Ksh. Gramin Bank	252.63	424.71	449.41	451.00	614.00	770.20	16.49	20.51	60.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
55.	Saran Ksh. Gramin Bank	-385.96	-314.04	-164.00	289.00	591.40	580.00	21.05	28.62	30.85
56.	Siwan Ksh. Gramin Bank	102.70	420.15	607.25	834.00	1135.00	1264.00	36.78	59.61	57.40
57.	Giridih. Ksh. Gramin Bank	48.43	24.99	63.76	448.00	536.34	768.15	32.80	35.05	37.32
58.	Hajaribagh Ksh. Gramin Bank	56.25	167.03	262.61	352.00	599.59	751.00	44.95	46.41	48.83
59.	Patliputra Gramin Bank	13.47	46.29	70.40	240.62	334.11	524.81	46.98	61.19	62.81
60.	Bhagalpur Banka Ksh. Gramin Bank	-12.45	-92.64	-120.74	655.32	106.24	269.50	27.26	28.46	30.21
61.	Begusarai Ksh. Gramin Bank	14.99	2.43	47.39	218.91	284.30	342.04	40.82	42.01	36.99
62.	Puri Gramin Bank	-933.33	-572.42	19.33	4076.73	7137.52	9761.58	72.16	74.08	78.62
63.	Bolangir Anchlik Gramin Bank	-1105.71	-1074.55	-1405.46	2686.58	2923.03	3238.78	49.77	56.11	58.60
64.	Cuttack Gramin Bank	-735.65	-459.17	-209.36	2925.42	3245.25	4672.54	53.38	53.26	51.78
65.	Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	325.49	42.79	102.19	4438.00	4555.61	4678.31	64.66	64.72	65.52
66.	Kalahandi Anchlik Gramin Bank	-195.10	11.23	28.05	1757.00	2360.12	2512.78	56.32	61.95	64.92
67.	Baitarani Gramin Bank	-421.59	-402.94	-164.75	1922.00	2517.61	3503.20	54.10	55.03	58.52
68.	Balasore Gramin Bank	-793.59	-954.82	-833.50	582.00	725.28	783.77	47.05	41.69	38.21
69.	Rushikulya Gramin Bank	11.45	251.55	132.73	2662.95	2930.60	3623.49	71.08	70.01	70.50
70.	Dhenkanal Gramin Bank	14.02	145.37	180.44	3300.00	3646.68	4855.00	69.40	73.41	72.34
71.	Gaur Gramin Bank	-958.15	-1563.88	-831.99	2067.00	3011.13	4598.75	32.26	29.80	34.90
72.	Mallabhum Gramin Bank	-807.61	-290.22	44.33	3247.66	5043.84	6068.63	38.21	40.05	45.14
73.	Mayurakshi Gramin Bank	-312.04	-350.77	-493.67	1828.00	2684.61	2826.67	40.74	36.97	49.14
74.	Uttar Banga Ksh. Gramin Bank	-595.76	-538.97	-331.38	2085.55	2948.58	5236.26	49.92	53.79	51.77
75.	Nadia Gramin Bank	-137.95	60.83	179.50	1062.21	1019.98	945.23	40.80	41.59	44.02
76.	Sagar Gramin Bank	16.39	13.15	149.72	1541.16	1529.42	1780.49	35.59	39.77	41.00
77.	Bardhaman Gramin Bank	107.07	20.87	100.20	1827.88	2492.42	3043.19	50.47	48.85	49.10
78.	Howrah Gramin Bank	104.06	109.02	29.59	1173.25	1559.14	1624.56	40.63	40.58	42.00
79.	Murshiabad Gramin Bank	10.93	-135.96	27.78	875.00	975.25	1312.71	36.44	58.85	59.71
80.	Kshetriya Gramin Bank	13.56	24.38	150.83	2298.00	2048.12	3206.12	52.52	43.88	60.06
81.	Bilaspur-Raipur Ksh. Gramin Bank	-328.49	37.94	18.54	2743.28	2161.78	1974.95	66.82	69.14	68.00
82.	Rewa-Sidhi Gramin Bank	27.68	315.17	217.36	823.04	849.79	795.11	49.78	61.09	54.70
83.	Bundelkhand Ksh. Gramin Bank	-117.98	144.69	58.02	1027.00	1360.42	2167.09	51.01	54.49	36.89
84.	Sharda Gramin Bank	-64.30	54.18	115.37	596.91	747.81	868.01	30.03	33.04	36.18
85.	Surguja Ksh. Gramin Bank	-360.17	-251.57	-75.38	538.91	627.58	851.32	21.86	26.97	37.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
86	Bastar Ksh. Gramin Bank	-341.06	-352.94	-445.60	828.32	756.86	680.92	55.24	54.69	61.37
87	Durg-Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank	101.46	191.36	221.48	1700.42	1428.52	861.04	31.09	29.08	27.64
88.	Jhabua-Dhar Ksh. Gramin Bank	-274.73	1.31	-180.06	2017.00	2813.30	3172.62	42.82	44.89	51.00
89	Raigarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	-107.92	41.42	79.28	786.31	930.82	914.73	74.78	70.70	74.44
90	Shivpuri-Guna Ksh. Gramin Bank	-147.29	19.57	95.01	1428.13	1805.66	1644.14	82.74	81.31	72.34
91	Damoh-Panna-Sagar Ksh. Gramin Bank	-226.28	73.95	127.89	1341.75	1664.01	2059.52	75.03	78.38	81.74
92.	Dewas-Shajapur Ksh. Gramin Bank	-73.12	46.83	114.90	1846.12	2617.86	1998.15	81.76	80.04	82.64
93	Nimar Ksh. Gramin Bank	30.98	53.00	40.56	1849.45	2728.47	2007.53	76.32	71.25	71.35
94.	Mandla-Balaghat Ksh. Gramin Bank	-196.86	-220.94	-87.57	261.91	339.95	499.15	14.40	42.72	48.26
95.	Chhindwara-Seoni Ksh. Gramin Bank	-245.08	-167.01	7.78	982.60	1415.22	1681.58	43.58	41.21	53.14
96.	Rajgarh-Sehore Ksh. Gramin Bank	-126.96	-49.31	21.82	1092.36	1961.16	1815.33	75.31	66.63	71.25
97	Shahdol Ksh. Gramin Bank	-201.54	-272.31	-156.18	229.86	332.97	483.65	16.29	17.34	20.34
98.	Ratlam-Mandsaur Ksh. Gramin Bank	5.90	50.07	100.03	994.46	1170.70	1649.87	59.94	64.25	61.66
99.	Chambal Ksh. Gramin Bank	-88.08	17.36	51.35	1286.00	2836.53	2678.82	45.89	91.64	93.49
100.	Mahakaushal Ksh. Gramin Bank	-236.64	-259.28	-240.26	73.05	123.99	264.81	43.05	30.00	16.80
101	Indore-Ujjain Ksh. Gramin Bank	3.78	33.22	109.68	1220.71	1469.42	1550.75	70.01	81.28	22.39
102	Gwalior-Datia Ksh. Gramin Bank	-75.87	-10.48	61.11	484.00	468.33	859.18	39.72	37.14	50.36
103	Vidishal Bhopal Ksh. Gramin Bank	0.96	85.76	191.23	935.16	954.90	1265.03	58.83	63.10	75.48
104	Prathama Bank	1291.43	2640.31	2161.83	8230.00	9436.66	11512.07	65.87	65.93	62.00
105.	Gorakhpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	1451.55	2073.19	2669.59	5399.00	7055.89	8722.82	47.29	51.15	52.03
106	Samyut Ksh. Gramin Bank	1879.01	1038.56	1143.59	1864.00	2051.84	3010.62	53.79	56.08	55.81
107	Barabanki Gramin Bank	375.09	440.46	466.54	1434.00	1993.90	2304.69	57.28	58.08	59.77
108	Raebarelli Ksh. Gramin Bank	12.30	256.04	356.57	851.85	1160.73	1478.33	30.94	41.09	45.11
109	Farrukhabad Gramin Bank	426.66	647.29	621.32	1583.00	2032.05	2402.52	50.53	50.17	50.68
110	Bhagirath Gramin Bank	1039.89	1408.61	1622.19	1685.98	2417.02	2218.40	61.66	62.72	65.20
111.	Ballia Ksh. Gramin Bank	171.02	721.23	533.58	1308.99	1586.37	1536.94	27.57	31.75	32.21
112.	Sultanur Ksh. Gramin Bank	77.52	271.16	381.22	1644.00	3246.00	3565.72	40.55	40.01	42.50
113.	Avadh Gramin Bank	514.09	657.68	726.10	1571.15	2752.78	3513.82	59.25	60.04	60.16
114.	Kanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	160.69	283.50	569.48	2125.00	2752.00	2719.00	57.17	59.34	58.38
115.	Srawasti Gramin Bank	548.41	612.32	1234.23	1506.92	1460.00	1923.28	47.44	44.22	46.07
116.	Etawah Ksh. Gramin Bank	-355.73	94.44	210.17	632.00	796.49	402.00	34.95	29.24	52.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
117.	Kisan Gramin Bank	-65.05	23.02	76.12	745.94	898.03	983.33	57.22	64.45	64.46
118.	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	-301.09	-324.52	-170.69	925.82	1220.37	1194.62	50.52	58.26	55.18
119.	Kashi Gramin Bank	9.77	235.78	262.93	1127.51	1829.47	2473.34	34.89	37.68	33.67
120.	Basti Gramin Bank	441.38	502.21	1265.32	1388.00	1823.25	1600.57	38.79	40.72	39.69
121.	Allahabad Ksh. Gramin Bank	-770.34	34.93	265.07	970.00	1095.18	1756.55	31.69	32.74	40.30
122.	Pratapgarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	-137.46	147.07	212.09	1084.87	1191.96	1276.23	38.39	35.80	38.11
123.	Faizabad Ksh. Gramin Bank	208.41	381.41	428.91	925.45	1144.83	1708.41	40.31	44.51	45.78
124.	Fatehpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	-163.29	27.11	70.59	811.85	1010.37	1133.94	52.13	50.01	50.27
125.	Bareilly Ksh. Gramin Bank	2.11	250.42	503.82	1304.00	2316.73	2730.22	65.83	68.54	68.65
126.	Devipatan Ksh. Gramin Bank	253.71	484.87	708.79	946.00	1225.93	1604.74	58.74	59.29	60.50
127.	Aligarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	736.16	1034.17	866.45	4082.55	5509.07	7113.30	71.87	72.45	73.91
128.	Tulsi Gramin Bank	193.76	144.14	357.31	1681.18	1646.83	1819.52	40.24	46.75	50.30
129.	Etah Gramin Bank	229.75	353.19	252.42	2562.56	3082.70	2800.00	75.56	76.94	77.18
130.	Gomti Gramin Bank	431.14	854.25	275.07	2274.08	2557.46	2370.83	56.23	57.84	51.26
131.	Chhatrasal Gramin Bank	113.68	122.47	179.39	1029.11	1252.55	1049.81	40.12	40.10	40.08
132.	Ranilakshmi Bai Ksh. Gramin Bank	-295.45	-405.28	-462.45	437.37	712.12	499.16	50.74	54.52	57.41
133.	Vidur Gramin Bank	88.35	153.64	281.16	667.00	944.05	1371.38	65.36	70.06	71.53
134.	Shajahanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	146.16	458.25	568.23	1703.39	2503.39	3257.11	78.22	80.26	80.34
135.	Nainital-Almora Ksh. Gramin Bank	76.26	204.14	354.43	1598.89	2228.36	3420.42	66.62	70.27	76.12
136.	Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank	198.70	85.52	187.14	679.66	762.74	959.52	20.82	24.61	22.45
137.	Sarayu Gramin Bank	347.52	492.33	593.69	1338.20	1872.49	2047.42	64.24	66.64	60.51
138.	Jamuna Gramin Bank	296.05	431.62	179.09	2049.00	2402.03	1759.88	65.64	72.81	68.09
139.	Muzaffarnagar Ksh. Gramin Bank	45.83	107.04	113.27	563.31	824.17	877.98	64.61	53.45	53.81
140.	Pithoragarh Ksh. Gramin Bank	126.26	158.80	287.42	607.59	698.10	875.22	85.46	87.37	91.02
141.	Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank	16.80	56.98	68.92	742.00	841.38	992.55	54.85	61.03	62.60
142.	Alaknanda Gramin Bank	78.21	80.06	116.71	628.97	660.55	924.84	67.82	75.30	72.09
143.	Hindon Gramin Bank	23.15	52.72	110.11	263.08	370.03	469.18	41.32	35.03	59.86
144.	Kutch Gramin Bank	123.91	219.10	274.84	1528.00	2063.37	2039.15	67.30	73.91	77.12
145.	Jamnagar Gramin Bank	93.91	207.99	301.49	3059.56	3685.39	5070.38	78.68	81.81	85.19
146.	Banaskantha-Mehsana Gramin Bank	-192.16	-73.40	36.73	1457.27	2183.58	4031.91	69.27	70.70	72.92
147.	Panchmahal Gramin Bank	159.38	63.19	119.00	1722.51	2300.86	2881.33	52.18	60.13	60.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
148	Surender Nagar Bhav Nagar Gr. Bank	64.94	154.10	231.18	2010.00	2360.23	3057.42	80.24	85.05	85.36
149	Valsa-Dangs Gramin Bank	165.56	230.96	279.02	1106.57	1176.70	1512.09	53.55	55.98	54.43
150	Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank	207.23	171.46	1.22	1720.06	2115.40	2114.82	70.56	73.63	78.05
151	Sabarkantha-Gandhinagar Gr. Bank	81.84	202.81	209.75	897.79	1042.25	1104.84	60.16	63.16	65.05
152	Junagadh-Amreli Gramin Bank	112.37	146.94	197.62	1635.00	1692.12	1885.03	77.73	78.47	84.03
153	Marathwada Gramin Bank	-153.44	36.16	201.25	5044.69	7820.07	8091.96	41.33	61.22	61.94
154	Aurangabad-Jalna Gramin Bank	57.72	76.23	533.20	1523.00	2360.00	3675.29	61.61	60.17	62.89
155	Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank	-189.13	-137.90	37.03	1114.96	1249.11	1546.17	53.04	58.88	61.52
156	Akola Gramin Bank	-162.96	-122.84	47.27	603.98	661.41	1385.00	65.18	54.70	75.00
157	Ratnagiri-Sindhudurga Gramin Bank	1.33	13.36	10.59	1110.29	1209.91	1386.00	71.49	71.74	71.79
158	Solapur Gramin Bank	38.34	2.58	-24.78	884.49	1055.30	1512.43	70.05	73.16	72.39
159.	Bhandara Gramin Bank	-179.54	-115.34	2.16	1095.85	1271.17	1246.42	60.93	75.32	69.17
160.	Yavatmal Gramin Bank	98.99	118.70	108.91	558.24	693.05	824.39	65.55	63.61	58.49
161.	Buldhana Gramin Bank	25.19	29.46	117.72	886.97	1193.15	1265.18	71.07	61.50	61.19
162.	Thane Grameen Bank	123.69	136.21	143.25	119.90	68.85	212.72	54.33	48.15	48.90
163	Nagarjuna Grameen Bank	-84.63	146.56	298.28	4018.23	5010.63	7945.11	41.17	31.43	42.17
164.	Rayalseema Grameen Bank	460.56	995.89	995.94	14502.02	17670.74	19423.24	43.35	52.08	55.06
165.	Sri Visakha Grameen Bank	5.93	150.34	366.35	10900.00	12500.00	14159.95	59.41	56.64	56.63
166.	Sree Anantha Grameen Bank	741.74	936.28	918.08	7682.42	7304.00	9469.94	60.01	68.87	62.27
167.	Shri Venkateshwara Grameen Bank	202.26	271.99	385.73	7381.24	8377.92	11360.36	66.44	70.54	73.69
168.	Sri Saraswathi Grameen Bank	166.60	537.73	418.47	4209.25	4402.03	4860.55	65.09	60.16	56.83
169.	Sangameshwra Grameen Bank	391.10	189.41	483.51	3526.00	4215.03	6536.44	25.08	50.02	53.71
170	Manjira Grameen Bank	318.33	401.82	551.22	5505.00	6397.00	9292.08	71.87	72.16	79.51
171.	Pinakini Grameen Bank	229.77	365.97	512.93	5446.86	7704.41	10606.22	68.81	70.21	70.63
172.	Kakathiya Grameen Bank	-15.22	13.52	116.72	2627.19	3170.20	3945.00	51.90	39.24	57.76
173.	Chaitanya Grameen Bank	171.09	268.66	226.16	3934.00	5487.68	6333.14	68.24	70.06	66.36
174.	Sri Sathavahana Grameen Bank	161.12	206.02	208.57	2543.79	2013.23	4021.95	50.50	51.93	60.11
175.	Golconda Grameen Bank	78.43	72.06	226.50	760.29	1047.04	1722.31	50.05	61.67	63.59
176.	Srirama Grameen Bank	109.83	228.68	263.04	1778.47	2615.33	3042.74	59.55	56.57	61.73
177.	Kanakadurga Grameen Bank	172.50	221.40	228.31	2292.88	2560.00	3014.92	74.58	85.75	83.96
178.	Godavari Grameen Bank	142.58	185.32	159.05	2789.77	3120.18	3687.00	67.78	63.01	60.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
179.	Tungabhadra Gramin Bank	1125.00	1200.00	1330.00	16112.00	18119.68	25258.02	72.89	66.95	80.13
180.	Malaprabha Gramin Bank	922.18	1134.68	1848.42	13054.65	14135.34	23068.85	72.48	71.05	75.63
181.	Cauvery Gramin Bank	255.69	102.23	202.11	6799.00	8006.52	8208.48	67.94	69.24	70.71
182.	Krishna Gramin Bank	547.90	579.27	613.62	9202.00	7551.14	9172.85	81.62	81.38	72.55
183.	Chitradurga Gramin Bank	223.78	286.58	122.06	5509.59	6362.13	7400.89	69.65	70.93	72.56
184.	Kalpatharu Gramin Bank	135.06	182.34	261.20	2145.57	3400.62	3768.55	66.19	69.66	68.35
185.	Kolar Gramin Bank	290.37	418.87	310.60	3681.00	3824.28	4803.07	65.49	71.93	71.35
186.	Bijapur Gramin Bank	550.50	455.58	902.48	5044.00	6212.35	8292.01	69.66	64.37	62.21
187.	Chikmagalur-Kodagu Gramin Bank	236.48	224.32	301.75	2403.97	2833.58	3302.48	68.57	60.35	56.60
188.	Sahyadri Gramin Bank	87.15	111.30	235.69	1445.75	1771.53	2610.66	62.93	72.52	76.08
189.	Netravati Gramin Bank	6.89	23.24	50.25	815.58	1349.36	1897.52	67.95	85.97	88.69
190.	Varada Gramin Bank	100.07	123.41	132.55	1826.97	2732.88	3009.07	86.14	77.56	81.05
191.	Visveshwaraya Gramin Bank	20.11	53.11	81.25	1522.99	1672.68	2055.27	74.18	67.99	71.26
192.	South Malabar Gramin Bank	888.16	909.66	1278.47	29434.00	32499.68	42545.64	88.66	89.40	90.91
193.	North Malabar Gramin Bank	1059.85	1204.02	1555.36	20638.00	24400.00	34819.00	89.51	86.24	88.57
194.	Pandyan Gramin Bank	216.07	425.02	442.31	18129.76	19830.86	25203.29	79.16	79.92	81.11
195.	Adhiyaman Gramin Bank	133.52	181.00	169.05	2639.85	1983.77	3036.12	60.00	79.86	79.66
196.	Vallalar Gramin Bank	225.38	227.78	202.29	2323.33	1477.04	1623.40	85.70	76.39	79.28
	Total	7365.30	24773.51	42995.39	466764.57	556080.59	693078.89	56.96	60.44	63.94

Export of Tinned Food Products

1370. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the export of tinned food items;

(b) if so, the details theroef;

(c) whether the export of such items like pickles and fruit pulp play a vital role in fetching millions of dollars to India as foreign exchange every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the magnitude of the export of these items from the country?

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

(b) The Government has been implementing various assistance schemes for promoting the export of processed and tinned food items. These include schemes for promoting quality of the products and its packaging, infrastructure development and undertaking studies for the promotion of various products. The following specific steps have been undertaken to promote processed and tinned food items:

- Comprehensive studies have been undertaken for identifying the technological and other requirements for the promotion of processed pineapple, processed Lychees, Passion fruit and Health foods;
- A study for improving the export packaging of frozen fruits and vegetables is to be undertaken during the current year;

- A research project on management of pests and diseases in Gherkins spread over a period of three years is being undertaken;
- Exporters are provided assistance for pesticide residue testing for fruits and vegetables to enable them effectively meet the international requirements on pesticide residue levels;
- Mango pulp processing units have been provided assistance for implementation of quality systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and certified. Programmes for technology upgradation of mango processing units have also been undertaken;

(c) and (d) The export of processed items like pickles and fruit pulp and other processed fruits and vegetables earn annual foreign exchange of around US$ 20 million.

(e) The promotional measures taken by the Government to improve the exports of tinned food products include the following:

(i) Arranging promotional campaigns such buyer-seller meets and participation in important international trade fairs and exhibitions;

(ii) Interacting with State Governments to promote exports of products having potential for exports from the individual States.

(iii) Conducting awareness/training/technical assistance programmes to growers/exporters on quality assurance and quality management and food safety systems to meet international requirements.

(iv) Setting up integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports.

Export of Wheat

1371. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to export 20 lakh tonnes of wheat;

(b) if so, the quantum of surplus stocks of wheat over and above the buffer stock in the country;

(c) whether quantity out of the total quantity of wheat earmarked for export has been exported; and

(d) if so, the quantity and value of wheat exported till January, 2001, Country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1st January, 2001 FCI and State agencies held 250.41 lakh MTs of wheat against the corresponding buffer norm of 84.00 lakh MTs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As at statement please.

Statement

Export by MMTC

Country	Quantity (Thousand MT)	Provisional FOB Value (US$ Million)
Bangladesh	68	7.46
Malaysia	16	1.67
Philippines	26	2.67
Total	110	11.8

Export by STC

	Quantity (in MTs)	Rs. Crores
Bangladesh	10,000.50	5.41
Malaysia	2800.00	1.34
Russia	17383	8.49
Total	30183.5	15.24

PEC has exported a total of 3,67,849 MT of Indian wheat as on 31st January, 2001 to Bangladesh, UAE, Oman, Yemen & Korea

The total quantity exported till 31st January, 2001 is 508032.5 MTs.

Loans Under DRI Scheme

1372. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks are required to lend minimum of one percent of their aggregate advance to the poor and the SCs and STs under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) scheme;

(b) if so, the advances made by each public sector banks under this scheme during the last three years;

(c) the names of the banks, who have not achieved their target;

(d) the reasons for not achieving the target; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Under DRI scheme, introduced in 1972, bank-wise targets are fixed and banks are required to lend 1% of their aggregate advances outstanding as at the end of the previous year.

(b) The bank-wise details of advances outstanding and percentage of DRI advances to total advances for the last three years are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) All the banks are not able to fulfill the target, as the DRI scheme is an interest subsidy scheme whereas subsequently several Government sponsored *capital subsidy scheme* such as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Swarnajayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers have been introduced which offer higher quantum of loan amounts and larger capital subsidies and are more attractive for borrowers.

(e) With a view to improve the lending under DRI scheme, the Reserve Bank of India has urged all Public Sector Banks to re-emphasise an urgent need for concerted efforts to improve the performance in implementation of the scheme. The banks have been asked to take immediate steps to improve the banks' performance of disbursal of loan under DRI scheme.

Statement

Public Sector Bank's Advances under DRI scheme for the years March 1998, 1999 & 2000

(Amt. in Crores)
(A/c. in Lakhs)

Name of the Bank	1998			1999			2000		
	No. of A/c	Balance O/S	% of DRI to total advances	No. of A/c	Balance O/S	% of DRI to total advances	No. of A/c	Balance O/S	% of DRI to total advances
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
State Bank of India	4.10	59.39	0.11	3.65	60.65	0.10	1.26	34.35	0.05
State Bank of Bika. & Jaipur	0.16	11.89	0.39	0.11	8.19	0.21	0.93	7.16	0.18
State Bank of Hyderabad	0.90	19.45	0.25	0.90	23.42	0.48	0.39	22.00	0.44
State Bank of Indore	0.21	8.69	0.54	0.15	7.86	0.41	0.15	6.75	0.32
State Bank of Mysore	0.20	6.86	0.31	0.21	11.18	0.44	0.18	4.87	0.18
State Bank of Patiala	0.31	13.00	0.34	0.27	8.00	0.18	0.11	5.64	0.12
State Bank of Saurashtra	0.01	1.35	0.06	0.01	0.86	0.03	—	0.11	0.00
State Bank of Travancore	0.63	5.00	0.22	0.45	4.35	0.18	0.41	2.91	0.13
Allahabad Bank	0.84	21.44	0.42	0.39	22.33	0.38	0.63	31.23	0.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Bank	0.19	15.00	0.54	0.18	12.81	0.38	0.08	13.00	0.30
Bank of Baroda	0.45	63.85	0.51	0.35	52.09	0.40	0.30	44.51	0.33
Bank of India	0.67	54.01	0.68	0.25	60.80	0.47	1.70	51.45	0.36
Bank of Maharashtra	0.14	9.90	0.29	0.04	5.20	0.13	0.04	4.82	0.11
Canara Bank	0.86	41.00	0.36	0.84	34.20	0.25	0.90	27.70	0.18
Central Bank of India	0.81	20.10	0.22	0.56	16.90	0.16	0.41	18.70	0.15
Corporation Bank	0.03	2.37	0.11	0.02	1.10	0.04	0.02	2.35	0.05
Dena Bank	0.12	8.35	0.19	0.01	6.14	0.12	0.01	3.79	0.06
Indian Bank	0.26	16.48	0.29	0.24	12.31	0.22	1.79	10.11	0.17
Indian Overseas Bank	0.37	32.00	0.61	0.35	31.50	0.51	0.35	32.50	0.44
Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.10	15.00	0.31	0.70	12.50	0.22	0.05	9.17	0.11
Punjab National Bank	0.91	62.70	0.45	0.68	50.57	0.32	0.49	41.93	0.23
Punjab & Sind Bank	0.03	20.61	0.67	0.02	17.96	0.54	0.01	14.17	0.34
Syndicate Bank	0.11	23.00	0.18	0.06	12.00	0.22	0.05	15.00	0.20
Union Bank of India	0.18	17.70	0.22	0.16	14.73	0.16	0.15	12.46	0.13
United Bank of India	0.51	8.00	0.21	0.06	4.00	0.10	0.04	2.89	0.06
UCO Bank	0.67	8.40	0.19	0.28	8.14	0.16	0.20	5.00	0.09
Vijaya Bank	0.30	10.25	0.46	0.04	8.18	0.28	0.02	8.25	0.23
Total	14.07	575.79	0.30	10.98	507.97	0.23	10.67	432.82	0.18

[Translation]

Availability of Sugar in the Country

1373. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the availability of sugar in the country at present and the consumption of sugar in the country annually;

(b) the savings likely to be made on the subsidy by discontinuing supply of sugar through the PDS to the families living above the poverty line and the likely burden on consumers as a result of it;

(c) the likely benefit to be accrued to the sugar mill oweners annually following slashing of levy on sugar from 40 percent to 15 percent;

(d) the quantum of surplus sugar as against the requirement in the country; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to dispose of the surplus sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) With the estimated production of 181 lakh tonnes of sugar during the current 2000-2001 season and the carry over stock of 92.97 lakh tonnes of the previous season, the total availability works out to 273.97 lakh tonnes as against the estimated consumption of 162.13 lakh tonnes.

(b) Savings on sugar subsidy will be to the tune of Rs. 155.13 crore. The difference between the Retail Issue Price of sugar supplied through Public Distribution System

and price of sugar in the open market is marginal. As such, there will hardly be any impact on consumers.

(c) With the change in levy, freesale ratio from 40:60 to 15:85, the sugar factories would now be able to sell 25% more sugar in the open market under freesale quota. Thus, they are expected to get higher realisation on account of price difference in levy and freesale sugar.

(d) After meeting the internal consumption of 162.13 lakh tonnes during the current season out of the total availability of 273.97 lakh tonnes, the closing stock at the end of the season i.e. on 30th September, 2001 is estimated to be 111.84 lakh tonnes.

(e) The following measures have been taken by the Central Government to tackle the problem of surplus sugar:

1. Export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has been allowed.
2. A policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market is being pursued through judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas. Higher releases as compared to corresponding months in the last sugar season have been made.

[English]

Expert Committees Suggesions for IFCI

1374. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee on the restructuring plan and future strategy of IFCI has suggested that IFCI should not enter into retail finance market for the present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other suggestions made by the Committee;

(d) whether there is also a suggestion that IFCI should associate itself with institutions like ADB and IFC, Washington; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to implement the suggestions made by the expert committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee on the restructuring of IFCI is of the view that IFCI need not enter the retail financial market for the present as it neither has the experience in this field nor does it have the marketing orientation that retail business requires. IFCI's best chance is to rebuilt the business in which it had experience and for which it still has wide ranging relationship with several corporate customers.

(c) The Committee inter alia, suggested that:

(i) IFCI should be transformed into a fully licensed Term Credit Bank over a period of time.

(ii) Reduce the proportion of project finance and diversify into post project and short-term financing business as well as enter fee-based services.

(iii) IFCI should setout an appropriate loan and exposure policy by developing new products and services.

(iv) IFCI should have a Corporate Recovery Plan to reduce current NPAs by at least Rs. 500 crores per year.

(d) The Committee also felt that IFCI might be best to seek strategic partnership with another institution in similar business. The Committee suggested consideration of introducing such a partner in association with an institution like IFC, Washington or the Asian Development Bank.

(e) The suggestion would receive due consideration of the IFCI and the Government at the time of taking a decision on restructuring of IFCI.

Reduction of Staff in DD and AIR

1375. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan and AIR staff strength is proposed to be reduced;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons for reducing the staff strength in DD and AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati Corporation have informed that at present there is no proposal for reduction of staff in AIR and Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Vacancies in FCI

1376. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in various categories in Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation as on February 15, 2001;

(b) the number of vacancies in respect of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the said corporations as on above mentioned date;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the above vacancies; and

(d) the time by which all the vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Income Earned by DD from Other Countries

1377. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan earns income by telecasting outside the country;

(b) if so, the amount earned through this medium in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether any departmental infrastructure was also created for this purpose in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the nature of the structure; and

(e) the annual expenditure incurred under this head?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loans Under Poverty Alleviation Programme

1378. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India and Ministry of Finance to nationalized and rural banks to make the funds available under various poverty alleviation and rural development schemes of the Government;

(b) the action being taken against these banks, which do not comply with these guidelines;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints against the bank branches located in several districts of Bihar including Jammu, Shekhpura, Begusarai and Lakhisarai districts for not providing funds and non-cooperation;

(d) if so, whether the Government/Reserave Bank of India have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the banks found guilty; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for providing funds to the poor according to the purposes fixed by the bank in the State including the above mentioned districts of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines for different schemes to all Nationalized Banks. The name of the schemes and date of guidelines issued are: (i) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), dated 1.9.199, (ii) Swarnajayanti Shahari Rojagar Yojana (SJSRY), dated 1.12.1997, (iii) Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS), introduced in 1993, (iv) Differential Rate of Interest (DRI), dated June 3, 1972 (Revised guidelines issued dated 6.7.1977) and (v) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), has been in operation since October 2, 1993 (modified parameters have been in force since 1.4.1999). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has issued guidelines to Regional Rural Banks in respect of SGSY Scheme dated November 19, 1999.

(b) RBI has informed that progress of implementation of these schemes is reviewed in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings & the banks are directed to follow the guidelines and achieve the targets.

(c) to (f) Yes Sir, RBI reportedly had received a complaint from the Hon'ble Member that the funds released under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and other Rural Development Schemes in the districts of Begusarai, Bihar (Jamui, Shekpura, Begusarai & Lakhisarai) are not being utilized properly due to non-cooperation of officials of banks particularly Grameen Bank which is the lead bank in the District. The complaint was examined by the Regional Office of RBI, Patna.

RBI has informed that they have initiated steps to redress the unsatisfactory position and Lead District Officers (LDOs) have been advised to strengthen micro level monitoring of the schemes in the respective districts to ensure that banks make all out efforts to achieve the targets under the schemes. LDOs are also drawing the attention of the concerned Bank branches in various District level meetings and RBI's Regional Office has been periodically reviewing the progress and writing to the controlling offices to take necessary action for achieving the targets. Special meeting were held in Lakhisarai and Sheikpura districts for working out strategies for increasing credit flow by banks under SGSY.

[English]

Privatization of AM Radio Sector

1379. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India as a member of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has decided to open up radio based information services in rural areas and semi-urban areas through issuing licences to private parties;

(b) whether as in the case of FM stations, the Government will allow private participation in the AM radio sector;

(c) whether any decision in this regard has been taken; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will benefit the masses in rural and semi-urban area of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) India is a Member of the International Telecommunications Union, a coordinating agency under the aegis of the United Nations. As per the Radio Regulations of the ITU, specific bands have been allocated to FM sound broadcasting in various regions of the world. Government of India, on its own, had decided to open the FM broadcasting activity to the private sector in areas like music, entertainment, information and education. In the first phase, the expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services, including value-added services, was approved for setting up of 108 FM Radio Stations/Channels in 40 centrers of the country.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Indo-Japan Economic Relations

1380. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to expand Indo-Japan economic relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with Japan for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) India's economic relationship with Japan continues to remain strong. Both countries are striving to strengthen it further despite the Japanese sanctions announced after Pokhran-II. Japanese Prime Minister Mori's visit to India in August, 2000, Bilateral Trade talks and Investment Dialogue held recently are some of the positive steps towards improving bilateral economic ties.

Funds for Sick Banks

1381. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to infuse more funds in three sick public sector banks i.e. Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Government of India had set up on December 22,

2000, a High Level Group headed by Shri S.P. Talwar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to examine the restructuring plans prepared by three weak banks viz., Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India. The Group was required to critically assess inter-alia the quantum of capital infusion required to ensure their viable restructuring. Report of the Group is under examination of the Government.

Bank Lending for Infrastructure Sector

1382. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bank lending to infrastructural projects has been slow during last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith gross credit provided by banks to this sector; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase bank lending to infrastructural projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) There has been a consistent increase in the gross bank credit (outstanding) to infrastructure industry during the last three years. Based on the data from 50 selected scheduled commercial banks, the gross credit to infrastructure industry was Rs. 3163 crore, Rs. 5941 crore and Rs. 7243 crore during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

[Translation]

Reservation of SC/STs in PSUs

1383. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation facilities in services provided to the candidates of SC/ST and OBC in different undertakings is going to be stopped due to indiscriminate disinvestment made in public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government is going to fulfil its declared commitment to provide reservation to SC/ST and OBC in these disinvested undertakings;

(c) whether various organisations including SC/ST Commission have drawn the attention of the Government towards their concern in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to protect the interest of the workers as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001. With this in view, in the cases of disinvestment involving transfer of management control appropriate provisions are made in the share-purchase agreement and the shareholders agreement with the strategic partner. Typically the agreements include a recital stating that strategic partner recognizes that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged sections of the society and that the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons are retrenched at the end.

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

[English]

Export of Basmati Rice

1384. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the process of export of aromatic Basmati rice could not be taken up in the scheduled time and is delayed for about two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated quantum of Basmati rice likely to be exported during this season; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to find the market for Indian Basmati rice?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to estimate the likely quantum of basmati rice exports, as export of basmati rice would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences and varieties traded.

The total quantity and value of basmati rice exported during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	593323	1685.62
1998-99	597793	1876.91
1999-2000 (Provisional)	606468	1735.94
Apr.-Oct. 2000 (Provisional)	510143	1268.21

(Source. DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) Some of the steps taken to increase the export of basmati rice exports, include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Dereservation of Items Under SSI

1385. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have mooted a proposal seeking to dereserve all the items currently under the exclusive domain of the Small Scale Industry Units;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose was that total dereservation is sought to be achieved by April 1, 2001;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received the report of the Group of Ministers on this issue;

(d) if so, the main recommendations made thereon; and

(e) the extent which these recommendations have been fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to enable further new investment and technology upgradation in some of the key export oriented sectors, Budget 2001-2002 proposed to dereserve another 14 items related to leather goods, shoes and toys. The Government examines the issue of reservation/ dereservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the small-scale sector on a continual basis and decisions in this respect are taken after considering all relevant aspects.

(c) to (e) The Group of Ministers constituted to consider and evolve a road map for selective dereservation in respect of productions presently reserved for SSI Sector for enabling a phased and orderly transition and increasing national competitiveness, in its last meeting deferred the decision on (i) continuation of reservation and (ii) drawing up of a road map for dereservation.

Export of Films

1386. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export facilities provided in film industry;

(b) whether the Government propose to liberalise/ give more incentives to boost its export; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) With a view to tapping the film industry's full potential as a foreign exchange earner, a new section under the Income Tax Act 1961, namely Section 80 HHF, was incorporated with effect from 1.4.1999, whereby profits derived from export of entertainment software are eligible for deduction as per the provisions laid down therein. Apart from this, the exporters of film software are also eligible for Duty Drawback.

White Paper on WTO

1387. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether the Farm Experts have urged the Government to issue White Paper on World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As reported in certain sections of the press, some experts have called for a White Paper on the impact of WTO Agreements on Indian agriculture.

(b) and (c) The Government have already announced its National Agriculture Policy and have also put on the website of the Department of Commerce, a broad position paper on the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and the Indian proposals as submitted by India in the WTO for the ongoing mandated negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture.

Import of Chicken Legs

1388. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of 'chicken legs' from USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for granting such permission;

(c) whether the issue of adverse effect of these chicken legs on the health of Indian consumers has been considered thoroughly before taking such decision;

(d) if so, the steps taken to prevent the health problems likely to be created by these chicken legs;

(e) the extent to which the poultry farmers would be affected due to import of chicken legs; and

(f) the steps taken to protect domestic poultry farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) Poultry including chicken legs is classified under Exim Code heading number 02.07 of the ITC (HS) Classification Export & Import items. Import of this item is presently restricted. Thus the Question at (a) to (f) above does not arise. Further, consignments not meeting human, animal, plant safety norms would be appropriately dealt with by the authorities through measures including, but not limited to, denial of entry at the port of disembarkment and/or pre-shipment as and when the import of this item is made free.

Flow of Micro-Credit

1389. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government assessed the micro-credit requirements in the country;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been brought out to arrange easy and free flow of micro-credit;

(c) whether banks have not come out with fixed plan on the arrangements of the flow of micro-credit; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to remove this mindset of the banks with regard to micro-credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Task Force on Supporting Policy and Regulatory Framework for Micro-Finance set up by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD assessed the credit needs of the poor who do not have access to regular banking channels at around Rs. 15,000 crore Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD have initiated several measures for increasing the credit flow to the micro finance sector. The major steps involve policy interventions and strategies to upscale the formation and nurturing of a large number of micro-finance institutions including Self-Help Groups (SHGs) progressively involving more than 25000 bank branches, 4000 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and 2000 Federations of SHGs. The long strategy of NABARD is to link one million SHGs to the banking system by 2008. Steps have also been initiated for framing or amending the Cooperative Societies Acts and rules to provide for the enrolment and financing of micro-finance institutions by Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies and District Central Cooperative Banks.

(c) and (d) NABARD has reported that the banking institutions have been positively responding to the needs of micro finance sector in the country. As on end December, 2000 a total of 318 banks participated in the micro-credit linking programme. The ground level flow of credit to the SHGs through banks stood at Rs. 287 crore. RBI has issued guidelines to afford banks considerable

operational freedom to prescribe their own lending norms keeping in view the ground realities and devise appropriate loan and savings products in this regard. Banks have now been allowed to formulate their own models and choose their intermediary for extending micro finance. The credit plans prepared by banks should accord priority to this sector. A new development fund called Micro Finance Development Fund has also been created.

[Translation]

Supply of Edible Oils and Kerosene to Various States

1390. SHRI RAMDAS AHTAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are facing severe drought situation, acute power crisis and these States have demanded double the quantity of kerosene being supplied to them currently; and

(b) if so, the details of the action initiated by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) To meet emergent SKO requirement arising out of natural calamities like earthquake, drought, floods etc. Government allocates adhoc/additional SKO allocations to the States based on their requests in this regard. During the current financial year Government has given in additional allocation of 15,000 KLs (11673 MTs) of SKO per month from May, 2000 to September, 2000 and January, 2001 to March, 2001 to the State of Rajasthan for meeting the requirement of drought condition in the State of Rajasthan.

[English]

Disinvestment in National Thermal Power Corporation

1391. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate steps for Disinvestment in National Thermal Power Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of disinvestment proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) There s no proposal for disinvestment in National Thermal Power Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

IT on MTNL

1392. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1997 on December 1, 2000 and state:

(a) the present status of Special Leave Petition (SLP) pending in Supreme Court in respect of charging income-tax on licence fee from MTNL;

(b) whether assessment proceedings in respect of MTNL, has since been completed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by MTNL in the Supreme Court is regarding the validity of notice of reassessment under section 148 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 reopening the assessment for assessment year 1994-95. The Supreme Court while admitting the SLP has stayed all proceedings till the mater is decided in the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) Assessment proceedings in respect of Assessment Years 1995-96 and 1998-99, disallowing the licence fee expenditure claimed by the MTNL, have since been completed.

Investment in Print Media

1393. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "RBI may be told to

rein in FIIs in print media" appearing in *Times of India* dated the February 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the FIIs have invested in the Indian Print Media thereby violating the cabinet resolution of 1956;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to enquire into the matters; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the captioned news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the February 13, 2001. A proposal to issue shares to Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) by M/s. Mid-day Multimedia Limited was accorded permission by RBI in terms of Schedule 2 to notification No. FEMA. 20/ 2000-RB dated 03rd May, 2000. RBI have since amended the said notification on 16th February, 2001 in terms of which FIIs/NRIs/OCBs and Foreign Venture Capital Investors have been restrained from purchasing shares or Convertible Debentures of any Indian Company engaged in the Print Media Sector.

Import Duties on Edible Oils

1394. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether Government are assessing the impact of the recent increase in import duties on edible oils;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose of raising the import duties on edible oils was to check imports;

(c) if so, to what extent the purpose for which these increase was made has been achieved;

(d) to what extent the duty increase in November and December, 2000 have been proved helpful;

(e) the total shortfafll of edible oils during 1999-2000; and

(f) the efforts being made to improve the edible oils production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One of the objectives of raising the import duty on edible oils has been to regulate import.

(c) and (d) As per information available from the DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce, the imports for edible oils have gone down from 38.59 lakh MTs in 1998-99 to 34.55 lakh MTs in 1999-2000.

Duty increase has also proved helpful in enabling higher than minimum support price to two major oilseeds, namely, groundnut and mustard seed which constitute about 60% of the total oilseed production as shown below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Seed	MSP	Wholesale market price (as on 23.2.2001)
Groundnut (in shell)	1220	1435
Mustard/Rapessed	1100	1205

(e) The total shortfall of edible oils during 1999-2000 has been estimated at around 34 lakh MTs.

(f) Some of the measures taken/efforts made to improve the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is in implementation in the States to increase the production of Oilseeds/edible oils in the country. Under the programme financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seeds minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Governments. In addition to this frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

(ii) A technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May 1986 for harnessing the best production, processing and management technology.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, ricebran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vi) Assistance for oil palm development.

(vii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also, higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

(ix) The duty structure on edible oils has been further rationalised so as to encourage domestic processing industry in terms of higher value addition. The duty on crude edible oils has been raised from 25% (basic) to 35% (basic) while the duty on refined vegetable oil (other than coconut oil, RBD palm oil and RBD palmolein and fractions thereof) has been raised from 35% (basic) to 45% (basic). The duty on refined palm oil and RBD palmolein has been hiked from 35% (basic) to 65% (basic).

[Translation]

Import of Old Vehicles

1395. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision regarding giving permission to import of old vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic automobile industry is facing a slump these days;

(d) if so, whether the domestic automobile industry is likely to face a serious crisis from imported old vehicles;

(e) if so, the time by which the Government propose to declare new vehicle policy; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to save the domestic automobile industry?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (f) With the abolition of the remaining Quantitative Restrictions with effect from 1.4.2001, second hand cars will become freely importable. In the interest of value addition and manufacturing in the country, a rate of basic custom duty of 105% on their import has been proposed in the Budget for Financial Year 2001. As per the figures given by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the Automobile Sector as a whole except passenger car and commercial vehicles segment, has shown a positive growth rate during period April-December in the current financial year.

[English]

Continuation of Quantitative Restrictions

1396. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested curbs on silk and arecanut import;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken a decision re-imposition or continuation of Quantitative Restrictions on certain items such as mulberry and raw silk, arecanut and edible oil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Import restrictions are being removed as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our International obligations. Thus import restriction on these items may not be reimposed. However, protection to the domestic producers can be provided through appropriate use of tariff mechanism. Based on various representations received, the import duty on acrecanut has been raised from 35% to 100%. Similarly, the import duties on various edible oils has been revised upwards twice since June, 2000. These measures should help in containing imports.

FDI in Telecommunication Sector

1397. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to invite 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in the Telecommunication Sector;

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

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunication has been opposing the above proposal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of his Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) Government has already permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in telecommunication activities such as International Service Providers (ISPs) not providing gateways (both for satellite and submarine cables), Infrastructure Providers providing dark fibre (IP Category I), Electronic Mail and Voice Mail, subject to licensing and other conditions. Cent percent FDI is also permitted in manufacture of telecommunication equipment.

In case of basic, cellular mobile, paging and value added telecommunication service and global mobile personal communications by satellite, FDI is limited upto 49% subject to grant of licence from Department of Telecommunications.

One time Settlement of NPA

1398. SHRI A BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with Bank of India for one time settlement of Non-performing Assets;

(b) the number of such cases accepted/rejected by the Bank during 1999-2000;

(c) whether the Bank of India is not following the guidelines set by RBI in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Bank of India has reported that there are 150 applications pending with it for one time settlement of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) under the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines dated 27th July, 2000.

(b) The Bank has further reported that during 1999-2000 it had accepted 14660 applications for one time settlements as per the Bank's policy apporved by the Board and 125 applications were rejected.

(c) The Bank has reported that it is strictly following the guidelines set by RBI in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand Notices Issued by Excise and Customs to Vanaspati Manufacturers.

1399. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Excise and Customs Department had issued demand notices to Vanaspati Manufacturers to deposit differences of duties between the full rate and concessional rate for the quantity of imported oil, which have been received short by the plants due to loss in transit; and

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

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

(b) 50 Demand Notices involving duty of approximately Rs. 80 lakhs have been issued. Differential duty is demanded and collected for the reason that the importers have not fulfilled the conditions imposed under section 25 of Customs Act, 1962 and Rules framed there under i.e. Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty for Manufacture of Excisable Goods) Rules, 1996.

Bringing Transparency in Stock Exchanges

1400. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve transparency in the Indian bourses, the SEBI announced a code of ethics for directors and functionaries of stock exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact so far witnessed on the code of ethics and to what extent this decision is likely to improve the functioning of stock exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) SEBI has intimated that it has formulated a code of ethics for directors and functionaries of stock exchanges which seeks to establish professional and ethical standards for improving transparency on the Indian stock exchanges.

(b) The code of ethics has the following salient features:

- Fairness and transparency in dealing with matters relating to the exchange and investors.
- Disclosure of dealings in securities by functionaries and directors of the exchange.
- Avoidance of conflict of interest in decision making; and disclosures of beneficial interest by these functionaries; and
- Compliance with all Rules/Regulations laid down by Regulatory Agencies/Exchanges and exercising due diligence in the performance of duties.

(c) When implemented, the code is expected to help in improving the professional and ethical standards of exchanges and also in creating better perception amongst investors about their working.

Performance of Indian Films in the World

1401. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's films have achieved world wide presence and there is a growing demand for them;

(b) if so, to what extent this has been exploited during the last three years;

(c) the countries which have evinced keen interest in the Indian film; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

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

(b) In the last three years, the number of Indian films exported are as followes:

1998-190

1999-180

2000-200

(c) The main countries, which have evinced interest in Indian films, are USA, U.K., UAE and Mauritius.

(d) The foreign exchange earned as a result thereof is given below.

1997-1998 - Rs. 200 crores

1998-1999 - Rs. 250 crores

1999-2000 - Rs. 300 crores

Computerisation of PDS

1402. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any action plan to computerise the whole functions of Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount likely to be requested for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) For monitoring the functioning of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at district and State level, NIC developed a software package in 1997 which was released to all the State level centres of NIC. State Governments were requested to ensure data transmission through NIC district centres to State Food and Civil Supplies Departments.

For this purpose State Food and Civil Supplies Directorate/Department are allocated funds under the central plan scheme "Training, Research and Monitoring" to purchase one computer system and obtain NICNET connectivity for compilation of data received from all districts within the State. The State Governments/UT Administrations are given a one time assistance of Rs. 1.50 lakhs to purchase this computer under the above scheme.

For monitoring PDS operations at FPS level a pilot project in the State of Himachal Pradesh has been initiated with the assistance of NIC.

CBI Inquiry Against DD Officials

1403. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have incurred heavy financial lossess by providing time slots for the sponsored programmes in the DD channel in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI inquiry has been under progress against the alleged corruption charges levelled against the former Director-General and other higher officials of the Doordarshan and also against the NDTV for getting favours the DD officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the NDTV has to pay the DD-I a huge sum of money in compensation for the losses incurred; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no loss has been incurred by Doordarshan by providing time slots for the sponsored programmes in its channels during the last three years

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During 1998, the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against the then Director General, Doordarshan and other officers of Doordarshan, besides M/s. NDTV and its Managing Director Shri Pranoy Roy, on 9.1.98 under Section 120 B r/w 13(1)(d) r/w 13(2) of PC Act, 1998. It relates to certain instances of favouritism shown by Doordarshan to NDTV, in telecasting of various programmes on Doordarshan including "The World This Week" during the period 1990-96. The investigation is in progress.

(e) & (f) Doordarshan has filed a counter claim suit of Rs. 4,69,53,776/- with interest @ 18% per annum, against M/s NDTV towards the charges for telecast of some programmes produced by them, in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

Import of Edible Oils

1404. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

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

(a) the total domestic demand and supply of various edible oils in the country at present;

(b) whether there is a large gap between demand and supply;

(c) if so, the extent of shortfall in supply and actual production of various edible oils in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to import large quantity of vegetable and other edible oils during 2000-2001;

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

(f) whether the Government are proposing to impose a ban on import of palmolein; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The demand for 1999-2000 was 96.43 lakh MTs for various edible oils and the domestic availability was and 61.50 MTs.

(b) and (c) The gap/shortfall between demand and supply is 34.93 lakh MT.

(d) and (e) As per EXIM the policy, import of edible oils in on OGL.

As per information available from the Solvent Extractors Association of India, the import of edible oils during Oil Year 2000-2001 (Nov.-Jan) have been 12.33 lakh MT. The oils imported have been RBD Palmolein, refined rapeseed oil, refined soyabean oil, crude palm oil, sunflower oil, soyabean oil, rapeseed/canola oil and cottonseed oil. The countries from where the oils have been imported are Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, USA etc. Import being on OGL, the precise information about the value of import is not available.

(f) and (g) There is no such proposal.

Agreement with U.S.A. on Energy, E-Commerce and Banking

1405. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between India and United States with regard to the projects pertaining to energy, e-commerce and banking during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The following MOU/Protocols of Intent were signed at the level of the two Governments during the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to USA in September, 2000-

- The MOU envisages discussions on current and prospective energy development in both countries, facilitation of exchange of information and assessment of energy demand and supply forecasts, exchange of views on energy and related environmental policies, review of exchange of information on energy technologies including renewable energy etc. The MOU also envisages setting up of a sub-Ministerial Working Group on Energy.
- Protocol of Intent for study on clean coal technology. The study will seek to establish: (i) the most suitable integrated gasification combined cycle technology for Indian coal and environmental conditions; (ii) explore possible financing structures to make the technology most competitive for India; (iii) and develop a time bound implementation plan for technology demonstration in India.
- Protocol of Intent for capacity building in the power sector for efforts to build the long-term training capacity of the power sector training institutions including the National Power Training Institute.

Review of Censor Board

1406. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether a provision of the Cinematograph Act, 1981 by which the Government reviews the decision of the Censor Board or the Appellate Tribunal regarding clearance of a film has been declared 'unconstitutional' by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the main reasons pointed out by the Supreme Court;

(c) whether any new legislation is being considered by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The revisional powers of the Central Government, conferred by Section 6(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, have been held as 'unconstitutional' by the Supreme Court on the ground that the executive cannot sit in an appeal or review or revise the order of a quasi-judicial body.

(c) and (d) Government is examining the matter.

Foreign Firms Joint Venture

1407. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to scrap the 'no objection' clause contained in Press Note 18, issued on December 14, 1998 regarding foreign firms joint venture in India, on the recommendations of the core group of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Indian markets from unfair access by the foreign investors?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) While considering FDI proposals, a declaration is obtained from the applicant whether the foreign collaborator has any previous joint venture or technology transfer/trademark agreement in the same or allied field in India, the detailed circumstances in which it is considered necessary to set up a new joint venture or wholly owned subsidiary and that the new venture would not in any way jeopardise the interest of the existing joint venture or partner.

The automatic route is not available for acquisition of existing equity in Indian companies. While considering proposals for such acquisition of equity, a board resolution of the Indian company is insisted upon.

Demand for Sugar from Various States

1408. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand for sugar from Central Pool made by various States during the year 2000;

(b) the actual allocation made to those States in each quarter of the above year;

(c) whether the Government have adopted a policy on decontrol of sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) There is no central pool of sugar. However, a certain percentage of sugar produced by sugar factories is taken by the Government as levy. The allocation of levy sugar is not made on the demand of the States/UTs but on certain norms. Accordingly, State/UT-wise allocation of levy sugar during the year 2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to decontrol the sugar industry in a phased manner. The levy obligation was reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 1.1.2000. Government has further reduced the levy obligation from 30% to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001.

Statement

Levy Quota and Festival Quota

S. NO.	States/UTs	Monthly Levy Sugar Quota (Qty. in M.Ts.)			
		Jan. & Feb. 2000) @	March to June, 2000*	July to December, 2000#	Annual Festival Quota
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28267	31712	30430	7614
2.	Andaman Nicobar	282	377	377	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	602	809	809	94
4.	Assam	15687	18114	17136	2896
5.	Bihar	36707	41707	40545	10078
6.	Chandigarh	391	525	158	112
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	60	78	78	14
8.	Delhi	11973	17054	12899	2316
9.	Goa	508	671	541	150
10.	Daman & Diu	43	59	59	12

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Gujarat	17557	20212	18035	4878
12.	Haryana	6996	8307	7530	1924
13.	Himachal Pradesh	3619	4582	4330	608
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	5404	6796	6796	868
15.	Karnataka	19117	21860	20473	5350
16.	Kerala	12368	13592	12858	3600
17.	Lakshadweep	81	112	112	22
18.	Madhya Pradesh	28127	33294	32017	7536
19.	Maharashtra	33550	38301	33741	9014
20.	Manipur	1288	1709	1709	208
21.	Meghalaya	1239	1651	1651	200
22.	Mizoram	483	645	645	78
23.	Nagaland	847	1140	1140	128
24.	Orissa	13456	15102	14741	3730
25.	Pondicherry	472	627	627	78
26.	Punjab	8619	9896	8621	2392
27.	Rajasthan	18704	22372	21036	5092
28.	Sikkim	287	379	379	50
29.	Tamilnadu	23741	26033	23822	6790
30.	Tripura	1932	2566	2566	302
31.	Uttar Pradesh	59122	70722	69026	15936
32.	West Bengal	28934	33138	30326	7796
	Total	380463	444142	415213	99950

@ Based on population as per 1991 census.
Based on projected population as on 1.3.1999.
Based on projected population as on 1.3.1999 excluding income tax assessees.

Export Obligation to Auto Industry

1409. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

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

(a) whether Auto Industry in the country had been acquainted of the inevitability of export while granting approval for production;

(b) the percentage of total production which had been set as export obligation for industry;

(c) whether the exports have been made in conformity with the fixed import obligations during the remaining period of the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereto and to what extent exports have been made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No such condition was imposed while granting approval for production.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the present policy the passenger car manufacturers are required to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government of India committing themselves to achieving a broad neutralisation of foreign exchange in terms of balancing between the actual CIF Value of imports of CKD/SKD Kits/Components and the FOB Value of exports of cars and auto components. The period for this export obligation commences from the third year of commencement of production. The concerned companies have already started their export. The period of fulfilment of Export Obligation is still not over. Hence the question of a company not fulfilling the export obligation does not arise at this stage.

Export Friendly Exim Policy

1410. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government are in favour of making of EXIM Policy export friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction;

(c) whether the exporters have expressed certain problems in a meeting organised by Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual changes in the EXIM Policy, 1997-2002 are being formulated, in consultation with export promotion councils and apex chambers of Commerce and Industry. The revised EXIM policy incorporating these changes shall be placed, as per the accepted practice on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) In the meetings organised by FIEO, exporters have raised issues relating transaction costs and time, procedural simplifications and modifications in the existing export promotion schemes. All these are being examined in detail for incorporation in the revised edition of the EXIM Policy.

Export Subsidies on Farm Products

1411. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASSOCHAM have asked the Government to impress upon the WTO members on the need for effective measures to prevent rolling over of unused subsidies in view of debilitating impact of high incidents of export subsidies on farm products;

(b) if so, whether the Chamber has also underlined the need for proper disciplines on exports credit, export guarantees and export insurance and price discounts which strikes at the very routes of the envisaged liberlization in the agricultural sector;

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether many WTO member countries have shifted export subsidies between products from year to year so as to target a few specific commodities and also have rolled over unused subsidies to the following year; and

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken matter with the WTO countries and steps taken in regard to unused subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As reported in certain sections of the Press, ASSOCHAM has through their Press release asked the Government to impress upon the WTO members on the need for effective measures to prevent rolling over of unused subsidies.

(c) to (e) Keeping in view the trade distorting nature of export subsidies, India in its proposals submitted to WTO for the ongoing negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, has called for their elimination in the first two years of implementation, both in terms of export subsidy outlays and subsidised volumes and has also demanded that no rollover of unused export subsidies should be allowed during the transition period. India has also called for subjecting all forms of export subsidisation including export credit, guarantees, price discounts and

insurance programmes to the overall disciplines applicable to export subsidies.

Existing provision of WTO Agreement on Agriculture did not prohibit rolling over of unused export subsidies and as such there are a few instances of member countries having rolled over the unused export subsidies to the following year and having shifted export subsidies between products so as to target a few specific commodities. However, since this negates the very spirit of the Agreement, India has called for elimination of these export subsidies including no further rolling over of unused export subsidies.

Minting of Coins and Printing of Notes

1412. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange spent by the Government in importing/minting of coins/currency notes from abroad during the last three years;

(b) the expenditure being incurred by the Government on each of Rs.1 Rs.2 and Rs.5 coin from import to its circulation;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan or strategy to make the country self-reliant in coin minting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether opening of new mint at Hyderabad and doubling the shift of NOIDA mint, the import has come down to some extent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to save the foreign exchange on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Total foreign exchange spent by the Government in importing/ minting of coins/currency notes from abroad during the last three years is as under:

Coins	US$ 4,09,76,546, DM 3,10,28,616	£ 53,19,144 &
Currency notes	US $ 9,52,83,944.	

(b) Orders have been placed for import of 2.5 billion coins. The expenditure to be incurred on these imports is as follows:

Deno.	Quantity (in MPCs)	Expenditure
Rs. 1	750	US $ 86,94,837.50
Rs. 2	750	US $ 2,30,54,625
Rs. 5	1000	(DM 1,87,15,824 and (US $ 3,97,84,500

In addition, about 1% of the above expenditure will be incurred towards port handling charges and delivery of coins to RBI vaults.

(c) to (f) With a view to increasing the coin production in the country, the three Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad are being modernised. As a result of the ongoing modernisation, the production of coins is increasing steadily. Further modernisation of mints for augmenting the capacity is also being contemplated. Second shift working is planned to be introduced at NOIDA Mint. With these measures, the coin production in the country is expected to increase substantially. However, import of coins is contingent upon the RBI's demand for coins in future.

Financial Scam by the Financial Institutions

1413. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of investigation into the financial scams committed by plantation companies during the past three years;

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

(c) the details of long term policy proposed by the Government to deal with the problem and recurrence of such scams in plantation companies; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to deal with the financial frauds committed by Non-Banking financial companies all over the country and particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates Collective Investment Schemes (CISs) through

which investments are sought for agro, plantation etc. related instruments. A special audit of top 53 CIS entities was ordered in January, 1998. Another two entities were audited pursuant to court orders. Further, inspection of another 12 entities was conducted by SEBI. The findings of audit report revealed large scale diversion of funds to activities unrelated to the schemes; a large portion of the money raised has been spent towards the cost of mobilisation of funds etc. Under the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 which were notified in October, 1999, no existing CIS entity can launch any new scheme or raise money from investors even under existing schemes, unless a certificate or registration is granted to it by SEBI.

SEBI has sent individual letters to all CIS entities which did not file applications for registration with SEBI, advising them to wind up their schemes and repay their investors. Notices were also issued to those CIS bodies which failed to do so, to show cause why action should not be initiated against them.

SEBI has recommended initiation of liquidation proceedings against 605 CIS entities.

(d) A comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of depositors and ensuring that non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes, inter-alia, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profits to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of the RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has recently introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha which is expected to provide better safeguards to the depositors of NBFCs.

Policy for Phased Reduction of Customs Duty

1414. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Advisory Council has urged the Government to announce a policy for phased reduction of customs duties to bring them at par with East Asia tariff rates over a period of three to four years;

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

(c) the time by which the above policy is likely to be framed and implemented; and

(d) the manner in which it will affect Indian economic scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council in their report on Economic Reforms has recommended that the Government should announce a five year phased transition from an average import duty level of 34 per cent to an average of 12 per cent by 2005. The council has observed that high rates of duty protection do not contribute to the development of a strong industrial sector and they shield inefficiencies in domestic production, creating a high cost industrial structure which makes domestic industry uncompetitive across the board. The council has further observed that it also leads to over-valuation of the exchange rate and makes export oriented industries less profitable.

(c) and (d) As announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 2001-2002, the Government will like to move progressively within three years to reduce the number of rates to the minimum with a peak rate of 20%. The modalities for this will be worked out in time for the next budget.

Revenue from Advertisement

1415. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio and Doordarshan generate income through broadcast and telecast of advertisments;

(b) if so, the income generated during each of the last three years by the two organizations, separately, State-wise;

(c) the measures contemplated by the Government to boost the revenue of Doordarshan and All India Radio; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance and renovation of the Centres during the said period separately?

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

(b) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that they have initiated a number of steps, within the parameters of Public Broadcaster, to increase its revenue generation. The steps include adopting a proactive and market friendly approach towards producers, advertisers, advertising agencies and sponsoring bodies; functional autonomy to regional centres with regard to commercial matters; establishment of an in-house Marketing Wing in Mumbai to ensure effective marketing of programmes, etc.

Privatisation of Foodgrains Purchase

1416. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared proposals to privatise foodgrains purchase;

(b) whether the Government have plans to dismantle the Food Corporation of India on a slow and gradual basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any part of the duty assigned to the FCI are being taken out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government has started a scheme of Decentralised Procurement of foodgrains under which State Governments procure, store and undertake distribution of foodgrains. This will help the deficit or mariginally surplus States to procure as much quantity of rice or wheat as may be required by the State Government for distribution under PDS. The quantity procured over and above the States requirements are handed over to FCI. The difference between the economic cost of the State Government and Central Issue Price is passed on to the State Government as subsidy.

Under this scheme, procurement of rice started in West Bengal during Kharif Marketing Season 1997-98. In Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the scheme commenced with effect from the Rabi Marketing Season 1999-2000, for wheat. The State Government of U.P. has also commenced procurement of paddy/rice under this scheme with effect from the Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000.

Shortage of Coins

1417. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite expenditure of Rs. 59 crore spent on modernisation of Government of India Mint in Calcutta, the objective of increasing the production of coin blanks and coins remain unfulfilled and the mint continued to produce almost the same amount of coins as before modernisation;

(b) if so, the reasons for not achieving the result;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps have been taken to check the shortage of currency coins in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As a result of modernisation, the production of coins and coin blanks in the Kolkata Mint has increased steadily as evident from the production figures given below:

(in million pieces)

Year	Production of blanks	Production of coins
1997-98	152.3600	434.1800
1998-99	255.9600	525.1100
1999-2000	356.5200	660.0900

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

(e) As a long-term measure, it was planned to modernise the Mints at Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai which is nearing completion. It has also been decided to put NOIDA Mint on two shift working. As a short-term measure, coins are being imported to bridge the gap between the indent of coins from RBI and supply of coins by Mints.

Auction of Late Night Slot on Metro Channel

1418. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has decided to auction late night slots on Metro Channel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the monthly earnings made by Metro/DD-2 on this account; and

(d) the expected income of Metro/DD-2 and National Channel in the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Navratna Status to other Public Sector Units

1419. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conferred Navratna status to some Public Sector Units in the recent past;

(b) if so, the names of such PSUs;

(c) whether the Government propose to give Navratna status to some other PSUs and have also decided to deprive certain units who have also been conferred Navratna status units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the recent past Government have conferred Navratna status to 11 Central PSUs viz., Indian Oil Corpn. (IOC), Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd. (ONGC), Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (BPCL), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), National Thermal Power Corpn. (NTPC), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. (IPCL).

(c) and (d) Review of Navratna status presently conferred on CPSUs or addition of new PSUs in the list of Navratnas is a continuous process. There is at present, no proposal to withdraw the Navratna status from any of the Navratna CPSUs.

CBI Raid in Ahmedabad Airport

1420. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has received number of complaints of irregularities against the customs officials posted in Ahmedabad Airport;

(b) if so, whether the CBI has recently raised the airport;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof with the details of customs officials found guilty; and

(d) the seizure made in the raid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A check was conducted by CBI on 14.1.2001 at SVP International Airport, Ahmedabad.

(c) CBI has registered a case against four Customs Inspectors.

(d) During the surprise check, the concerned officers were found in possession of cash exceeding the prescribed limit. Besides, Indian and foreign currency and a liquor bottle were found unaccounted which were seized by CBI.

Production of Cement

1421. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement production has increased during the current year as compared to previous year;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase registered in the cement production; and

(c) the extent to which the Government propose to further improve the production of cement?

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

(b) There is marginal increase of 0.69% in production of cement by large plants during the current year as compared to the previous year. The details are as under:-

April, 2000 January, 2001 - 77.03 million tonnes

April, 1999 January, 2000 - 76.50 million tonnes

(c) 1. In pursuance of Government's commitment to improve investment climate, the policies and procedures pertaining to Foreign Direct Investment have been progressively liberalised/ streamlined. At present all Foreign Direct Investment in areas of infrastructure are permitted under the automatic approval route, except for a small negative list.

2. Recent initiatives of Government in the areas of urban infrastructure development, and tax benefits for Housing sector is likely to boost up the demand for cement.

3. Accelerated implementation of Prime Minister's National Highways Development Project with emphasis on construction of concrete roads is likely to give a major fillip to the cement sector.

4. To remove the bottlenecks and improve the efficiency of production, infrastructure support is provided in terms of coal linkages to the cement industry.

5. Rail wagons are also provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.

6. Government is allotting cess funds for R&D efforts in the cement industry, to adopt, absorb and implement latest technologies in the area of energy efficiency.

Fiscal Reforms

1422. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 States have entered into Memorandum of Understanding with his Ministry to get on with fiscal reforms;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have warned of a debt trap arising out of the fact that 63 percent of the borrowings are being used for current consumption;

(c) whether his Ministry has pointed out to the Planning Commission that this would lead to an emergent situation of debt unsustainability of States; and

(d) if so, the reaction of States on this issue?

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

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Finance Commission has also noted the high Revenue Deficit and the fiscal stress being faced by the States. As per available data 63% of the Gross Fiscal Deficit is made up by the Revenue Deficit, for all the States in aggregate.

(d) The 13 States which have signed Memoranda of Understanding are taking steps to attain fiscal balance.

Modernization of Patent Offices

1423. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government sanctioned a project for modernization of patent offices at a cost of Rs. 75.79 Crores for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the project has been completed;

(c) whether this project has been made fully operational including all the branches of Patent Offices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of applications received by Patent Offices from March, 2000 till date for grant of process and product patent and the number of applications cleared so far;

(f) whether people are facing a lot of problems, who are seeking product of patent; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the problems of the people?

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

(b) to (d) The project for modernisation of the Patent Office at Kolkata alongwith its branches had, inter-alia, the following broad components;

- Infrastructure Development
- Human Resource Development

- Computerization and re-engineering of works practices
- Financial and operational autonomy
- Elimination of backlog of patent applications

Implementation of the project has been delayed due to litigation in the Kolkata High Court. The litigation has also necessitated partial reorientation of the project which is now at various stages of implementation At present:-

- Initial level of computerization with Internet connectivity and e-mail facility has been established in all offices;
- Additional accommodation for Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata has been acquired and work on layout designs and furnishing of the offices is under progress on turn-key basis;
- The Patent Information System, Nagpur is being upgraded also as a training institute and infrastructure development is under progress;
- Front office automation software trial is under progress and System Requirement Specifications (SRS) have been prepared by the National Informatics Centre;
- Additional manpower has been/is being provided to Patent Offices; computer training to officers and staff is also in progress;
- Re-designing of the patenting process and simplification of procedures to expedite disposal of applications has been undertaken;
- A draft work manual for Patent Office Procedure has been prepared;
- Weeding out of old records has been completed and digitalization of records has been initiated;
- CD-Roms, technical books and journals for improving search facilities are under acquisition.

(e) 4868 applications have been received by Patent Offices from March, 2000 to January, 2001 and 3153 applications, including backlog applications, have been cleared during this period.

(f) and (g) Under the existing Patent Law there are provisions for grant of Compulsory Licence, in case reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention have not been satisfied or where the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonable price. In addition, the law also provides for deemed "Licence of Right" in case of food, drugs, and chemical substances.

As regards the problem of elimination of backlog of patent applications, Government have increased the monthly target of disposal of patent applications per Examiner by 50%. In addition, a target of 500 patent scrutiny reports per month for each branch office has been fixed.

[Translation]

Establishment of Foreign Owned Subsidiaries

1424. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are permitting foreign companies to establish wholly owned subsidiaries aiming at to encourage direct foreign aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of sectors where such subsidiary companies are likely to be opened;

(c) the likely effect on Indian Economy and Industries as a result thereof; and

(d) the approximate foreign exchange likely to be earned by the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Policy relating to foreign aid is not formulated by this Ministry. However, as far as Foreign Direct Investment is concerned, the Government is permitting foreign owned subsidiaries in Manufacturing Sector (except for items reserved for Small Scale Industry, Defence, Strategic Industries, Atomic Energy), Films, Mining, Pollution Control and Management, Power (except Atomic Energy), Roads, Highways, Vehicular Bridges, Vehicular Tunnels, Ports and Harbours, Internet Providers (except for gateway), Infrastructure Providers providing dark fibre, electronic mail and voice mail, coal and lignite, hotel and tourism, petroleum sector, cash & carry wholesale trading/export trading and Venture Capital Funds. Foreign investment is perceived as a means of bringing in new and competitive technologies and managerial skills along with needed capital to supplement domestic capital. The inflow of foreign investment is dependent on the commercial judgement of the investors, availability of adequate and dependable infrastructure facilities such as power, developed land etc.; and incentives and subsidies provided

by State Governments for attracting investment into the States and Union Territories.

[English]

Complaints Against DD Programmes

1425. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints/representations regarding the poor quality of Doordarshan programmes during 2000-2001;

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

(c) whether the Government contemplate to ban vulgar films and programmes on all the channels of Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the time by which this ban is expected to be imposed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that complaints/ suggestions in respect of programmes telecast on Doordarshan are received from time to time from various quarters and remedial action is taken, wherever necessary.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan telecasts only those films which are certified by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for universal exhibition. Doordarshan previews films before telecast on its channels in accordance with the provisions of Broadcast Code to ensure that they do not contain any undesirable violence, vulgarity, etc. As regards other programmes telecast on Doordarshan, it is ensured that these conform to the provisions of Broadcast Code.

Task Force for Micro Credit

1426. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force set up by NABARD to examine micro-credit system has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the suggestions/recommendations made by the task force;

(c) the reaction of the Government on such recommendations; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report of the Task Force was submitted to the Government as well as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 25/10/1999. The major suggestions/ recommendations made by the Task Force relate to mainstreaming of micro-finance institutions (mFIs) and other mFIs structure, Regulation and Supervision of mFIs, Organisational Aspects relating to mFIs.

(c) and (d) Government have taken various steps based on the recommendations contained in the Report. Some of these include scaling up of Self-Help Groups (SHGs)-Bank Linkage Programme, Introduction of Rating Norms for SHGs and introduction of SHGs in Government sponsored schemes. For providing start-up and capacity building funds Government has also set up a micro-Finance Development Fund with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Buffer Stock Maintained By FCI

1427. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buffer stock of foodgrains maintained by FCI was far in excess of norms laid during 1993-96 and 1998 resulting into excessive carrying cost which ranged between Rs. 450 crores and Rs. 1853 crore during 1993-98;

(b) if so, the reasons for maintaining such huge quantity of stocks violating the laid down norms; and

(c) whether any proposal to enquire into the matter and to ensure compliance of the laid down norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in Export to Mauritius

1428. SHRI ASHOK N MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of most of the commodities to Mauritius has declined;

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

(c) whether Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has organised an Indo-Mauritius Economic meet recently to highlight the concern over the decline in India's export to Mauritius; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meet?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) ASSOCHAM had organised a select group meeting with the high level delegation led by Dr. Nababsingh on 17th February, 2001, who is the advisor to the PM of Mauritius and the Chairman of the Board of Investments (BOI). The objective of the above meeting was primarily on enhancing investment opportunities through mutual cooperation using Mauritius as a gateway for Indian products to African, European and American markets.

Poor Quality of PDS Rice in Karnataka

1429. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the rice supplied "Under Relaxed Specification" (URS) to Karnataka during 1997-98 and 1998-99 was of a very low quality, discoloured broken and there were no takens for that rice in wholesale depots and fair price shops in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith corrective measures initiated by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Government has issued any instructions not to supply such low quality of rice to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. The rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS rice) during 1997-98 and 1998-99 and supplied to Karnataka was conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms. However, the State Government of Karnataka had shown reluctance in accepting these rice stocks.

(b) The relaxations in the uniform specifications of rice during 1997-98 and 1998-99 were extended as the paddy crop during these two years was several affected by unseasonal rains. The uniform specifications of rice were not relaxed during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) The matter was examined in the Ministry and instructions were issued to the Food Corporation of India not to supply URS rice stocks of 1997-98 and 1998-99 to any of the States, including Karnataka, under TPDS

Stoppage of Subsidy to State Governments

1430. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the amount of subsidy being provided by the Government on foodgrains, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have decided to stop giving of subsidy to those State Governments which have failed to produce certificates of the distribution of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the subsidy to the tune of three to four thousand crore of rupees is being misappropriated by middlemen;

(e) if so, whether the officials of the State Governments are also involved in that and have nexus with middlemen; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Government does not provide subsidy directly to any State Government except those which have agreed to undertake procurement of foodgrains i.e. wheat and rice under the decentralised scheme of procurement. Presently, Governments of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar

Pradesh only are undertaking procurement and distribution of foodgrains under the decentralised procurement scheme. Subsidy released/provided of them during the current financial year so far is as under:-

Rs/crores

State	Amount of subsidy
West Bengal	65.00
Madhya Pradesh	50.40
Uttar Pradesh	261.47

(b) and (c) As stated in reply to part (a), substantial amounts of subsidy have already been released to the concerned State Governments during the current financial year 2000-2001. However, since financial year is about to close, these State Governments have been requested to furnish the utilisation certificates to enable the Department to clear their remaining claims.

(d) and (e) Governments have no information in this regard.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pilot Episodes of TV Serials

1431 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rule for submitting pilot episodes of TV serials with the Directorate General of Doordarshan;

(b) the total number of pilot episodes of TV serials submitted by the TV serial producers to the Directorate General of Doordarshan during each of the last three years and the current year so far;

(c) whether certain TV serial producers have some times submitted the pilot episodes after the prescribed time limit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government on such episodes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that as per the guidelines, the proposals of sponsored programmes in the first instance are approved in principle subject to providing of pilot of the episodes within a period of 3 months for placing before the Selection Committee of Doordarshan for final decision/approval, failing which the approval granted to the proposal lapses automatically.

(b) Total number of pilot episodes of TV serials submitted by the producers during each of the last three years and the current year, is given as under:-

1998	-	196
1999	-	375
2000	-	173
Current year	-	13

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have intimated that out of 11 serials for which the pilot episodes were submitted after the prescribed time limit by the producers, only 1 serial based on the novel of Shri Sharat Chandra which highlights the moral values of modern society was found suitable for telecast after preview by Doordarshan.

[English]

Sugar Mills

1432 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been urged to ensure payment of reasonable price to sugarcane growers by sugar mills;

(b) if so, whether number of sugar mills had been closed in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government's intervention was required to help the sugar cane growers;

(d) whether sugarcane growers in Karnataka, Bihar, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are in great threat due to non-payment of dues by the sugar mills; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help these cane growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD):

(a) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane is fixed by the Central Government for each sugar season taking into account of cost of production of sugarcane, return to the grower from the alternative crops and the general trend of price of agricultural commodities, availability to the consumer at a fair price, the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by the producers of sugar, the recovery of sugar from sugarcane etc. The SMP has been increased every season. However, most of the mills pay either the State Advised Price of sugarcane or agreed price which is much higher than the SMP

(b) A statement showing the State-wise details of sugar mills which have remained continuously closed during the last three sugar seasons (October-September) is attached.

The closure of sugar mills is attributable to variety of factors such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomic size, old age, bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessive high cane price not commensurate with the sale realisation of sugar etc.

(c) The Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) under different schemes viz modernisation/rehabilitation and cane development. Till 31.12.2000, a sum of Rs. 1687.65 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose. Further, for their revival, sick sugar mills belonging to private and public sector have to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whereas the cooperative sugar mills have to approach the concerned State Governments for preparation of suitable rehabilitation scheme under the respective Cooperative Societies Act

(d) As per the latest information received from the State Governments concerned, the cane price arrears against the cane purchased during the 1999-2000 sugar season were as under:

Sl.No.	State	% age of cane price arrears of the total price payable	Position as on
1	Karnataka	6.13	12.12.2000
2.	Bihar	2.26	15.10.2000
3.	Maharashtra	0.59	11.12.2000
4.	Andhra Pradesh	0.02	30.11.2000

(e) The Central Government have taken the following measures to enable sugar factories to improve their financial health so that cane price payment is made promptly and arrears are reduced/liquidated at the earliest.

1. Levy obligation of sugar mills has been reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000 and again to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001.
2. Custom duty has been increased to 60% w.e.f. 9.2.2000 on the imported sugar along with existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne so as to restrict inflow of sugar in the country.
3. Pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas.
4. Advance releases of freesale sugar to needy sugar mills are being given to enable them to clear cane price dues of the farmers.
5. Export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has been permitted.
6. An amendment in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1996 w.e.f. 29.11.2000 has been made giving more powers to the Central Government and the State Governments for recovery of sugarcane dues treating it to be the dues of land revenue.
7. As the responsibility of cane price payment lies primarily with the State Governments, from time to time State Governments have been impressed upon to ensure timely payment of cane prices.

Statement

The Statewise sugar factories which continuously remained closed in 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000 sugar seasons (Oct-Sept)

Sl. No.	Name of State/Factory
PUNJAB	
1	Budhlada
U.P.	
2.	Gauribazar
3.	Anandnagar
M.P.	
4.	Dalauda
5.	Mehidpur
GUJARAT	
6	Amod
7.	Dhoraji
MAHARASHTRA	
8.	Dongarkada
9.	Sanjay
10.	Dhamangaon
11	Mauda
12.	Sindkheda
13.	Girna
14.	Changdeo
BIHAR	
15.	Ryam
16.	Lohat
17.	Sakri
18.	Samastipur
19.	Banmankhi
20.	Lauriya
21.	Sugauli
22.	Motipur
23.	Mirganj
24.	Siwan

[Translation]

Setting and Upgradation of DD/AIR Transmitters

1433. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up some DD/AIR (Vividh Bharati/FM Radio stations/Studio Transmitter projects in the country during the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade/ expand/modernise some transmitter projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof, type-wise, location-wise State-wise,

(e) the time by which these are likely to be completed/started functioning alongwith the areas and population that would be covered by these projects, State-wise particularly in Madhya Praesh;

(f) the reasons for delay, if any ongoing transmitter project is behind the schedule time of completion/ construction;

(g) if so, the details thereof, and

(h) the total budget outlay sanctioned to implement the policy on expansion of electronic media during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

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

and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of AIR and Doordarshan projects under implementation in the Ninth Five Year Plan are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of upgradation and modernisation schemes of AIR and Doordarshan transmitter, presently under implementation, are given in statement-II attached.

(e) These projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed in phases, during the next two to three years. State-wise coverage figures, existing and expected to be achieved consequent upon commissioning of above projects, are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(f) and (g) Some of the transmitter projects are behind schedule mainly due to following reasons:

(i) Difficulties in acquisition of sites;

(ii) Delay on the part of contracting agencies in construction of towers and buildings;

(iii) Delay in finalisation of tenders for purchase of equipment and delay in delivery by suppliers;

(iv) Non-availability of infrastructural facilities e.g. approach roads, power and water supply at certain places;

(v) Law and order problems at certain places.

(h) Approved outlay for AIR and Doordarshan schemes under Ninth Plan is Rs. 805.40 crores and Rs. 1761.65 crores respectively.

Statement

A. All India Radio

S. No.	Place/Scheme
1	2
	Andhra Pradesh
1.	Macherla-LRS with 3 kW FM Tr., & Studio.
2.	Tirupati-3 kW FM Tr.
	Delhi
3.	Delhi-New Broadcasting House
	Gujarat
4.	Himmatnagar-LRS with 1 kW MW Tr., & Studio.
	Jammu & Kashmir
5.	Bhadarwah-6 kW FM Tr. & Studio
6.	Srinagar-Conversion of mono VB Studio to stereo
	Karnataka
7.	Bangalore-10 kW FM Tr. (Stereo)
	Kerala
8.	Manjeri-LRS with 3 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Mandla-LRS with 1 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
10.	Rajgarh-LRS with 3 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
11.	Sarapalli-LRS with 1 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
	Maharashtra
12.	Mumbai-5 kW FM Tr. (2nd Channel)
	Manipur
13.	Imphal-10 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
14.	Imphal-Up-link facility
15.	Churachandpur-LRS with 6 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
	Meghalaya
16.	Shillong-10 kW FM Tr. and Studio
17.	Shillong-RSTI (P) Permanent set up
	Mizoram
18.	Aizawl-6 kW FM Tr. & Studio.
	Orissa
19.	Soro (Balasore)-LRS-1 kW MW Tr., Studio
	Rajasthan
20.	Jaipur-6 kW FM Tr. & Stereo play back facility
	Tamilnadu
21.	Dharamapuri-LRS with 10 kW FM Tr. & Studio
	Tripura
22.	Agartala-10 kW FM Tr., & Studio
23.	Agartala-Uplink facility
	West Bengal
24.	Shantiniketan-LRS with 3 kW FM Tr. & studio
25.	Siliguri-10 kW FM Tr. & Studio (VB)

B-Doordarshan

State	Type	Location	State	Type	Location
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Studio	Warangal	Haryana	Studio	Hissar
	HPT	Warangal*			
				LPT	Kurushetra (DD II)
		Vishakhapatnam (DD II)	Himachal Pradesh	VLPT	Bijli Mahadev
					Dalhausi
	LPT	Sirpura			Jhatingn
		Pedapalli			Kaja
		Kandukur			Awah Devi
		Madugula			Nehn
		Pulamaner			
		Punganur	Jammu & Kashmir	Studio	Leh
		Vemalvada			
		Sirsilla		HPT	Naushera *
		Machilipatnam			Kupwara #
		Zahirabad			Gurez #
		Miryalaguda			Tithwal
		Kakinada (DD II)			Samba #
		Nellore (DD II			Poonch (DD II)
					Naushera (DD II)
	VLPT	Kanigiri			Kupwara (DD II)
		Duttalur			Gurez (DD II)
		Madipadu			Tithawal (DD II)
					Samba (DD II)
Arunachal Pradesh	VLPT	Sangram			
		Deomali		LPT	Udhampur #
		Italin			Wusan (mobile)
					Kulgam (mobile)
Assam	Xser	Guwahati			Banihal (mobile)
					Gandoh (mobile)
Bihar	HPT	Muzaffapur (DD II)			Awantipura (mobile)
					Chowkibal (mobile)
	LPT	Ramnagar			Rajdhani Pass (mobile)
		Kishanganj			Anantnag (mobile)
		Banka			Quazigund (mobile)
		Gaya (DD II)			Patnitop (mobile)
					Fatula (mobile)
Chhatisgarh	HPT	Ambikapur*			Drass (mobile)
	LPT	Kharod		VLPT	Bafliaz
		Pandaria			Darnal
		Konta			Ringdom Gompa
					Tral
	VLPT	Pathalgaon			Abran
					Banihal
Gujarat	HPT	Vadodara *			Basoli
		Surat *			Bilawar

1	2	3	4	5	6
	LPT	Surat (DD II)			Boniyar
		Vadodara (DD II)			Dah
		Rajkot (DD II)			Dhar
		Bhavnagar (DD II)			Domchuk
		Jamnagar (DD II)			Gandoh
		Gulmarg			Gulabgarh
		Handle			Davangere (DD II)
		Hot Spirng			
		Ichar		VLPT	Huvin Hippargi
		Keran			Kudligi
		Khaltai			
		Khrew	Kerala	Studio	Calicut
		Kotranka			Trichur
		Lati			
		Lingshed		HPT	Cannanore *
		Loran			
		Machil		LPT	Manjeri
		Mahore			Kottarakkara
		Mandi			Thrissur (DD II)
		Manjakot			
		Mansur			
		Mendhar		VLPT	Erattupetta
		Nowgam			Mundakayam
		Panamik	Madhya Pradesh	HPT	Guna*
		Pestha			Shahdol*
		Poni			Jabalpur (DD II)
		Pulwama			Gwalior (DD II)
		Ramkot			
		Ramnagar		LPT	Bareli
		Shopian			Lakhnadon
		Sonmarg			Sindhwa
		Sunderbani			
		Tangmarg			
		Tatapani		VLPT	Alot
		Thathri	Maharashtra	HPT	Chandrapur *
		Tilel			Jalgaon *
		Tregam			Ratnagiri *
		Yusmarg			Pune (DD II)
		Zangla			Aurangabad (DD II)
Jharkhand	HPT	Jamshedpur *		LPT	Raver
	LPT	Chatra			Dhadgaon
		Dhanbad (DD II)			Bhamragad
		Jamshedpur (DD II)			Nashik (DD II)
		Bokaro (DD II)			Solapur (DD II)
					Amravatri (DD II)
	VLPT	Ramgarh Hills			Kolhapur (DD II)
Karnataka	HPT	Mangalore *			Sangli (DD II)
		Mysore *			Malegaon (DD II)
		Raichur *			Akola (DD II)
					Nanded (DD II)
					Dhule (DD II)

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Gulbarga (DD II)		VLPT	Ambet
		Dharwad (DD II)			Sakoli
	LPT	Mudhol			
		Talikota			
		Indi	Manipur	HPT	Churachandpur #
		Koppa			
		Belthangadi	Mizoram	LPT	Lawngtlai
		Mundargi			
		Sindhnur	Nagaland	Xser	Bara Basti
		Mysore (DD II)			
	HPT	Berhampur			
					Madurai (DD II)
					Vellore (DD II)
	LPT	Tushara			Erode (DD II)
		Chikiti			Salem (DD II)
		Baleshwar (DD II)			Tirunelveli (DD II)
Punjab	Studio	Patiala			Tuticonn (DD II)
					Tirupattur (DD II)
	HPT	Fazilka (Pmt.)**			
		Amritsar (Aug.)***	Tripura	LPT	Jolaiban
		Amirtsar (DD II)			Amarpur
		Jalandhar (DD II)**			Ambassa
	LPT	Ludhiana (DD II)	Uttar Pradesh	Studio	Mathura
Rajasthan	Studio	Udaipur		HPT	Banda *
					Lakhimpur*
	HPT	Ajmer *			Faizabad
		Barmer (Pmt.)**			
				LPT	Narora
	LPT	Pirawa			Kosi
		Nasirabad			Bidhuna
		Bhinmal			Bareilly (DD II)
		Sojat			Aligarh (DD II)
		Sanchor			Jhansi (DD II)
		Kishangarh (Ajmer)			Moradabad (DD II)
		Vijaynagar			Shahjahpur (DD II)
		Bikaner (DD II)			Sultanpur (DD II)
		Ajmer (DD II)			
		Udaipur (DD II)	Uttaranchal	Studio	Dehradun (Int.)
	VLPT	Tibi		LPT	Dhunaghat
					Khetikhan
Sikkim	Studio	Gangtok			Gopeshwar #
	VLPT	Zorethang		VLPT	Chamoli
					Manila
Tamilnadu	Studio	Coimbatore			Kedarnath
		Madurai			Dugadda
					Aroli
	HPT	Kumbakonam (Pmt.)**			
		Kodaikanal (DD II)		Xser	Mussoone (DD II)
	LPT	Erode	West Bengal	HPT	Balurghat *
		Palani			Krishnanagar (Pmt.) **

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Ambasamudram Kallakuruchi Ambur Poolachi Tiruchirapalli (DD II) Coimbatore (DD II)		LPT	Kharagpur * Shantiniketan* Asansol (DD II) Jhalda #
			Chandigarh	Studio	Chandigarh
Note					
* HPT in replacement of LPT					
** Augmentation of HPT (1 kW) to 10 kW			Delhi	Studio	Delhi (Aug.)
# Replacement of VLPT by LPT/HPT					
$ Replacement of X'ser by VLPT			Pondicherry	HPT	Pondicherry*
*** Aug. of HPT/ (10 kW) to 20 kW					

Statement-II

A All India Radio

S. No	Place/Scheme
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
1	Hyderabad-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 10 kW)
Assam	
2	Silchar 2-0 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 10 kW)
Gujarat	
3	Vadodra-10 kW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW MW VB Tr.)
4	Bhuj-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 10 kW)
5	Rajkot 'B'-10 kW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW MW Tr. VB)
Haryana	
6	Rohtak-20 kW MW Tr. (Replacement of 20 kW)
Jammu & Kashmir	
7	Srinagar -10 kW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW MW VB)
8	Jammu-50 kW SW Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW)
9	Leh-20 kW MW Tr (Rep. of 10 kW)
Karnataka	
10.	Dharwad-10 kW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW, MW VB)
11.	Mangalore-10 kW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW MW)
12.	Mysore-10 kW FM Tr., (Rep. of 1 kW MW)
Kerala	
13.	Calicut-10 kW FM Tr. (Rep. of 1 kW MW, VB)
14.	Trivendrum-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 10 kW)
Madhya Pradesh	
15.	Ambikapur-20 kW MW Tr., (Rep. of 20 kW)
16.	Indore-200 kW MW (Rep. of 100 kW)
17.	Nagpur-300 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 100 KW)
18.	Ratnagiri-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 20 kW MW Tr.)
Manipur	
19.	Imphal-300 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 50 kW)
Meghalaya	
20.	Tura-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 20 kW MW)
Mizoram	
21.	Aizawl-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 20 kW)
Nagaland	
22.	Kohima-100 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 50 kW)

1	2
Orissa	
23.	Cuttack-300 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 100 kW)
Rajasthan	
24.	Jodhpur-300 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 100 kW)
Sikkim	
25.	Gangtok-20 kW MW Tr., (Rep. of 20 kW)
Tamilnadu	
26.	Chennai-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep of 10 kW 'B')
27.	Tirunelveli-20 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 10 kW)
Uttar Pradesh	
28.	Aligarh-2x250 kW SW Tr. (Rep. of 250 kW each)
29.	Nijibabad-200 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 100 kW)
Andaman And Nicobar Islands	
30.	Port Blair-100 kW MW Tr. (Rep. of 20 kW)

B-Doordarshan

State	Replacement of HPTs	Upgradation of LPTs (100 W to 500W)	Upgradation of VLPTs (10W to 50 W)
1	2	3	4
Assam		Hojai	Guwahati (Xser)
Andhra Pradesh			Vijayawada (Xser)
Bihar	Patna	Darbhanga Buxar Siwan Sikandra Munger	
Gujarat	Dwarka		
Himachal Pradesh			Kharapathar Parwanoo
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Poonch		Mulbekh Pahalgaon Baramulla Dras Thanamandi Kargil Budhol Uri
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Dhanbad Bokaro Saraikela	
Kerala	Trivandrum	Thodupuzha	
Karnataka		Dandeli	

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh		Nagda Piparia	
Meghalaya		Shillong (DD II)	
Maharashtra			Keranja Kurkhera
Orissa		Bargarh Joda Rajgangapur	
Rajasthan		Alwar	Sikrai
Tamilnadu		Nagarcoil Tuticorin Udagamandalam	
Tripura		Telliamura	Dharamnagar
Uttar Pradesh		Sultanpur Deoria Raibareilly Gauriganj Faizabad	
West Bengal	Asansol	Kalna Malda	
Chandigarh		Bishnupur Chandigarh	

Statement-III

Statement Giving Details of AIR And Doordarshan Coverage As Referred to in Part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1433 To be answered on 02.03.2001

A- All India Radio

		Existing Coverage		Coverage after completion of projects under implementation	
		Area %	Population %	Area %	Population %
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. STATES					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99	99.5	99	99.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	57	72	57	72
3.	Assam	94.22	97.5	96.7	98.89
4.	Bihar	99*	99*	99*	99*

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Chhatisgarh	90.9	95.17	93.8	96.38
6	Goa	99*	99*	99*	99*
7	Gujarat	99*	99*	99*	99*
8.	Haryana	99*	99*	99*	99*
9.	Himahal Pradesh	50	87.4	52	88.3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	31	98	42.5	99
11	Jharkhand	99*	99*	99*	99*
12.	Karnataka	96.2	96.8	96.4	97.2
13.	Kerala	99.6	99.6	99.6	99.6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	98.33	98.76	98.47	98.85
15.	Maharashtra	98	98.8	99	99
16.	Manipur	48.3	80.4	94.96	98.54
17.	Meghalaya	97.5	97.3	97.5	97.3
18.	Mizoram	57.2	67.9	65.36	78.29
19.	Nagaland	77	82.5	81.5	86
20.	Orissa	98	98.8	98	98.8
21	Punjab	99*	99*	99*	99*
22.	Rajasthan	91.5	98.8	94	99
23	Sikkim	72	95	73	96.5
24.	Tamil Nadu	99*	99*	99*	99*
25.	Tripura	84.31	88	99*	99*
26.	Uttar Pradesh	99.3	99.75	99.3	99.75
27.	Uttaranchal	51.8	75.2	55.59	77.52
28.	West Bengal	99*	99*	99*	99*
II.	UNION TERRITORIES				
1.	A & N Islands	80	85	99*	99*
2.	Chandigarh	99*	99*	99*	99*
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	99*	99*	99*	99*
4.	Delhi	99*	99*	99*	99*
5.	Daman & Diu	99*	99*	99*	99*
6.	L & M Islands	99*	99*	99*	99*
7.	Pondicherry	99*	99*	99*	99*
National	Coverage	89.49	98.81	91.45	99.03

* Coverage in these States can normally be taken as 100% i.e. without taking into consideration the special requirement of certain situations

B-Doordarshan

	State/UTs	Present Coverage		Coverage after Completion of projects under implementation	
		Area %	Population %	Area %	Population %
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	80.6	87.7	82.7	89.7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16.5	51.0	16.9	51.5
3	Assam	74.6	82.8	74.6	82.8
4	Bihar	93.3	93.3	93.4	93.4
5	Chhatisgarh	57.3	69.6	73.8	84.8
6	Goa	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
7	Gujarat	84.3	86.0	92.6	95.8
8	Haryana	96.8	98.7	96.8	98.7
9	Himachal Pradesh	42.9	67.3	44.3	68.8
10	Jharkhand	95.8	96.8	96.6	97.4
11	Jammu & Kashmir	34.5	91.9	62.3	95.0
12	Karnataka	69.8	75.9	75.6	81.7
13	Kerala	99.1	92.5	99.4	99.6
14	Madhya Pradesh	73.6	75.3	76.6	77.2
15	Maharashtra	79.6	88.6	83.1	92.1
16	Manipur	32.1	67.0	36.6	73.6
17	Meghalaya	94.6	97.2	94.6	97.2
18	Mizoram	67.6	72.3	67.6	72.3
19	Nagaland	68.5	69.6	68.5	69.6
20	Orissa	87.4	92.0	88.7	93.3
21	Punjab	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
22	Rajasthan	70.1	76.2	73.1	79.2
23	Sikkim	77.4	95.0	80.4	97.7
24	Tamilnadu	93.6	93.6	95.8	95.9
25	Tripura	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5
26	Uttar Pradesh	88.5	95.8	89.5	96.4
27	Uttaranchal	54.6	80.3	57.3	81.3
28	West Bengal	95.9	96.2	98.1	98.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	A & N Islands	26.2	99.5	26.2	99.5
30.	Chandigarh	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65.2	65.0	65.2	65.0
32.	Daman & Diu	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
33.	Delhi	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
34.	Lakshadweep Islands	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.0
35.	Pondicherry	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
National Average		76.3	88.9	80.1	91.3

Note:

1 Coverage figures are inclusive of fringe areas (elevated antennae & boosters are required for obtaining reception in fringe areas.)

2 Terrain conditions not taken into consideration.

3 99.9% coverage has been indicated in respect of those States/UTs entire area/population of which lies in the coverage zone of existing/proposed transmitters. There is possibility of certain uncovered pockets in these States/UTs due to shadow areas.

Export of Rice and Wheat

1434. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has requested Government to grant permission to the private sector companies for exporting rice and wheat etc. in accordance with the conditions laid down by Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the above request;

(c) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to make announcement of its decision in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has decided to export 20 lakh MTs of wheat upto 31 March 2001 from the surplus stocks available with it through STC/MMTC/PEC/NCCF/ and NAFED. Wheat is being made available by FCI to these agencies for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category i.e. Rs. 4150/- PMT. The Government has also permitted FCI to export 20 lakh MTs for rice through Open tenders.

Drought Situation in Rajasthan and M.P.

1435. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of edible oils and kerosene in less than that demanded by the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of quantity demanded and supplied to the States;

(c) whether the State Government have requested for increase in the allocation of these items, and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the follow-up action initiated by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The State of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have not placed any demand for edible oils. The information regarding demand of kerosene oil by the State of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and allocation thereof are not available and being collected from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

[English]

Elimination of Bogus Ration Cards

1436. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has written to the State Governments and Union Territories to weed out bogus card to check diversion of essential commodities distributed through the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the response received from the State Governments and Union Territories in this regard; and

(c) the total number of cases taken up till date against the Fair Price Shopowners involved in bogus ration cards throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Governments/UTs have been requested to take appropriate action for elimination of bogus ration cards so as to minimise diversion. Most of the States/ UTs have informed that they are taking corrective measures as suggested by the Ministry. These include formation of vigilance committees, monitoring and supervision of the activities of Fair Price Shops through PRIs, regular inspection of Fair Price Shops, door to door checking to eliminate bogus ration cards as well as bogus units in the ration cards. State Governments/UTs furnish monthly information to Government of India regarding the number of ration cards issued and cancelled during the month.

(c) No case of Fair Price Shops' involvement in bogus ration cards has been reported to the Ministry by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat

1437. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have explored the possibilities for exporting value added products of wheat in other forms in lieu of exports of wheat;

(b) whether certain agencies have made an offer to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the forms in which it will be exported and the offers received for their export;

(d) the decision taken by the Government on these offers; and

(e) if not the reasons for the delay in taking decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The offers are to export wheat products viz. atta, maida, suji etc.

(d) and (e) No decision to export wheat products has been taken.

Import of Palm Oil

1438. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from which palm oil has been imported during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date along with the quantity imported from each country indicating the rates separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance custom duty on its import and limit its import keeping in view the interest of the farmers and oil industry of the country;

(c) if so, the date from which such a decision is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the consumer goods included in Open General Licence (OGL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Palm oil has been imported mainly from Malaysia and Indonesia by the private trade. Precise figure for quantity and rates of Palm Oil imported are not available.

As per available information, import of crude palm oil constitutes about 18% and 38% of the total edible oils imported during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. The average rate (in USD), CIF Indian Port of imported crude palm oil has been 350 and 229 during December, 1999 and December, 2000 respectively.

(b) and (c) Government has rationalised the duty structure of edible oils w.e.f. 21st November, 2000 so as to harmonise the interests of the consumers, farmers and processors and at the same time regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible. Government is keeping a watch on the price and availability situation of edible oils in the country.

(d) Import of edible vegetable oils except coconut oil has been placed under OGL.

[English]

Shortage of Kerosene in Gujarat

1439. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of shortage of kerosene in Gujarat particularly in the earthquake affected areas of the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have released additional kerosene for the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat; and

(c) if not the manner in which the Government propose to help the people living below poverty line in the affected area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Position with regard to availability of petroleum products including Kerosene oil in the earthquake affected areas and other parts of Gujarat is being closely monitored by the oil companies through their State Level Coordinator in Gujarat. There is reported to be no shortage of any petroleum product. However, Government has released an additional quantity of 45,000 KLs of SKO for the earthquake affected areas in Gujarat apart from the normal monthly allocation of 69369 MT of SKO.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 51(E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2001 specifiying 0% (Zero per cent) *ad valoram* as the rate of cess on export of all Scheduled products by the Export Oriented Units and the Units in the Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones, with immediate effect under Section 34 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3309/2001)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3310/2001)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Central Advisory Council Procedural (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 3(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2001, under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3311/2001)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

(i) The Central Excise (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 930(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Central Excise (First Amendment) Rules 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 17(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 66(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) G.S.R. 39(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods, donated or purchased out of cash donations, for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the earthquake in the State of Gujarat from the whole of the excise duty leviable thereon.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3312/2001)

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 88(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the passengers travelling by air on free tickets issued by Air India or Indian Airlines or any other Airlines from any part of the country to the earthquake affected area of the State of Gujarat or therefrom to any part of the country to the earthquake affected area of the State of Gujarat or therefrom to any part of the country, from payment of inland air travel tax, under Section 49 of the Finance Act, 1989.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3313/2001)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

(i) G.S.R. 918(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

(ii) G.S.R. 12(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods imported for setting up of three specified nuclear power projects from the whole of the Basic Customs Duty as well as CVD.

(iii) G.S.R. 55(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.

(iv) G.S.R. 98(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.

(v) S.O. 1056(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.

(vi) S.O. 1057(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

(vii) S.O. 1112(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.

(viii) S.O. 1113(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

(ix) S.O. 1117(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.

(x) S.O. 1118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

(xi) S.O. 1141(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

(xii) S.O. 1142(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3314/2001)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 7 of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

(i) G.S.R. 38(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods, imported into India for donation for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the earthquake in the State of Gujarat from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon.

(ii) G.S.R. 70(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping on primary pencil cells and batteries, excluding rechargeable batteries, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China and imported into India, in the notification.

(iii) G.S.R. 80(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on sports shoes, non-leather sports footwear, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China and imported into India.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3315/2001)

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:-

(i) S.O. 1159(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum specifying that where the split up or the reconstructed authority or body, reconstituted or established under a Central, State or Provisional Act, is an entity engaged in the generation or transmission or distribution of electrical power, or in all these activities such splitting up or reconstruction shall be deemed to be demerger subject to certain conditions.

(ii) The Income-tax (Twenty-Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification S.O., 1167(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2000, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) S.O. 81(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1048 (E), dated the 24th November, 2000

(iv) The Income-tax (First Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 85(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3316/2001)

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 and section 8 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993:-

(i) G.S.R. 134(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2000, establishing the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal at Chennai to exercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(ii) G.S.R. 274(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2000, establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Allahabad to exercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(iii) G.S.R. 858(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2000, notifying that the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Jabalpur will excercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(iv) G.S.R. 884(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2000, notifying that the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Patna will exercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(v) G.S.R. 885(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2000, notifying that the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Allahabad will exercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(vi) G.S.R. 909(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th Decemer, 2000, establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Aurangabad to exercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(vii) G.S.R. 945(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000, notifying the establishment of five Debts Recovery Tribunals at Mumbai, Aurangabad and Nagpur to exercise jurisdiction within the areas specified in the notification.

(viii) G.S.R. 946(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000, notifying the establishment of the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Cuttack and the jurisdictions of Debts Recovery Tribunals at Cuttack and Patna as specified in the notification.

(ix) G.S.R. 947(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000, notifying the establishment of Two Debts Recovery Tribunals at New Delhi to exercise jurisdictions within the areas specified in the notification.

(x) G.S.R. 5(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2001, establishing the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal at Allahabad to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.

(xi) G.S.R. 16(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2001, notifying the change in the location of the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Hyderabad to exercise jurisdiction witin the area specified in the notification.

(7) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) and (ii) of item No. (6) above

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3317/2001)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 42 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2001 containing order directing that every domestic producer and importer of sugar shall sell fifteen per cent of the sugar produced or imported, as the case may be, with effect from the 1st February, 2001, to the Central Government as directed by the Central Government under the Levy Sugar Supply (Control Order, 1979, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3318/2001)

(2) A copy of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 91 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act 1982.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3319/2001)

[English]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Friday the 22nd December, 2000 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Chaudhary Chunni Lal, died and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, one Member from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee".

I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.'

[English]

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the next week will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government business carried over from today's order paper.

2. Consideration and passing of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The following items may please be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Need to continue regularly centrally sponsored and aided informal education scheme and 'Lok Jumbish Yojana' for illiteracy alleviation and continuing education in Rajasthan.

2. Need to enhance allocation for expending implementation of already sanctioned but pending gauge-conversion projects and projects relating to laying of new railway lines in Rajasthan.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

In view of Gorakhpur being a major religious, cultural and industrial city of Uttar Pradesh and also influx of lakhs of domestic as well as foreigner tourists to Gorakhpur, there is a need to introduce air service between Delhi-Gorakhpur.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) The workers and employees of Hindustan Steel Construction Ltd., Jessope, National Projects Construction Ltd. and Tannery and Footwear Corporation Ltd. and many other PSUs are not getting their salaries and wages for months together. The statutory dues have also not been paid to the retired workers. Steps should be taken to pay the wages of the worker employees of PSUs.

(ii) Government should bring a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers to protect their interest.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) The various problems being faced by the workers of Instrumentation Unit, Palaghat, Kerala.

(ii) The serious problems facing the FACT, Alwaye due to steep fall in the duty of Caprolactum.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) Need to upgrade and improve Tuticorin Airport in view of special export zone being set up at Nanguneri in Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Need to start more trains from Kanyakumari to different centres in the country in view of its importance as a tourist centre.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) Judicial Reforms

(ii) The role of bureaucracy in the present context.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): The following items may be added at the end of next week's agenda fixed by hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs:

1 Small Scale and Cottage Industries are falling sick gradually due to recession. Consequently, new employment opportunities are not being generated, unemployment is on the increase and our large capital is rendered unproductive.

2 Rupee is getting devalued constantly resulting in costlier imports which is adversely affecting our economy

DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Discussion on establishment of a separate "Ayurveda Department" in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare so that a common man may drive maximum benefit from Ayurvedic Medical System and to make upgradation of said system more effective and people-oriented.

2 Discussion on the need to formulate a timely and clear cut uniform price policy for ensuring availability of "Authentic and high quality general and life saving drugs at a reasonable price"

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) The Central Government should take immediate steps for enhancement of import duty on Titanium Dioxide pigment. The import by multinational companies has adversely affected Travancore Titanium Products Limited and Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited. They will have to be closed down due to the present low rate.

(ii) There is a proposal for setting up an Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre at Kalamassery, Cochin. Approval of the project report by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is awaited.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): The following items may be definitely included in the next week's agenda:

(i) To discuss the impact of WTO and take steps for the removal of Quantitative Restrictions especially with reference to agriculture.

(ii) To discuss the need to protect wild life and ever increasing reports of poaching all over the country and also to build up national awareness towards environment protection and wild life conservation.

[English]

12.09 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Rubber Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3)(e) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4(2) of the Rubber Rules 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (e) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4(2) of the Rubber Rules 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House once again to the matter which was raised by Prof. Malhotra yesterday. We would like to repeat our concern at the horrible thing that is going on in Afghanistan. What is going on there is nothing short of being medieval mania. This kind of vandalism cannot be allowed to go on. The world's tallest Buddha statue in the Central Province of Afghanistan, Bamiyan is also getting destroyed. The Taliban militia officially passed this strange and perverse decree....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After Lunch, the Minister is going to make a statement in the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I think the House must pass a Resolution because the Taliban is not listening to the pleas of the international community. We cannot remain mute witnesses. I am aware that our Foreign Minister has a large fund of goodwill and his intervention could really yield some dividends. Apart from that, we must express our common concern as an institution.

MR. SPEAKER: It was already raised yesterday.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Reddy ji has said that there should be a statement at 2.30 hrs. for which a resolution should be moved in the House.

[English]

From the Chair, if a Resolution is placed before the House and if the House approves a unanimous Resolution, I think that would go a long way.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): We fully endorse that. The Resolution must be placed from the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, you raised the matter. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad also associated with it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): We came to know that the Rajya Sabha is going to pass a Resolution in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The entire House is concerned about it.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards especially Gorakhpur district of North-Eastern U.P. and its adjoining areas. Today, Indo-Nepal border is going to be most sensitive area since anti-national activities and intrusion is continuing over there. In the backdrop of this all anti India demonstration were held recently in Nepal and there is an urgent need for the Government, before the time runs out, to take not of some foreign powers who are provocating Nepali youth to indulge in anti India activities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently one youth named Jeetan Yadav was murdered in Gorakhpur. I visited the village of aggrieved family. I came to know that the murdered because he refused to convert his religion. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to make arrangements to prevent such sort of anti-national activities as forcible conversion by foreign power by alluring or forcing them.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the last 26 January, an earthquake played havoc in Gujarat but I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards large scale demolition work being carried out in Delhi in the name of implementation of Master Plan in Delhi. The destruction in Gujarat was a natural calamity but in Delhi it is man-made. Therefore, unless the Master Plan is amended this large scale demolition in Delhi cannot be stopped.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I could not hear him properly. Is it man-made or Jagmohan-made?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker. Sir it is Delhi's bad luck.

MR SPEAKER: Khurana ji, yesterday the meeting was held in my chamber.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to express Delhi's agony. It is Delhi's misfortune that the land in Delhi and Delhi Police are under the Government of Delhi There may not be a State anywhere in the world where the land and the Police are not under the control of that State Government. Delhi's the only place where the land and the police is not under its control Therefore, DDA only formulates policies but the Government is held accountable. Consequently many unauthorised colonies came up in Delhi just because of DDA, three-four lakh shops and unaccountable industries came up just because of DDA. The land required by the Government was not allotted to it by the DDA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember, when I was the Chief Minister of Delhi, I acquired land for these industries. You would be surprised to know, the Master Plan 1981-2001 for Delhi was prepared by DDA in 1990, nine year after its effective date and they are telling us that there has been no Master Plan for the last nine years. Therefore, as far as the matters related to industries are concerned. I would like to tell you that yesterday a meeting was held in this regard, wherein leaders of all the political parties were present. They all wanted the pollution to be defined. In absence of a clear cut definition of pollution, the concerned officers, acts arbitrarily and seal any industry they deem necessary and if they get money from the owner of any polluting unit they spare that one. I charge that Delhi is being ruined. The Government claims to have sealed only four thousand industries, whereas nearly 20-25 lakh factories either have been closed or sealed while sealing orders are illegal. As per the order of Delhi High Court, these factories cannot be sealed but only closed. I through you and this House as well, would like to urge upon the Prime Minister to convene a meeting to address four burning problem of Delhi, these are- regularisation of unauthorised colonies of Delhi, construction of an addition storey; regularisation of around 3-4 lakh shops which have come up in residential areas; and lastly, problem relating to industries. Master plan of Delhi may be amended to address these four problems. My submission is that hon'ble Prime Minister should convene a meeting of all the political parties and take a decision in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Union Ministers are doing all this on their own....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana has raised the issue. The Government is also going to respond to the matter Please sit down.

[Translation]

Do you not want the response of the Government?

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, Dr. Sengupta was the Secretary, Planning Commission. He would like to say two important things on this issue. Please allow him....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, yesterday this issue was raised in the House. You were kind enough to call the Urban Development Minister and the leaders of this House. All of us had a long meeting. But, unfortunately, no satisfactory solution could be found out in that meeting. Yesterday, you had also told me that I should ask the Prime Minister to convene a meeting where the leaders, the Urban Development Minister and even some Delhi Government leaders can be present and sort out the matter. Now, Shri Khurana has made the same demand. So, I will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister. According to the schedule which is available with the leaders and the Prime Minister, we will try to have this meeting as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: At that time Dr. Sengupta can speak. Today, I want to complete all the names. Please do not disturb me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government, with a view to discuss issues relating to Labour Contract Act, has constituted a committee of leading industrialists, which include Shri Ratan Tata, Shri Nasali Wadia, Shri G.K. Mittal and Birla. This High level Committee discussed the issue of regularisation of Safai Majdoors and Loaders. The Committee have given the report that they should not be made permanent. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has given a judgement in which it has been stated that where there is regular work, the sweepers working on a regular basis should be made permanent. If that is the judgement of the Supreme Court, then, the Government should follow the judgement of the Supreme Court and not the report of the committee and should consider regularisation of the sweepers and the labourers.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, The Bharat Gold Mines Limited is the prestigious mining industry in the country. It is in my constituency, Kolar in Karnataka.

The hon. Minister for Mines has earlier assured that the Centre had agreed to hand over the Kolar Gold Fields to the employees and employees association on "Zero Liability" and the employees are ready for the same. The ready available ore deposits are about 30 million tonnes and they can run BGML at least for 20 more years. Seventy per cent of the labour working in Mines belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. 2.5 lakh people are dependent on it.

The hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka in his letter dated 23rd March, 2000 to the hon. Prime Minister indicated a major package of relief and concessions for reviving and rehabilitation of BGML. The package provided for waiver of royalty on the ore mined for a period of ten years and to provide an amount of Rs. 2 crore per annum to subsidise the electricity charges of M/s. BGML for the next five years.

The Karnataka Gold Mines Company (an Australian collaboration) is ready to take over the BGML on a joint venture proposition with a rider that they will consider taking over the unit with a workforce of 2,500.

It has been brought to my notice that sick public sector undertakings like NTC, HFC and FCI have been directed by the Supreme Court of India, in their interim orders of 7th May, 1999 and 10th April, 2000 to pay revised scales to their employees and also reportedly directed the Government of India to sanction necessary funds to these sick PSUs. But this has not been implemented in the case of sick PSUs like BGML, who have not been given revised pay scales since 1993....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Muniyappa, you are not allowing other Members to speak in the 'Zero Hour'. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA (Bankura): Sir, the Regional Rural Banks have been requesting parity in wages vis-a-vis employees of nationalised banks. The National Industrial Tribunal, in 1987, gave an award to the effect that the pay scales of employees of Regional Rural Banks should be at par with the employees of the nationalised banks. This award was implemented in 1991. Subsequently, there were two bipartite wage agreements with the unions of nationalised banks and the wages of the employees of nationalised banks were enhanced. But these bipartite agreements were not extended to the employees of Regional Rural Banks.

Sir, the High Courts of Kerala and Karanataka have given judgements in favour of parity in wages of the employees of Regional Rural Banks with the nationalised banks.

Then, the Government of India filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has also given its judgement on 31st January, 2001.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Achariya, you have started a discussion here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA: No, Sir. I have not started a discussion. I would like to quote only the relevant portion of the judgement. It says:

> "We have upheld the contention of the appellants with regard to the power of Central Government to decide the pay structure of the employees of Regional Rural Banks. Here, there cannot be any doubt that in so deciding the Central Government would be duty bound to maintain parity with the pay structure of the employees of Nationalised Banks in the same sense and spirit as Justice Shri Obul Reddy decided and as was given effect to by the Union Government in the year 1987."

Sir, this is a long pending issue. So, I demand that the Government of India should implement the judgement of the Supreme Court which was given on 31st January, 2001, with regard to the pay structure of the employees of Regional Rural Banks and give parity of wages to them at par with the employees of nationalised Banks without further delay.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to charge 5 to 10 dollar entry fee for foreign tourists in 26 national monuments. Out of them eight monuments namely — Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vaishali, Sarnath, Shravasti, Sanchi, Ajanta and Kushinagar are Buddhist

* Not recorded.

pilgrimages. A number of pilgrims from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Kambodia, Bhutan, Japan and South Korea visit these Buddhist pilgrimages. The tourists visit other national monuments for recreation purposes but the pilgrims visit these Buddhist places out of their faith for worshipping. India is earning a bad name all over the world especially in Buddhist countries on account of charging 5 to 10 dollar entry fee at the Buddhist pilgrim centre. Through you, my humble request to the Government is that the entry fee of 5 to 10 dollar at the Buddhist pilgrims should be withdrawn forthwith.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present State Government of Madhya Pradesh have not complied with the policies framed and criteria fixed for the division of the employees and officers of erstwhile united Madhya Pradesh after the reorganisation of the State and creation of the new State of Chhattisgarh. There are two types of officials there — one that were transferred to the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh from the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh and the other are those who were working with Madhya Pradesh Government and after the reorganisation were transferred to the Chhattisgarh Government. It was decided by the Central Government that the widows and such women whose husbands were working in Madhya Pradesh would not be transferred to the Government of Chhattisgarh. Through you, I urge upon the Central Government that if there is any violation of the laid down policy and the prescribed criteria by the State Government then it must be revised. It was on account of the negligence of the Central Government that while the employees had knocked at the doors of the High Court there was delay by Central Government in presenting its stand and as a result of this the employees did not get justice. The Committee which was set up by the Central Government have even as on date not taken any decision regarding the widows and the women whose husbands are working in Madhya Pradesh, who have been sent to Chhattisgarh. This issue is being regularly raised in the Newspapers. Neither the court is providing them any justice nor the committee is taking any decision in this regard. I would like to request the Central Government that it should take action in this regard. It is on account of the non action of the Central Government that the employees are not getting any benefit or justice. The Central Government should issue instructions in this regard so that the officers of the level of the Secretary to the Government of India may present their stand in the court and the employees may get justice. The committee should immediately take decision in this regard so that the plight of the employees may be redressed.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are serious threats to the maintenance of *status quo* with respect to the Babri Masjid because certain elements repeatedly say that they would be putting up a temple on the site even in defiance of the law and even of the court orders.

Sir, these elements are from the *Sangha Parivar.* Similarly, there was a *Maha-Kumbh* and some *Dharma Sansad* over there declared....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, this matter is pending before the court.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, my point is that the court orders are required to be enforced. Now, this *Dharma Sansad* says that if the Government does not pave the way and facilitate the construction of temple, they would forcibly do it on or after the 12th of March 2002. These are the threats to the observance of even the court orders.

I am asking the Government to take adequate measures for protection of the site and see that the court orders for maintenance of the *status quo* are duly observed. At certain places, materials are getting ready and they have been and are being transported to the vicinity of the Babri Masjid site....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: In order to pre-empt any measure in violation of the *status quo* against the Court orders, it is necessary that Government must confiscate all such items. Therefore, I very much urge upon the Government to be very vigilant to see to it that the court orders are properly respected and that the Babri Masjid is properly protected. So, strict action must be taken against all these fascist forces that go on threatening to forcibly put up the Mandir there.

Sir, here we must have respect to the rule of law....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, how can you raise this matter here when it is pending before the court?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, the Government must assure the nation....*(Interruptions)* that the rule of law will be protected....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members who want to raise their issues in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the issue and now disturbing the House. What about other Members? You are not allowing other Members to speak. They have also given notices. I have called the name of Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to allow others also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Verma, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, you have raised your matter and now you are disturbing the House. You are not allowing other Members to raise their matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I do not understand your technique. You are disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have allowed Shri Banatwalla and he has already raised the matter. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I have not yet completed. I would like to say two or three more sentences, which are very necessary....*(Interruptions)* They have gone to the extent of saying that they have material to put up one floor for the proposed temple at the Babri Masjid site in defiance of the Court orders....*(Interruptions)* Strict action must be taken....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, please sit down. I have called Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I have not yet completed....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not yet completed....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has completed, it. Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEKAER: I am appealing to the senior Members that they have to see the anxiety of the junior Members. You are raising the matter and ultimately you are disturbing the House. The junior Members are not getting any chance to raise their matter.

Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people were sitting on a dharna in front of the Public Service Commission office for 14 years demanding the promotion of the Indian language as against the denomination of the English language. The hon. Prime Minister had also participated twice or thrice in that dharna while he was in opposition. But the police swept into action and chased away the people besides throwing away their belongings. Once there was autocracy in Delhi, which has been revised today and similar kind of oppression is being perpetrated I would like to know as to what is the policy of the Government with regard to the Indian languages? The police action against the people sitting on a dharna indicates that the Government is against promotion of the Indian languages. I would like that the Government give clean out statement about its policy regarding the Indian languages otherwise the agitation will continue. English will no longer continue to be our language and the country cannot be allowed to be subjugated once again. Dr. Lohia was of the view that the official work in the country should be performed in Indian language. The time is not far away when Hindi will evolve as the national language and the world language in the 21st century. Hindi language has an inherent strength and it will certainly become the language of substance.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with him....*(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That is why importance should be given to Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please sit down, you have garnered enough support in this regard.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government and many other voluntary organisations are working for construction of houses at Bachau, Anjar and Bhuj in Gujarat. In urban areas especially in Ahmedabad district the walls of many of the houses have developed cracks and many small houses have collapsed. It is not possible for the Government to construct houses for one and all. The people are themselves constructing their houses but the cement companies of Gujarat have unitedly increased the price of the cement bags. The price of the cement bag which was Rs. 120 two months back has been increased to Rs. 160 to 165. As a result of this it has become very difficult for the middle class and the general public to repair their houses. I would like to request the Government that it should discipline the cement companies of Gujarat and the cement should be made available to the people of Gujarat at its earlier rates of Rs.120-125 per bag by granting special concessions.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this hon. House a very important matter regarding train robberies on 28th midnight between Narsipatnam Road and Tuni sections of the South Central Railway. One is Konark Express coming from Bhubaneshwar destined to Mumbai and the other one is Howrah-Tirumala Express.

Both have been robbed within a span of one hour, and they created pandemonium and havoc. About 30 robbers had entered into the train at Vulipadu Station that night and decamped with cash and jewellery. This is frequently occurring in this section. In the past also, it had occurred in the Godavari Express, a premier train. Again, this is repeated. The Government should take immediate action to protect the lives and the property of the passengers. It is the duty of the Railways. They should post sufficient number of Railway Protection Force personnel. Also, I demand that an inquiry has to be initiated. The property has to be recovered and delivered to the passengers. This is a very important matter.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is suffering due to extremism for the last twelve years. Our security forces have done commendable job by countering the Pakistan backed terrorism and providing security to the common masses, but our previous experience is that the village defence committees have played a vital role in checking terrorist activities in remote areas. The extremists did not get opportunity to unleash terrorism and attack the people of Doda and Bhadravah after the setting up of such village committees presently ceasefire has been declared by the Government. There are two types of border with Pakistan one is the international border and the other one is the line of control (LOC). A large number of village defence committees should be constituted along the border areas so that the terrorists may not infiltrate into India and resort to killings of innocent people of the State. Recently, 15 Gurjars were killed and burnt in their own houses. Such incidents can be checked by way of constituting village defence committees along and border areas and the centre should also provide necessary financial assistance for this purpose.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards rampant corruption. Recently, you must have read in the newspapers that crores of rupees have been found with PS to Vice Chairman of DDA. Similarly, two officers of Sales Tax department were also arrested recently. Recently, the house of ex-municipal Commissioner was raided where crores of rupees were found.

Corruption is not a new phenomena. It is a deep rooted phenomena and since 1947, it has become order of the day. But none has tried to weed it out. Therefore, I have no hesitation in saying that corruption is rampant in our life. We find that officers posted in North-East often come to Delhi every 4th or 5th day, on one or the other pretext. If the Government tries to find out, we can come to know as to how many visits are made in a month by the Officers posted in North East or other areas?...*(Interruptions)* The people posted in Himachal or other areas....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Entire prime land in urban areas or the lands of societies is under their possession....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: She is telling that most of the prime land in urban areas or the land of societies is with these people. It was being discussed just now as to who are more corrupt politician, bureaucrats or the judiciary? I always say that even ten percent politicians are not corrupt. In departments, you find that 90 percent corruption is prevalent....*(Interruptions)* A common man cannot get

his work done. Since work can only be done by greasing the palm only, then who will do a common man's work? The Government should fix time period, that such and such work shall be done in so many days, so that transparency can be ensured...*(Interruptions)* I would like to urge all political parties to sit together and do something to improve their tarnished image. Shekhar Suman appears on TV in Jo Marji programme, it comes in other programmes also. You may have observed that now a days, even railways have resorted to advertisement, which are telecast during 'Aaj tak' news bulletins. Corruption is rampant everywhere. Today if house of any officer, whose work is related to public, is raided, in 99 percent cases we will find something fishy. Therefore, the Government should constitute a commission.

It is greatly surprising that people found to be involved in corruption are just transferred to other places, and nothing else happen to them, whereas, if an M.P. does not work, he will automatically go after five or two years, but corrupt bureaucrats keep occupying good posts. Whether a bureaucrat works or not, the the most he will be transferred. There is a need for us to ponder over this matter. Through you, I urge that half an hour discussion should be held on this issue so that leaders of all political parties can participate....*(Interruptions)* Even, a discussion can be held under Rule 193.

Finally, I would conclude with a request. If crores of rupees are found with PS of an officer then can that officer escape the responsibility on the plea that it was not he but his P.S. who took the money. I urge upon the Government to give assurance regarding placing action taken report on the officers found to be involved in corruptions cases while raids were conducted at their house.

I am grateful to you since you gave me an opportunity speak.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, Malegaon under district Nasik is facing severe drought. This is a natural calamity and labours are not getting their wages. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh and the administration of Nasik district, are doing good job, but in absence of adequate supply, relief work has come to a standstill. I urge upon the Union Government to send a Committee to take stock of the situation and to provide financial aid.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards Indian prisoner lodged in Pakistani jails. Recently, Indian prisoner lodged in Pakistani jails were exchanged and one Rupchand Pal was released. He said that 14 Indian citizens are still in Pakistani jails who are treated inhumanily. I urge upon the Government of India to find out as to how many Indian are still in jail in Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan should be asked not to treat them inhumanly and the House be apprised of the information in this regard.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Sir, Jharkhand is a plateaus area where check-dams used to be built by small and middle level farmers under Jaldhara Yojana for irrigation. This scheme was abandoned in 1998-99. Some of the beneficiary farmers under the said scheme have received only half payment and they have not got payment of final bill after two-third instalments which is causing great hardship to farmers. Jaldhara Yojana is the only irrigation scheme which has been abandoned. Sir, through you I urge upon the Union Government to restart Jaldhara Yojana immediately so that small farmers may get irrigation facility.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I raise a very important question or issue concerning Kerala. FACT is the largest public undertaking in the State. It was started during pre-independent days but the feudal lords were ruling the State. Now there are about 8,000 people who are employed in this big public undertaking. It has many units also and at this point, I may point out that the Central Government made an understanding with the State Government that they would come to the help of this undertaking and they had agreed to enhance the import duty on caprolactum which is one of the important products produce by this undertaking. Now it has come out that the import duty has been lowered from 25 to 20 per cent.

All these people and their families, consisting of two lakh people, will be thrown out of employment. This is a very serious situation. The largest undertaking will be forced to close down....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, we are going to discuss the Budget also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, at that time also I will raise this matter. This is a very serious matter. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to this important issue, otherwise FACT will be closed. We will have to face a very big agitation also. So, in order to prevent such a catastrophe, I would request the Central Government not to go ahead with the lowering of import duty on caprolactum.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to a very serious matter which has been published in the *'Pioneer'* today, this is, CNG taxi explodes in Mumbai; four dead.

Sir, while this CNG tax was getting refilled in a petrol pump, this accident took place. Not only four people were killed but six vehicles, which were standing nearby, were also damaged.

Sir, CNG is the in thing and in future all the four-wheelers and two-wheelers are going to be converted to CNG system especially in order to control the environment pollution. But if the CNG vehicles are not developed on strictly safety parameters, these types of accidents are going to take place regularly and ultimately nobody will come forward to take this fuel.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of Shipping, Shri Arun Jaitley, is sitting here and, probably, he is taking note. So, through him, I would request the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, that some standard safety parameters should be developed in the CNG taxi system and the CNG four-wheeler system so that the lives of the people of this country will be saved and it will not be a dangerous proposition to travel by a CNG taxi.

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving this opportunity to me.

Sir, I draw your attention and the attention of this august House to the fraudulent deals of SAIL, VSP, Indian Iron and Steel Company, which are causing loss of hundreds of crores of rupees to both the Union Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the *modus operandi* is like this:

The scrap steel is purchased and re-rolled in local mills. This steel is fraudulently invoiced with ISI certification into the names of Central Public Sector Undertakings, that is, Indian Iron Steel Company, VSP, SAIL.

This steel which is of low quality and low price is sold to the Andhra Pradesh Housing Development Corporation year after year. Officials of these PSUs are hand in glove with the local traders in the scam. As a result, the PSUs are losing the market and their credibility. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is paying high price for the local re-rolled steel.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Sector Undertakings to look into the matter and act immediately to stop all these fraudulent practices of these PSUs so that further loss to the Andhra Pradesh Government is prevented.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (Sriganganagar): Sir, I hail from border area of Rajasthan. Earlier also several times I had requested for conversion of Sriganganagar to Swarupsar under my Lok Sabha constituency Sriganganagar, into broadgauge. In 1998, Shri Vajpayeeji had visited Hanumangarh, when Shri Pramod Mahajan, who is present here was also available there. During his said visit Shri Vajpayee ji declared in Hanumangarh that this meter-gauge line will be converted into broad gauge line. Despite this declaration, this line is yet to be converted into broad-gauge.

Sir, this line falls in border area where all railway lines are of broad-gauge. In the backdrop of our security, it is essential that this line be converted into broad-gauge. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to grant sanction for converting this 127 kms long Sriganganagar-Swarupsar line into broad gauge, for which I would be grateful to you.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, I am raising a very important matter regarding the State of Kerala. The State of Kerala is facing a serious financial crisis. The Government of Kerala being unable to meet its day to day expenditure, is clearly caught in a debt trap. The Government treasuries are being closed frequently and all the developmental activities have come to a stand-still. Cheques cannot be encashed from the treasuries and all the Government cheques are getting bounced. There are instances where Government contractors, unable to get money from the Government, have committed suicide. The Government owes crores of rupees to the contractors. Because of inefficiency and extravagance, the Government of Kerala has landed into an unprecedented crisis....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, this is a matter concerning the State of Kerala. How can he raise it here?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is always a problem in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, even the development work under the MPLAD is affected there. The MPLAD Fund also is being diverted to the Kerala Government's treasuries...*(Interruptions)* So, there is a very serious financial crisis in Kerala. The development work under the MPLAD also is affected in Kerala...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, you are not supposed to raise the State mattes here.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the MPLAD Fund is also being diverted to the Kerala Government's treasuries.

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be a vague allegation; it should be substantiated by some evidence also. You should not always make such kind of vague allegations.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Therefore, Sir, I request the Central Government to seek a report from the Government of Kerala and also take such steps as are necessary to keep the development activities going on without any difficulty.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the handloom weavers in the country. In Andhra Pradesh alone, the State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, APCO, is yet to clear the arrears of over Rs. 13 crore to various handloom units. The weavers in Andhra Pradesh are suffering due to steep hike in the prices of cotton and silk, and have demanded that the Government should supply the raw material at cheaper rates. The State Government has decided to close down APCO which is incurring losses. The weavers' association has sought the reopening of APCO. It has further urged the Government to drop the idea of winding up of APCO and the Andhra Padesh Handicrafts Corporation. I urge the Government that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh should convene a meeting of leaders of handloom weavers from all parties to find a solution to their problem and send concrete proposals to the Union Government for the development of weavers in the country and for assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards ancient heritage of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is to give a statement in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: In consultation with UNO, the Government should save the property of world heritage which are relics of Indian culture. Anything may happen in India in retaliation to what Taliban is doing in the name of Islam. Therefore, I urge uon the Government of India to endeavour to save artefacts of ancient Indian culture by creating public awareness in other countries the world over.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, billions of hard earned money is spent for protection of almost extinct species and rare animals but we are not getting the desired results. Recently, there was a news in newspapers that illegal hunting of Tusker took place in Corbet National Park in Uttrakhand. Today, there was a news-item that at least seven lions have been killed in National Park in Uttar Pradesh. Hunters have been arrested. There are loopholes in our system. I urge upon the Government to constitute a high level commission to investigate this matter. We should take effective measures to remove lacunae in our system so that the amount being spent by the Government can be utilised properly.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA (Bidar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even fifty years after independence we could not ban cow slaughter and it is still going on as it was. Swamy Dayanand ji did miraculous job in every part of India but his portait has not been installed anywhere in the House so far. My submission is that a portrait of Swamy Dayanand be installed in the Parliament. He brought many revolutions before independence. He played a major role in Indian independence. He did great service to the nation, greater than anyone else. Therefore, Swami ji's portrait should be installed in the House. Even after independence we are not able to ban cow slaughter. It was banned in Akbar's regime. During those days, 40 ser milk was available in one rupee whereas today it is sold at Rs. 14 per kg. Cow slaughter should be banned.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Cow slaughter should be totally banned in India....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You should not disturb the other hon'ble Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: This House will agree to my point. Swami Dayanand was the first person to take part in struggle for freedom but so far none has said anything about him. Despite being Arya Samaji, none raised this issue. Therefore, my submission is that Swami ji's portrait should be installed in the House. I conclude with these words.

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT: Entire House support him on this issue.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to rise a very important matter of national importance. The minimum support price for wheat has not been announced uptil now and there is an apprehension among the farming community all over the country that this price of wheat is being decreased. Sir, you yourself are a champion of the downtrodden and *kisans* of the country. Sir, as you are aware, the prices of diesel, fertilisers, agricultural inputs and pesticides have increased manifold.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, who is sitting here, that he should assure the House that the minimum support price will be fixed shortly, in a day or two, because the harvest season is going to begin in a month. The minimum support price of wheat, keeping in view the calculations of the various universities of the country, comes up to Rs. 750 per quintal.

I want to remind this Government that their partners, like Shri Prakash Singh Badal who is the Chief Minister of Punjab and Shri Chautala, have already met the Prime Minister in this regard. So, the minimum support price of wheat should be fixed at Rs. 750 per quintal to compensate the farmers and the purchase of wheat should also not be like that of paddy as farmers, suffered a heavy loss during this season.

Thank you....*(Interruptions)* Is there any response from the Government?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a case of forgery relating to Madhya Pradesh. Thakurdin Choudhary had lodged a complaint against two persons on 30.5.1992 in Aadim Jati Kalyan Police Station, Omti,.. * that they took money from him on the pretext of getting him employment. It involves a forgery of Rs. 77 thousand and the police registered a case under Section 420 of IPC and filed Chalan in the court. But the accused have not been arrested so far. Whereas in a similarly case * of Scheduled Tribe Department Ambikapur has been suspended by Collector, Sarguja, And a case of misappropriation of Rs. 19 lakh in the Office of the District Ayurvedic Officer, Jabalpur has been registered in Madanmahal Police Station, Jabalpur. The accused employee is still holding an important post. He should immediately be suspended.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today we have a number of Bills to pass and also the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. If the House agrees, we can forgo the lunch and continue the proceedings.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

13.07 hrs.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION LAWS (REPEAL) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up item no. 10.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, on the 22nd of February, I had already moved the Judicial Administration Laws (Repeal) Bill 2000. Sir, I had given the reasons. These are 17 pieces of legislation which are relevant to the administration of justice, and these 17 legislations have now, with the evolution of new legislations, become somewhat irrelevant to the administration of justice. Sir, I had explained that for each one of these legislations. The first one is the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856. The institution of Amins in civil courts has been long abolished. It is no longer in vogue and therefore, this Bill has become obsolete, redundant and is no longer required to be on the Statute Book. The next is The Bombay High Court (Letters Patent) Act, 1866. This Act was introduced to correct two clerical errors and subsequently by virtue of amendments made in 1948, that no longer serves the purpose.

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Recently, the posts of Amins have been advertised and they are being recruited.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: They would not be discharging the functions under this Act.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: They may be discharging some other functions, but Amins are there.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The hon. Member has raised this. The Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856 related to the employment of Amins in the civil courts in the Presidency of Fort William, that is, West Bengal, and in West Bengal, it has already been abolished and therefore, it is no longer in vogue.

The Unclaimed Deposits Act, 1866 and The Unclaimed Deposits Act, 1870 had jurisdiction for Presidency Towns which do not exist any more.

The Acting Judges Act of 1867 has also outlived its utility because now you have Judges and Additional Judges article 224 of the Constitution.

Then there is The Procedure of the High Court for Uttar Pradesh Act of 1869. There is no High Court of Uttar Pradesh. We have a High Court of Allahabad. Similarly, there is The Presidency Magistrates (Court-fees) Act, 1877. There are no Presidency Towns.

The Punjab Courts (Supplementing) Act, 1919 dealt with the jurisdiction of the High Court of Lahore. There is The Federal Court Act, 1937. The Federal Court ceased to exist in 1950. So, it is no longer relevant. The tenth law is The Federal Court (Enlargement of Jurisdiction) Act, 1947 which is irrelevant. The eleventh law relates to the jurisdiction of the Privy Council, which is no longer applicable to India. The twelfth one is The Rajasthan High Court Ordinance, 1949. Now, we have the High Court under the Constitution and therefore, this ordinance is no longer relevant.

The Bhopal and Vindhya Pradesh (Courts) Act, 1950: The Madhya Pradesh legislations now apply to Vindhya Pardesh region, which was covered by this Act. The Judicial Commissioners' Court (Declaration as High Courts) Act, 1950 applicable to the Union Territory of Daman and Diu is also no longer relevant because Judicial Commissioner's have been abolished. The fifteenth Act refers to the Mysore High Court (Extension of Jurisdiction to Coorg) Act, 1952, which is also no longer relevant because now we have a High Court at Bangalore in Karnataka; the Mysore High Court does not exist. The Manipur Court-Fees (Amendment and Validation) Act, 1953 has also become redundant. The State Government has conveyed its no objection to the proposal to repeal this Act. The Goa, Daman and Diu Judicial Commissioner's Court (Declaration as High Court) Act, 1964 which has since long been abolished, it is no longer relevant.

These legislations have all become obsolete and are no longer required in the Statute Book. I, therefore, request the hon. House for repealing the same.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have to discuss about this Judicial Administration Laws (Repeal) Bill in another context. I have been practising for about 40 years. In the long period, my experience is that there is one Act which has become obsolete and which has to be repealed; and a new Act has to be brought about. I am referring to the Contempt of Court Act. We are speaking about judicial administration. Therefore, I say that judicial administration must be transparent. The transparency of the judicial administration may not be maintained with the present Contempt of Court Act. It is giving the judiciary a blanket protection. It is unsuited to democratic traditions. It was passed and implemented during the colonial regime, and the colonial judges were more or less acting under the colonial masters.

I request the hon. Minister that he must give a thought to this matter. We as advocates find it very difficult to argue certain cases and make some observations about the judgement because of this Act. This is interpreted in a way to suit the convenience of the judges. I would agree that personal allegations should not be made, but the 'Contempt of Court' is applicable even to cases where there is no personal allegation. If anyone criticises the way in which a judge has delivered, the judges will say that it is a Contempt of Court, and they have been given very high discretionary powers. The citizen is not empowered to make observations or to criticise the judgement of a Court. Is it democracy? We should have the opportunity to criticise the judgement under certain parameters. We will have to make some guidelines in the Act itself. There are no guidelines in the present Act, and it totally bans criticism. This is one thing.

We are speaking about judicial administration. The hon. Minister is also a practising lawyer. I know that he is a very good practising lawyer; I am prepared to give him that certificate. Judicial administration will become transparent, if you make the judiciary accountable. Now, the Legislature is accountable, an the executive is

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

accountable to the Legislature. The Members of Parliament are accountable to the people at large, but the judiciary is not accountable to anybody. There is no judicial accountability in India. After all, we have the bitter experience of the Ramaswamy impeachment, which was a cumbersome procedure and which never took effect. The only provisions in the Constitution is the impeachment of the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court, but that will never materialise. That is our bitter experience. Therefore, I would suggest that the hon. Minister who is dealing with law should take the initiative of bringing a legislation making the judiciary accountable.

We are accountable. The Members of Parliament have been made accountable by certain Acts. The Ministers are accountable. But to whom are the judges accountable? Can you say that the Judiciary is free from corruption? I think, no sensible man would make a claim in India that Judiciary is not amenable to corruption. But we cannot say as to how far the Judiciary is corrupt. I cannot say that. I can say this only in this House. If I say that some judge is corrupt, then I would be booked under the Contempt of Court Act. I cannot say that even if I have conclusive-proof that a particular judge has delivered a judgement under a corrupt motive. I cannot say that. The citizens of this country should get the right to make a comment about judicial actions. Otherwise, what is the meaning of parliamentary democracy? So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to think over these facts and bring in a suitable legislation. In the absence of that, how could one say that the judicial administration is effective in our land?

Sir, recently there was an attempt by the Supreme Court of India to make arrangements for in-camera proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, this is only a repeal Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am dealing with a very important subject and I may be allowed to two to three minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: This is only a repeal Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I would not repeat things.

Sir, I was submitting that recently the Supreme Court has made a declaration that they would look into important matters and for the purpose they have themselves framed certain fuels for holding proceedings in-house. Now, there is a case pending before the Supreme Court regarding the corruption of the Chief Justice of India. The former Law Minister had made certain serious allegations about it. But who has to decide it? There is no machinery. In-house proceedings are being followed. Even the judges of the Supreme Court could take a final decision in the matter. So, there are instances where the highest Judicial body of the country is amenable to irregularities and amenable to corruption. But there is no remedy. By merely saying that we would look into the matter by in-house proceedings is of no avail.

Sir, so I would like to request my friend, the hon. Law Minister to proceed in this matter. The entire legal community would be with him. I would request him to bring in a legislation making the Judiciary accountable. We have three pillars in our democracy. Why should one important pillar of democracy be left out? It so happened because the procedure adopted in our Constitution was most impracticable. This happens more so at the higher judicial levels and not at the lower judicial levels. There is no provision for it.

Sir, the next point that I would like the hon. Minister to bear in mind is that he should also bring in a legislation to make the Contempt of Court Act suitable to the present day situation. Otherwise, no fair criticism would ever come. The hon. Minister is doing a very good job by way of removing the 70 statutes that have become obsolete and have outlived their utility. I would also like him to take a bold action in regard to removing the Contempt of Court Act from the statute book and bring in a new Contempt of Court Act giving powers to the citizens to criticise the Judiciary within certain limits by providing for some guidelines for it within the Act itself.

Sir, I am sorry to state that this matter was not referred to the Commission for Judicial Reforms. Had it been referred to them, they would have certainly given a report on it. I am sure, the Government did not refer this matter to this Commission. I would like to request the hon. Minister to set up a Commission to review the Contempt of Court Act and then bring in a suitable legislation for it. The entire legal community would applaud his efforts.

Sir, with these words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly support the Judicial Administration Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2000 introduced by Shri Arun Jaitley. In

fact, we should be greatly thankful to NDA Government, which have selected for repeal all useless, outdated, obsolete laws which were not in operation and were not useful in social and judicial aspect, we should also be thankful to Shri Arun Jaitley a dynamic personality who has brought these laws before the House. He has brought this Bill to repeal such 17 obsolete Act which have no utility now a days. Therefore, the Government deserve congratulations. Even otherwise, meaningless Acts should be repealed as per requirement of time. Keeping in view typical nature of crimes and changed social environment certain amendments need to be brought in IPC and Cr. P.C. Under these circumstances, I hope, the Government would definitely bring such amendment. On 8 May, 1998 the Union Government had constituted Administration Law Review Commission. In consultation with various State Governments, High Courts, Supreme Court and various concerned department, the Commission inspected and discussed this matter and recommended that since all these old Acts have become obsolete and redundant, and have lost their utility in today's changed scenario, so these should be repealed. I think the Government have brought this Bill in accordance with the recommendations of said Commission. Supporting this Bill, I would like to add one more point that judicial reform is very important.

13.22 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Today, there are three pillars of democracy—Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary. All these three pillars should be equally balanced. What happens sometimes that one organ prevails over another one and creates imbalance. Therefore, I feel that, all the three organs, viz Judiciary, Legislature and Executive should be properly balanced. Constitution of proposed Judicial Commission should be expedited since judicial reform is urgently required. Now, the pending cases in Courts have piled up and at present three crore cases are pending in Courts. There are vacant posts of Judges in several courts. Even in High Courts and Supreme Court, the post of Judges are vacant. Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to constitute a Judicial Commission immediately so that large number of pending cases can be decided and the common man can have cheap and easy access to judiciary.

With these words, I strongly support the Bill brought by hon'ble Minister and understand that it is essential to repeal all those laws which have lost their utility.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we support the repeal of these seventeen obsolete enactments. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that judicial reforms in the country are long overdue. The law is so complicated today that justice is not dispensed to the common people. Common people are ignorant of the laws and the law is so complicated that unless they hire a competent advocate, they cannot get through the procedures of the law. The situation in the country today is very a very sad one. Besides this, to get justice one has to travel long distances from District Court to the High Court and then again to the Supreme Court. Even in trivial matters, Special Leave Petitions are being filed. If anybody wants to harass an honest man, he can obtain a Special Leave and proceed up to the Supreme Court.

I fully agree with Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan on the point of contempt of court. This issue has become so vexatious that if anybody makes remarks adverse to judiciary, he is immediately taken to the court of law.

It has also to be clearly stated that suitable enactment will be brought about to make it more transparent in the matters of this contempt of court. I have seen the hon. Minister or somebody else speaking that there is an imminent need to establish one or more benches of the Supreme Court. It is a welcome sign. Our country is so vast and one has a travel right from Trivandrum or from Kanyakumari or Kashmir for going to the Supreme Court. Everybody should have to go to the Supreme Court. But how is it possible for the common people? The moneyed man can always file a special petition and book the case in the Supreme Court and he can attend. But what about the common people?

This is not the case in so many other countries. They have been allowed benches elsewhere also. Similarly, in our country also, we should have benches of Supreme Court at several places.

Sir, we have today, a very competent and knowledgeable Law Minister. It is high time that he should think of it immediately to have the benches of Supreme Court, at least, at four places — West, East, South and North, and like that. In this case, I hope, the central place is Hyderabad. So, I am confident that the hon. Minister would think of putting up a bench of Supreme Court at Hyderabad also at the earliest so that the common people will get justice.

With these words, I support this Repeal Bill

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a repeal bill, therefore, speak in brief, many other hon. Members also have to speak

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking about Repeal Bill only....*(Interruptions)* Some people could not hear me, even if I speak at highest pitch, then what is the solution?

The Hon. Minister of Law is a very clever man. He got success in removing former Minister of Law who was more experienced and capable than him from his post and acquired this ministerial post. In 1998, when you were in power, the United Front Government set up the Jain Commission and at present everybody is praising and giving thanks to Rasa Singh Rawat. He is getting fame for somebody else's work. But Jain Commission has said that 1300 legislations out of 2500 have lost their relevance, they should be repealed. These can be repealed through an independent Bill. Judicial administration is being run in piecemeal, 17 legislations have been brought together, it is right but they do not have details of 1300 legislations. I alleged that the Government of India's Union Law Minister does not have any knowledge about law 1300 legislations should have been repealed at once, but sometimes he brings one legislation to repeal and sometimes two legislations and this time he has brought 17 legislation to repeal. You know that 2500 legislations are of Union, and if you add State Legislations also in it, their number will become 25,000. No State is having legislation less than 700-800. Now tell me, what will happen where 25,000 legislations are in force The hon. Minister is an intelligent person. Please tell me at least the names of legislation. If legislations are not known to legal experts, intelligent people of the country, then who will talk of law.

[English]

"Ignorance of law is no excuse".

[Translation]

Who is to be blamed for it? After enacting the British legislation, Government used to get them printed in the Gazette and it was assumed that the people of the entire country had become aware of the legislation. Here we make legislation for the entire India and repeal them, but even today, we are following the age old pattern. If these legislations are printed and notified in the Gazette, it is assumed that 100 crore people of this country have become aware of the legislation then that Gazette book will be printed by publisher named Malhotra Brothers. If that legislation would be required by any petitioner, then the lawyer will study that law book and will acquaint himself of that legislation. If this is the condition of the lawyers, then what you can expect of common people. In Judiciary, it is assumed that Court does not know any legislation, it has been assumed that Judges in the court do not know any law. The lawyers from both the sides will explain than the law, get them acquainted with the law and give decisions. But common people of the country who are illiterate or are less educate have little knowledge about the law 'Ignorance of law is no excuse'. The wrong legislations are in practice, can we say that there is a rule of law. Then no we cannot say. People are not aware of law, but they are punished. Therefore, I do say, there should be permanent solution to this problem. The profession of law is conservative not progressive. People refer to the decree given by the Court 10-20 years ago, and cite it as an example in the court. They do not even feel necessity to think that world is very progressive and is changing also. People refer to decree given by the Supreme Court 10-20 years ago and request the Court to give same decision in present circumstances, but do not feel that social changes are also taking place. There is no account of it. Many legislations have been passed in the Parliament, but not implemented. Lok Sabha passess the Bill, but while replying to a question, the hon. Minister say that we are looking into the matter. Now, people of Judiciary are also saying that these reforms in Judiciary should take place. You should see how many cases are pending in the country.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Three crore.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Not three crore but approximately 3.75 crore cases are pending in the court of the country. Some cases are pending for five, ten and even fifteen years. It is said that.

[English]

'Justice delayed is justice denied.'

[Translation]

If delay is caused then how will the poor, illiterate people of the country will get justice. Therefore, the legislation which are in force, since British rule should be changed.

Many legislations are of 100 A.D. and 1700 A.D., they should be repealed. You have brought legislation to repeal 17 such legislations, out of 1300. In this process many years will pass. The Jain Commission has recommended that all of these legislations should be repealed at once. These legislations are of very old and at present there is no utility of them. Therefore, the Department of Law should work actively. Just now, a Member has said that, there should be a bench of Supreme Court in the South also. It is true because, people of that area faces lot of inconvenience while coming here. The vacant posts of judges should be filled. You should also take into account the being charged by lawyers in lakhs of rupees. The law should be easily available and at cheaper rates to the common people. Such Judicial Administrative Reforms should be made which help the poor to get justice.

With these words, I conclude my speech and support this Bill.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister. This is a very good step. I want to draw the attention of the House towards two things, one judicial administration and other is discretion. What is the definition of discretion? I want to say, everybody works as per one's discretion, whether it is Executive, Judiciary or people working in Parliamentary system. Everybody has its own discretion, all people work with discretion, but there is a check on everybody's discretion and right to comment. But when Judiciary uses its discretion, we cannot say that they use or misuse their discretion, but we found such an example, even if Judiciary people misuse their discretion we cannot comment on it, we cannot discuss it, this situation is very unfortunate. If High Court makes null and void the decision given by the lower court or changes the decision of the power Court, there is no provision to take any action against the lower court. But you have been in the Government, all people are present here, if person working for Government do anything, the Judiciary is capable of taking any decision by using its discretion. There is an example of Shri Satish Sharma. Once he was the Minister, he had allotted some petrol pumps under his discretionary quota. It was his discretionary quota but judiciary had imposed fine on it. What is the definition of discretionary quota? Due to discretionary quota, we get Rs. 2 crore to spend in our constituency. We spend that money according to our discretion. If in future, somebody goes to Judiciary and says burgling has taken place there in and Judiciary takes action on it, then what is the meaning of discretion. If there is a check on our discretion, hon. Minister's discretion, then I would like to say that there should be a check on Judiciary's discretion.

I do not agree that, the decision taken by the people holding higher posts is always right. A lot of bungling is taking place, the hon. Minister may be aware that the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, Shri Prabhashankar Mishra had resigned because he was not getting justice.

If people holding such higher posts in Judiciary are saying that they are not getting justice and are compelled to resign, then what arrangements are you making to introduce reforms in Judiciary. Therefore, through you I would like to say that there is a need to check corruption.

For example, after five days of Supreme Court's decision, he became the Rajya Sabha's Member. Is this not corruption? The Supreme Court gives decision in favour of somebody's discretion and after a few days he is elected as Rajya Sabha's Member. What else evidence do you want of corruption? I want to give you an example. IAS people are sent on training in Judicial departments. The two IAS officers from Bihar were sent on training to the court of ADJ. A lady trainer was also among them. She was sitting there. A person came, he gave Rs. 100 to the employee, to get some papers. She was not aware, that bribe to the employees. She asked, what is happening? The hon'ble Judge was also present there. He was as king something to the lawyer and he did not hear. When she again objected, the hon'ble judge said, this is the process of judiciary, you cannot object, witness is going on, please listen carefully and watch. A bribe of Rs. 100 is given in front of high ranking people, this is known as process of judiciary. Those IAS and IPS people who are sent on training are there, learn how to accept Rs. 100 as bribe. This is the system. If you will not check these things, you will definitely enact legislation, and enact them also, but there is need to pay attention towards the fact that how these legislations are implemented in the interest of public....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a repeal Bill. Rajya Sabha has already passed it. We are having other Bills also. There are five other Bills. Please speak in brief and conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I would like to say that such system to be established which could benefit people of lowest status and law should be cheap. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji was right in saying that today law has become very costly. God forbid that somebody has to go to the Supreme Court. Once because of Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh we have to

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

go to the court. Law is really very costly. Shri Arun Jaitley did not got this opportunity yet, but when a person got to the lawyer, he took lot of cash with him to the court. I think the fees of these people should be fixed. If fees is not fixed, the people of rural area will become bound to sell their houses before they reach Supreme Court for justice. They go there to get their rights and justice. But rights cost them so much, it takes all rights present with them. In my view the Government should consider this and should also pay consideration towards the appointment of judges which is lying pending for the long time

In the end, I would like to say one more thing before concluding. These days, Public Interest Litigations are being discussed. The Government should think over it. Many cases are lying pending in the courts of the country, but judges do not pay any attention towards solving these cases, instead they are busy in monitoring construction of roads. High Court judges make drains clean, remove cattles from the roads etc. As a result of it, their names get published in the newspapers and they get publicity on television also ...*(Interruptions)*. In Delhi only atleast 1400-1500 people have become unemployed. I say that court has done injustice, this has affected more the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.. ** but do not have any right to provide them employment. Therefore I would like to say...*(Interruptions)*

DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: ** *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: ** Many people have become unemployed due to it. If we cannot give employment to them we do not have any right to make them unemployed.**

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, the name of court should removed from the proceedings. Aspersion on the judiciary shall not go in the proceedings. This is in the book of rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Judiciary is also an important part of the Administration. If any collector or BDO commits mistake, attention is given, but if any court commits mistake, appeal could be made up to Supreme Court. I request the Government that justice should be cheap and should be made available in the stipulated period.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Sir, I support the Judicial Administration (Repeal) Bill, 2000 presented by Shri Arun Jaitley.

Sir, I want to present some suggestions before the Government. Three crore cases are pending in the entire India. I myself have gone through this. I am a teacher. I took 27 years to get my salary. Similarly, there is a person named Mr. Mishra, it took him 29 years to get his salary. I suggest that there should be time stipulated for the justice. I request that there should be a court in every district. Constituency is having 16 districts, but only 6 courts are there....*(Interruptions)* I suggest, it would be good, to have court in every district.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, several very valuable suggestions have been made not in relation to these 17 legislations which are sought to be repealed but with regard to certain other matters of public interest. I may inform the hon. Member that there were 1323 Acts which were recommended to be repealed. Each Department of the Government is going through each of those legislations. Various comments have to be invited from the concerned departments and the State Governments in some cases. A large number of them have already been repealed and the process with regard to repeal of several of them is already on.

One of the important questions which was asked particularly by Shri Radhakrishnan was with regard to the contempt of court. This issue has been examined several times in the past. It is not a very accurate understanding of the Act to suggest that a judgement of a court either under this Act or because of this Act cannot be criticised. Justice itself is not such a cloister virtue that it cannot be commented upon. The only restriction that the Act imposes is not on criticism, not on adverse comment or judgement but against imputation of motivation. The collateral reason for somebody alleging a judgement has been given. Criticism of a court or criticism of a judgement under the Contempt of Courts Act is not barred. Therefore, the question arises, with regard to other areas what the accountability mechanism would be. The subordinate judiciary which is under the administrative control of High Court is certainly accountable for all matters that you mention to the High Courts.

The second question which arises in the context of the higher judiciary is, is there an accountability

mechanism or in-house accountability mechanism. I had stated last week in the other House also that almost all political parties in their election manifestos have mentioned with regard to the creation of a National Judicial Commission. There are areas of discussion which are required with regard to its jurisdiction, with regard to its composition. If a consensus on that legislation is found, this may answer some of the questions which you have raised in the course of your suggestions.

There are other areas with regard to judicial reforms, etc. which have been made by several Members. The Government has prepared a concerted method or a plan both with regard to compressing the time taken by courts in terms of compressing the various procedures. As far as the civil law procedures are concerned, the law has already been introduced in Parliament. It is before the Standing Committee. The Government has also set up a group of experts which is examining compressing procedural law in criminal law and once that report is received, we will certainly place our suggestions before the hon. House.

With regard to substantive legislations, we are bringing about amendments with regard to several number of them, particularly with regard to those where a lot of cases are pending. I am sure in this Session and in the Sessions to come, a large number of these legislations also would certainly be amended in order to compress the time framework which is taken in order to resolve those legislations.

A very important point which was made was with regard to, access to justice being made cheaper.

[Translation]

It has been suggested that people approaching the judiciary must get cheaper justice. In this regard National Legal Service Authority Act is in force which provides for legal aid and Lok Adalats. There is a provision of enough funds and the law has been amended to benefit more and more such type of needy people.

Government is considering about those who are not able to afford for legal expenses and thus are not able to have access to the justice. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 17 Acts have totally become redundant and therefore there is no question of their existence as law of the land. So, the House should give its consent to repeal this.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856 and certain other enactments, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4,-

for "2000"

substitute "2001" (2) (Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,-

for "Fifty-first"

Substitute "Fifty-second" (1) (Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.54 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item Nos. 11 and 12 together.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2001 (No.2 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 3 February, 2001."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Finance Act, 2000 and the Income-Tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001 moved by the hon. Finance Minister. The method adopted by the Government in promulgating the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 which ignores the Parliament and shows disrespect to it is highly objectionable.

All of us knew that the Budget Session was going to commence in the month of February. Just a few days earlier to it, there was no need for the promulgation of this Ordinance which has now been placed before the House for replacement. We cannot support this method.

It is not just in this case, but in so many other cases also the Government has issued ordinance by-passing and ignoring the Parliament. In an attempt to raise money to cope with the earthquake situation of Gujarat, the Government seems to have focussed only on the salaried class choosing to ignore the tax defaulters who owe to the Government a whopping Rs. 62,392 crore. Adding some more burden on the already burdened middle-class people the Government has imposed two per cent surcharge on the income tax. This surcharge is expected to bring in Rs. 1,300 crore to the exchequer.

If the Government was serious about collecting dues from the high and mighty, which include multi-millionaires, big industrial houses and multinational companies, it could have collected considerably a large sum of money. As I said, if one goes through the list of the top tax defaulters furnished by the hon. Minister of State for Finance in reply to an unstarred question, the amount stands at Rs. 62,392 crore. Instead of targeting them, the Government has chosen to target the middle class salaried people in order to collect a small sum only. If only the Government was serious, it would have been more beneficial to the country and the Government could have easily met the cost incurred due to the losses suffered during the earthquake in Gujarat.

That is why I have brought the Statutory Resolution disapproving the promulgation of the Ordinance and therefore I oppose the Bill moved by the Minister.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman Sir, as the Members are aware, many areas of Gujarat have been devastated by a several earthquake. Apart from the massive loss of life, large scale destruction of property and infrastructure has also taken place. In order to mobilise additional revenue required for rehabilitation of quake-hit areas, it was decided to increase the surcharge by two per cent on the income tax payable for the financial year 2000-2001 by persons having income above Rs. 60,000 and by domestic companies. It was further decided to provide that donations made on or before 30th September, 2001 to charitable institutions registered with the Income Tax Department would be entitled to 100 per cent deduction if such donations are applied for providing relief to the earthquake victims. 100 per cent deduction would also be available to any fund set up by the State Government of Gujarat to provide relief to earthquake victims.

As Parliament was not in session, and since there was urgency of mobilising resources, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 was promulgated on the

3rd of February, 2001 to achieve the aforesaid purpose. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2001 seeks to replace the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001.

I commend the Bill for the consideration of this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. 2 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 3 February, 2001."

"That the Bill further to amend the Finance Act, 2000 and the Income-Tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

14.00 hrs.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I rise to support the Bill which is piloted by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, normally, it is not a good practice to come here to replace an Ordinance. When the Parliament is in Session, the Government could have straightaway come to the Parliament with an amendment and pass the Bill. But this is an extraordinary situation which we also understand.

The earthquake which occurred on 26th January, 2001 is the saddest incident in the history of our country and enough funds are needed for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the earthquake affected areas of our country. Even though it is not a good practice, I welcome this piece of legislation. In such an extraordinary situation, it was the Government's compulsion to promulgate an Ordinance. In an ordinary situation, the Government would not have opted for this kind of a measure which will not help us in our parliamentary practice. It is better to avoid that kind of an Ordinance. But, as the Finance Minister stated very clearly, this is for collecting funds for reconstruction and rehabilitation of earthquake victims.

There is no need for an elaborate discussion on the Bill as there are only two points. One is, two per cent surcharge for the people who are having an income of more than Rs. 60,000 including companies also. Secondly, it is regarding exempting those organisations and charitable institutions which are registered in the Income Tax Department for getting funds and 100 per cent exemption is given to them.

In this context, I would like to point out a very important aspect. After the occurrence of earthquake, lot of organisations, institutions, newspapers and other agencies have been coming forward to collect materials and money for the victims of the earthquake. There is no account kept for such relief materials collected. Huge amounts of money are collected by various organisations but there is no account of how much money they have collected and they are not accountable to anybody. There should be some kind of a restriction on this aspect. I do not want to cast aspersions on anybody but there are possibilities for misusing this sort of an opportunity. Sir, it is high time to think over on this aspect. I do not want to name any of the organizations. It is not proper to use this House for casting aspersions on anybody. But there are chances for misusing this money. People are generous. Even the international community has shown gestures. They have stood with us in this hour of crisis. Even our neighbouring country like Pakistan and other nations showed gestures and stood with us. They have shown solidarity and sympathy towards this natural calamity. They extended all kinds of help for proper reconstruction and rehabilitation for Gujarat earthquake victims. More money is needed. A lot of organisations are coming forward to help. It is no doubt a good thing. But at the same time, Government should apply its mind and restrict this kind of collections by various organisations. Certain doubts are created among the people in different corners.

So, my request to the hon. Minister is that there should be some kind of an inspection, some kind of mechanism to regulate the collection of donations. Definitely, this will not come under purview of the Finance Minister. But when we are discussing this very saddest incident, I would submit that the coordination machinery in respect of relief is not properly functioning in Gujarat. I do not want to blame anybody. So many agencies are bringing relief materials. So many agencies are bringing medicines, cash and other items for the proper relief measures to be undertaken in Gujarat. Unfortunately, the Government and the other machinery which are available there are not having proper coordination. They are not properly coordinating these efforts. I would, therefore, request the Government that some directions should be given to those agencies which are working there to coordinate the efforts properly. Actually those materials which are collected and sent through the railways are not reaching the people. Even now, the real people who are affected by the earthquake are not getting proper relief even though all the agencies are there. The presence of the international agencies can be seen there. So many organisations have contributed towards this

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

cause. Unfortunately the relief materials are not properly distributed among the people. I am not blaming anybody....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Mr. Chairman Sir, this matter has already been discussed once. He is making false allegations regarding non distribution of the commodities there without having seen the ground reality. He is misguiding the House....*(Interruptions)* What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I do not want to cast aspersions on anybody. My point is that proper coordination is needed and proper rehabilitation is needed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Minister, You are competent enough to make your statement on behalf of the Government.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: As early as possible, rehabilitation measures have to be geared up. For that, better coordination is needed. More money and more assistance should be given to the State of Gujarat so that it can implement these programmes speedily. Definitely, this is a welcome step. By this amendment, I am sure more money can be collected and more money can be made available for proper rehabilitation of the State.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons in this Bill, it has already been mentioned that the two per cent surcharge would be levied from persons having income above Rs. 60,000 and by domestic companies. It has been further said:

"It is further decided to provide that donations made on or before 30th September, 2001 to charitable institutions registered with the Income-tax Department would be entitled to 100 per deduction if such donations are applied for providing relief to the earthquake victims."

Secondly, it also seeks to provide hundred per cent deduction to donations in any fund set up by the State Government of Gujarat for providing relief to victims of the earthquake. By the imposition of the two per cent surcharge, the effective rate will be 22.4 per cent for the income ringing from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1.5 lakh, and above 1.5 lakh it is going to be 38.1 per cent. In the case of corporate tax, it will be 39.55 per cent.

On personal income tax from Rs.60,000 to Rs. 1.5 lakh, there will be an additional annual burden of Rs. 360 which will be paid in two monthly instalments and on personnel income tax above Rs. 1.5 lakh, it will be Rs. 60 per every additional Rs. 10,000. It will ultimately mop up Rs. 1300 crore. It is not one point three hundred crores as mentioned by Shri Chakraborty.

I am happy and fully support the hon. Finance Minister who has brought this Ordinace. The severe earthquake took place on 26th January. The Parliament Session was almost one month away. The hon. Member said that the Government should have waited for one month to mop up additional resources. I do not understand his viewpoint. It is rather very good on the part of the Government that they have not waited for the formalities to be fulfilled and they have immediately gone for the proclamation of the Ordinance so that additional resources could be mopped up.

Now, all donations from India and abroad towards the earthquake victims will get 100 per cent tax relief. Any material produced by indigenous industries including steel, cement, blankets, and tents, intended for relief and rehabilitation will not be subjected to any duty. All materials including construction material imported for relief and rehabilitation measures will be exempted from customs duty. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should not have gone for only two per cent imposition of the tax, but he should have gone for some other methods for mopping up additional resources for the Gujarat earthquake victims. It is the two percent additional taxes, I think, will not have any appreciable impact on the economy of the country or on the market.

I would like to make two or three suggestions. Take the example of Latur. When a severe earthquake took place in Latur many years ago, the national and international help poured in Latur and Latur did not face

a problem of scarcity. It faced a problem of plenty. I think that is what is going to happen in Gujarat. I read in a newspaper that Gujaratis are being supplied with asparagus soup with Danish luncheon and meat and the pineapple slices dipped in syrup. While the Gujarat people take rice, *dal, kadi* and *bhujia* and things like that, it has been reported that they have been given Kellog's corn flakes. Most of the people could not know what were written on the tinned items. The tinned items were brought from several foreign countries and the details were written in Danish, French, and Arabic. I mean to say that there should be proper utilisation. There should not be a problem of plenty so that people will have 20 blankets in their houses and the same may be sold in the black market, as it happened in Latur.

In future also the problems like this could occur, how can we bridge the gap? Shall we just go on imposing tax every time a natural calamity occurs? This imposition of two per cent tax has created a very ill feeling in Orissa.

Now, the Oriyas feel that the Central Government has shown a parochial treatment towards the State of Orissa because when a natural calamity of high magnitude occurred in Orissa bout one-and-a-half years back, the Government of India did not impose any tax, but when it happned in Gujarat the Government of India came forward to impose an additional surcharge of 2 per cent. So, they are feeling that they have been neglected. Even though I belong to the same party to which the hon. Finance Minister belongs, I would appeal to him that he should dispel the misgiving among the people of Orissa.

Finally, I am happy that the Central Government has now constituted a National Disaster Management Committee. I would request that there should be another Committee at the Central level, just like in Andhra Pradesh, to immediately move in and help any State Government whenever any natural calamity of high magnitude takes place in any State.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir Shri Swain has supported the Bill and appreciated the Government for bringing the Ordinance. The session began on 19th February and as per practice the House is convened by the President 21 days prior to the first sitting of the House, which means that the House was convened by the President before 1st of February. This Government brought the ordinance on 3rd of February. No civilised Government make such a move to promulgate an ordinance after the House has been convened, and hardly there was a gap of 15-16 days between first sitting of the House and promulgation of the ordinance. I don't understand why the Government was in a hurry. I want the Government to make a statement in this regard.

It is not good on the part of a civilised Government to go far an ordinance proposing tax hikes.

At the time of earthquake there was destruction all around, the hon. Minister of Finance kept on claiming the soundness of finances and Finance Bill but his department could not withstand even one shock. At that time he made a statement that the Government would impose any new tax and face this disaster without imposition of tax. Whether Honourable Prime Minister knows about finances better than the Minister of Finance is not understood. On one hand the Prime Minister states that imposition of tax is inevitable while on the other hand the Minister of Finance negates it. Both of them are voicing indifferent tunes and misleading the House. Similarly Mamtaji stated Rail fare would not be increased but the Prime Minister stated otherwise and expressed his inability to toe the line of Mamtaji. But ultimately stubborn Mamataji won and no increase was made in Railfares. The statements made by Prime Minister for imposition of taxes and that of Minister of Finance for non-imposition of taxes were denied by each. Even then, to implement and honour the statement of the Prime Minister, this Bill has been introduced thinking that everybody will support it owing to the sympathy towards earthquake victims of Gujarat. How can we support it? Does it speak of the soundness of department of finance which could not bear even a shock of natural calamity and the Government have to ultimately go far tax hike? Orissa's super cyclone caused devastation worth 10,000 crore rupees and the Central assistance granted to them was the tune of 50 crore rupees.

Gujarat suffered a loss of 20,000 crore rupees but the assistance given by the Central Government was 500 crore rupees. Newspapers applauded Prime Minister for providing funds liberally for the rehabilitation of Gujarat victims. Our country has a federal structure where Union Government are supposed to act in an impartial manner and where every part of the country is to be treated in a judicious and equal manner, which itself makes it evident that the Government are adopting discriminatory attitude. Now it is a time of emergency. The Government have expressed their inability saying that they have no alternative but to go for far tax hike. Now it is not possible for us to oppose the Bill when people of Gujarat are

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

crying for help. This House has no option but to pass the Bill under these pressing circumstances. But I would like to criticise the Government for imposing tax hike on tax payers and sparing tax evaders. Tax worth 52,000 crores of rupees is outstanding against the persons who are influential....*(Interruptions)* which has now increased to 62,000 crore rupees as told by Chakraborty Sahab. The Government should take stringent measures to recover the same. The amount of NPA also might have gone upto 62,000 crore rupees which was earlier 58,000 crore rupees. The Minister of Finance in his speech claimed to have recovered 800 crore rupees. The Minister boasts of preparing a very good budget by recovering just 800 crore rupees against outstanding 62,000 crore rupees.

My suggestion to the Government is that the challenges of such an emergency can be met by keeping a check on extravagances. What are the measures that the Government have taken to control extravagances. The hon. Minister says that they are reducing the number of secretaries in their department. Is it the measure to check extravagances? The Ministers of this government give advertisements running into full page of the newspaper on Government expenses, thus misusing crores of rupees. Don't they consider it as extravagances? Why don't they look into this. I am going to find out from each of the departments the amount being spent on such hypocritic matters. Why are the Government not taking any measures to check this? Ours is poor country and the Government on this pretext try to justify tax hike on the innocent and honest taxpayers when some natural calamity occurs. They claim that strict measures will be taken to implement tax hike in order to meet such calamities but they are keeping their eyes closed and are totally indifferent to such extravagances. How could the people of this country have sympathy with this Government and appreciate their actions. These are the various questions that country is facing. There should be a permanent mechanism to meet the calamities so that tax hike or surcharges are not imposed most frequently. A solution to this effect must be found so that tax load on general public of the country may be reduced.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman Sir, for this Ordinance that has come at the earliest possible opportunity that has happened after the calamity, we will have to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister.

Here is a case where not only this country but rest of the world has reacted and responded. It is our duty, first of all everyone of us, to see that we give our best sympathy and contribution for this purpose. This two per cent tax is going to yield to some extent.

Sir, the Eleventh Finance Commission has suggested that we can always have a temporary tax for any national calamity. But I feel that we can have a permanent type of tax for this purpose because it has become a regular affair.

Somebody has blamed the Government today that Orissa had not been taken proper care of. I know there are States where natural calamities, like cyclone, earthquake, floods, droughts, etc. are quite frequent and these have to be taken proper care of by us, irrespective of other countries' support to us. It is our responsibility to take proper assistance and proper support for them.

They have also said that so much donations would be exempted one hundred per cent. Today in the present conditions, if we say that 100 per cent exemption for donations, it means that the Government's contribution is 30 per cent and the contributor's contribution is 70 per cent. I feel that you can make it as 120 per cent so that there will be a lot of people who would come forward to help because more assistance is required for this type of calamity. Today for R&D, we are giving some special exemption, even 150 per cent. This is the case, where we require more people to come forward with more interest and they would be able to come forward and offer help for this type of assistance.

Other Members have also mentioned about the various assistance that has been given for the construction work. Excise duties have been exempted for those who contribute cement and other things to Gujarat, and even customs duties for those who contribute from outside were exempted. All these steps have been taken to assist people who come forward and offer help for this type of calamity.

Some people have expressed their anxiety about the way it is operating. I feel that an All-Party Committee should be formed in order to watch and guide in regard to utilisation of the assistance, that is the best way, so that nobody can blame anybody, nobody can suspect anybody, and nobody can say anything on this.

In the case of cyclone, we are getting advance satellite information. We may not be able to stop the cyclone but at least advance instructions about the cyclone

would give us some time to take precautions to some extent. But, in the case of earthquake, nobody will be able to predict. It all happens in less than a minute. People always blame. It is easy to blame but it is very difficult to say what it is going to be. We need some sort of a system or mechanism by which we can at least predict or anticipate earthquake. I also feel that some sort of assistance can be obtained from Japan, which is prone for earthquakes quite often. They are able to survive and revive. That sort of technology is more important. We will have to see that we can get such sort of an assistance so that whatever that we are spending, that should be done properly for the future, and it is for the need people to whom we are providing help.

At this juncture, I would like to point out that there are charitable institutions like Rama Krishna Mission and other organisations, which are really doing good service. I know that in quite a number of places, their services are really very commendable. We can also make use of their services for this type of calamity.

I would like to know whether there is any provision for giving exemption to Rama Krishna Mission and such other organisations but newspapers are collecting donations. In any case, you should recognise some of these organisations also, which are doing really a wonderful service. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minster would be able to take all these things into consideration.

It is a commendable type of Ordinance that has been brought in time and this august House should pass this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I have already explained in my introductory remarks the reasons why the Government decided to go in for an Ordinance of this type and the urgency for it. It is true that the notification for convening both the Houses of Parliament was issued on the 31st of January, and this Ordinance was promulgated on the 3rd of February. It is very unusual and I would only say that if it had not been for an entirely unfortunate and unusual incident, the Government would have never taken recourse to a measure of this kind.

I am very acutely aware of the convention of the Constitution in this regard. Therefore, I would like to say on behalf of the Government that except in extremely exceptional and extraordinary situations, there is no desire on the part of the Government to take recourse to any Ordinance much less an Ordinance after the notice for convening the Session of Parliament has been issued. The reason why we could not wait for the Session of Parliament was that this financial year would come to a close on the 31st of March. All those who pay direct taxes including income tax and corporate taxes would start paying up now. If we had waited for the Parliament Session and brought a legislation, the chances would have been that we would not have, not only not collected all the money that we wanted to collect but also that the notice to the taxpapers would have been so short, would have been so inadequate that they would have been put to great inconvenience. That is why, it was essential that we take to the Ordinance route, try and raise money for the relief and rehabilitation work in Gujarat.

There have been other issues which have been raised. I would not like to go into them because this House, as indeed the other House, has debated in detail the relief and the construction work in Gujarat. The Prime Minister and my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, have sufficiently replied to the issues which have been raised. There is no reason for me to take the time of the House on repeating those issues here.

But I would only like to touch one or two important issues which have been raised. Hon. Member, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty has opposed this Ordinance and the Bill on the ground that we are not collecting arrears, and perhaps, if the arrears of income tax has been collected, then there was no need for this legislation. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has also referred to it. The very simple answer to that is that each rupee in this amount each one of these demands is under litigation at some level or the other. The amount which has been quoted as Rs. 62,000 crore sounds very impressive. Therefore, unless we have another form of Government which would just hold the gun and collect whatever it wants, in a democratic society with rule of law, we have to go through the legal procedure. And for that legal procedure, let me assure the House that the Government, especially my Ministry is taking all possible steps to ensure that no evader or avoider of tax is left without being pursued. We are pursuing this. So, we could not have waited to provide relief to the people of Gujarat in the hope that the tax arrears would be collected some day.

As far as the point raised by Shri Ramesh Chennithala is concerned, let met assure him that every rupee which will be collected under this surcharge or through this surcharge will be accounted for. In the Department of Income Tax, all surcharges are separately accounted for. We will know exactly how much money

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

we have collected. Because this money is being collected for providing the relief and rehabilitation to the earthquake victims of Gujarat, when I come to Parliament with my accounts, it will be very transparent. We will be able to prove how the money has been deployed. Actually, why has the Government taken the tax route?

In fact, if hon. Members recall, in the last Session of Parliament itself, I had come with another amendment to the Finance Act and I had asked the House to permit me to levy a cess of one per cent. That one per cent cess was also for the National Calamity Fund which we had augmented so that we could meet the various calamities in other States.

In fact, Gujarat was an exception and I would like to inform my colleague Shri Kharabela Swain that when the Orissa supercyclone had come, this arrangement suggested by the Eleventh Finance Commission was not in place. But we still ended up making available to Orissa Rs. 878 crore for the relief work; rupees eight crore went directly from what was then known as the National Calamity Relief Fund and

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji may note that the Central assistance provided to supercyclone hit Orissa was Rs. 828 crore rupees and not Rs. 50 crores rupees in addition to this the Government of India have persued the case of orissa with the world bank and provided 100 million dollar i.e. 450 crores rupees to it from the World Bank

[English]

which we had to make available as Central assistance has been made available by the Planning Commission.

We had told the Government of Orissa that funds would be no constraint for relief rehabilitation work. It was not something unusual that we did in the case of Orissa. I had personally spoken to the then Chief Minister of Orissa. I had told him not to look at the colour of the money, but to go and spend because we had told the Reserve Bank of India — as we did in the case of Gujarat — that the ways and means limit will not apply, and that the Orissa Government — just as the Gujarat Government now, can draw any amount of money from the RBI for its relief work.

So, besides that, by way of loan reduction we postponed the realisation of loans from the Government of Orissa. That was an amount of Rs. 547 crore with a moratorium of six months. Another amount of Rs. 75 crore was made available from the Department of Foreign International Development Fund of the Government of the United Kingdom.

So, it will not be right at all to say that there was any unfavourable treatment which was meted out to Orissa. I am aware that it is very insidious to compare the agony, to compare distress. One should scrupulously, perhaps, avoid this kind of things but because the issue has been raised by Shri Kharabela Swain, I have been constrained to share these facts with the hon. House.

What is it that we are trying to do? I am glad that this Ordinance is coming up after I have presented my Budget because I have kept the surcharge on for the next year also. This year we are expecting that we would be able to get about Rs. 1300 crore. We are expecting that a sum of Rs. 1300 crore to Rs. 1400 crore would be available under this Fund separately.

Hon. Members would recall that in my Budget I am levying one per cent levy on cigarettes and other tobacco products to raise money for the National Calamity Fund. We had raised – I had set apart Rs. 500 crore — Rs. 350 crore through this one per cent levy. Rs. 850 crore was raised by the Government of India, though let me tell the House that under the Eleventh Finance Commission the whole arrangement had undergone a radical change. From Rs. 6000 crore the States Calamity Relief Fund has been raised to over Rs. 11,000 crore. And the Eleventh Finance Commission had put the responsibility directly on the State Governments to manage the calamities which unfortunately afflict the States. But this year we have raised Rs. 850 crore and made this available to the States which were in need.

Gujarat came as a shock to all of us. The distress, which was caused in Gujarat, was unparallel and, therefore, the Government in their wisdom, decided that they should levy the additional surcharge of two per cent. We will continue with it next year. The monies will be made available to the Government of Gujarat for relief and rehabilitation work.

Sir, I just end by pointing out again to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that there was no contradiction between what the hon. Prime Minister said and what I had said. We had a meeting with the hon. Prime Minister in an entirely different context. But because the meeting was held after the 26th of January, when the Gujarat earthquake had already happened, the media

started speculating that we had met in order to levy some kind of surcharge. When the media asked me, I said.

I will not comment on speculation.

[Translation]

You have commented on what I spoke to press? Raghuvansh Babu, I am very responsible person and speak with responsibility everywhere. What I said was that this your speculation, I don't want to make immediate comments on this. It was a twist made by media as if I have declined to levy any tax. The Government thereafter took this decision and imposed this tax. Therefore there is no point of contradiction in this.

Sir, I would request that we have taken this step for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Gujarat earthquake and that too on lines suggested by 11th Finance Commission. This was an essential measure. I would request all the honourable members of the august House to pass the bill without any dispute.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not asking anything. I just want to know how long they are going to continue with this, whether for two years or three years....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Ajay Chakraborty. He is the mover.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, there are two clarifications, which have, been asked.

This relates to the current year, the year, which will end on 31st March. As far as the next year is concerned, that provision has already been included in the Finance Bill and when we debate the Finance Bill, we will be taking up that issue.

As far as the Calamity Relief Fund to the States is concerned, under the Eleventh Finance Commission, already there is a provision that we contribute 75 per cent of that money, the States contribute only 25 per cent. That is in addition to the Centre's contribution in the case of a calamity of national proportions.

There is one more clarification, which Shri Kirit Somaiya has sought. I would like to say that there are two provisions in the Income-tax Act. One, which exempts the income of the Charitable Trusts, that is, 10 (23C) under Section 11. There is another provision, which is 80 G, which exempts from income-tax contributions made to that Trust. So, there are two different things—the income of the Trust, contributions made to the Trust and their exemption. What we are seeking to do here is, as has been very aptly put forward by Shri Ramesh Chennithala, that under Section 80 G we are saying that there will be 100 per cent deductions under the Income-tax Act allowed....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Educational and medical institutions registered under Sections 10 and 11 of the Income-tax Act will not be allowed. That is why, I am asking this clarification....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, educational and medical institutions will have to registered under Section 80 G in order to be able to get this benefit....*(Interruptions)* We have to be careful about this. As has been pointed out in this House, a whole lot of Funds have been created. They are collecting money. There is a danger of some of them misusing. But all those Funds which are registered with the Income-tax Act, if they also take the permission of the Income-tax Commissioner under Section 80 G, and those who make a contribution will be entitled to this deduction under the Income Tax Act.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I agree with the aims and objects of this Bill. We all know that the people of Gujarat are suffering a lot. We want immediate reconstruction and rehabilitation of Gujarat. There is no doubt about. But I have raised objection to the way and the method which is adopted by the Government. Secondly, the Minister has been very harsh to the working class and the middle-class salaried people. I request him to please take stringent steps against the defaulters. Most of them are big houses. He knows the names of the big houses and the persons who are defaulters of huge amounts. So, he should take stringent steps to collect money from the defaulters. This will be very helpful for the people of Gujarat.

The Minister has also been very harsh to the people of West Bengal. Anyhow, for the sake of the people of Gujarat, I withdraw my Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution?

The Statutory Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Finance Act, 2000 and the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.48 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Regarding Taliban Move to Destroy Buddhist Relics in Afghanistan

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs will make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, in the face of universal concern and despite protests and cautions against taking any such step, the Taliban appear bent upon committing a grave wrong, indeed, a sacrilege to humanity, to the civilisational and cultural inheritance of all mankind by wanting to destroy the incomparable and unique statues of Buddha at Bamiyan. It is tragic that this act of vandalism, the most extreme amongst the many other acts of destruction of statues, artefacts and archaeological treasures of Afghanistan is being pursued despite a global outcry against it.

14.49 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

This regression into medieval barbarism is precisely what India, amongst many other countries, has been cautioning the world against for so long. The international community has unequivocally condemned and rejected the Taliban's ideological orientations which have been responsible for the Taliban territories emerging as the world's principal centre of international terrorism, illicit drugs and violation of human rights, especially those of women.

Even at this late stage, we would like to convey that the destruction of these precious manifestations of the cultural heritage of humankind should stop. If the Taliban do not wish to retain this inheritance, India would be happy to arrange for the transfer of all these artefacts to India where they would be kept safely and preserved for all mankind, in the full knowledge and clear understanding that they are, in the first place and above all, treasures of the Afghan people themselves.

I also wish to add, Mr. Speaker Sir, that in light of the statement that the Government made in the other House, the other House has adopted unanimously a resolution. It is for you to consider and this House to consider that act or a similar act.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to express horror and outrage at the on-going programme of medieval vandalism in Afghanistan. I completely endorse the statement made by our External Affairs Minister. The medieval barbarism seems to be so sweeing as to result in destruction of all the statues of Lord Buddha including the world's tallest Buddha statue.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, on behalf of the House, I am going to place the resolution.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I request you to place the resolution.

14.52 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: CONDEMNING INTENDED ACTS OF DESTROYING STATUES OF BUDDHA AND BUDDHIST SHRINES IN BAMIYAN IN AFGHANISTAN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I place the following resolution in this regard before the House.

"Today, in this new millennium, when all civilizations are coming together through dialogue and shared values, we are shocked by the Taliban announcements of intended acts of religious fundamentalism and terrorism against human culture and civilization. They have moved tanks and guns to destroy one of the greatest examples of human creativity. This intent of destroying the two thousand year old statues of Buddha and the Buddhist shrines in Bamiyan would constitute an appaling act of cultural vandalism.

This House unanimously condemns the barbarism and anti-civilizational intent of the Taliban in Afghanistan in the strongest possible terms. We hope the world community and especially the United Nations will take note of this and prevail upon the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to desist from this senseless destructive act."

I take it that the resolution is adopted unanimously.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes,

The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

14.54 hrs.

ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up item no. 13. The House has to allot time for discussion on this Bill as the time has not been allotted.

Shall we allot on hour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 was passed by the House. As per the provisions of the Act, every State had to set up its own State Electricity Regulatory Commission. Thereafter many States set up such Regulatory Commissions.

There are several such States which have constituted such Electricity Regulatory Commissions by passing their own laws. Several States have given their representations to the Central Government in which it has been stated that there are several smaller States for whom setting up of such Regulatory Commission will not be operationally effective. So keeping in view the problems of the smaller States, it has been decided to amend the existing Regulatory Commission Act. Once the Act is amended, it will be possible for the smaller States to set up Joint Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier you had referred this Bill to the Standing Committee and they have submitted their recommendations which have been incorporated in this Bill and then the Bill has been moved in the House in its amended form. I humbly request the House to pass this Bill in the same spirit in which the earlier bill was passed so that setting up of Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the smaller States may be possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 1998, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 be taken into consideration."

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, I rise to support the proposed Bill amending the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the States' Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill became an Act in 1998. This Bill has a very limited role. In the Bill, there was no consideration for small States, which cannot afford to have a State Electricity Regulatory Commission because the Electricity Regulatory Commission in every State must have a lot of other things, like a building, a Commission

[Shri V.P Singh Badnore]

and other paraphernalia, which is very difficult for a small State to spend so much money on it. The North-Eastern States especially do not want to spend so much money on this. That is why, this Bill is being mooted, and I support it wholeheartedly.

I think, this is also an opportunity for us to look into the working of the CERC and the SERCs. This Bill is okay. There may be small problems in this Bill, like if the five North-Eastern States want to have a common State Electricity Regulatory Commission, then who is going to be its Chairman and so on. Alternately, one of the members will have to be its Chairman. It can create some problems; it can also create small problems, like where this State Electricity Regulatory Commission is going to be housed, in which State it is going to be housed and so on. They have to decide this. If they can decide it very amiably, I think, nobody will have any problems about it. It also has only three members in it. Now, if five States are going to have three members, then they may have some problems in deciding who is going to be the member, and who is not going to be the member. This has been left to them, and they are going to sort it out through a consensus. However, I look at it on a bigger scenario.

Sir, this is the first Bill being piloted by our new Minister of Power, Shri Suresh Prabhu. I feel that he has a big problem to sort out a lot of other issues.

15.00 hrs.

Power is the biggest problem area in this country. Nothing moves without power. Though Shri Yashwant Sinha has presented a very good Budget, yet if there is no power and if there is a shortfall in power and energy, then nothing will move ahead. The IT industry would not move ahead and the other industries also would not move ahead. We would not be able to do any developmental work without power.

Sir, but I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister in a way. He has been really working hard on it. It has come to our notice from the reports of the newspapers that the hon. Minister has been trying to understand the problems of this nature. There are many problems that plague the power sector. The biggest of them is that, though the public sector units like the NTPC and NHPC have been performing well, the private sector participation in this sector has not been up to the expectations. There has been a shortfall only because the private sector has not come into this sector the way it should have.

Sir, I would not like to go into the long history as to why it has not been happening. I would also not like to go into securitisation and counter-guarantees and such other things. It is because the scope of this Bill is very limited. I would only to talk about the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and what it has achieved during the last two and a half years. This Commission came into being in the year 1998. What we must see here is this. Has this Commission really taken off? Has it really performed? Why was this Commission set up? Why should we at all have this Commission? Is it doing its work? These are the questions on which we have to ponder over today.

15.02 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

Sir, the few orders that this Commission has passed have been challenged in the Courts. They had come out with an Order regarding 'availability based tariff'. I would like to talk on this subject today. This order of 'availability based tariff' has been challenged by NTPC and this would be challenged in the future also. What exactly is this 'availability based tariff' for the NTPC? The order basically seeks to increase the benchmark level on availability for generating companies from the earlier established level of 68.49 plant load factor to 80 per cent.

Sir, earlier there were some problems with TRAI in this regard. That is why, in this Act of the Regulatory Commission, there was a provision saying that the Ministry would be involved and would also be able to give directions to the Regulatory Commission so that the repetition of the problems that TRAI faced would not be there in the field of electricity as well.

I feel that the Ministry has not been concerned over this. If the Ministry has been concerned, they would have seen that orders like these are not passed. Why should an order be passed against NTPC? Tomorrow it may be passed against the NHPC also. Those are the performing public sector units and the surplus money that they are making is being ploughed back for augmentation of the power industry only. I would request that this be looked into. I feel that some of sort of directions from the Ministry must go to the CERC regarding passing such orders.

One of the reasons why the Regulatory Commissions came into being was that we wanted to have an independent body to look into the tariff structure. The SEBs have all failed today. They are all in the red because the States have not been able to pay to SEBs. If SEBs are not performing well, and if they continue to be in the red, there is going to be more problems in this

industry. To look into this whole affair CERC and SERCs have been set up. I would like to know if any orders of SERCs have really gone into the tariff realisation so far. If they have failed to do this, who is going to pay this subsidy amount?

This particular Bill is a very small Bill and this context I am talking. I would say in the bigger context that CERC and SERCs have not really performed. This is what the Minister must explain to us.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill has ostensibly been moved to meet the need and demand of smaller States to enable them to set up Joint Electricity Regulatory Commissions. This is a welcome measure.

By the way the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' of the Bill has been wrongly printed as 'Statement of Objections and Reasons'.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Your objection is sustained, Sir.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Thank you. That was just by the way.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill refers to the communication that the Government of India had received from the Government of Nagaland for constitution of a joint North-Eastern Electricity Regulatory Commission for four States — Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland. Besides Nagaland, we are told that Sikkim and other North-Eastern States have also indicated their problems in setting up individual Commissions due to factors like paucity of funds, personnel, talent, etc. Therefore, this Bill becomes the need of the hour, if we really wish to subserve the objective of the main legislation.

Besides, that, I also think that via this Bill, we could set the pace for cooperation between different States. Today, we find that the borders of the States tend to become borders of contention, I suppose, cooperation between the States in setting up of joint bodies on matters beginning with the Electricity Regulatory Commission would serve a very useful purpose, and such borders would, in fact, become places where the citizens of one State are out to meet with a smile their friends from the other States.

Sir, having said that, I would like to seize this opportunity to refer to the peculiar problem of the place I come from. We talk of small States. I come from a Union Territory. Unfortunately, the need of the Union Territory of Chandigarh has not been taken care of the way it should have been. Many years back, we were assured of a generation plant there at Chandigarh itself. We are now told that it would not be viable and it would be a difficult proposition. Though I would wish that we have one, but I do not intend to dispute the assessment of the Government in this regard.

But, Sir, what I would really like to point out is that, for not years but for decades, we have been raising a demand for according us our due in the form of membership of Bhakra Beas Management Board. That is our legitimate right even according to the provisions of the Punjab Reorganisation Act. But somehow, it is Punjab and Haryana perhaps, the two States which have adopted a big-brotherly attitude and resisted the membership of Chandigarh to the Bhakra Beas Management Board. Despite the fact that Chandigarh has an excellent record of distribution and even resource generation on many counts, while States like Punjab — as we have seen in the past — have been squandering away their resources on the populous measures, yet Chandigarh has to suffer for no fault of its own. Whenever the question of fixation of tariff arises, we are told, "Well, these are the rates prevailing in the adjoining State of Punjab. Therefore, Chandigarh must have the same rate." There is no rationale behind that. But we, people of Chandigarh, are helpless.

We do not have a representative body like the Legislative Assembly where the aspirations, yearnings and the needs of the people could have been articulated. We have to content with what is decided by the Government of India here and finally implemented through its officers at Chandigarh.

Sir, if the membership of BBMB is accorded to Chandigarh, Chandigarh would draw power at lesser rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since, there is no panel of Chairmen present here, and as I have to join the Business Advisory Committee meeting in hon. Speaker's Chamber, if the House agrees, I would request Shri G.M. Banatwalla to occupy the Chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sure, Sir.

15.14 hrs.

(SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA *in the Chair*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if Chandigarh is accorded membership of Bhakra Beas Management Board, the rate at which electricity would be provided to Chandigarh would come down, with the result, people would get electricity at cheaper rate. You leave it to the Administration that it must not incur losses thereon. That is fine. But the people must not be taxed for no fault of theirs, rather, they should not be deprived of their right which is there.

In the past we have seen that whenever the tariff of electricity in the Union Territory has been enhanced thoughtlessly, there is always a steep hike even in the minimum charges fixed. I can understand the concept of fixation of minimum charges for industry and for commercial sector.

To have minimum charges for domestic consumers and that too at an abnormally high rate is beyond imagination and without rationale. Chandigarh is a place where people have houses of an acre or even more than an acre.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): But do not pay the house tax.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I will deal with the question as to why the people of Chandigarh would not pay that separately. It is because they were coaxed to come to Chandigarh. Perhaps the hon. Member is not aware of the circumstances in which the city of Chandigarh was raised. Pandit Nehru took interest in it; Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon took interest in it. They in fact promised much more than what the people there are getting today to go and settle in Chandigarh. That is how this city was then raised.

I was referring to the abnormal increase in the rates of minimum charges. People living in big houses are generally retired people. There are just two retired people in those houses — the husband and wife — with their children settled in the United States. On the one hand, we exhort people to save electricity. Maybe the sanctioned rate for those people living in such houses is much bigger but going by the advice of the Government and going by the need of the society to save electricity, they would switch off the light when they go out and switch on the fan when they come back. That way, they save electricity wherever possible. But they often find that the charges that are slapped on them are much more than what they have actually consumed. Is that fair in such cases? I would like this opportunity to impress upon the hon. Minister to ensure that as far as the domestic consumers are concerned such loading should not be imposed on them and the bills should be just according to the actual consumption of these residents in these houses.

When we talk of the Government of India coming in for a Union Territory along with the adjoining State to set up a Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, what would be the position of Chandigarh? Would you just dictate from here as to what is to be the rate for Chandigarh and as to what is your concept of rationalisation? Or, would you again impress upon the adjoining State of Punjab to form a Joint Commission with the Union Territory, the charge of the Union Territory of Chandigarh being taken by you? I am not clear about this. I would request the hon. Minister to take care of this aspect with the ultimate objective of ensuring that when you talk of rationalisation of electricity tariff you must keep the interests of the residents of Chandigarh in mind.

Of late, we talk of reforms as the *mantra* of the coming decades. We are still trying to understand what it means. Only yesterday we were told that reforms in labour sector means that you can shunt out labour wherever you wish to. I really fail to understand it. But as far as electricity is concerned, we understand that the generation of electricity in the country is the barometer to gauge the progress of the country. I do agree and it has to be emphasised that this decides the various other needs for infrastructure. No longer perhaps can we afford to overlook theft or misuse of electricity in one form or the other. I agree with that. That is how perhaps we can quicken our pace in providing electricity to all the villages, particularly to a State like Bihar where according to the present estimates it would take over 700 years to electrify every village in the State. I do find a ray of hope. I only wish the Government matches its words by its deeds since the hon. Minister of Finance yesterday said that they wish to energise all the villages in the next seven years. I wish them well on that front and we would extend all our co-operation thereon. But the point I am trying to make is that in this process and in our anxiety to bring about such reforms we must not ignore the poorest of the poor.

It has become a fashion with us to say that the poor people living in slums are a burden for the society. I wish we gave up this approach. There has got to be an element of cross-subsidisation in all our tariff structures. We can talk of progress and development only if we can ensure that every citizen of the country enjoys the fruits of independence. It is our duty to take care of them.

There are people who can have ten air-conditioners at their places. "Since they can pay at this rate, why should the poor man also not pay at the same rate?", you argue. This would not be fair. People in places like Chandigarh are coming to me and they want to be provided with meters. But we do not make arrangements to provide them with meters. When there is a *kundi* connection, they raise a hue and cry. Nobody wants to steal electricity and we would not support that. But we would certainly wish that the Government formulates scheme for the poor. There was the *Indira Kutir Jyoti Yojana*. What has happened to that? There was a commitment of the Government of India to provide at least one light point to every household. What are we doing about that? I ask this only to emphasise the point that when you fix the rates you have got to have an element of cross subsidisation. People who are well off, and people who do not even know what is their electricity bill, if they are made to pay a little more to ensure that this brings light to the dark dwellings of the disadvantaged, I think it would be a very laudatory objective that the Government would serve.

I would request the Minister, while supporting this Bill, to take into account the difficulties which Union Territories like Chandigarh face. They do not have any source of power generation on their own except to draw electricity from else where, but in return serve the adjoining States. Chandigarh is the joint Capital of Punjab and Haryana. Chandigarh has a large number of officials of the Central Government. It has the potential to be developed into a major tourist centre. It is known worldwide for its Rock Garden. I can be developed into a convention centre and can serve as a second place for Delhi where you can spill over your meetings and conventions. With the importance that Chandigarh has today, please do not ignore or overlook the needs of the people of Chandigarh. Take care of its needs.

With these words, I would like to support this Bill.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I rise to support The Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 1999. At the outset, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought out this Amendment Bill. It is a timely Bill and well thought out Bill to meet the needs of several smaller States whose economic viability is a fundamental issue when we bring certain enactments. Though the original Electricity Regulatory Commission was brought in 1998, some smaller States, like the States in North-Eastern region, have expressed problems that it would be economically very burdensome for the States to meet the expenditure of this Regulatory Commission. Since there is shortage of qualified personnel, talents and funds, the Government of Nagaland sent a proposal to the Ministry of Power for the constitution of a Joint Regulatory Commission for the four States, namely, Assam, Mizoram, Maniur and Nagaland. There is a provision in this Bill for setting up Joint State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Sir, this Bill had referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. It had been thoroughly discussed and various angles had been taken into consideration. Hon. Minister has also taken a lot of interest on this particular aspect and it has been felt desirable to bring this amendment Bill.

One issue which has been very thoroughly discussed, I was also a Member of the Standing Committee, is that since more than two States are coming together to have this Commission and since there is only one Chairman with three Members including the Chairman, in course of time certain States may not be in a position to represent on the Commission. It is the question of consensus opinion, whether they can be rotated among all the Member-States, as far as its membership is concerned. Even, with regard to the Chairperson, how best it can be rotated; where the headquarters is to be located as also the supplementary and incremental issues that may come from time to time, can be sorted out within the sittings of this particular Commission. So, I do not think there will be any problem on this front because they go by the consensus and also depending upon the accessibility of the headquarters of the Commission or other facilities that are available. It will certainly have the viability just like any other State Regulatory Commission.

While having this Regulatory Commission we wish that most of the States should get bailed out from the financial contingencies which they are passing through. Hitherto, we are experiencing that most of the Electricity Boards are running in losses. There are States which are not in a position to pay the electricity bills that have been drawn from NTPC also. By having this Regulatory Commission as part of the process of reforms, I think such contingencies, such situations should be overcome and the States should become enriched in generation, distribution, transmission and regulating bills, including cross-subsidisation and other things.

With these few words I support the amendment Bill that has been brought by the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We all know that 3.30 p.m. is the time for Private Members' Business. We are almost on

the conclusion of the Bill, which is going on at present. I am sure the House will agree not only to complete this Bill but also the next Bill listed in the name of Shri Joshi, as Item No. 14.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, this is an important Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody is being denied to speak. The point is, the House agrees to complete this Bill and the next Bill listed at Sl. No. 14, and after that we will take up the Private Members' Business.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is for a limited purpose. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are there in our country. This piece of legislation has been brought because the small States wanted to have a Joint Regulatory Commission. The proposal came from the Government of Nagaland for having the North-Eastern Electricity Regulatory Commission because they do not have enough funds, expertise, and manpower to constitute their own regulatory authorities.

Sir, at this juncture, I would like to mention one or two very important points. What are the reasons for constituting regulatory commissions? Have these Regulatory Commissions been able to fulfil their objectives? Had they been functioning properly, the Electricity Boards would not have incurred huge losses. The State Electricity Boards are now in a mess. You examine each and every State Electricity Board. The condition of each State Electricity Board is very deplorable and pitiable. They are incurring huge losses.

What is the objective of this Regulatory Commission? It is to rationalise the electricity tariffs, to have transparent policies, subsidies, promotion of efficiency, environmental policies. I would like to know from my esteemed colleague, Shri Suresh Prabhu whether these normal objectives were fulfilled or attended to by these Regulatory Commissions. These are the noble ideals for constituting this Electricity Commissions. Sir, are these Commissions functioning properly? So, it is the high time for the Ministry of Power to examine and evaluate the performance of the Electricity Regulatory Commission. As far as my knowledge goes the Electricity Commissions are not functioning properly. Their performance has not been evaluated for decades and they are not all performing their duties well. I think that Government should attend to this very seriously. The thing is that the State Regulatory Commissions are also not functioning properly. I am not criticising anybody. So, the overall performance should be evaluated to know whether they are fulfilling their objectives.

Sir, the power generation is the most important thing in our country and every State is starving for power and every State is demanding more power. Sir, you are very well aware of the NTPC triangle. Once upon a time, Kerala was having surplus electricity. We were giving electricity to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka because we have abundance of natural resources. Hydel power was our strength. But today Kerala badly needs power. For all our efforts, the NTPC triangle has been established. The naptha based power generation project came to our State. It was a blessing for us. But unfortunately because of the high price of naptha the State Government have to spend rupee one crore per day to get electricity.

The State is starving like that. The State is incurring an expenditure of Rs. 1 crore per day to give electricity to the people at a subsidised rate. Power generation, transmission and distribution are the three processes involved here. Transmission losses are going up and pilferage in distribution is also going up. We should take certain important measures to check all these things. I do not want to take much time of the House. My suggestion is, there should be a total evaluation and the Minister should examine the performance of the Regularity Authorities and the demands of the States which are really in need of power should be looked into sympathetically. More aid should be given to the States which are starving for power.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Electricity Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1999 moved by the Government. As has been said that the Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up in 1998 and the purpose for which it was set up was appropriate. After passing the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and thereafter State Regulatory Commissions were set up. The State Regulatory Commission were set up in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, U.P., West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka and Rajasthan but Sikkim and some other smaller North Eastern Staes, on behalf of Nagaland submitted a proposal to the Central Govemment expressing their inability to set up such Regulatory Commission due to lack of fund required expertise and manpower. Now two three States jointly want to set up

the Commission. In 1998, there was no such provision so the Electricity Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1999 has been introduced. Once the Bill is passed by the Parliament, the Centre and two three States or two three States on its own or Union Territory and other States may set up Joint Regulatory Commissions. Thus they will be able to regulate electricity supply system, fix the tariff etc., streamline the procedure and mainain transparency, protect environment and take decisions regarding matters connected therewith. I wholeheartedly support the Bill in tune with other hon. Members who have supported it.

The Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up with some objectives in mind. Two to two and a half years have elapsed since then. Presently the Regulatory Commission is in the charge of a young, enthusiastic and dynamic person. He wants to do a lot in this field. Hon. Jayawanti ji herself is a very experienced person. They want to introduce revolutionary changes in the field of electricity, but the more the measures are being taken, the more the situation is further deteriorating. Sometimes the entire northern grid fails and there is complete blackout in Delhi and four five other northern States. There was no such situation in the past. Once there was suffiicnet supply of electricity in Orissa, Bengal and eastern States but now there is lack of transmission facility there. There is shortage of electricity in Rajasthan. Next month, the Regulatory Commission is going to increase the tariff. The people are very resentful on account of the apprehension of phenomenal increase in the cost of power. They will arbitrarily increase the cost of power after abolishing the subsidy given to the farmers. There is famine and drought in Rajasthan. Gujarat is affected by the earthquake. In such a situation the Regulatory Commission is attempting to deal with every State on an equal footing without taking into account the ground reality.

How shall the Regulatory Commissions function in the States? On the one hand there are State Electricity Boards against whom dues of crores of rupees are outstanding and they are unable to repay and on the other hand they are not able to replace their worn out machinery on account of dearth of funds. On the one hand they prepare projects and on the other hand they have obsolete machinery. In the Kota Power Station of Rajasthan, if one unit operational then the other one remains in operational and if other becomes operational the former one goes dead. Sometimes both the units remain out of operation. As a result of this Rajasthan has to purchase power from neighbouring States.

Mr. Chairman, Sir you will be amazed to know that on the one hand the Government claims to provide 6-8 hours power supply to the farmers and on the other hand the fact is that the farmers hardly get 2-3 hours power supply. Nobody knows when there will be a power cut. During the winter season when everybody remains sleeping in the House, the farmers remain in their fields throughout night in bitter cold. So, through you, I would like to submit that the Regulatory Commission should work towards more and more generation of power, expansion of its distribution system, reduction in loss and determination of tariff for the development of power sector in India. However, the Government should take concrete measures for rural electrification programme and make available power to the needy farmers, with these words, I whole hertedly support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that Power is a subject which is the Concurrent List. All the States in India will have to play a role in the production of power. Previously, there was no Central Intervention in this field. The States were given full autonomy in producing power and they were also given the liberty in deciding policies. Recently, the Electricity Regulatory Act was brought in by the Central Government. At first, the Bill was circulated among the States making it mandatory for the States to follow suit. Through this measure, it was bringing a Regulatory Commission in each and every State. Some States opposed it being an encroachment on the federal structure of the Constitution. Some States were against it. Subsequently, the late Power Minister Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam was kind enough to make a choice saying that it is for the States either to institute a Regulatory Commission or go in for the other form.

Sir, in the Budget presented before the House, it has been stated that most probably all the States are in arrears. It has also been stated that the nation is facing a power crisis. That is the present situation. So, in the changed scenario, the State of Kerala very lately has formed an Electricity Regulatory Commission. Among the States, Kerala is the only State which has no arrears payable to the Centre. It is taking power from the Central pool. But, in spite of that, the Central Government is not providing power to the State of Kerala in times of need.

There is a very serious matter. The Centre is bound to supply power. The Centre is telling the States that it will stop supply of power from the Central pool because they are in very huge arrears. But in the matter of Kerala, there are no arrears. That is an admitted fact. But in spite of that, the Central Government refused to part with the power supply from the Central pool. It is not only that. The Central Government made a declaration

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

saying that the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project would be a full-fledged one. That promise has not been implemented so far. The price of naphtha is increasing day by day.

The power that is produced through Kayamkulam Thermal Project will be 3 or 4 times greater than that in produced in the hydel project. In our State, electricity per unit is only Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 1.60. When the power is taken from the Kayamkulam project, it will cost up to Rs. 3.50. The price is also very much high. But the Central Government is not prepared to make it a full-fledged 2000 MW project. This decision has not been implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The attitude of the Central Government in these matters is step-motherly. Moreover, they are moving a new Regulatory Bill before the House, which is a clear case wherein the powers of the State have been usurped and the State Government will be reduced to a mere mockery. The KSERC, the Electricity Regulatory Commission, now functioning with some kind of autonomy will not be in the picture. Everything will be decided at the Central level if the present legislation is passed before the House.

Not only Kerala, but all the States will have to oppose it because it is a flagrant violation of the constitutional provisions. Moreover, it is a clear case of encroachment on the powers of the States. So, I would request the Power Minister not to proceed with this Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill that is before the House. We will oppose it tooth and nail. The powers of different States are curtailed. I am opposing the policy followed by the Central Government till now.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has moved the Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill in the House and has claimed that the irregularities in power supply will be regulated by way of introducing this Bill in the House. We have been informed that the Electricity Regulatory Commissions have been set up in some States and at the Centre. However, the Commission could not be set up in some smaller States. So, it is on account of the request made by the smaller States that the Bill for setting up Joint Regulatory Commissions has been moved by the Minister to remove the hurdles in this regard. But there is no relevance to the formulation of such laws.

15.48 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

The budget has been presented in the House by the hon. Minister of Finance. The important thing about the electricity is the generation of power about which nothing has been mentioned in the budget. I have gone through the entire budget and there is no mention of power anywhere in the Budget. One may say anything about the electricity but the generation of power lies at the core of the problem as far as the issue of electricity is concerned. But there is no mention of it in the Budget. Sometime ago the Minister of Finance was present here. I had decided to grill him on why did he ignore the issue of power in the Budget. The economic development of the States is not possible without power. So I would like that power especially the generation of power should be given the top priority. What are the basic issues before the nation regarding the generation of power? There is shortage of power supply all over the country. We reside in VIP area where there is no power cut. That is why we are not aware of the misery of the people. The people residing in rural area of Delhi suffer on account of short supply of power as there are frequent load-sheddings. The rural people suffer a lot on account of power cut. So the generation of power should be given the top priority. The Budget should have provided for power generation but there is no mention of it in the Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one lakh mega watt of additional electricity is required in the next ten years and it costs Rs. 4 crore for generating one mega watt of electricity.

A total of Rs. 8 lakh crore is required for power sector i.e. Rs. 4 lakh crore for generation, Rs. 2 lakh crore for transmission, Rs. 1 lakh crore for distribution and Rs. 1 lakh crore for electrification that means a huge amount is required. From where will the money come? First came Enron. The country is suffering on account of the arrival of Enron. At that time everyone said that the position of power generation and supply will improve on account of arrival of Enron but what did happen? Does Enron come under the jurisdiction of Regulatory Commission? The tariff of Enron sometimes become Rs. 8 and sometimes Rs. 9 per unit. One day it may go up to Rs. 24 per unit. It will continue to collect revenues even if we are not consuming the power. The power purchase agreement made with Enron is faulty and is against the common interest of the people of country.

The almighty has bestowed upon us the pontential for the generation of hydro electricity but the planners and the economists have deceived the country. I hold the view that Planning Commission does not understand the potential available in India. The hydro-electric power generation potentials are available in India in Himayalan regions from Himachal Pradesh to North Eastern States where lakhs of megawatt of electricity may be generated from the rivers flowing in seven-eight States but that water is flowing down the drain. Hydro electric power plant is required to be set up at the river. We open the mouth of our coffers for the generation of power and ignore the hydro electric potential. So I would like to urge upon the Government, the planner and experts of the country that one should not worry if the developmental works are suspended for the time being but sufficient funds should be diverted for the generation of hydro electricity. Only then the problem of power shortage in the country can be solved. Presently there is an acute shortage of power supply in the country.

We have seen that hon. Minister of Power has paid proper attention towards this and has claimed that within six years all the villages of the country will be electrified. 85 per cent of the villages have already been electrified and the remaining 15 per cent villages have not been electrified. In Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala hundred per cent villages have been electrified but in States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Assam and Madhya Pradesh all the villages have not been electrified. So in DPAP Programme, Rs. 1500 crore have been enhanced. He has also towards annexing rural electrification programmes with the Prime Minister's 'Gramodaya Yojana'. I would like to make one more demand that the power should be included in the category of basic minimum services which has not been done yet. Why has it not been done yet? It should be included in basic minimum service only then the knowledge of the information technology will be of any use. Special attention should be paid to those States where hundred per cent villages have not been electrified and certain concessions and facilities should be provided to them to achieve the goal of cent percent electrification through DPAP and rural electrification programmes.

In reply to a question the hon. Minister said that Rs. 6200 crore have been allocated for power sector in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Rs. 6200 crore is also required for electrification in other States. How much has been given to Bihar. Rs. 3000 crore have been allocated in 1999-2000 for all other States but nothing has been allocated to Bihar. In 1998-99 Rs. 2000 crore had been allocated to all other States but nothing had been given to Bihar. In 1997-98 Rs. 1100 crore was allocated to all other States of the country but only Rs. 1 crore 47 lakh was allocated to Bihar for electrification programme.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Who was in power in 1997-98 and 1998-99?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: At that time it was less but it was one crore....*(Interruptions)*. Rest of the States were given but nothing was given to Bihar. How will it work?*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): At that time you were the Minister.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I was the Minister that is why I had given something but in your Government nothing has been given. They say that the State Government should repay the outstanding dues and then they will release the funds and start development work. What is the policy of the Government for those States who are not able to pay their outstanding dues? Will those States be left at the mercy of destiny. In our Constitution there is provision of reservation for SC, ST and OBC people so that they may be brought to the mainstream of the nation by way of providing them with special facility. Is it the policy of the Government to neglect the backward region so that it becomes more backward so that it may become more under developed. So I urge upon the Government to waive off the outstanding dues against the Government of Bihar and new funds should be allocated to the State and new projects should be taken up. The scheme for which Rs. forty crore was sanctioned by REC in 1996-97 should be taken up under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana.

Bhagwan Mahavir's birth anniversary is being celebrated all over the country. Shri Anant Kumariji is also celebrating it. Rs. hundred crore is being spent on it. Bhagwan Mahavir was born in Vaishali. I have demanded that on his birth centenary 2600 villages should be electrified. It will be good if some noble work are performed all over the country on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bhagwan Mahavir. However, since he was born in Vaishali so the developmental projects of the villages in and around Vaishali which are laying pending with him should be sanctioned so that the said villages may be electrified. Bihar is lagging behind in setting up of such a Commission. So you should provide assistance to the State so that the Commission may be set up and the position of power may be improved in backward areas and some facilities may be provided to them. I hope that the hon. Minister will make efforts in this direction and we are also making efforts in this regard. I feel that we may together accomplish the goal of electrification.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to extend my thanks to all the hon. Members for their support to the Bill. Once the Bill is passed by the House the smaller States especially the North Eastern States who were facing problems in setting up their own Regulatory Commissions will be able to set up Joint Regualtory Commission. That is why all the hon. Members participated in the discusssion and supported the Bill. For this I once again would like to thank them. Several Members, especially my colleagues Shri Chennithala ji has asked as to whether the Government have reviewed the functioning and performance of the Regulatory Commissions that were constituted all over the country afer the passage of the first Bill in 1998? The Government of India was responsible only to set up the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission that has been done by the Government. Besides this, it was essential for the State Government to set up their own Regulatory Commissions. Till today, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pardesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are fifteen such States which have set up their Regulatory Commissions. Out of these States there are some States who have not completed the work of setting up of Regulatory Commission in real sense of the term. In some States the Commission has issued orders regarding the tariff but it has not been implemented. In some States it has been notified but the task of appointing the Chairman has not been completed. So, I agree with all the Members that there is a need to review the performance of the Commission. There is no such provision in the Act but in future I will make efforts to review the Regulatory Commissions of all the States.

16.00 hrs.

I would also like to submit that if the need for formulating policy is felt in the course of discussion for the proper implementation of the Regulatory Commissions, I will make efforts to introduce the required policy in the House. If the Bill is required then I will also move the Bill in Lok Sabha. First of all I would like to extent individual thanks to all the Members who have supported the Bill and along with this I would also like to clarify that initially the need of setting up the Commission was not felt. The electricity that is generated in the country is supplied to the consumers and as Raghuvansh babu said that the power is consumed after the generation, transmission, distribution, sub-transmission etc. My submission is that if the consumers will not pay for the power that they use then it will adversely affect the financial position of the State Electricity Boards as is evident from the present state of affairs of many boards and it will further deteriorate their condition. It should be our endeavour to deal with the problem in such a manner so that the condition of State Electricity Board could be improved. Two steps are required to be taken for this purpose. One is regarding the cost of supplier. There exists a chain work from generation of electricity to its consumption and it is required to reduce the cost involved in the entire process. Metering is required to check the pilferage of electricity. All such arrangements are being done but it is also a matter of concern to fix the tariff judiciously. Since the State Electricity Board was not able to do it effectively, therefore, the Government decided to set up Regulatory Commission for this purpose. The decision was taken in the meeting of Energy Ministers of all States held in 1996 during the tenure of United Front Government and was implemented in 1998 when our Government came into power. But in fact this decision was taken during the tenure of National Front Government on the basis of nationally accepted consensus because all States had supported it. Though it was decided at that time but our Government have implemented it.

Therefore, I am submitting that I do not agree with what hon. Shri Radhakrishnan has stated that this decision is violating the rights of the States, because when the States themselves are to set up that commission, how their rights will be violated? Shri V.P. Singh has stated that the Government should pay attention towards the challenges posed before the power sector. Shri V.P. Singh is an important member of our consultative committee, therefore, his suggestion will be discussed in the committee but a mention was made today that NTPC has challenged many orders of Regulatory Commission. I would like to ask as to how the NTPC can take such steps? NTPC is a part of Government. Inspite of that NTPC has a separate entity and Regulatory Commission has separate entity. Government do not intend to interfere in NTPC just because it is incurring losses which may be covered up by Government inteference. Regulatory Commission has been assigned the job to ensure proper coordination among all the institution and then take the decisions. For this purpose it was decided that no interference will be there after the regulation of Regulaotry Commission. However, it is right that Government have rights to do so. Section 38(1) of the Regulatory Act says that Government can give directions but the Government would not like to use these rights otherwise Regulatory Commission will not be able to work properly. It is also true that as far as policy is concerned, regulation can take place after policy formation. Therefore, Government will formulate the policy, then Regulatory Commission will regulate the tariff. If any party disagrees it can approach

High Court or Supreme Court. That's why we did not inteference deliberately.

Shri Bansal has given some good suggestions. Chandigarh is an important part of our country. Central Government is responsible for its administration. Shri Bansal represents the people of Chandigarh in the House. In view of these three facts, special attention should be given to Chandigarh.

Even though Chandigarh is not a Member of Bhakra Beas Management Board, power is bieng supplied to it from here. Necessary steps to include Chandigarh as its Member will be taken up after discussing the matter with all the States. Shri Radhakrishnan was saying that powes of the States are being violated. Therefore, steps will be taken only after discussing with States. The required steps in this regard will be taken up definitely. Regulatory Commission in Chandigarh can be set up only with the help of contingency States of Punjab and Haryana only. If it is set up, Central Government will not give any orders to it. Tariff Regulatory Commission will regulate the tariff. The Central Government looks after the administration of Chandigarh but the work of tariff setting will be done by an independent authority of Regulatory Commisison. I would like to assure the House that the Central Government will abide by the orders of Regulatory Commission.

Sir, Shri Bansal Sahib has given some good suggestions and has stated that Government should pay attention towards the poor people of our country. Government is also considering about it and the reforms which are being made in the power sector will target the poor people. Even after 52-53 years of our independence, there are still 80 thousand villages which are deprived of electricity. At least 70 per cent houses are still not having electricity. There are 4 lakh hamlets without electricity. Therefore, if we want to improve the situation, improvement is required in the entire power Sector. At present most of the poor people are suffering due to unavailability of electricity. If the Government had no feelings for them, there would not have any need to make such reforms. The reforms are required because poor people are nto being provided with adequate supply of electricity. The issue of electricity is being discussed here in the name of providing electricity to farmers who used to sleep in the open but they do not get it. Keeping in view all these things, there is need for reforms, I am sure that the reforms we are going to make will target the farmers and poor people. These reforms are being brought to improve their condition. Shri Reddy ji has raised some questions. He has stated that reforms in power sector are necessary to improve the economic condition of the States.

Sir, two days, before hon. Finance Minister in his speech has stated that the contributing factor for the sensitive fiscal situation of States is the poor condition of State Electricity Board. The situation is worse even after providing budgetary support and loans. Today, even the outsiders are not ready to honour the State guarantees. For this purpose also, there is a need to bring changes in it. Hon. Prime Minister has called a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the States tomorrow on 3rd in which this issue will be discussed.

While raising the questions my friend Shri Chennithala has also asked, whether the novel objectives have been achieved or not. I am hopeful that the Regulatory Commissions will undertake the job of achieving these objectives in future. As I have stated in the beginning, its evaluation will also be done. Besides, the Government have come to a conclusion that some shortcomings are being faced while fulfilling these objectives for which Regulatory Commissions were set up. I would like to assure that every effort will be made to remove those shortcomings in the coming days. You and my friend Shri Chennithala has also drawn the attention towards the situation of Kerala. A project of NTPC has been set up in Kerala which has been dedicate to Kerala State completely. There are very few States where some specific project has been dedicated to the State completely. Normally, centrally sponsored projects and central public utility projects are regional projects set up for the benefit of entire regions. If such a project is set up in south, then all the regional States of South will get its benefit and if it is set up in western side, then all the western States will get its benefit....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Our is very costlier compared to other States.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I am coming to that.

[Translation]

How such a problem occurred? Now when such projecs have been initiated, these will be Naptha based only. It was stated in the power projects agreement signed with the States that it will have two prices. One will be the fixed and the other will variable price. With the increase in price of Naptha, variable price will also go up. However, we will try to reduce the prices of Naptha.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

I requested my associate Minister that there is a need to reduce the prices of Naptha which will not only benefit the power sector but also the entire economy. I would like to assure you that injustice will not be done to Kerala State. However, every State should make it a point that 60-65 per cent of their electricity demand is met through the generation capacity of the States itself. States will have to face the problems in future if they continue to depend upon National Grid. At present power generation in States is insufficient.

Hon. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has stated that the difference between the cost of supply and rate of cost tariff is Rs. 50 thousand crore today. If this sum is made available to State Electricity Board, then the Board will be able to generate electricity from its own resources and the present situation will improve. However, some more steps are required to improve the situation. Setting up of Regulatory Commission is one of them. Therefore, I would like to say something in this regard also.

Hon. Shri Rawat ji has rightly stated that the issue of farmers and electricity remain confined to discussion only. Today farmers are not getting adequate supply of electricity and pilferage takes place during supply and farmers are made to pay for the pilferage of electricity. Reforms in power sector will lead to the supply of electricity on a sustaining basis. If such an improvement is achieved, the reforms will be considered as successful.

I would like to request hon. Shri Radhakrishnan to support it.

My friend Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is a Member of the House who always favours the interest of Bihar as well as our country. Bihar is a part of our country and Bihar's interests are of nation's interest. But I would like to say that Bihar Government was willing to sign an agreement with the Central Government. He is stating that hon. Chief Minister has left Bihar for but the distance between Patna and Delhi is not so long that it cannot be covered. I request you to call her soon. An agreement will be signed with her and the required funds will be provided by the Central Government. One more question was raised that how the 80 thousand villages will be electrified. The Government have stated that it will be done in 7 years. Different Governments remained in power till now. Till 1996 Congress was in power, later on your Government came into power, however, none of the commitment was fulfilled. On the other hand, our hon. Finance Minister has announced funds to fulfil the commitment which I had made three months ago. Therefore, you should believe that our Government fulfils what it says. More and more villages of Bihar will be provided with electricity not only through boring by REC but also as a result of the change in the policy that has been made. I would also like to say that for which announcement 2600 villages was made on the occasion of Bhagwan Mahavir's Jayanti will be provided with electricity very soon. Now I would like to request the hon. Members of the House to support this bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Chairman, Private Members' Business is an important part of the Business of the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has the consent of the House. The consent of the House has already been taken.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Encroaching upon the Private Members' right is nothing but unparliamentary and it is a violation of the rights. Why should we sit for the Government when the Private Members' Business is before the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already the hon. Minister has replied to your question. This is not the proper way.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Consent may be there because they are in majority, but the Private Members' day is meant for the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already the House has decided. The House has taken a decision. This is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has already taken the decision. This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

16.15 hrs.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I beg to move:

"That this House, do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 3, to the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House, do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 3, to the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 2

Amendment made:

Page 1, *after* line 4, *insert-*

"2. In the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act), in

section 2,-

(a) in clause (c), *for* the words "or the State Commission," the words "or the State Commission or the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission" shall be substituted;

(b) after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

'(ea) "Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission" means the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission constituted under section 21A;".' (3)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That new clause 2 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Amendment of Section 2

Clause 2

Amendments made:

Page 1, line 5,-

for "2. After Chapter IV of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1988"

substitute "3. After Chapter IV of the Principal Act, 1988." (4)

page 1, line 8,-

for "State"

substitute "Electricity" (5)

Page 1, line 11,-

omit "contiguous" (6)

Page 1, lines 13 and 14,-

omit "contiguous to such Union territory or Union territories" (7)

Page 2, line 3,-

for "State"

substitute "Electricity Regulatory" (8)

Page 2,-

for lines 7 to 10 *substitute-*

"(2) The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission shall consist of one Member from each of the participating States and Union Territories and Chairperson shall be appointed from amongst the Members by consensus, failing which by rotation." (9)

Page 2, line 12 -

for "State"

substitute "Electricity Regulatory" (10)

Page 2, line 13,-

for "State"

substitute "Electricity Regulatory" (11)

Page 2, line 14,-

for "by rotation"

substitute "by consensus, failing which by rotation" (12)

Page 2, line 16,-

for "State"

substitute "Electricity Regulatory" (13)

Page 2, line 19,-

for "State"

substitute "Electricity Regulatory" (14)

Page 2, line 21,—

for "Joint State"

substitute "Joint Electricity Regulatory" (15)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That existing clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The existing clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I beg to move:

"That this House, do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 16, to the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House, do suspend clause (I) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 16, to the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

Amendment of Section 29

New Clause 4

Amendment made:

Page 2, *after line* 29, *insert-*

'4. In section 29 of the Principal Act, in sub-section (1), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided that in the States or Union territories where Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission has been Constituted, such Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission shall determine different tariff for each of the participating States or Union territories." (16)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That new clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Short title

Clause 1

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4,-

for "1999" *substitute* "2001" (2)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,-

for "Fiftieth"

substitute "Fifty-second" (1)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister a simple question. All this argument in this House has been about power generation which is not adequate enough across the country. When we come to Bihar, specially because it is now the bifurcated Bihar - Bihar and Jharkhand - the hon. Minister is aware that Bihar, at the moment, has no power generating unit. We have a beautiful programme which was conceived in 1989 as the Super Thermal Power Project in Navinagar in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency of Central Bihar. Why is that project not being taken up when all the formalities have been fulfilled. Instead, a new project which does not fulfil all the necessary requirement, is being taken up. I think it is a slightly partisan approach. It would be nice of the Minister to consider the Navinagar Super Thermal Power Project. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.22 hrs.

AUROVILLE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) REPEAL BILL

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move "that the Bill to repeal the Auroville (Emergency Provision) Act, 1998 be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Auroville was set up in 1968 in Villupuram district near Pondicherry. It is an international organisation. It was set up by a disciple of Maharishi Arvind who is known as Mother. The charter of rules of Auroville is very important.

[English]

(1) Auroville belongs to nobody in particular, Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville, one must be the willing servitor of the divine consciousness.

(2) Auroville will be the place of unending education of constant progress and a youth that never ages.

(3) Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future, taking advantage of all

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

discoveries from without and from within. Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisation.

(4) Auroville will be a site of material and the spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual human unity.

[Translation]

various irregularities were found in the functioning of this organisation. Therefore, 1980 the Government took over the management of the Auroville Society. An Act was brought in place of it and new arrangements were made. The same arrangements were continued for 7-8 years and again in 1988 for the better management and further development of Auroville an act Auroville Institute Act, 1988 was enacted through which all the undertakings of Auroville were taken over by the Government and were merged into Auroville Institution. However, the bill passed in this regard in 1980 became meaningless. Now the Auroville is working properly. Hon. Members of this organisation are very good persons. Shri Kirit Joshi is its Chairman and Dr. D.P. Chhatopadhyay, Dr. Subhash Kashyip, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Shri Razer Anger, Shri G.M. Dev and Shrimati Jayoti Madhok are some of the members of this organisation. Apart from this some Government officials are also member of this organisation. As the Act of 1988 is working properly, it is essential to repeal the Auroville Act of 1980. I would like to request the House to repeal it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1998, be taken into consideration."

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, while I support this Bill, I must tell the hon. Minister that I am from Pondicherry and, therefore, I know that things are going on in the right direction.

When Auroville was set up, I was one of those who participated in the function and I was also the Chief Minister at that time. Therefore, right from its foundation and inception till its growth as well as its present level, I was associated with this.

The idea which the Mother had conceived, is a laudable one.

But to my disappointment, Sir, I could see that there was a fight in-between. We were all disappointed of it. In fact, you know the whole history. I need not tell this to you. There was a fight between the foreigners and the Aurovilleans, foreigners staying in Auroville and our local people who had been heading the whole thing. This had created a big issue and the result was that the Government had to intervene and then pass this law. Ultimately, we all negotiated and wanted to bring forth a settlement between those people, but we could not gain it, we could not gain anything at that level, and the Government had to intervene and this Act was passed. Now, you are thinking of repealing this Act.

The Foundation is doing well. What I would like to ask is why they do not think of developing this idea to all aspects of life in different parts of this country and not in our area only. This idea has to be developed in different parts of this country, having Auroville as the centre of attraction.

Sir, there are a few things on which I would like to have clarification. How much has the Central Government so far spent on this Auroville after taking it over? If the hon. Minister is able to tell it, I will be happy. Otherwise, he can send it to me. I have no objection at all. It has now been changed into a foundation. I am happy that it has been changed into the Foundation. A lot of people who have been connected with it are very renowned people. In his own words, he has accepted it.

I have only one thing to tell him. One mistake which our people are doing is that they are not amalgamating the local people in this big process. This is a big mistake which these people are doing. I have been telling this right from its inception. Can he tell me whether any Pondicherrian has been accommodated in this Foundation so far? Nobody has been accommodated. It is not that we want to have any share over that, but those people who have got interest over ethics, why do they not think in those directions and then try to do it? This is a small suggestion which I would like to make.

What is most important is that now, they are giving grants and then trying to do this. Tomorrow, if the same process goes on and if the fight continues in those directions as it has continued now—because it has taken a natural course and then, the foundation has come over there—have they got any provision in their Government to control it and then to make it all right? This is the only thing I wanted to ask him. Sir, I would like to tell this to them, and once more to those people who are there. Shri Kireet Joshi is my good friend. Shri Karan

Singh has been there. Sir, I am just speaking to you. I have been associated with it. Therefore, I am telling you that it is a laudable thing. I would like this to grow up in the right direction and the things from all over the world should have come over there. Therefore, I would like to see that they associate people of Pondicherry in this organisation, who are also involved in it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what happen to the Private Member's Bill. Ministers and other Members will leave the House after Government business. Our's and hon. Chairman, Sir, your bill is very important. Will the Ministers continue to sit in the House till then?

MR. CHAIRMAN: After this Private Members Bill will be taken up. All Ministers and Members will continue to sit in the House.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Bill is seldom included in the ballot, therefore, please initiate it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: After passing the Bill, we are taking the Private Member's Resolutions.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I rise to support the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000. Since the Auroville Foundation was formed into a body corporate, the existing Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980 has become redundant, and that is why this Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill has been brought about by the hon. Minister. This Bill is a necessary one, and I support this Bill.

Auroville Foundation is one of the very prestigious spiritual institutions in Pondicherry, and it is leading the entire country in the spiritual field; it has become a leader globally also.

In my own constituency in Andhra Pradesh, in Tenali, we named a big *Varadhi,* a bridge across the River Krishna, as 'Auroville *Varadhi'* because the disciples of that particular Auroville philosophy are there in my area.

As such, since the Auroville Foundation came into existence, it is looking after the total functioning and maintenance of this institution. Therefore, this Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill has become necessitated.

I support the Bill, and I congratulate the hon. Minister for this.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, I can give the figures of the funds we have allocated for the Auroville Foundation during the last three years but if you seek the information of the period prior to these three years. I will send it to you later on.

In the year 1997-98, the Government had sanctioned Rs. 50 lakhs as plan money out of which Rs. 28,80,000 were spent. The sanction under non-plan was 37 lakhs rupees out of which Rs. 29 lakhs were spent. In 1998-99 Rs. 50 lakhs were allocated as plan money which was released in full and the entire funds were spent. The funds sanctioned under the non-plan head were Rs. 35 lakhs out of which an amount of Rs. 30,74,868 was spent. In 1999-2000 the allocation of plan money was Rs. 60 lakhs which also was released in full. Though the allocation under non plan was Rs. 35 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 58 lakhs was spent. In 2000-2001 the allocation Rs. 50 lakhs as plan money was made by and released by the Committee and how much of it has spent would be known on 31st March. The revised estimate of non-plan allocation is Rs. 62 lakhs. This way we are increasing this allocation gradually. I agree with this view that Auroville is not a local institution between international institution, and its model could be used at other places also. An international Advising Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Kirit Joshi has been constituted to recommend the measures to be taken for the proper functioning of Auroville and dispel the myths prevailing amount it. Prof. Norman Mawyers, Mrs. Meri King and Dr. A.T. Aryaratne are the Members of this Committee. Prof. Amartya Sen was also nominated to the Committee but he has resigned from it. This is International Advisory Committee and we want to maintain international image of Auroville Foundation so that it may continue to play its role at international level. There is resident's Assembly for resolving the local issues. A working Committee has been constituted in it. The names of the Members of this Committee are—Shri Aurokripa Borg who was born in Auroville itself, Argen puts of Jermany and Meeta Radhakrishnan of Indian Paul Vincent Baptiste of France and Mr. Raicheot of Britain. Thus an opportunity has been given to the persons of various countries to be a part of its management. To say that we do not have a feeling of attachment for Pondicherry because no

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]
representation has been given to the Pondicherry in the Committee is not correct. We want to impart Auroville the international stature at every cost. Auroville is situated in Pondicherry and all the people of Pondicherry remain associated with it. However we want to mobilise the co-operation and expertise of the outsiders also for the upliftment of this foundation. As very few members have been included in the Committee, no hon. person from Pondicherry could be given representation in the Committee. However non inclusion of a person from Pondicherry does not mean that the Government will have any kind of objection over the co-operation extended by any resident of Pondicherry. We will submit all suggestions before the Committee and urge upon the Committee to seek the cooperation of and the suggestion from the respected persons of Pondicherry. If anyone besides you is ready to participate in this process, I would request the Chairman of the Committee Shri Kriti Somaya to take advantage of his/her capabilities and experience. It is the intention of the Government that the foundation should remain prime centre for spreading the message of international fraternity, humanity and the spiritualism and it should continue to prosper on this line. Hence I urge upon you to submit all your suggestions. I will certainly ask the Committee to ponder over and implement them. I think that the repeal of 1980 Act is right and the House give its consent to this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Short Title

Clause 1

Amendment Made

Page 1, line 4-

"2001" be substituted in place of "2000"

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Enacting Formula

Amendment made

Page 1, line-1-

"Fifty two" be substituted

in place of 'fifty one'.

(1)

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Chairman, Sir, I beg to propose:

"That the Bill, as amended be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.38 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWELFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions presented on the House on 1.3.2001."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 1.3.2001."

The motion was adopted.

16.40 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS

(i) Re : Proper Utilisation of Funds for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further discussion on the resolution moved by Dr. V. Saroja on 15th December, 2000.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to resume my speech.

Sir, the Puna Pact was signed by Mahatma Gandhi and Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in September, 1932. Reservation is not a charity. It is a constitutional right of the under-privileged, the depressed, the downtrodden, extended to them in lieu of creation of separate electorate for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

As a part of the celebrations of the centenary of Dr. Ambedkar, we formed a Committee under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh to critically evaluate the level of overall upliftment of the downtrodden that has taken place from 1950 to 1990. The Committee had an agenda. An action plan was prepared. The Government of India approved and adopted a 45-point action plan to ensure all-round development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That action plan of 45 points had six primary heads and they are as follows:

1. Enactment of an Act of Parliament on reservation in Government service and education.
2. Clearance of backlog vacancies meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by resorting to special recruitment drives.
3. Formulation of schemes and funds for compulsory education of the children of all levels of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
4. Allocation of funds of the national exchequer for overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes proportionate to their population.
5. Promotion of participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all activities of trade, commerce, industries, banking and private sector.
6. Effective implementation of land reforms.

Ten years after this action plan was approved, I would like to know from the Government as to what has happened to it.

Sir, the work of Government machinery of the NDA Government is allocated among 43 Ministries. However, there is no Ministry to cater to the needs of 140 million-strong Scheduled Caste population in the country. The Scheduled Caste population has been totally neglected by the Planning Commission also. There is a Ministry to look after the welfare of tribals whose number in the country is about 67.76 million. They form 8.8 per cent of Indian population. I have no objection to this. I welcome the decision to have a separate Ministry for Tribal Development.

But, Sir, the Government of India proposed to increase the reservation quota of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from 22.5 per cent to 24.8 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister with whom this debate is concerned, is not

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

present in the House. It is a very important debate...*(Interruptions)* Though I belong to the ruling party, I would like to say that it is not a good thing. The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should remain present here during the debate...*(Interruptions)* Though you are here but she should also have been here. It is not a good thing. Madam Saroraji has raised a very good subject...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The concerned Minister is sitting here.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Only one of the Ministers will reply...*(Interruptions)* I am ready to reply and there should not be any objection to it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramanand Singh is totally correct in saying so. The concerned Minister is not present here ...*(Interruptions)*...You should direct the hon. Minister to be present in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, they do not take it seriously.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very big department. You are the Minister of only one part of it...*(Interruptions)* It is Menkaji who is infact, concerned with this department but she is not present here though she should have been present here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): There is no decorum in the House...*(Interruptions)* Nobody in the House bothers about as to what impression will these things create for the outside world if thing keep on behaving like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, several Minister do not come to the House for months. This is not a good thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Our learned lady member is speaking, let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Minister, we respect you. But we want the other Ministers also to be here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, you kindly give direction to the hon. Ministers to be present. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government is not taking the PMB seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is present here. He is taking note of everything and he will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is so vast...*(Interruptions)* he is not the concerned Minister. I have been the Minister of this Department...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JUAL ORAM: It is immaterial whether it is the Cabinet Minister or the State Minister who gave reply to your question, it is one and same thing...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Saroja, please continue now.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this important subject, the hon. Minister should be present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Is it proper, Sir? You please give direction for the Caibet Ministers to be present here...*(Interruptions)* It is disrespect of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the concerned Minister is present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings of the hon. Members of this august House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jag Mohan is also present here. Shri Arun Shourie is also present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Arun Shouri jee and Jag Mohan ji are sitting here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: He has no time for anything except disinvestment issue. Why are you including him in it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I associate myself with the feelings of the hon. Members. The hon. Prime Minister had given an assurance about the divergence of funds, and may I request through you, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. Prime Minister has to come to House and answer for my questions. My hon. Leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had sent a note for which the hon. Prime Minister is required to answer in this House. I want a concrete reply.

Sir, I represent nearly about one-third population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population of India I am committed for those people. I am committed for their cause. SO, I request the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House and reply to my questions.

Sir, as far as the Budget allocation is concerned, a few days back, on the 28th February, 2001, the hon. Finance Minister had presented the Union Budget.

For the year 2000-2001, they have increased the Budget allocation for the Scheduled Castes population of 140 million to Rs. 790 crore from Rs. 709 crore. For the Scheduled Tribe population of 68 million, they have increased the allocation from Rs. 78 crore to Rs. 96 crore. But there is no Budget allocation from the primitive tribes who constitute abut 1.2 million. It is painful to note that the Budget allocation has not been done in proportion to the population and that all the schemes and welfare measures undertaken over all these years have not brought any improvement. There is no social, educational or overall improvement. This shows that the NDA Government is unresponsive towards this community.

I have with me the figures showing the Budget allocation when my leader Dr. J. Jayalalitha was the Chief Minister. I have got the statistics for the past ten years from 1991, when Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the amount allocated for the community was spent for the welfare of the community. But after the DMK Government took over, there is a backlog. They have diverted the fund for the Samathuvapurams. I have a given a letter on this to the hon. Prime Minister asking him to look into this matter and conduct an inquiry. But so far there is no reply from the Government. I am yet to receive a reply. I have received only an acknowledgement that the hon. Prime Minister has received a letter from me. I want a reply for this in this august House. My leader had written a letter on 12.1.2001 but there has been no reply till now. So far, no inquiry commission has been set up.

In Tamil Nadu, I have written to the Collectors of Salem and Namakkal districts where my constituency falls. I have also written to the Chief Secretary and also to the Managing Director of THADCO. They have not responded to my letter on the budget allocation and the schemes that have been taken up. The information available with me is that the Government of India has written to the Government of Tamil Nadu two or three times but the Government of Tamil Nadu has not responded to those letters because they have diverted the funds for the Samathuvapuram project where the non-SC beneficiaries are utilising the funds. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. She is not yielding. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, the hon. Member is misleading the House.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I am not misleading the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Saroja says.

*...(Interruptions)**

DR. V. SAROJA: I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, this is not going on record. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the proper way. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, not a single word of yours is going on record. Please sit down now.

*...(Interruptions)**

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* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you disturbing the House?

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you wasting your time and also the time of the House? It is not going on record. She is not yielding and I am not permitting you. You may please take your seat.

*.. (Interruptions)**

DR V SAROJA: This is the letter that I have given on 22.12.2000 to the hon. Prime Minister with copies marked to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, hon. Minister for Finance, hon. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, hon. Minister for Tribal Affairs. I would like to place a copy on the Table of the House for its perusal

An amount of Rs. 1774.21 lakh is not utilised. The Government of India has written to the Tamil Nadu Government saying:

> "The Tamil Nadu Government is not utilising the allocated funds; to expedite the matter, reminders have been sent to the Tamil Nadu Government on 25.08.2000 and on 25.09.2000."

But still, they have not responded to it. I would like to place it on the Table of the House.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing here. I am not standing here to politicise the issue; I am not here to gain any political mileage also. I am committed to serve the people. I demand that an inquiry commission be set up, as requested by my leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi. She has also given in writing. She had given me this note. So far, they have not constituted any inquiry commission. I request the Government of India to set up an inquiry commission immediately.

As far as tribal development is concerned, the hon. Minister for Tribal Affairs has written to all the hon. Members requesting them to come out with their suggestions and proposals in respect of their States and Parliamentary constituencies. Again I would like to point out one more thing. This is a letter dated 28th November 2000 in which the Tribal Development Ministry has allocated funds to different States. For example, in respect of Andhra Pradesh, the allotment was Rs. 2.75 crore; for Gujarat it is Rs. 10.8 crore; for Assam it is Rs. 8.5 crore,

* Not recorded.

and so on. Here, we find that the Government of Tamil Nadu has got only Rs. 86 lakh. That shows the lack of commitment and lack of adequate response of the Government of Tamil Nadu towards tribal development.

The Planning Commission has introduced women's component plan as one of the major strategies, for the first time, during the Ninth Five Year Plan, to ensure women's rightful share of funds and benefits. In India, about 25.56 per cent of the population live below poverty line and they are SCs and STs Eighty-one per cent of these people live in rural areas. That is, out of 25.56 per cent of the population, about 13-14 per cent were women. The year 2001 is the Year of Empowerment of Women; the Planning Commission has introduced women's component plan; 13 per cent of women SCs and STs are agricultural labourers of rural India; and, self-help group and micro-credit scheme for economic empowerment of women are there. The Government of India should have a national policy on women, with special focus on schemes for the overall development of SC/ST women of India, State-wise, sector-wise and gender-wise; it is a must for economic empowerment of women. For the overall empowerment of women SCs/STs, in the Ninth Plan, we have a three-pronged strategy, that is, the policies are framed under three heads — social empowerment, economic empowerment and social justice and political empowerment.

17.00 hrs.

Articles 14, 15, 17 and 340 provide for social safeguard. Articles 46, 275(1) and 335 conforms economic empowerment, political empowerment and administrative control of scheduled areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State. Articles 224 and 329 provide for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of People and in the Legislative Assemblies in the States. Though there are constitutional safeguards, still we have not improved to the level that we should have improved. In addition to the constitutional safeguards, we have National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Corporation which was formed under article 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Caste, Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes from 1974, Special Central Assistance to SCP and TSP, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 1990, a separate Ministry for Tribal Development, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, and State Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Finance

Corporation. But all these things have not brought any substantial improvement in the overall living standards of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

May I request the Government to review the programmes, and the schemes that have been earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Let us have a re-look and a second thought about these schemes. Let us start the implementation from the grass-root level. Instead of starting it from the above, let us start the implementation from the grass-root level so that at least from now onwards we will be able to achieve some results. I am a Member of this House for the second term and I have been a Member in the Standing Committee also. When sitting in the Committee, I feel sad about the regional imbalance that exist between North India and South India. If you critically evaluate, you will find that this system cannot be improved unless a Central Reservation Act is brought in. I recall that the Constitution of India was amended on 19.7.1994 after the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Reservation in Seats, Educational Institutions, Appointments and Posts in Services under State Act, 1993 was included at the entry No. 257 (a) of the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

I would like to inform this House that my leader, Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi* is the torch bearer of this Reservation Act. In no other State it has been done. Though Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tripura and Bihar have brought in State legislation, it has not been implemented. That is one of the reasons why the regional imbalance still continues. I request the Government of India to introduce a Central Reservation Act in Parliament and get it passed so that regional imabalance is corrected at the earliest possible time. ...*(Interruptions)*

In Tamil Nadu, *Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi* has brought this Reservation Act providing 69 per cent reservation. It was done only by the then Chief Minister, *Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi*. No other Chief Minister in India has done it. The State of Tamil Nadu has that credit. But what has the present Government of Tamil Nadu done for the people?

They are anti-*dalits*. They have brought in GO No. 44, which says that they will implement the recommendations contained in the Mandal Commission. After some time, the Government of Tamil Nadu through an inter-departmental order struck down the Constitutional rights given by Dr. Ambedkar. Through this order, all the educational and other Constitutional rights have been struck down in the State of Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, charge that they have no moral right to continue in the State. They are anti-*dalit* and they have no programme for the *dalits*.

I would also say that the NDA Government has no political will to exercise its power against those States which are not implementing these schemes meant for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have diverted funds earmarked for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Standing Committee has come out with a Statement that in all these three States an Interim Commission must be set up. The Government of India should have initiated some action in this regard. I request the Government of India to act immediately so that injustice is not done to the *dalits*. Action must be taken against all these erring States.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, I may be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, the hon. Member is misleading the House. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has allocated funds earmarked for the rural development to DRDA...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Sahu. He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Before I speak on the points made by Dr. Saroja, may I say that the regional considerations should not constrict the larger perspective of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the country and with that end in view it would be improper...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you wish to speak, you can send your name.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, it would be improper to consider a particular region's difficulties and small trivial matters here at this juncture. I think that would solve the problem of my friends who are protesting now.

Before I start, I would like to start with a phrase, 'A mighty fire is lit with the weakest straw' and with this weakest straw the development of the Scheduled Tribes has been taken up by the NDA Government in the last two years. Shri Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India has

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

created a Tribal Affairs Ministry and he has entrusted its task to a tribal leader of my State. I am proud that a tribal leader of my State has become the Minister in charge of the new Ministry. The matter which requires immediate attention about the tribals has been taken care of now.

So far as Dr. Saroja's contentions are concerned, I will come to them one-by-one and I would also applaud the attempt made by her to focus the difficulties faced by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. When we think of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the first thing that comes to my mind is about the land holding. Since agriculture is most important for India, land holding is very important for an Indian.

She has referred to the utilisation of funds. When we come to utilisation of funds, we must think of the base and the base is the land. All the Members are aware that the Scheduled Tribes are the most harassed. They do not have land. As such shifting cultivation, jhum cultivation, and migration from place to place in search of cultivable land on the difficult terrain makes it very difficult for tribal people to have the land holding of their own.

The settlements that have taken place from time to time have not been very kind to the Scheduled Tribes and have not been very kind to the migratory Scheduled Castes. As far as land holdings are concerned, may I, with your permission, indicate as to what type of land holdings the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have in India?

So far as land is concerned, it has been seen that 8.06 per cent of the Scheduled Castes, out of that, about 13 per cent to 14 per cent in my State have no land. More than 17 per cent Scheduled Tribes, have no land, not even half an acre of land. Half an acre of land is held by 5.28 per cent of Scheduled Castes, and 4.22 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes. This would indicate the type of difficulties that a Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe person faces whenever funding is thought of. We have been thinking of giving loan to the people and we are asking for collateral. When some loan is given that requires collateral. The land is of mere pittance and the SC and ST cannot avail the loan scheme. With mere pittance nobody can be able to survive in this competitive and harsh world. That is why, we have been saying that although we have created a lot of facilities for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These do not percolate down to the persons for whom it is required to be done.

I would invite the attention to two important features which have been taken up within the last two years by the NDA Government. First scheme is the *Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana* wherein it has been indicated that 22.5 per cent of the JGSY will be allocated and earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the second scheme, which is a very important one, is the *Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana* where 50 per cent of the money is to be allocated to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

As I have said earlier, funding is being done by the Government of India in a very beautiful manner. When employability is there but the employment is not there, it is necessary that some employment has to be given. It has been found by the Planning Commission that those who have some land, about a hectare of land, *i.e.*, two and a half acres of land, at the maximum a person could get employment for about 200 days and those who are marginal farmers, they do not have employment beyond 100 days. So, creating employment for the employable people is the Herculean task and the Scheduled Tribes are the most affected people. They are staying in difficult terrain. For them, to be employable, is a difficult matter and that is why a new Ministry has been created to see that employment facilities are given to them. Last year, the Budget allocation was Rs. 800 crore. It was a new Ministry. Now, it is Rs. 950 crore. With a corpus of about Rs. 500 crore, loan assistance is to be given to the tribals and the implementation has already started.

As I said, employability is a great criteria. That is why, the *Swarnjayanti Swarozagar Yojana* is required to be implemented in a proper manner to see that the tribals and the Scheduled Castes get employment in a better manner. Whenever we think of employment facilities, we have to think of literacy for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Over the years it is seen that literacy has started increasing among these people. I have got the statistics collected during the census of 1961 and 1991. At that time the general literacy in the country was 24 per cent whereas among the Scheduled Castes it was 10.3 per cent and among the Scheduled Tribes it was 8.3 per cent. Now the general literacy is 52.2 per cent and the literacy among the Scheduled Castes is 37.4 per cent whereas it is 29.6 per cent among the Scheduled Tribes.

But female literacy has suffered a lot in so far as Scheduled Tribes are concerned. In my State, Orissa, 95

per cent of the girls among Scheduled Tribes are drop-outs at the fifth standard level. In order to get over this difficulty, the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Minister of Tribal Welfare have sanctioned Rs. 16 crore last year for setting up of residential tribal schools for girls. This year also sufficient funds have been given for ITDA projects. Half of my constituency has been covered under ITDA and Rs. 64 lakh has been given this year so that different works could be taken up, communications could be set up, high schools could be set up and *Sevashram* could also be set up to see that female literacy goes up among the tribals.

The most difficult part of a tribal woman is procuring drinking water. They live in places where drinking water is not available especially during acute summer when a lady or a child has to come down from the peak of a mountain to take a pitcher of water. Because sometimes even a pitcher of water is not available to them, they have to take date plam juice or Salap juice and that creates an inebriated condition for them. In order to provide drinking water to them in far-flung areas where people belonging to Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes are living, it is necessary that the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme which has been launched by the Government of India in a very big way this year should give adequate funds to these areas of the country. I am not asking for special attention for a particular area. I am not regionalising the problem as has been done by my predecessor while she was speaking on the subject. We must have a larger perspective in dealing with this issue and to see what is required by the people who have been marginalised, who have not got their due.

So far as funding is concerned, it goes to the States. When funds go to the States, they have to think in a proper manner so as to see that these people who have been marginalised over centuries do not suffer further. When we are thinking about all these aspects, we must also think of different funding patterns. The most important point is that the minor forest produce should get the attention of the Central Government and a uniform processing method should be adopted so that the forest produce is not subjected to any revenue tax or any sort of restriction.

Since there is time constraint, I am not going further. With these words, I would like to thank you Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the motion moved by Dr. V. Saroja, in which it has been stated that the funds allocated for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not utilised properly.

It is a fact and it has been seen that the funds allocated for the weaker sections are not fully utilised. The question is that the funds allocated for them should be properly utilised and secondly 17 percent population of scheduled castes and 8 per cent population of scheduled tribes live in this country. Many other castes from various States also have been constantly demanding for their inclusion in the scheduled caste list because their standard of living is more or less the same as that of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In total one fourth of the total population of the country is of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. As Dr. Saroja presented some data, the allocation of funds for these people, the earmarking of funds in plans is negligible. This is a consolidated fund, last year it was Rs. 709 crores and this year it is Rs. 790 crores. There are sixteen lakh students upto class ten who are from scheduled castes, Rs. 155 crores will be spent on their education and Rs. 408 crore have been earmarked for them in the plan budget. This proposal has made it clear that during 2000-2001 Rs. 181.33 crores were proposed to be spent on scheduled caste, but only Rs. 157 crore could be spent. It is a very serious matter and it becomes more serious from this viewpoint also that its discussion inside and outside the House, leaves a psychological impact that today the problem of scheduled castes has been restricted to reservation only, whereas it is really a fact that unless the economic condition of the weaker sections is improved and they become self reliant there cannot be any good for them. Today, we need to take up this very issue.

So far as reservation is concerned, Shri Arun Shouriji has left, there was a discussion on the BALCO issue only yesterday. The way Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar is selling public sector undertakings to private sectors, opportunities of reservation are bound to lower. You know 22 lakh people worked in public sector undertakings who are now reduced to only 18 lakh. In times to come this number will further decrease. Despite all this, various State Governments have made their own reservation laws. But the Government of India has no Act regarding reservation. On the issue of reservation Parliament should make an Act and include the same in the 9th schedule. The facility of reservation is provided in this country and the existing policies are going to be responsible for every work going to the private sector resulting in further reduction in employment opportunities in the country. The most important thing is that the Government organised Dr. Ambedkar's Birth centenary celebrations in 1990. Other great persons—be it Mahatma Gandhi or Jawaharlal

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

Nehru, I know their birth centenary celebrations were organised for one year but Dr. Ambedkar's birth centenary celebrations continued for three consecutive years.

When Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was Prime Minister, he was its Chairman, Ramvilas ji later became Deputy Chairman. When Chandrashekharji became the Prime Minister, I was Welfare Minister with him and I became Deputy Chairman. Then till the times of Sitaram Keshriji and Naarsimharao ji that important Ambedkar Birth centenary celebration Committee exhisted. All the Chief Ministers and all prominent people were in this Committee. That celebration Committee had constituted six sub Committees one for economic development, one for education, one for land reforms, one for prevention of atrocities against dalits, one for issues related to reservation and one for plans and programmes. After making utmost efforts, the convenors of that Committee submitted their recommendations. After completing the whole work a 45 point programme was formulated which is with me at present. As I know the cabinet also had endorsed it. No issue related to the problems of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes has been left in this 45 points programme. But not a single step was taken ahead on this. No department has cared for its implementation till today. Had the Government taken any action on "Dr. Ambedkar centenary celebrations. Status of Programmes Recommended for planning", the results would have been encouraging. 150 members of scheduled castes and tribes Forum of parliament had written to the Prime Minister and urged him to do certain works for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, but no expected action was taken. I had already said and would like to say further that reservation for scheduled castes or dalits is an issue, but the related issues, particularly of land reforms have not been accorded proper attention. Though they get the lease executed in their favour yet influential people do not let them take possession of the leased land. The surplus land with the Government has also not been properly distributed. In short, no planned effort has been made in our country to improve their economic condition. I would like to cite an example. The business they are doing has got no patronage. There is no market for their produce. There is a shoe making industry in Agra. People belonging to minority and dalit classes work in it in large numbers. In a way it is a cottage industry. I know the whole family works the whole day and in the evening after the shoes are ready, the maker of the shoes carry them in a basket on his head to the Heeng Mandi. He does not sell shoes on his terms. The mediator purchases them. There are no cash payments for the shoes, but a slip is given instead. A member of his own family sits with that slip

and it is said that he has got the slip for which the payments won't be made today. On a certain day when he goes to get the payments, cuts are made in that too and fraud is done. The shoes for Rs. 300-400 gives him a profit of Rs. 25-30 only. But the party which purchases the shoes from him just adorns it with quality packaging and a trademark and the same shoe fetches Rs. 4-5 thousand in Mumbai and Kolkata. if you do not patronise this business do not arrange finances and market for them, the results are not going to be good.

I once again thank Dr. V. Saroja for bringing such good resolution, a timely resolution in the House. If we could together make an effort to see that the facilities provided for addressing the problems of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, for making them self reliant, for improving their economic condition and for making them able to fend for themselves reach them properly. The utilization of funds given from here for their welfare should be monitored because we have seen that funds are not fully utilized. It appears that there is something wrong with our intention.

With these words, I support the resolution moved by Dr. V. Saroja and thank her for the same.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Dr. V. Saroja. The entire country is concerned about the treatment meted out to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people since long. I feel pride that the leaders of Congress, who fought the war of independence, gave their full consideration towards the welfare of this weaker section of the society. Although, there are certain weaknesses even today, but it is really commendable that the Congress party leaders very far sightedly gave full consideration towards this aspect.

I would like to mention here the speech of first citizen of the country His Excellency Mr. President, Shri K.R. Narayanan delivered on 25th January, 2001. He was born in a poor, dalit family and became the President of India. In his speech, he openly said that it would be really unfortunate if we try to do development without considering those poor children who do not get milk or bread and whose family members are worried as to how to arrange for their evening meals. Madam Saroja has described about the misuse of Government funds allocated for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. The injustice is being meted out to them in services. They are harassed at the time of their promotions. All these facts have been mentioned through this proposal.

I am proud of one thing. When in the entire country the people of lower caste were not allowed by the upper class people to drink water from the same well, or to mount the horse, then at that time great gurus in Punjab, where the number of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is big, played a very important role, which is an ideal for the entire country. Earlier it was asserted that a poor man cannot eat bread while sitting, and cannot go at anyone's doorstep. They way ten gurus have restored their honour and respect of these people, is really praise worthy. Hon. Minister is present here, I want to tell him that such a view has been expressed by those Gurus *viz.* 'Jinki Varna Aur Kulmahi, Sardari Na Pai Kadani" I feel good that arrangement for translation of Punjabi language has also been made in the House. The meaning of aforesaid couplet of Gurvani is that "the persons not considered as 'sardar' by anyone, shall considered so by me, only then will I be called as Govind Sahib"—this was asserted by the tenth guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh and had given the slogan-'Manas ki Jaat Sab Ek' *i.e.* all people have one caste only. Today, you are required to earmark your policies in the light of those ideals of Guru Gobind Singh.

I would like to bring one fact to your notice not because that we have Government of other party in Punjab, but I would request hon. Minister to listen to me carefully—hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Empowerment Shrimati Maneka Gandhi is very concerned about the animals of our country, but her concern for the common people is revealed by her absence here today in the House. In Punjab, people who have fifty tubewell connections receiving bills of even rupees one lakh, do not pay and electricity bill, but those 26 per cent poor people, who welcomed the Government with warm hearts, get bills of rupees five thousand despite the fact that one single bulb is lit in their huts. It is injustice, which should be done away with. Yashwant Sinha ji has said in his budget speech that 27 per cent of the people live below poverty line. But I feel that this percentage is above 40 per cent but as per their statistics, it is 28 per cent in Punjab, where these people have no yellow card, and are not provided with any facility and nothing has been done to restore their confidence and respect. I request you to write to the Punjab Government to consider the issues of those 28 per cent people living below the poverty line, because Government of people belonging to higher caste oppress the people belonging to poor category. I would cite one example that maximum number of poor people of Sikh families, who were in the light infantry, sacrificed their lives for the country, they were even posted at 17000 feet height. Scheduled Caste people of Punjab maintained the sovereignty, prosperity of the country by sacrificing their lives in the wars of 1962, 1965, 1971 and also in Kargil operation. But it is really unfortunate that the number of Scheduled Caste poor persons who joined light infantry division only to sacrifice their lives, has also been reduced.

The funding and social education empowerment is also related to employment of these people. A very famous poet of Masrich, Atama Iqbal has rightly said:

'Utho Meri Dunia ke garibon ko jaga do,
Taj wa Umra ki dar-wa-diwar ko hila do,
Gurba wa Gulamo ke saaz-i-yakin se,
Gosha zami ko shahi se lada do,
Jis khet se mayassar Na ho behtar roti,
Us khet ke har gosha-i-gandam ko jala do'

We are insulting those people far whom Shri K.R. Narayanan, Head of the State, is saying that we are suppressing their feelings. I am happy that the BJP President belongs to Scheduled Castes, but the circulars of RSS being sent to Punjab and other States of the country are regarding keeping a watch on the Scheduled Caste people, Minority people and dalits *i.e.* against the SC-ST people. My friend hon. Shri Ramesh Chennithala was sitting here. He is a very honest person. I do not want to mention about the book of Shri Chennithala named "Worshipping False Gods", but it has given the gist of BJP's thinking in this regard which says...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the end supporting the sentiments of Sarojaji, I would say that the basic feeling behind review of the Constitution was to deprive the SC and ST people of their rights and these SC-ST people and their representatives fought for this. I request the Government that this action is just 'playing with fire' and nothing else. You do whatever you want to do on the issue of review of the Constitution but I would say that please pay some attention towards employment which has reduced from 22 lakh to 18 lakh as stated by my brother Sumanji before doing privatisation and disinvestment, on which my colleagues have expressed their views. This would lead to more oppression and injustice towards the poor SC-ST people, we should take notice of this fact.

In the end I would say that we talk of electoral reforms which is also related to scheduled castes.

[English]

I want to put it on record.

[Shri J.S. Brar]

[Translation]

I would cite an example of Faridkot Parliamentary Constituency, the Chief Minister of Punjab belongs to Faridkot. His son was a Minister there. If the Chief Minister of Punjab buy votes of three lakh poor people by cheating them or exploits them by sending them out of Punjab in trucks so that they may not be able to cast their vote and thus depriving them of their fundamental right of voting then its really bad. I feel this is really very unfortunate the police power is being used for preventing these poor people from casting their votes. In this 21st century if some powerful person and wealthy person uses his influence like this, then it is very bad as it is said — "Jinke Pass Daane, Unke kamle bhi sayne".

[English]

I do not belong to weaker section, I am unfortunate, but I feel proud in stating these facts.

[Translation]

Injustice should not be done with the people, who have sacrificed their lives for the country and have played a very important role in the history and tradition of the country. With these words, I strongly support the Resolution moved by Sarojaji.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the resolution moved by Saroja ji and supporting the objective with which it has been moved, I expect that the dream of social and educational upliftment of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people, which has not been fulfilled even after 52 years of independence, would be achieved now, infact preceding governments have measured the pace of development only in terms of amount spent over it and nothing else. The condition of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people would not have been so stagnant today, had the development been measured at the scale of education attained.

I thank the NDA Government and hon. Vajpayee ji that they have made a resolution to ensure the accountability of the development of this community by forming a separate Ministry for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards one more aspect, which perhaps has been left out. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in the present times, can in no case, think of our welfare because its jurisdiction and objectives are too wide. But now, with a separate Ministry for the scheduled tribe people, we hope that some welfare work would be done. A similar permanent Ministry should also be formed for the scheduled castes people, but it should not have such people for whom it can be said—

"Jake pair na phati baiwai, who kya jaane pir parayi"

But such people are given the key positions, who do not think anything for the welfare of people of our community. If the destiny has shouldered such a responsibility upon them, then they should understand and feel it from their mind and heart and should fulfil the responsibility entrusted to them. My all colleagues, brethren must have understood as to what I want to say that if these people at the high positions, do not take care of us and do not listen to our pains in the House, then how will a person outside the House, understand our problems? Today various schemes for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people have been evolved by our Ministry and budget has also been allocated for this purpose. These include the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various departments of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Woman and Child Development, Education, Health, National Social Welfare Board, Women Social Welfare Board, or various commissions such as SC-ST, or Safai karamachari commission. I would say that we are perhaps unable to review the welfare schemes for SC-ST people through these commissions and departments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to inform the hon. Minister about a scheme of the Department of Education, we do not keep a watch on the actual implementation of schemes launched by the Centre. If the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes Members, or some such representatives who genuinely feel for the development of these people, may keep a watch on the schemes launched by the Centre, then this can definitely prove advantageous. I have gone through some welfare schemes started by our Ministry for SC-ST girls and boys. I have worked at village level. From an anganwadi worker, I have worked on various educational posts. I have also held various positions in the field of women and child development and I found the same condition. They are insensitive towards these people. They have been presenting mere statistics before the Government in order to make use of the money. Such webs of statistics can never be helpful in the progress of these people. Previously also, a discussion had taken place on this issue and I had talked to the Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. I also indicated him that for construction of residential schools for scheduled caste children, the Government have to

spend Rs. Three lakhs for construction of a school for 25 girls and boys. Although it is ridiculous and surprising, but at the same time it is a matter of concern for us. They are given amount for their fee at the age of six years only. After educating them for one year, when they are promoted to second standard it is said that now they are capable whereas children of the BPL families as also those of the families covered under the Antyodaya yojana study in these schools. They are taught merely for one year *i.e.* from sixth year to seventh year of age and thereafter, it is said that there is no amount left under this scheme and this is the only provision. Unless you review such erroneous rules, these communities would not get full benefits of these schemes and the entire amount spent by the Union and the State Governments would go in vain. All schemes for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes whether they are regarding education, or health or rural employment or Golden Jubilee employment scheme or any facility extended to them through any Ministry require centralised control and we shall have to keep a watch on their proper implementation, otherwise, if the names of SCs and STs are taken merely for vote politics, then their welfare would never be done. Hon. Shri Vajpayee has taken up this matter and we have also made collective efforts in this regard. Today there is a need to review their progress in different parts of the country, otherwise welfare of the SCs and STs will not be possible. We see that NGOs and various institutions set up in the name of the SCs and STs do not have any member belonging to SCs or STs because neither they are so educated, nor clever, nor knowledgeable. If one or two persons have stood for development, no one is there to hold their hands. Schemes being implemented through non-Governmental Organisations for the Welfare of SCs and STs are also to be reviewed.

Scheduled tribes people live in forests. They are earning their livelihood by collecting forest produce. You can observe the States of North India, whether it be Rajasthan, or Uttar Pradesh, or Haryana, such people are engaged in agriculture, they are engaged in agricultural labour or mason work. There are our brothers and sisters among them. Due to illiteracy, they do not know as to what the Government is doing for them. One of our colleagues says that someone takes contract for casting their votes in his favour. Since such a trend has come in vogue, it is really unfortunate for the party which has initiated this trend. I hope that my feelings for these people would be given weightage in the resolution being moved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so many MPs belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are sitting here and if all of them are entrusted with the work of keeping a watch on these welfare schemes, then it would really be beneficial. This resolution can be moved for spending money on the development of our brothers and sisters and that area and to extend facilities to them.

One more thing that I want to say is that this amount is spent for the SC and ST people not only through two Ministries but through other Ministries also, *viz* Ministry of Agriculture, Mining, or any other Ministry. I talked to the hon. Minister of Petroleum today itself and I told him that the SC-ST people do not have money. You have allocated a quota to them but affluent people, high income class people and educated people make secret agreements with them. They obtain affidavits after getting them signed by these people so that these poor people could not make any claim in future. I mean to say that such a situation is prevailing throughout the country. We shall have to look into these facts widely. If we are not far-sighted in this regard and allocate money for the development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, we will not be able to assess their development only in terms of money spent. In fact, the desired development of these people is not taking place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, condition of women in our country is very bad. Despite the social act implemented in our country, women alongwith their children live a miserable life, being oppressed by the society. And if they want to associate themselves with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, due to ignorance they cannot do so. I cannot mention the problems they face under such circumstances. I hope that the amount allocated for various welfare schemes, would atleast be spent on them through this Resolution in which Dr. Saroja has drawn attention of the House towards this fact and if this is not possible then some proper arrangement should definitely be made for the review of these schemes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment shall definitely understand this problem if she is listening to me and is understanding the feelings behind this Resolution and would think of providing justice to the women, as it has been said "Jaake paanv na phati biwai, wa kya jaane peer parayi." I hope the hon. Minister would give some facility keeping in mind my feelings behind this Resolution and would pave the path for development.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by

Dr. V. Saroja and congratulate her for this. Infact, the Union and the State Government have beguiled the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It is very right that the funds released by the Union Government to the State Governments for the welfare of SC, ST people remain only in the files and infact funds in the right proportion are not released.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Earlier, the House had agreed that Private Member's Resolution would be taken up after the passage of Government Bills. As this arrangement had been made previously, the House would, therefore continue its proceedings. Now it is 6.00 o'clock, so while refering this point, I inform that the House would sit upto 7.10 p.m

18.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Had we known this, we would not have allowed those Bills to be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fund for SCs and STs is released very carelessly. The scholarship given for scheduled castes and scheduled tribe people is first of all, not sufficient, secondly this scholarship is given only once in an year, though it should be given every second or third month. Keeping in view the price-hike, monthly scholarship from first to seventh standard, from seventh to Metric and from Metric to M.A. level should definitely to increased so that the SC, ST students could study properly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as I know, any public representative, whether M.P. or any M.L.A. does not have any account of the schemes of the Union Government or the State Governments with regard to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Infact, we never come to know as to which SC, ST schemes are running in the country and which are run by the Union Government. Therefore, through you, I would request hon. Minister to tell each M.P. about the schemes that have been sponsored by the Union Government and those sponsored by the State Government, so that we may also be aware of the schemes run by the State Government and the Union Government for these people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to rural areas. Status of education in the villages is very bad. Just 25 per cent of SC, ST children study in schools in the villages. Parents of 75 per cent children are unable to educate them due

to poverty. Earlier also, I had said this in the Lok Sabha that I am not discussing about the rich people, but only about the poor SC, ST children for whom education should be made compulsory from first standard till B.A. Unless education is made compulsory for them, the SC and ST children can never come in the category of middle class and upper class. I personally feel this. Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Minister that he may issue directions to the State Government that they should make such a package programme, so that the poor scheduled caste and scheduled tribe children may get education from first standard to B.A. level alongwith residential facility.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a majority of the officers deputed for the development and welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, belong to the upper class. I request the Government that officer of the SC-ST caste should be deputed for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes at district level and State level. We should enact rules to ensure this position.

After 52 years of independence, still there is provision of 'Basgeet' (ownership right) in villages. Still around 40 to 50 per cent of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people do not have 'Basgeet'. Some persons are living on the land of PWD and some, on the land of railways, but no one has 'basgeet' with him. When no arrangement has been made after so many years, then what should we expect that after how many years would a poor person get shelter for himself? A survey should be conducted at the national level as to how many persons do not have 'basgeet' with them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people having feudal tendencies entrap SC, ST people in fake cases and ruin them by sending them to jail for years together. System should be evolved to ensure that they may not be entrapped and harassed like this. Very often we discuss whether the people living below proverty line are *de facto* poor or not. But, in fact, those who are poor do not have this certificate. In States like Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, names of 40-50 percent poor people are not included in the list of BPL Employees and Officers carrying out census of such people normally sit with feudals and other rich people and prepare such list there itself. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to issue necessary guidelines to all the States to conduct survey of the poor people whose names have not been included in the list and include names of such people in the list meant for BPL.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude because the Minister has to respond and the mover of the Motion also has to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 22 per cent of our population but in proportion to their population they are not getting desired opportunities for development. Therefore, my submission is that even 52 years after our independence there some villages where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have predominance and have not been taken care of, so development works be carried out in such villages.

In the end, I would like to say that several times people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not allowed to cast their vote. Such arrangements may be made whereby these people can cast their vote fearlessly. I would like to take up one more issue—in some departments of the Central Government and the State Governments backlog of vacancies of SCs/STs exists, be it Railways or any other department. Therefore, such backlog of vacancies should be immediately filled up.

I conclude with lot of thanks to you since you gave me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the resolution moved by Dr. Saroja relating to proper utilization of funds meant for welfare of SCs and STs. In fact, it is utmost essential to strengthen SCs and STs in India economically, socially and educationally and funds allotted by the Government in this regard should be fully utilized which are not utilized. Therefore, it is essential to allocate adequate funds and utilize them fully. In fact it is not any one's obligation on them. Centuries ago, there was no equality in the society. illiteracy, blind faith or some other factors contributed towards rise of caste-system or upper class-lower class. Under that system upper class people committed atrocities on lower class people and today's this gesture is one sort of repentance. I understand our Constitution has provided most appropriate system. Provision for reservation was initially made for only ten years but it has been extended up till now and we further need its extension. Today, we need to give a serious thought as to why even 53 years after our independence only handful of people amongst SCs/STs could progress economically, socially and educationally, whereas innumerable plans have been formulated, huge amount of funds have been spent but desired results could not be achieved. We need to review all. Ours is a welfare State. Not only me, National President of Bhartiya Janata Party, leading constituent of NDA, who are ruling presently, too belongs to same category. What this party says, does that. Our hon'ble Member was talking about RSS, whereas RSS does not believe in upper or lower castes, it treats every one alike. RSS believes in the doctrine of social harmony, spirit de corps, all are sons of mother India. It follows the principle of "Sam gachawdhaw sam vavadhavam" or "Samano mantra samiti samani" and "Sahana Vakatu sahano bhunvaktu", *i.e.* eat together, sit together, progress together. Our colleagues in the Congress are creating confusion on the name of Review Commission that we want to change basic structure of the Constitution, whereas in fact it is not so. Time and again, the Government have clarified that it has no intention of cnanging basic provisions relating to reservation enshrined in our Constitution. The party which carried out maximum amendments but despite that all, it could not carry out the desired changes. Therefore, in view of country's need and also in the backdrop of changed political scenario we are going to carry out necessary changes. Now they are unnecessarily apprehensive and are trying to mislead the people. I understand that the proviso relating to reservation incorporated by our Constitution makers is a constitutional right. As our hon'ble Member has just now said that a separate Tribal Welfare Department has been formed and Minister in charge of that department too is a tribal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawatji, there is a resolution relating to non-utilisation of funds allotted by the Central Government by the States.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: There can be no two opinion about enhancement of funds being allotted by the Union Government and its full utilization. I feel we should make efforts in this regard in our respective States.

We should make constant efforts for upliftment of weaker section of society and utilize these funds for their welfare.

Now, I would like to conclude by adding these a few lines—the Government in Rajasthan which boasts of doing great service for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, do not disburse even scholarship to SC/ST students for months together and divert that fund to some other head. These poor students get scholarship through their colleges. I have seen how pathetic is the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

condition of their hostels? Being an Office bearer of Arya Samaj, I too run a Home for Destitute Children. You would find a lot of difference between this home and a Government run hostel. No sooner summer vacation starts, children are sent to their homes and thereafter, none bothers about them. Whereas, in Destitute Home, children from all castes and tribes are kept and a sense of self-respect and self-reliance is created. Here, I would like to make one point clear, the people who claim to be the well-wisher of poor people, their State Governments do not utilize the funds earmarked for their welfare fully. Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that the funds allocated for welfare should be fully utilized for their welfare and development and should not be diverted in any way.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Resolution says:

> "This House expresses its grave concern over underutilisation of funds meant for economic, social and educational empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people..."

Now, I am trying to view this Resolution in another perspective. We all know that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar brought in reservations only for ten years; it was never meant forever. In other words, this reservation in Legislatures, Parliament, and also special consideration for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is not a matter of perpetuity. He contemplated that it was a temporary measure spread over ten years. However, we have amended the provision regarding reservation in State Assemblies and Parliament five times, that is, in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. I do not know whether we will be continuing this process till the end of the Twenty-first Century, if things go on like this. If the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are socially uplifted, economically, strong, then, certainly, we need not extend the reservation for another ten years. But the present position is such that every now and then, the State Legislatures and Parliament or the Lok Sabha will be compelled to extend the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for another Century. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar never contemplated such a situation; it is due to our fault that we are at the starting point.

It is not a matter of tribal development. We have ample development programmes for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. A number of programmes have been drafted, circulated, and discussed in the State Legislatures as well as in Parliament, but the question of their implementation is the most important thing.

As a matter of self-criticism, I ask the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe Members of Parliament and the Members of the State Legislatures: "What is their role in these matters?" I simply want to put this question. They are sharing the powers. They have ten per cent reservation, sometimes, it may be more, not only in the State Legislatures but even in Parliament also.

Now, these Members belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community are more or less influenced by Party affiliations. Their candidatures are sponsored by political parties. Their allegiance is towards that political Party and their aim is to implement the decisions of the Party that have sponsored their candidatures. So, they cannot bring about unity among themselves in the matter of development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The first thing that is required is that after having entered the State Legislatures or the Parliament, the Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes community irrespective of their Party affiliations should be united in implementing these programmes. It is futile to think that others would do that for them. Sometimes, there might be some good people who would be willing to do it, but nobody would do the service for them. The first and the foremost duty of a Member of Parliament or a member of State Legislature, belonging to the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe community, is to see that these down-trodden people are brought up the social adder. I asked these Members of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes community as to what was the issue that has to be reviewed in the State Legislatures and in the Parliament. How could these Members function for implementing these programmes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. The hon. Minister has to reply to the debate also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, the question that is most important is, not the absence of development programmes; not the absence of any project, of political will. Lack of political will is the major issue. Political will appears only when there are General Elections around. People proclaim that they stand for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The political will disappears soon after the elections are over. Even the elected representatives from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community also forget about it. There is

no political will so far. So, the most important thing is that we would have to think about it. Parliamentary democracy is very important. People should take a united approach to all these problems. With these few words, I support the Resolution.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would not take much time. I heard a lot of points in support of this Motion. I would like to mention one or two points here. After having heard a well-meaning debate on this, I do not have much to say.

Sir, I had come across a few complaints from the service personnel of the Central services. Many a time when the officers, belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes Community, become eligible for promotion and job, reservation in respect of them is not being given properly.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to depute some officers who would look into this problem not only in the Ministry but would also co-ordinate with the officials of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions so that this problem being faced by the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities could be addressed and such officers get their promotions on time. Since this aspect has been brought to my notice I am bringing this matter to the notice of the hon. Minister. I am sure the hon. Minister would positively convey this information to the various Departments so that this problem is addressed appropriately.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members who have expressed very important and constructive suggestions on motion moved by Dr. V. Saroja. I will try to give reply to all the Members.

It has been said that funds have been under utilised, the details of it have also been given, but I do not agree with it. I would like to tell that under every scheme funds have been utilised upto 86 per cent meant for social justice empowerment and SCs and other categories. The funds have been utilised upto 75 per cent in every scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Last year, the funds of Rs. 810 crore were allocated to Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Till now, we have disbursed Rs. 590 crore. The rest is in the process. We hope that this year, the 90 per cent of funds allocated will be utilised. 95-96 per cent will be utilised for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Here, it was also said, that Shrimati Maneka Gandhi is not interested in giving reply, therefore she has not come. This is not a fact. In the last session on Friday, I was present in the House to give reply. She was also present. Madam Saroja initiated the discussion, but due to certain reasons Shrimati Maneka Gandhi is not present in Delhi therefore I am replying on her behalf. This doubt should be cleared. I would try to give satisfactory reply.

The discussion was held here on two three figures. I would like to give information in this regard. If you see the figures of literacy rate, you will find the change in the literacy rates of tribal and SCs. It can be assumed that in 1961, India's Average of literacy rate of SCs was 52 per cent and in 1991 tribal literacy rate was 37.4 per cent. The figure from 29.6 to 37.4 per cent reflects increase. Tribal literacy rate has increased three times. On All India level, the literacy rate has increased by two times and the literacy rate of tribals and SCs have increased by three times. it means that tribals and scheduled tribe people are taking more interest in studies. It is not so, that the Centre is fully responsible for utilisation of funds. You know that tribal sub-plan approach begin in Fifth Plan. There was one directive which authorised Government to spend some per cent on SCs, tribals and backward classes.

It was observed that in its less than one per cent was being spent on it. Therefore after Fifth Plan, TSP approach began, I would also like to tell the House about TSP approach. There are 19 Ministries for tribals—13 Ministries are for SCs. In every Ministry of the Union Government there is a Committee for TSP approach. It regularly reviews whether funds allocated for SC and ST population are beings spent for that class or not. They themselves review it. Alongwith it, they also review the utilisation of funds allocated. Our Minister visit there, along with their secretaries. There is a SC/ST Commission, whose Chairman is Shri Bhuria. They see whether funds are being properly utilised or not. The Planning Commission also regularly review it. Mid term appraisal is done to see whether funds are being utilised in proper direction or not. Whether these funds are being properly utilised or not. They see whether changes in it are required or not.

[Shri Jual Oram]

Sir, Saroja ji has asked why tribal Minister has allocated Rs. 84 lakh rupees to Tamil Nadu. For information sake, I would like to tell her that tribal population of Tamil Nadu is one per cent. As I was telling why so much amount has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, it is allocated according to the population. Therefore, nobody can reduce or increase it. Every year it is given regularly. You were also saying, that funds are not being properly spent, they are under utilised. There are two aspects of it, if we are allocating more funds, and do not ask for utilisation detail, then you can say that they are not being properly utilised. Therefore, we release funds in three phases. After first phase, we insist on sumitting utilisation certificate. We ask for progress report of work. After than we release second instalment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours were allotted for this motion and two hours are over. After Minister's reply, Saroja ji will speak, 15 minutes more are required. Therefore if House permits, the time of it may be extended by 15 minutes.

ALL HON'BLE MEMBERS: All right, you can increase the time.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, Sarojaji had said that National SC, ST Finance Corporation has been divided for SC's and ST's and it hardly benefited anybody. But I do not agree with her Statement. During 1997-98 we had provided financial assistance to 9,978 people belonging to Scheduled Castes. I would like to tell about the finance we provide through this, we have started processing units for small items and also set up big projects, through which the villagers can earn. We provide commander jeeps, cars etc. The population of ST there is 3383. The increase which took place in the population of SC's during 1998-99 is 13388 and of tribals is 3432.

The number of SC's is 14130 and of ST's is 4702 in the year 1999-2000. Sir, that is how we provide. A new corporation has been constituted recently. If the intention of the Government were not clear, we won't have constituted a new corporation and set up a new Ministry. It is not fair to say that the problems of SC's and ST's are different. There could also be economic problem. But the living conditions and problems of tribals are different. Had they been considered separately, recurring extension in this regard could have been avoided about which Hon'ble Radhakrishnanji was also asking. This has been made quite clear after this Government came to power and it has also been cleared in the Cabinet.

Sir, some accusations have been made that our party does not give enough importance to tribal people. You as well as hon. Jagjit Singh ji had also stated that our party's national president belongs to Scheduled Castes. I represent Orissa State in Bhartiya Janata Party. Hon'ble Babu Lal Marandiji is our Chief Minister. Hon. Gopi Nath Mundeji was also our Deputy Chief Minister. Our party and our Government does not take any decision on the basis of caste and religion. We have to consider the requirement and then we judge a person according to his capability even if one belongs to backward class. The number of Members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the present Cabinet has become history. Four Cabinet Ministers and rest of 5 State Ministers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community. Thus, we have a total of 9 Ministers belonging to this community which is a record.

Sir, we have reasons to say that a report has come which indicates that a good amount of money is about to be diverted. After resuming charge of the Ministry I had made efforts along with hon. Menakaji to conduct a meeting and as a result of that a three day meeting of Members of SC/ST community was conducted in which all the Ministers had given their suggestions. Afterwards, we talked to the Secretaries of all States. Twice, the two days meeting were conducted with them. Afterwards, the Ministers were called. I had written letter to each M.P. that the Minister of their State is being called to finalize some programme regarding SC-ST. You kindly give your suggestions in time. They were asked to accompany the Ministers and Secretaries of the State Government. Consequently, 18 out of 23 regions replied, hon. Members also accompanied and they had also given suggestions. I have also written a letter to them in this regard.

A point raised by hon. Paswanji was that, booklet should be maintained for every scheme which is implemented. I have already circulated the booklet after getting it printed from my Ministry. Even then, if it is needed then I am prepared to circulate it. It includes the details of each scheme. What contribution could be made for the hostel, shelter of boys and girls? Not only this but it also have the arrangements that how the people's representatives can contribute in this expenditure. Each State should have a Tribals Advisory Council. The States which already have Tribal Advisory Council, the people of both SC and ST category participate in the council and Chief Minister chairs in the council.

The meetings of the council should necessarily be conducted twice a year. MPs and MLAs are the members of this council. All the upcoming suggestions are discussed there. Either, it is matter of utilization of funds or of

implementation of the policy, everything is discussed there. Ministry seeks views in this regard. We go through all the recommendations and suggestions. The responsibility of monitoring the schedule area administration, specially lies with Governor. Every year, a report in this regard is specially given to H.E. President by the Governor. Afterwards, this report comes to Ministry. The views of Ministry in this regard are seriously observed. Afterwards, we undertake the job further.

Paswanji had said that elementary education should be implemented effectively. In today's scenario school is a must. For constructing and running the school employing people officially is necessary. If we make provisions for it then we will lack funds. The Government have enacted rules to provide them education through easier methods. I have the details in this regard but all this has already been discussed here.

Meenaji has raised a point regarding elementary education. He said that the students of SC-ST are not taught after class one. The Kasturba Gandhi Sawatantra Vidhya Mission is working further in this regard. How they will be taught further after teaching once, will also considered. The intentions of our Government are quite clear. Earlier, Governments used to give speeches only. It is a fact that they had only slogans. They give speeches in favour of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and tribals and after getting votes they forget them. Now there is no such thing. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are economically weaker section of the society. We provide petrol pumps for them. They were provided 100% equipments and machines after being tested. Banks also finance them. The arrangements are also being made to assess as to how much financing is needed for working capital. Therefore, it is not fair to say that funds are not being utilized properly. We are making our earnest efforts in this regard since we came to power.

ITDA has a micro project MADA. Here it has been said that no separate arrangements have been made for PTG. But it is not so. The 75% of it is still in pre-agriculture stage. We are specially considering about those tribal people who are still living in primitive conditions. Separate provisions have been made for them. A micro project has been started for PTG. Officers and NGOs are taking care of them. Therefore, it is not fair to say that our Government is not taking care of it. I would like to submit about the progress we have made in this regard. Funds have also been utilised thoroughly. The allotment of Rs. 3 crore was made for special Central assistance in 1997-98. We had spent Rs. 329.6 crore. After going through this you can make out that how much development has been undertaken. Rs. 380 crore were allocated for the year 1998-99 and we had disbursed Rs. 380 crore. During the year 1999-2000 the allocation made was to the tune of Rs. 400 crore and we disbursed the said amount. Scheme-wise the progress is observed but this is not the time to submit all that. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is doing the job of monitoring special component plan. It is their hundred percent job. According to our schemes 22 lakh college students are awarded post metric scholarship and the matter of increasing them is under consideration. Thus, the Statement that they are not being facilitated is wrong. Here the matter is raised about reservation implementation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that we issue directives to start special drives and all the backlog which persists in recruitment is reviewed time to time. The Government ponders and makes efforts to carry it further. As far as the matter of delayed distribution of stipend is concerned, for that we give money in advance, we remit the money but processing takes sometime and sometimes it may take more than usual time. Since the matter is raised here therefore, I am submitting this in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, here the matter has been raised about reviewing the Constitution and electoral reforms. I hail from tribal community. If you make a keen observation then you will come to know, that as long as people are not aware of your SC-ST status your talent will be respected whether you are in job or in college but the moment people came to know that the person concerned belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community they immediately say that he might have come on the basis of reservation facility. This is the mentality of the people and such an environment has been created in this regard which needs to be changed. But to State that because the Constitution is being reviewed, electoral reforms are being undertaken therefore the representation of weaker section are going on the negative side is not right. I would like to go on record this that BJP is one such party which not only talks about reservation but it has made its intentions clear by sending us here after being elected from tribal belt. Along with reservation, proper implementation is also necessary and everybody should understand that it is a social requirement because if today these people are backward that is because of the fault of somebody. They should be brought in mainstream socially and economically. If it is not done then everything will go wrong. I would like to submit some dates of BPL.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, the extended time is going to be over now. I have to seek the permission to extend the time of the House for another five to ten minutes.

Can the time of the Resolution be extended till the completion of the reply by the Mover?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of people in BPL is going down. We all know that first Olympic bronze medal winner is a tribal women. I would like to thank you that I have given the clear reply of all the matters which were raised here. As the time constraint is there therefore, I would like to request madam V. Saroja to take her resolution back in view of the intentions of the Government.

[English]

DR V SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all the Members who have come out with good suggestions for the overall upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Shri Anadi Sahu spoke about Scheduled Caste Forest Produce Monitoring System. I would like to point out that Forest Conservation Act of 1984 is not being implemented properly. The forest produce is not being utilised properly for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are being harassed by the forest officials; and they are being harassed by the revenue officials. I request that the land reforms should be carried out properly and marketing societies must be located in the areas concerned.

Special schemes may be brought in so that the economic empowerment as also the empowerment of the self-help groups is assured. As far as self-help groups are concerned, they should be concentrated more in the tribal areas. As I said earlier, 2001 is the Year of Empowerment of Women. The level of empowerment of women depends upon the level of self-help groups in the tribal areas. I may also say that the self-help groups headed by the Scheduled Castes are the gadgets by which one can assess the economic empowerment of either the women or the self-help groups.

I had participated in the Consultative Committee meeting attached to this Ministry. I requested the hon. Finance Minister to enhance the Budget allocation for this. He had assured that it was proposed to be increased from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore. If it is so, the hon. Ministers of Tribal Welfare as well as Social Justice and Empowerment should allocate reasonable amount of money to not only take care of this oppressed class but also help in the empowerment of women. I urge upon the Government to come back after one year and inform us up to what level the empowerment of women has been achieved. It is the duty and the right of the Government.

The Committee on Empowerment of Women has also proposed some suggestions. Will the Minister take care of these suggestions in real sense? The Minister should adopt a practical approach towards the upliftment and empowerment of women.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman has pointed out about the basic issues to be discussed. I agree with him. All the concerned MPs can sit together and discuss it. We cannot individualise the problems faced by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes because they are not common people. Their problems vary from constituency to constituency as also from one assembly section to another. So, their problems must be discussed with the local authorities. The local MPs must be given an authority to at least question the local MLAs and local officials like the BDOs or the Empowerment Committee at the Panchayat level. They are reluctant to discuss it with us. They are reluctant to even help in selecting the self-help groups. In Tamil Nadu there are about 60,000 self-help groups.

Sir, I am the only lady MP who is elected from the State of Tamil Nadu for the second time. I was kept in the dark. Who are all those people in the Self-help Groups? They are enjoying all the benefits. I was kept in the dark. I should be given a place. The Members of Parliament must be given a role. They should be vested with the powers so that they can question people. After all we are committed to the people. We are elected by the people and we are for the people.

I would like to request the Minister to pass an order so that all the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Members of Parliament could be given a role in these bodies. They should be given a responsibility and accountability to finalise the scheme for their respective States. They should also be given representation on the Self-help Groups.

Sir, Shri J.S. Brar has given very good suggestions. When Purachithalavi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was the Chief Minister, she called all the freedom fighters and ex-servicemen to have discussion with them. She formulated a scheme for these people and she had doubled the pension for the freedom fighters. She had also issued orders to start educational institutions so that the children of the freedom fighters and ex-servicemen could be taken care of.

Sir, my sister Ms. Meena has given very good suggestion. I associate myself with her that a separate Ministry should be there. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has not done anything for these commmunities. It has not formulated anything. The Minister has no accountability and responsibility. Through this Resolution, which is for the one-third population of this country, I urge upon the Government to have a separate Ministry for the Scheduled Tribes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the Minister has requested, are you withdrawing your Resolution?

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, though the compulsory education is the Fundamental Right, till now, we have not reached the expected level. As far as social, educational, and economic upliftment of these people is concerned, it is not up to the expected level. The year of reservation is not going to matter much. Over the last 50 years, we have extended the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes five times. In spite of that, we have not been able to achieve the expected level of improvement.

Sir, I agree with the objection raised by my honoured friend, Shri Radhakrishnan. The Members of Parliament from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities will have to fight unitedly for their cause. But at the same time, they have to have the commitment for the upliftment of this society. He has also told that there is no political will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I have to put the Resolution to the House.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I do agree with the hon. Minister that there are many schemes. But they are only on paper. I would like to know how many of these schemes have trickled down to the grass-root level. You have to conduct a scheme-wise survey in each State. Sir, I expect the Minister to come back to this House with the White Paper on the achievement of this book.

Sir, it is stated that the percentage of BPL is coming down. But I would like to know to what extent it is coming down. What is the gadget by which you are drawing this line of BPL? You have not defined the line of BPL. So, I am very sorry to say that I cannot accept your view that it is coming down.

Sir, with this, I congratulate all those Members who have come out with the positive solutions. I also request the hon. Minister to look into the useful and permanent solutions that we have suggested. Sir, may I request the hon. Minister to convey all our feelings to the hon. Prime Minister? Sir, under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister a separate Ministry for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be set up and all these schemes should be routed through the PMO.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your Resolution?

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, if the hon. Minister promises that he will address all the issue and that he would discuss them with the hon. Prime Minister, I have no objection in withdrawing my Resolution.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I will certainly look into all these suggestions, and I would definitely convey the feelings of the hon. Members to the hon. Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. This is not the proper procedure.

Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw her Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

19.01 hrs.

(ii) Re: Adequate funds for completion of all pending projects

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to propose:

[Shri Ramanad Singh]

"This House requests the Government that for the time bound completion of all the pending projects the Government should prepare a programme by adequate allocation of funds and should make it sure that new projects should only be started when the arrangements of adequate funds are made so that they could be completed within the fixed time frame."

This resolution is very important for the development of the entire country. I am compelled to present this resolution in this House because there are still some incomplete projects of first Five Year Plan. The projects based on irrigation, electricity, Railways and various other development schemes from second to Sixth Five Year Plans are lying incomplete even after 52 years of independence and at the time when even the Ninth Five Year Plan is on the verge of completion. The information which came as the reply of the question asked by Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Shri Swaraj Kaushal and Shri Nanaji Deshmukh in Rajya Sabha on 16 May 2000, says that by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan 162 major and 240 medium projects of irrigation are lying pending in the country. During last 30-35 years only eleven major and one medium project is about to be completed by the end of Ninth Plan. Out of 162 major and 240 medium projects only 11 and 1 medium project has been completed so far. The Statewise details of pending irrigation projects is like this. The first data is about major project and the second is about medium project. Madhya Pradesh - 23,32; Maharashtra - 33,39; Andhra Pradesh — 12,18; Bihar—19,26; Uttar Pradesh—17,2; Orissa—5,10, Karnataka—11,12; Gujarat—9,8; Assam—4,9; West Bengal—3,17; Rajasthan—5,17; Manipur—2,1; Haryana—5 major, medium, nil, Jammu Kashmir—1,9; Tripura—3 medium, Kerala—5,2, Goa—1,1; Himachal Pradesh—1 medium. These are the projects which are lying pending in various States since First Five Year Plan to the Eighth Five Year Plan. The irrigated area of Madhya Pradesh is 50 per cent of the total irrigated area of our country. I am presenting here the data of irrigation in Madhya Pradesh which is the reply of question No. 4965 dated 26.4.2000. In reply of question asked by Shri SDNR Wadiyar, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and Shri Punnu Lal Mohale, Lok Sabha the pending irrigation works of Madhya Pradesh as like this—Ban Sagar unit No. 1, this was started during fifth Five Year Plan, Ban Sagar unit No. 2, since Fifth Five Year Plan, Rani Awantibai Sagar Bargi LBDA, since Fifth Plan, Rani Awantibai Bargi division LBDA since Eighth Plan, Bhander Canal since first plan, Vama Yojana since Second Plan, Perry Yojana since Fourth Plan, Mahanadi reservoir since Fourth Plan, Kolar since Fourth Plan, Jounk and Sindh phase one since Fourth Plan, Rajghat unit-1, Rajghat unit-2, Bahirampur, Urmil since Fifth Plan and Maan, Mahi Sindh, Mahan, Indira Sagar Schemes have been started since Sixth Plan. Similarly, due to Central Forests Conservation Act 1980 in Madhya Pradesh almost 300 small and medium irrigation projects are lying pending on which millions of Rupees of Madhya Pradesh Government has been spent. The Ministry of Environment and Forests of Government of India is not giving them clearance as a result the Government of Madhya Pradesh have to bear huge losses. These pending schemes include Satna Jalashay Yojana, Satna district, Patna Jalashay Yojana and a district Putkighar Jalashay Yojana, Sidhi district, Sumeri Jalashay Yojana, Guna district Arjunganwa Jalashay Yojana, Shivpuri district, Sultanpur Khargaun district and Bijasen Khargaur district schemes. Similarly, in Chhattisgarh the newly formed State has following pending schemes: PV 103 Bastar, Bhero Jalashay Raipur, Kausami Jalashay Raipur and Chapi Jalayshay Bilaspur. Thus, some 250 small irrigation schemes of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are lying pending due to Central Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Their work has come to a stand still. Whereas the million of rupees of M.P. Government has already been spent on it. Such as Rs. 95 lakh have already been spent on Satna Jalashay Yojana, Satna and only head works worth Rs. 10 lakh are lying pending since 1980. This is a tribal district. Earlier, people used to irrigate some land but now that has also been stopped and people are facing problems.

Similarly, on the basis of reply which was given in the Lok Sabha regarding electricity projects of four States, I would like to submit the information in regard to pending projects. In Marikhera Madhya Pradesh a HEP2 x 20 mega watts worth Rs. 106.94 crore, Maheshwar HEP 10 x 40 worth Rs. 1216.95 crore, Onkareshwar HEP 3 x 65 worth 106.95 crore, Beena TPS 2 x 298 mega watts worth 1820.627 crore, Narsinghpur CCPP of 166 mega watts worth Rs. 293.617 crore, Penze TPS 2 x 250 mega watts worth Rs. 1172.155 crore Guna CCGT 3477.25 megawatts worth Rs. 984.86 crore, Bhander CCGT 342 megawatts worth Rs. 346.514 crore...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you may continue your speech later but the time is over now.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Kindly let me complete my speech on electricity projects.

19.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 7, 2001/ Phalguna 16, 1922 (Saka)

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