

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XIV, Sixth Session, 2001/1922 (Saka)]

No. 4, Friday, February 23, 2001/Phalguna 4, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE ...	1-2
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 41, 42, 45 and 46	4-28
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 43, 44 and 47 to 60 ...	28-55
Unstarred Questions Nos. 410-622 ...	55-296
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	296-302
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
Action Taken Statement	302
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	
Study Tour Report	302
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE	
Second Report	303
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	303-306
RE-REPORTED SALE OF BALCO'S SHARES	310
BILLS INTRODUCED	
(i) Supreme Court of India (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Nagpur) Bill ...	310
(ii) Official Languages (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 3, etc.)	311
(iii) Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill	311
(iv) Marriage (Restriction on Expenditure) Bill	312
(v) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 248, etc.) ...	312
(vi) Illegal Immigrants (Identification and Deportation) Bill ...	312
(vii) Factories (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 51, etc.) ...	313
(viii) Commission of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 3) ...	313

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ix) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 77) ...	314
(x) National Highways (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 5)	314
(xi) Payment of Unemployment Allowance Bill	315
(xii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 200, etc.) ...	315
(xiii) Abolition of Child Labour Bill	315
(xiv) Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 4) ...	316
(xv) Consumer Protection (Price Determination of the Products Manufactured in the Private Sector) Bill	316
(xvi) Domestic Workers (Conditions of Service) Bill	317
(xvii) National Commission for Children Bill ...	317
(xviii) Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 1, etc.)	318
(xix) Special Financial Assistance to the State of Uttranchal Bill	318
(xx) Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new section 68A, etc.) ...	319
PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL	
(Insertion of new section 75A, etc)	
Motion to Consider	
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	319
Shri Anadi Sahu	322
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	326
Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu ...	327
Shri Kharabela Swain	329
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	331
Shrimati Shyama Singh	333
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot ...	334
Shri Sukdeo paswan ...	337

SUBJECT**COLUMNS**

Dr. Nitish Sengupta	338
Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra ...	340
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	342
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	344
Shri Harpal Singh Sathi	347
Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit...	350
Shri V.P. Singh Badnore	351
Shri P.R. Kyndiah	352-354

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 23, 2001/Phalgun 4, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the farmers of the country are in great distress. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : He has made a mockery of the Parliament. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

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

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : It is he who has made a mockery of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : He has been raising matters in this manner everyday. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : We shall raise matters time and again. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, this is too much.

11.01 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our esteemed former colleagues, Dr. Hira Lal Roy.

Dr. Hira Lal Roy was a Member of Twelfth Lok Sabha during 1998-99 representing Chhapra, Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar.

A teacher and educationist by profession, Dr. Roy was Principal of Ram Jaipal College, Chhapra, Bihar.

An active parliamentarian, he was a member, Committee on External Affairs and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Human Resource Development during 1998-99.

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

Dr. Hira Lal Roy passed away on 9th February, 2001 at Chhapra, Bihar at the age of 65.

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

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

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Shri Akhilesh Singh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Discussion on the farmers' issue should be held after adjourning the entire proceedings of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ramji Lal Sumanji, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You are disturbing the house everyday. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, do not think that this is your own House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. This is not Zero Hour, this is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, I will take action against you. This is too much. Please understand it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 41, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notices for Adjournment Motion on this matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, please raise this in the Zero Hour.

?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, I have given notices for Adjournment Motion. A discussion should be held on it. In this, very House, on the question of farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You disturbed the House yesterday also. Now please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The farmer is in great distress today. This is a serious issue. We have given a

notices for Adjournment Motion in the House on this very issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not following the procedure. You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I also know that it is a serious issue.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have disallowed your notices.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what meaningful result has so far been achieved out of the discussion that was held on farmers. . . .(Interruptions) Today the farmers of this country are in great distress, it is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you sit down or not.

[English]

Please take your seat, Shri Akhilesh Singh. What is this?

[Translation]

What are you doing in the House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats first. I am on my legs. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Akhilesh what are you doing, you are disturbing the House everyday.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji will you not resume your seat? Shri Akhilesh Singh, I am on my legs.

[English]

Please take your seat first. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. What are you doing?
You have no knowledge of rules.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Question number 41, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

11.08 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Purchase of items by NCCF

*41. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the suppliers/dealers in the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) are not holding authorisation from the manufacturers but from the distributors of those manufacturers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether this is against the established policy of the NCCF;

(d) the action the Government propose to take in the matter;

(e) whether there is any proposal to stop taking supplies from unauthorized dealers forthwith;

(f) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(g) the details of such dealers who have been giving their brand names, price of NCCF, price to Government departments with Maximum Retail Price thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :
(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

NCCF arranges supplies for Government Departments after purchasing the goods from the manufacturers, distributors and dealers of different branded products, who are registered with it. The registration is done by the NCCF as per the guidelines framed by it from time to time. NCCF does not discriminate in the selection of suppliers-category wise. The selection of a supplier, in respect of individual order from any Department is made on commercial considerations only, from amongst the registered suppliers irrespective of category to which he belongs. While registering any supplier of a branded item, the linkage of such supplier with the manufacturer and/or with the distributor is verified on the basis of authority letters of manufacturer and/or distributor. Since all suppliers of branded items registered with NCCF are authorized either by the manufacturer and/or by the distributor and there being no unauthorized suppliers, the question to stop taking supplies from such suppliers does not arise. In view of this, the question of furnishing the details of such suppliers regarding their brand names, prices of NCCF as quoted to Government Departments, maximum retail price etc. does not arise.

NCCF being a multi-State Cooperative Society, functioning on autonomous basis, under its own elected Board of Directors, Government does not interfere in the business matters of NCCF.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Consumer Co-operative federation supplies consumer goods to Government Ministries and Institutions. I have also gone through the reply of the hon. Minister. It does not give a clear answer to my question.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the consumer goods become costlier if they are supplied to the department through distributors, dealers or sub-dealers. For example, a sum of Rs. 30 thousand extra have to be paid in the purchase of a computer and if goods are purchased from a dealer, or a sub-dealer he will take his commission. I, therefore, want to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider of supplying consumer goods directly from the manufacturer so that Government money is saved and the practice of charging commission could be done away with.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister especially towards the meeting. I held held

with him in his chamber. He called the Secretary of the department. My point that there is bungling and practice of charging commission in the purchase of consumer goods was accepted by them. In my presence, the hon. Minister directed the Secretary to hold an enquiry into the matter and issue suitable directions in this regard by holding a meeting on the fifth of next month. Keeping this fact in view, the reply given by the hon. Minister in the House is not at all correct. I, would therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister, as to what action has so far been taken following the direction he had issued to the Secretary of the Department so that the consumer goods could be purchased directly from the manufacturer. In this way Government money could be saved.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member for drawing the attention of the Government towards a very important matter. I had received letters from some hon. Members I called them and talked to them. There was truth in their allegation. The facility given by the Government for purchasing goods on single quotation basis without completing the formalities is not being used properly. At the time of providing this facility, the basic aim of the Government was that the Government departments may immediately get the consumer goods, at cheaper rates, but this facility is not being used properly, rather it is being misused. Now our attention has been drawn toward this fact. All such matters are being taken care of and investigation is being conducted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has been said by the Hon. Member regarding computers is also true. I have, gone through the matter thoroughly. A computer from the manufacturer costs Rs. 1 lakh 68 thousand, whereas supply to the Government was made at Rs. 2 lakh 5 thousand. It is a serious matter. Investigation is on and complete action would be taken in this regard.

I would like to tell the hon. Member that till date, the practice was that the department, while purchasing the goods, used to choose any of the three, viz- the manufacturer, dealer or distributor for purchases, but now, it has been decided in principle that all the consumer goods would be purchased directly from the manufacturer. In this way there will be no middle man and charging of commission will stop totally. The Government would get the goods at cheaper rates on bulk purchase. If the manufacturers fulfill our formalities and meet the conditions of credit limit etc. the department would purchase the goods from them directly. In this way as has been rightly said by the hon'ble Members the practice of having dealers-sub dealer, middleman etc. would totally be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only this, such complaints are also received against the Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazaar.

In view of that I took up this matter with the department of Personnel also. I have written a letter to them requesting them to see that various facilities being provided to the agencies are not misused by them. The department should purchase the goods from the manufacturers directly and supply them to the departments, we have taken this decision.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of bungling in many departments while purchasing consumer goods. The CAG report in this regard has also been received. In their report for 1998 the CAG has passed remarks on the Air Force and the Navy. It has been clearly stated that about Rs. 40 lakh have been paid in excess in the purchases that were made. It has also stated that a watch should be kept on the N.C.C.F. and its activities investigated. The hon. Minister has realised that there is bungling and the practice of taking commission in departmental purchases. He has issued orders to investigate into the matter. I want to ask him whether any officer involved in such bungling and taking commission has been identified and if so, who are they and what action has been taken against them. In the investigation being conducted through the department, those officers who are themselves involved in such irregularities are being asked to investigate the cases. Nowhere justice is done like this. Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the Finance Minister would order a CBI enquiry for an impartial investigation, for identifying the guilty officers and for holding a probe on the basis of CAG report so that bungs involving crores of rupees could be unearthed.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told earlier that the N.C.C.F. is not going to conduct any inquiry into such matters, but the Preliminary investigation in this regard would be conducted by the Ministry. Thereafter, I will hand it over to the appropriate investigating agency. I assure that no guilty person would be spared in the complete investigation will be made and complete action taken in this regard.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all are hand in glove in it. . . . (Interruption) Under such circumstances, what is the difficulty in getting the matter investigated by the CBI?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Let the preliminary investigation be completed first, then we shall do that also.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Co-operative consumers federation is a popular scheme. Is it in operation in Delhi also, and if not, what are the reasons therefor? What are the objectives of this scheme and in how many States it is running? What are the prices of 11 commodities selected by this Government and whether these prices will be less than the market prices

in Delhi? Will the hon. Minister throw some light on the benefits of this scheme?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government started a scheme called the 'Sarvapriye Yojan' by this institution. It had two objectives. The first objective was to increase the viability of 4 lakh, 60 thousand fair price shops being run in the country, to enhance their business activities and help people get items at cheaper rates. It is a very innovative scheme in which the N.C.C.F. would make bulk purchases and provide 11 items to crores of poor people of the country on no profit basis. We have written to all the States that we want to provide 11 items of daily consumer use at cheaper rates.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What are those items?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : As has been asked by the hon. Member about the difference in rates, I would like to say that these 11 items, would be supplied 15 to 20 percent cheaper than the price prevailing in the market. I would like to quote market prices of two three items in Delhi. Arhar is selling at Rs. 32 per kg. On Delhi, whereas it is sold at Rs. 26 per kg. Under this scheme. Similarly market price of Gram is Rs. 24 per kg. Whereas, we are providing it at Rs. 21 per kg. Tata Salt is selling at Rs. 7 per kg. Other salts are Rs. 4 per k.g whereas under this scheme, we are providing it at Rs. 2.50 per kg. If the State Governments purchase these 11 items from us and supply them to poor families, they can make a saving of Rs. 50 on buying one kilogram. Each of them will get a relief of Rs. 50 in their food budget. One of the specialities of this scheme is that, I did not have to approach hon. Sinha ji for this. No subsidy nor any additional expenditure of even a rupee is involved in this scheme. The N.C.C.F. is doing a job worth Rs. 400 to 500 crore. We have asked them to continue to earn profit available on other items. but they will not earn any profit from this scheme.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If the State Governments do not want they will not take.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : They will not take any profit in this scheme. No administrative expenditure would be included in this scheme. We have told the N.C.C.F. that since this scheme is for poor, we have to provide items to 4 lakh 60 thousand shops after making bulk purchases on no profit basis. Under this scheme, we can do a work worth crores of rupees for poor people without spending even a single paisa. So far as the Delhi Government are concerned, they have not yet started lifting any item from us.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has himself accepted that there are middlemen in this scheme, but he said that they would try to purchase items directly from the manufacturers. I want

to know as to when this order of holding a preliminary investigation was issued and whether any terms and conditions are proposed to be put in the investigation to be conducted after the preliminary enquiry, as a high level investigation can be conducted only after a preliminary investigation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already admitted that there is some weight in the complaints received. And after the preliminary investigation into the above complaint, enquiry wherever necessary, would be conducted complete action taken on it.

[English]

Procurement of Rice by FCI

+
*42. **SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :**
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI has procured less paddy from the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and other State during the current year;

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

(c) whether the State Government have requested that the level of procurement may be raised;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Governments have provided an economic package to the rice producing States for increasing the production of rice :

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

(g) whether the Union Government have received any complaint about collusion between officials of FCI and the local rice millers in cheating the farmers by under pricing of their production : and

(h) if so, the action taken thereon?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :
(a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) No, Sir,
(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have requested the Government of India to procure more paddy in their respective States. The FCI has opened 163 centres in Andhra Pradesh and 40 centres in Bihar for procurement of paddy during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) The Government of India is implementing the Integrated Cereals Development Programme — Rice ICDP (Rice) in the States largely following rice based cropping systems. The States in which this scheme is being implemented are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Eastern MP, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

- (g) No, Sir,
(h) Does not arise.

[English]

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Sir, the answer provided by the hon. Minister does not reflect the factual position. After a lengthy discussion with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and with the Members of Parliament from the State of Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Minister for Consumer Affairs agreed to procure paddy to the extent of ten lakh tonnes. So far, to my knowledge, the FCI has purchased only 42.49 lakh tonnes of rice.

Sir, I would like to know whether the FCI is going to fulfil its commitment of procuring paddy from the farmers directly or not. Since the Rabi crop is about to be harvested, the situation is still getting aggravated. Hence, the FCI should be asked to continue its purchase of paddy to the extent of ten lakh tones.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have considered in detail the problems of Andhra Pradesh and we have accepted their demands and procurement is being made in Andhra accordingly. As per the levy order of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, we have to procure 50 percent paddy in levy. It is our commitment and we are fulfilling it. In comparison to last year's 29 lakh tones, this year, we have procured 37.91 lakh tons paddy, so far. Though we have already procured more than what we procured last year, yet we would fulfill our commitment of 50 percent.

[English]

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Sir, in view of the heavy stagnation of paddy and rice in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for arranging export of rice from the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India agreed to export 20 lakh tonnes of rice from Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, I would like to know whether any arrangement for export of rice from the State of Andhra Pradesh has been done so far or not. If not, what are the reasons for it?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the backdrop of surplus foodgrain with us, the Government have decided to export it. Accordingly, it was decided to export 20 lakh tones of wheat. We have already exported about 8 lakh tone. Earlier, we used to import now imports have been totally stopped and we are exporting it. 8 lakh tons of wheat has already been exported. As far as rice is concerned, we have decided to export 20 lakh tons rice.
... (Interruption)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important question. Please do not disturb the hon. Minister. You must have some patience to listen to his reply also.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Open tender is being floated. As we have exported wheat, the Government have decided to export 20 lakh tons rice on the same lines. Formalities are being completed and export will begin soon.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Prasad Singh.

(Interruption)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is the most important thing. The guidelines have not been fixed so far and that is why there has been a delay.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaaidu, I have called the second name now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Through you, I would like to know especially about Bihar. The Government of Bihar had requested him to set up more procurement centres so that procurement of paddy could be done on a large scale. A delegation of M.P.s met hon'ble Prime Minister to apprise him about the fact that this year Bihar has had a bumper paddy crop of 123 lakh tons, so procurement of paddy in Bihar may be done on

a large scale. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, too, gave an assurance of a meeting but we are painted to hear hon'ble Minister's reply that Bihar has a very large stock of paddy. But, so far only 40 procurement centres have been opened, that too on paper alone. I know, the area I hail from is the largest producer of paddy, that is Rohtash, Camoor, Bhojpur areas and I hail from Arrah, where procurement centres have been opened on paper in areas like Pero Vikramganj, and Bhotaniyon. These 4-5 centres have been opened. The farmers carry truckloads of paddy to these centres but their paddy is not procured and they are asked to get lost from there on the plea that their paddy is of inferior quality.

MR. SPEAKER : Ram Prasad ji, you may ask supplementary, why are you making such a lengthy speech. Hon'ble Minister is to reply also.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : I want to know how much paddy has been procured through their agencies at the centres opened by them and I know what they are going to do further? Are they going to further extend the period for procurement or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : His question is with regard to Bihar only.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : A Discussion was held over Bihar in the House, thereafter, I talked with the hon'ble Members and the Government. After that, I went to Patna. There I talked to the Government of Bihar. Meanwhile, I accepted the demands raised by the Government of Bihar. Earlier, there used to be no procurement in Bihar. I told them, wherever we procure foodgrains, agencies of the respective state help us in procurement. In Punjab, we procure 30 percent, whereas the Government of Punjab procures 70 percent. Officers of Bihar Government stated that we have 500 primary agricultural societies and we want to authorise them for procurement, so you buy paddy from them. We decided to procure paddy through 500 primary agricultural societies. Then the Government of Bihar requested for opening more procurement centres and we opened 40 such centres on their request but procurement, still, could not be completed. I agree with the hon'ble Members. During further discussion, hon'ble Members and the Government as well opined that Bihar does not need Punjab type relaxation. They wanted some other type of relaxation to Bihar Mr. Speaker Sir, we gave the relaxation sought by the Government of Bihar. We accepted all their demands and we are ready to procure the paddy.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : How much paddy have they procured and how much expenditure has been incurred thereon ?

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER : Raghunath Ji, what is this? Please take your seat.

SHRI. SHANTA KUMAR : I admit that only 6 thousand tons paddy have been procured. 500 primary agriculture societies. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : There are 540 procurement centres and if any farmer brings his paddy at these centres, we are ready to buy it. We have accepted whatever demands were made by them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Bar.

(Interruptions)*

[Translations]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : A large quantity of paddy is still tying in Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Bar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, please allow half-an-hour discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Akhilesh ji, please sit down. It is the question hour. I have already called Shri Bar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am on a point of order. The hon'ble Member has asked about tour. Why he did not undertake the tour? He is not giving proper information to the farmers and to the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have called Mr. Bar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Ji, not now, later on. First take your seat.

*Not recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am on a point of information. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Ji, what are you doing, where is your seat? You do not know the procedure of this House. I have called Mr. Brar.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since it is an important question that's why the entire House is agitated. With great cleverness and astuteness the hon'ble Minister has totally diverted all the three aspects of this basic question. Shri Venkateshwaralu Sahib in his written question has asked the hon'ble Minister specific points in part (e), (f) and (g). In part (e), he has asked :-

[English]

"(e) whether the Government have provided an economic package to the rice producing States for increasing the production of rice;"

[Translation]

He has misguided the House. There is no mention of Punjab. He has given a package to Punjab, whereas the farmers have not got even a pie. He has not touched upon this fact in his reply. Basically it is the gravest mistake of his question. I am sorry to say that in case of procurement also, you have made a clever move, procurement in mandis was delayed by a month. I would like to give an information based on facts.

[English]

Punjab is a rice-producing State.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri J.S. Brar, is it a question Hour or debate ? Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Sir, my supplementary is based on procurement.

[Translation]

He is telling that procurement has been made on a large scale. During the entire one month, the people enjoying influence in the Government of Punjab purchased paddy at the rate of Rs. 350 per quintal and sold the same paddy at Rs. 540 a quintal to the Government. It is a big scam wherein thousand of crores of rupees have been embezzled by the FCI. Even politicians from Punjab are party to it. Over 100 Members of Parliament have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have supplementary or not?

SHRI J.S. BRAR : It should he got probed by the CBI. A favourite person of the Government is permitted to do all this whereas a common man is not permitted. I would

like to tell you that there can be no bigger scandal monger than the FCI in the world. The Officer Incharge said that 80 percent paddy in Punjab is inferior.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri J.S. Brar, I am disallowing you to raise your Supplementary.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I am requesting the hon. Minister to kindly agree for a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this Question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I have disallowed Shri J.S. Brar's Supplementary. You need not answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you agree for a Half-an-Hour Discussion on it ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker : Sir, He has made some allegations. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I have disallowed his Supplementary.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Telecast by Doordarshan be stopped.

(Interruptions)

11.35 hrs.

At this stage Shri Nagmani, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to have a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you agree for a Half-an-Hour Discussion ?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Yes. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has agreed for a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this subject.

(Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have allowed a Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. First take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has agreed for a Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will not listen to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Ji, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Half-an-Hour discussion on this issue. The Minister has also agreed to the same.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you are not behaving properly in the House.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First your take your seat. It is not good.

11.42 hrs.

At this stage Shri Nagmani, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon'ble Members went back to their respective seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no discipline in Question-hour. I will allow half-an-hour discussion. Will you behave like this only in at the House ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand Half-an-hour discussion has been allowed already. You can speak at that time.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand Half-an-hour discussion has been allowed already. You can speak at that time.

(Interruptions)

Prices of Newsprint

45* SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rapid escalation of prices of indigenous newsprint;

(b) if so, the increase in the prices of various indigenous newsprint during each of the last three years, company-wise;

(c) the quantum of newsprint produced in the country during the above period, company-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the small and medium newspapers are badly hit by this rapid escalation of prices of newsprint; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

*Not recorded.

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

Statement

(a) to (b) The Government are aware of periodical increase in the price of indigenous newsprint. Company wise prices of indigenous newsprint are not maintained centrally. The prices of indigenous newsprint vary from mill to mill. The relevant figures during the last three years for different types of newsprint produced are as under :—

(Rs. Per MT)

Year	Domestic Newsprint Prices (Approx.)
1998	15000-22500
1999	14000-22000
2000	16500-29000

(c) Companywise production of newsprint is not maintained centrally. The total production of newsprint during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Production (in lakh MT) (Approx.)
1998-99	5.25
1999-2000	5.04
2000-2001 (April-Dec.)	4.63

(d) to (e) No representations in this regard have been received from Small and Medium Newspaper Association.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, from the statement it is learnt that company-wise price of indigenous newsprint are not maintained Centrally. . . . (Interruptions) It is also learnt that company-wise production of newsprint is not maintained Centrally. . . . (Interruptions) But the Government is aware about the periodic escalation of prices of indigenous newsprint by over five to six percent within one year. . . . (Interruptions)

Does the Government have any mechanism to determine the actual cost of the indigenous newsprint ? . . . (Interruptions) I would like to know whether the MRTP be entrusted the job of determining the cost of indigenous newsprint taking into account the costs in making the newsprint. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the newsprint industry has been de-licensed especially from 17.7.1997. . . .

(Interruptions) Therefore, there was no need to maintain the figures Centrally. But if there is an abnormal increase, anybody can go to the MRTP or can come to the Government with a complaint. . . . (Interruptions) We have not received any complaint so far. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, what is this running commentary ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Member is asking the second supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Brar, you are a senior Member. You are disturbing the entire House. This is not correct. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Will you take your seat or not ? What are you doing ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Even the senior Members are behaving like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : It is anti-farmer Government hence I walk out of the House.

11.47 hrs.

Thereafter Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon'ble Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : This Government have not provided correct information to the House. Since it is anti-farmer, we walk out of the House.

11.47 hrs.

Thereafter Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon'ble Members left the House.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not want any question Hour in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have no knowledge of rules of the House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a procedure. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : Sir, he has taken the name of the Prime Minister. I would request the Speaker to go through the records. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already disallowed the entire supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Sir, with the fluctuation of dollar exchange rates, the price of foreign newsprint is increasing day by day. . . .(Interruptions) At the same time, low grade newsprint is being imported. . . .(Interruptions) What steps the Government wish to take to protect the small and medium indigenous newsprint industries which are engaged in producing low grade newsprint at a cheaper price ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : As the Hon. Member himself has accepted, if the international prices are higher, then it is good for the local industry. Not only that, newsprint is supposed to be the vehicle for dissemination of news and knowledge. Therefore, we do not want to curb the import. So far we have not received any complaint at all from the newsprint industry.

SHRI. A.C. JOS : As the Hon. Member has suggested, the small and medium newspapers are suffering very badly because the price of the newsprint never cope with its cost of production. The small and medium newspapers as a result are clamouring. I would request the Government to give some special consideration by way of giving subsidy to them. Will the Government be pleased to consider giving some subsidy to the small and medium newspapers? As the hon. Minister himself is a media person, I would request him to give some subsidy in the case of newsprint to the small and medium newspapers.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the newsprint is enjoying zero excise duty. Not only that, the customs duty is five percent plus surcharge of 10 percent of the basic duty, that is 5.5. percent. As you know, the subsidy is causing so much of havoc that I think my distinguished colleague, the Finance Minister may not come forward to give subsidy to small and medium newspapers.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Will you kindly recommend him ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : What is the point in recommending to him because I know his position and I think you also know his position ?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker : Sir, through you I would like to know whether the Government propose to provide subsidy to unemployed youth in the country for setting up small scale paper industry so that employment opportunities may be generated.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I have already told that we have given zero per cent excise duty and some concession for paper, namely 35 per cent plus surcharge of 10 per cent of the basic duty plus 4 per cent SAD and plus 16 per cent CVD. For newsprint, we have zero excise duty and only five-and-a-half per cent customs duty. This is the protection that we are giving.

VRS in Nationalised Banks

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*46. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Voluntary Retirement Schemes introduced in various public sector banks so far;

(b) the number of employees of each public sector bank who have sought retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme introduced by the Government recently alongwith the number of employees who have been allowed to take retirement so far;

(c) the manner in which these banks propose to raise funds required for this purpose;

(d) whether as a result of large-scale response to this scheme many banks are experiencing shortage of staff and some of the branches of these banks have been closed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to meet the situation and ensure the smooth working of all the concerned banks ?

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

Statement

(a) Public Sector Banks have introduced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme based on the model scheme circulated by Indian Banks' Association on 31.8.2000. Salient features of this Scheme are given in Annexure-I.

(b) Bank-wise available information is given in Annexure-II.

(c) As provided in the model scheme, banks have to meet the expenditure either from their own funds or by taking loans from other banks/financial institutions or any other source.

(d) to (f) Government have not received any information about closure of branches due to Voluntary Retirement Scheme. However, banks are in the process of re-deploying the employees from their surplus pockets to deficit pockets to ensure proper staffing of branches.

Annexure-I

Salient Features of Voluntary Retirement Scheme

Eligibility : All permanent employees with 15 years of service or 40 years of age.

Ineligible :

Specialists officers/employees who have executed service bonds and have not completed it, employees/officers serving abroad under special arrangements/bonds, will not be eligible for VRS. The Board of Directors may however waive this, subject to fulfillment of the bond/other requirements.

Employees against whom Disciplinary Proceedings are contemplated/pending or are under suspension

Employees appointed on contract-basis.

Any other category of employees as may be specified by the Board.

Amount of Ex Gratia 60 days' salary (pay plus stagnation increments plus special allowance plus

dearness relief) for each completed year of service or salary for the number of months service is left, whichever is less.

Other Benefits

- I. Gratuity as per Gratuity Act/Service Gratuity, as the case may be.
- II Pension (including commuted value of pension/bank's contribution towards PF, as the case may be.
- III. Leave encashment as per rules.

Other Features

1. It will be the prerogative of the bank's management either to accept a request for VRS or to reject the same depending upon the requirement of the bank.
 2. Care will have to be taken to ensure that highly skilled and qualified workers and staff are not given the option.
 3. There will be no recruitment against vacancies arising due to VRS.
 4. Before introducing VRS banks must complete their manpower planning and identify the number of officers/employees who can be considered under the scheme.
 5. Sanction of VRS and any new recruitment should be only in accordance with the manpower plan.
- (a) Coinciding with their financial position and cash flow, banks may decide payment partly in cash and partly in bonds or in instalments, but minimum 50% of the cash instantly and remaining 50% after a stipulated period.
- (b) Funding of the scheme will be made by the banks themselves either from their own funds or by taking loans from other banks/financial institutions or any other source.

Funding of the Scheme

Periodicity

The scheme may be kept open up to 31.3.2001

Annexure-II

Name of the Bank	Application received under VRS	Number of Employees allowed to take retirement under VRS upto 15.2.2001
Bank of India	7828	7020
Punjab National Bank	6095	5759
Punjab & Sind Bank	2037	1715
Syndicate Bank	7080	3128
Vijaya Bank	1621	960
Allahabad Bank	1576	
Andhra Bank	1368	
Bank of Baroda	6720	
Bank of Maharashtra	2683	
Canara Bank	8130	Still in the process of taking a decision
Dena Bank	3300	
Indian Bank	3988	
Indian Overseas Bank	3992	
Oriental Bank of Commerce	644	
UCO Bank	5130	
Union Bank of India	3990	
United Bank of India	3007	
State Bank of India	35380	

Data Provisional

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : As per the reply given by the Hon. Minister, only a few banks, I think four or five banks, have been able to utilise the VRS. A number of banks are still waiting for the clearance probably from the Finance Ministry. They say that the process is taking time. I do not know as to when it will be cleared for other banks also so that they will be able to utilise this scheme. If you look at the State Bank of India, they have applied for 35,000 and old people but they have still not got the clearance. How soon the Government is going to give clearance to them so that they can also implement this scheme? This will also improve their operational efficiency. I would like the hon. Minister to respond to this.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the proposal of the individual banks does not come to the Finance Ministry for clearance. The Boards are entirely competent to take a view on this issue and decide how many employees they will give VRS to. The reason why in many cases the final decisions is still pending is on account of the fact that after the scheme was cleared in principle, various banks have at various points of time decided to introduce this scheme and the reason why some of them have not been able to take the decision is that the period is either open or it is just closed. The matter is under consideration of the bank Boards and the bank Boards will take decisions very soon.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : As per the guideline that has been given if a number of employees opt for VRS, is it going to affect the performance of the banks? Since this is going to reduce the number of people is the Government planning any amalgamation or other measure in order to make the banks stronger? Operational efficiency is one of the important factors. Is it going to affect the rural service of these banks? Considering the fact that the Government is going to computerise the functioning and reduce the number of people, what will be the additional cost that will be involved on computerisation and whether the Government will also organise training programme for the employees so that they become more efficient in its operation so as to serve the people better.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the reason why, under the guidelines, the bank Boards have decided that they will have the final say as to which employee will be given VRS or not, is entirely out of the concern that the Member has just expressed. While the banks are interested in giving VRS to as many employees as possible. They also have to take to account and keep in mind the operational efficiency of the bank, the position in respect of each branch, and especially in respect of rural branches. The instructions are very clear that no bank branch will be allowed to be closed as a result of VRS. That is an issue which the bank Boards have to keep in mind. Therefore, there is no apprehension of inefficiency. If at all, this is a step, which will improve the efficiency of the banks.

As far as computerisation and other forms of improvements are concerned, each bank has prepared a manpower plan. They are supposed to operate, in the course of the medium term, this manpower plan that they have.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, in the process of implementation of VRS in the nationalised banks, a lot of expertise is being drained out. The banking expertise is not an activity which could be built over in one day. Sir, for decades, a lot of expertise has been developed in the banking sector for which the bank have paid. They have not only paid for the services that have been rendered but they have also paid for all the expertise that

has been built up. Now, the number of employees who have applied for VRS has gone beyond one lakh. This amount of brain-drain and the expertise that has been built up in the banking sector is now, all of a sudden, being drained out. The quality of banking system is certainly going to be affected. All these people who have opted for VRS are once again going to join the private sector and foreign banks which are coming into existence. So, they will once again pose a threat to the nationalised banks. Sir, the very spirit of nationalisation of banking sector is going to be crippled. Has any assessment been done by the Indian Banking Association with regard to the quality of services that are going to be affected? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as I have just now mentioned, VRS plan was approved, each bank was required to prepare a detailed manpower plan. In preparing this manpower plan they have taken into account the requirements of the future. The fact that the each bank retains the right to permit only those employees who the bank thinks fit could be given VRS, I think that gives enough flexibility to the management of the bank to ensure that they do not lose people which they should not lose.

The other point which I would like to make is that technology has overtaken all of us. The requirements of the quality and the kinds of skill of the manpower that the banks need today are entirely new and different. We need people who can deal in foreign exchange, who are familiar with venture capital, who are familiar with e-commerce, and who are familiar with money management. The days of banking, as we understood ten years ago, are over. Everywhere, the world over, the banks are now informed by new technologies and by new skills. One of the major objectives of this whole process is to be able to induct into the banks new people with new skills. So, this process, if at all, is going to strengthen the banks. It is not going to lead to the kind of brain-drain which the hon. Member is apprehensive of.

12.00 hrs.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister whether it is not possible to launch into massive scale of retraining and redeployment. Take the case of insurance industry which is being opened up. Quite a lot of skills which are required in the insurance industry would be akin to the kind of discipline which the bankers know. When permission is given to an insurance company to open up, I would like to know whether some kind of conditions can be put to say that they should take away a certain number of people from the demobilised banking personnel.

The second part of my question is whether the Government would consider, keeping the redundant

personnel in mind, asking them to sit at home and give them salary and allowances until they retire. I think that would be much cheaper.

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

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Prices of Cement

43. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the supply of Cement in the country has been seriously affected and the prices have gone up recently;

(b) if so, the increase in prices of cement registered during the last six months and the impact thereof on the construction industry;

(c) whether the Builders Association of India has protested by announcing stoppage of construction activity in the country against unfair business practices by cement manufacturers through cartelisation;

(d) if so, the action being taken against the cement manufacturers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of Cement ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) It is correct that during the last six months cement prices have gone up in most parts of the country.

(b) The rise has not been uniform and has varied from region to region and centre to centre (Statement attached).

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e) Notices have been issued against major cement manufacturers by the MRTP Commission and investigations have been ordered. Government is seized of the situation and the prices are being closely monitored. Meetings have been held with cement manufacturers in this regard and it has been reported that the price rise has been arrested and a marginal decline has occurred in some places. However, the Government will not hesitate in taking requisite measures if anything against public interest is done deliberately.

Statement

Prices of Cement

Reduction on 22.2.01

[illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Western Region											
Bombay	150-155	150-155	140-145	130-138	170-180	181-185	180-185	5.1.01	180-185	0	0
Bhopal	110-115	115-120	110-115	110-115	140-150	153-160	153-160	5.1.01	153-160	5	2
Ahmedabad	136-141	129-134	129-134	125-130	NA	163-165	163-165	5.1.01	156-161	7	4
Nagpur	124-128	115-122	115-122	115-122	137-141	153-158	157-160	19.1.01	154-157	3	3
Pune	146-148	144-150	144-150	144-150	150-152	166-168	169-174	19.1.01	169-174	0	0
Goa	133-147	133-145	133-147	133-147	133-147	148-152	160-165	26.1.01	160-165	0	0
Rajkot	135-147	128-134	128-133	124-129	NA	160-161	160-163	12.1.01	156-161	4	2
Baroda	135-140	129-134	129-134	125-130	NA	158-165	158-165	5.1.01	156-161	2	4
Surat	136-141	129-134	129-134	125-130	NA	161-163	161-165	22.12.00	157-162	4	3
Southern Region											
Chennai	150-170	155-175	155-175	170-185	170-185	175-190	175-190	29.12.00	170-185	5	5
Thiruvananthapuram	160-175	170-180	180-190	180-190	185-195	185-195	185-198	19.1.01	181-194	4	4
Bangalore	126-136	155-165	155-170	160-175	165-175	160-175	165-180	19.1.01	158-173	7	7
Hyderabad	106-110	130-140	140-148	140-155	150-160	145-160	150-160	19.1.01	145-156	5	4
Calicut	160-175	175-185	182-192	180-190	180-194	180-195	180-195	22.12.00	176-191	4	4
Visakhapatnam	119-120	145-150	152-160	155-160	165-170	160-170	160-170	8.12.00	150-162	15	8

Source : Cement Manufacturers' Association

**Empowerment of Development
Commissioners of SEZs.**

*44. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has suggested empowerment of the Development Commissioners of the Special Economic Zones to grant exemption from the purview of labour laws;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to implement the suggestions made by the FICCI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Government has not finalised its views in regard to changes in labour laws applicable to units in Special Economic Zones.

[Translation]

Antyodaya Yojana

*47 SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently launched Antyodaya Yojana for poorest of the poor in the country;

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

(c) the criteria adopted to identify the beneficiaries under the scheme in urban and rural areas;

(d) the total number of beneficiaries in each State;

(e) the steps taken to ensure proper distribution of foodgrains under the scheme and also to check its misuse;

(f) the steps initiated by the Union Government to reduce the burden of State Governments for transporting the foodgrains to be provided under the scheme; and

(g) the quota fixed for each State and the manner of its distribution alongwith the guidelines issued to State Governments for implementation of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :
(a) to (g) The Antyodaya 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. A statement indicating the number of Antyodaya families to be identified in each State/Union territory is enclosed.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to identify the Antyodaya families from amongst BPL families within their respective jurisdiction. They have also been advised to finalise the list of Antyodaya families by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies.

With a view to devising a mechanism to ensure that the foodgrains lifted by the State Governments from Central godowns get actually distributed to the beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Government of India has suggested that future allotments of foodgrains be linked to the receipt of a certificate from the State Governments to the effect that the allotted quantities of foodgrains have been actually distributed to the beneficiaries. The Guidelines issued by the Government of India in regard to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Specifically provide that the allocation of foodgrains to the States will be linked to the receipt of Utilisation Certificates from them to the effect that the foodgrains already allocated have actually reached the Antyodaya families.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the Public Distribution System especially at the Fair Price Shop level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of the Public Distribution System at the grass root level will make the said System transparent and accountable and thereby help in checking the diversion of PDS commodities to a great extent.

Keeping in view the extremely poor condition of the Antyodaya families, the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that the end retail price is retained at Rs.2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice. The expenditure to be borne by the State Governments in this regard would not be much. The extent of subsidy involved in the scheme from the Central Exchequer will be Rs. 2300 crores per annum.

Foodgrains under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be distributed to the beneficiaries through the existing network of fair price shops.

Statement

*The Number of Antyodaya Families to
be Identified in each State/UT*

(in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Antyodaya Families
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.228
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.151
3.	Assam	2.815
4.	Bihar	10.000
5.	Chhattishgarh	2.874
6.	Delhi	0.626
7.	Goa	0.073
8.	Gujarat	3.250
9.	Haryana	1.209
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.787
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.129
12.	Jharkhand	3.665
13.	Karnataka	4.797
14.	Kerala	2.382
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6.324
16.	Maharashtra	10.017
17.	Manipur	0.255
18.	Meghalaya	0.281
19.	Mizoram	0.105
20.	Nagaland	0.189
21.	Orissa	5.055
22.	Punjab	0.717
23.	Rajasthan	3.726
24.	Sikkim	0.067
25.	Tamilnadu	7.455
26.	Tripura	0.452
27.	Uttaranchal	0.763
28.	Uttar Pradesh	16.371
29.	West Bengal	7.939
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.043

1	2	3
31.	Chandigarh	0.035
32.	D&N Haveli	0.028
33.	Daman & Diu	0.006
34.	Lakshdweep	0.004
35.	Pondicherry	0.128
Total		99.954

[English]

Wholesale Price Index and Inflation

48. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Wholesale Price Index rate of essential commodities and Consumer Price Index during the last one year and also as on December 31,2000;

(b) the point to point weekly rate of inflation prevailing during the said period;

(c) the reasons for continuous rise in price index;

(d) the effect of price hike on petrol and petroleum products; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the increase in the prices of essential commodities and to contain the rate of inflation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The annual rate of inflation in the group of 30 essential commodities based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) during the last one year is listed below.

Annual Inflation in Essential Commodities (%)

	Based on	
	WPI	CPI (IW)
	1	2
2000		
Jan	2.7	0.0
Feb	2.0	0.5
Mar	5.4	2.8
Apr	8.1	-0.2

	1	2
May	7.9	4.5
Jun	7.2	4.0
Jul	6.5	5.2
Aug	4.5	5.0
Sep	3.9	2.2
Oct	5.8	1.9
Nov	5.1	3.1
Dec	5.9	

(b) The point to point weekly rate of inflation during the last one year is listed in Statement.

(c) and (d) Point to point annual inflation rate for the latest available week ended February 3, 2001 is 8.21 per cent. The annual price rise in the fuel products group alone is 31.7 per cent which accounts for 63 per cent of the inflation rate. But for the increase in the administered prices of petroleum products- LPG, Kerosene, Petrol, Diesel- in October 1999 and then twice again during 2000-01, inflation rate would have presently been around 3.61 percent as against the observed 8.21 per cent. The adjustment in administered prices of energy products was absolutely necessary in view of the rise in international prices of crude oil.

(e) Though the global price increase in crude oil had to be translated into increases in administered prices of petroleum products thrice since October 1999 leading to the doubling of inflation rate to 8 per cent level during 2000-01, the stability in the prices of primary and manufactured products had a sobering effect on the overall inflation rate.

Government made concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Consequently, wholesale prices of important items of daily consumption like rice, wheat, atta, edible oils, salt and some pulses are presently reported to be lower than last year.

Statement

WPI based Inflation Rate (%)

Week Ending	WPI	Inflation
1	2	3
1-Jan-00	145.8	3.0

1	2	3
8-Jan-00	145.9	3.6
15-Jan-00	145.9	3.8
22-Jan-00	145.9	3.9
29-Jan-00	146.1	3.6
5-Feb-00	146.2	3.3
12-Feb-00	145.9	3.0
19-Feb-00	146.1	3.3
26-Feb-00	147.4	4.4
4-Mar-00	148.8	5.0
11-Mar-00	149.1	5.3
18-Mar-00	149.2	5.4
25-Mar-00	150.9	6.5
1-Apr-00	151.8	6.8
8-Apr-00	151.9	6.8
15-Apr-00	151.6	6.5
22-Apr-00	151.7	6.3
29-Apr-00	151.6	6.0
6-May-00	151.6	6.2
13-May-00	151.7	6.4
20-May-00	152.0	6.4
27-May-00	152.1	6.6
3-Jun-00	152.2	6.4
10-Jun-00	152.5	6.4
17-Jun-00	152.9	6.6
24-Jun-00	153.0	6.6
1-Jul-00	153.0	6.5
8-Jul-00	152.9	6.4
15-Jul-00	153.0	6.5
22-Jul-00	153.2	6.6
29-Jul-00	153.3	6.6
5-Aug-00	153.4	6.3
12-Aug-00	153.3	6.3
19-Aug-00	153.2	5.7
26-Aug-00	153.7	6.2

1	2	3
2-Sep-00	154.2	6.1
9-Sep-00	154.1	6.1
16-Sep-00	154.2	5.9
23-Sep-00	154.4	6.3
30-Sep-00	156.8	7.8
7-Oct-00	157.4	7.4
14-Oct-00	157.8	7.2
21-Oct-00	158.3	7.3
28-Oct-00	158.2	7.3
4-Nov-00	158.4	7.6
11-Nov-00	158.1	7.5
18-Nov-00	158.0	7.5
25-Nov-00	158.2	7.8
2-Dec-00	158.6	8.3
9-Dec-00	158.5	8.5
16-Dec-00	157.7P	8.0P
23-Dec-00	157.6P	8.0P
30-Dec-00	157.7P	8.2P
6-Jan-01	157.8P	8.2P
13-Jan-01	157.8P	8.2P
20-Jan-01	158.0P	8.3P
27-Jan-01	158.1P	8.2P
3-Feb-01	158.2P	8.2P

P-Provisional

Target Fixed for Disinvestment

*49. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would be able to achieve the target of Rs. 10,000 crore for disinvestment before March 31, 2001;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target;

(c) the relaxations the Government have given for the disinvestment of VSNL, Air India and Indian Airlines;

(d) whether the Government propose to involve the employees and the investors in this process;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the target fixed for disinvestment for the year 2001-2002 ?

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) : 'Target Fixed for Disinvestment by the Kirit Somaiya' (a) and (b) No, Sir, The process of disinvestment is in different stages of implementation in several public sector undertakings. Disinvestment is carried out as per a prescribed procedure. The timing of disinvestment in a company depends on several factors including market conditions, financial performance of the company, interest shown by the investors/buyers, finalisation of the terms and conditions of the sale by the Government, advice rendered by the professional advisor to the Government etc.

(c) To invite better interest from bidders and to get better price for the stake offered, Government considers granting certain benefits like continuation of the preference for getting orders by the PSU even after disinvestment for a limited time. Such terms and conditions at which the disinvestment is made by the Government are incorporated in the Share-purchase Agreement and the Shareholders Agreement. Government has not finalised these agreements in case of Air India, Indian Airlines and VSNL disinvestments.

(d) and (e) It has been decided to disinvest 1.97% shares of VSNL and upto 10% shares of Air India in favour of their employees. It has also been decided to disinvest 25% shares of Indian Airlines in favour of the domestic financial institutions, employees and other investors.

(f) No target for disinvestment for the year 2001-2002 has yet been fixed.

[Translation]

Loss due to Earthquake

*50. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) the sector-wise, names of industries and projects damaged due to recent earthquake in various parts of Gujarat;

(b) the estimated loss in terms of Rupees suffered by these industries and projects, separately;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to revive these industries and the time by which these industries/projects are likely to be made functional;

(d) the funds required for their revival; and

(e) the financial assistance provided or proposed to be provided to them for this purpose by the Union Government, financial institutions and foreign countries, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Sir, no specific information is available regarding names of industries and project damaged due to the recent earthquake in various parts of Gujarat. Based on the information received from the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation Government of India, the total loss suffered by Industrial Establishments in Gujarat has been estimated at about Rs. 5000 crores. Losses in salt industry due to the earthquake have been estimated as Rs. 166 crores. Relief amounting to Rs. 3 crores by way of ex-gratia payments to salt manufacturers is proposed. The Government of India has released Rs. 500 crores to Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 115 crores as cash assistance from 51 foreign countries and 3 international organisations has been received so far. Under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Gujarat, the Gujarat Disaster Management Authority has been established to implement the Rehabilitation packages. The Ministry of Finance has proposed Relaxation of Overdraft Regulation Scheme. Beside, Rs. 85 crores has been released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) Rs. 500 crores financial assistance as ad hoc release of share in central taxes, and Rs. 10 crores has been sanctioned from PM's Relief fund. The World Bank has announced \$300 million and the Asian Development Bank has announced \$350 million as Assistance to the Government of India. CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM have decided to adopt large clusters of villages for relief and reconstruction.

[English]

Relaxation Rules in Foreign Direct Investment

*51. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to relax FDI rules in crucial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the respective administrative Ministries for allowing relaxation in the FDI rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Government constantly reviews the FDI policy with the objective of further refining the policy and enhancing India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

(c) to (e) FDI policy liberalisation is a continuous process involving consultations among various Departments and Ministries of the Government from time to time based on the sector-specific requirements for FDI.

National Foodgrains Policy

*52. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to formulate a comprehensive National Foodgrains Policy and invite bids from private players for setting up of high-tech godowns as part of measures to decentralise food storage;

(b) if so, whether an Expert Committee was constituted to go into the entire gamut of food security and buffer stock;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) how many of these recommendations have been accepted and implemented; and

(f) the number and details of private parties who have responded to the Government initiative ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) A High Level Committee (HLC) was set up by the Government of India on 16.11.2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, the then Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and prices, to formulate a long term Grain Policy for the country. The terms of reference of the HLC included matters relating to minimum support prices and price support operations, functioning of public Distribution System, policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import, allocation of foodgrains for rural development programmes and other welfare schemes and FCI related issues. The HLC is yet to submit its report.

The Government of India has already notified, on 4.7.2000, 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 FCI. The policy envisages harnessing efforts and resources of public and private sectors both domestic and foreign. The identification of locations for establishment of integrated bulk handling and storage facilities under this policy is under finalisation whereafter bids will be invited from the interested parties.

[Translation]

Duty Evasion by Multinational Companies

*53. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of duty evasion by Multi National Companies during the past one year.

(b) whether the Government have made any enquiry into the violation of the Customs Act as well as evasion of customs duty by these companies;

(c) if so, the details of companies and the cases filed against them; and

(d) the specific steps taken by the Government to prevent the evasion of duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The details of cases of alleged evasion of duty by multinational companies in the financial year 1999-2000 are as under :

Year	Number of Cases involving evasion of duty of Central Excise/Customs		Amount involved (In rupees lakhs) Central Excise/ Customs	
1999-2000	97	26	10137.04	11412.00

(b) to (c) Yes, Sir, The details of cases in which enquiry has been conducted and adjudication proceedings initiated against the multinational companies for their alleged violation of provision of Customs Act as well as Evasion of Customs duty during financial year 1999-2000 are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps to prevent the evasion of Custom duty and Excise duty and ensure compliance of the tax payers- Some of the specific steps taken include measures to check under valuation, to prevent the abuse of export promotion schemes such as DEEC, DEPB, 100% EOU's etc., surprise checks of production and clearances, transit checks, CENVAT checks and intensive auditing of manufacturing units as per revised guidelines. The field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence are keeping a close watch against commercial frauds and duty evasion.

Statement

Financial Year 1999-2000

Name of MNC	Nature of Offence	Status
1	2	3
1. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.	Wrong availment of duty benefit by misinterpreting Customs notification.	Rs. 1.39 Crores pending in CEGAT.
2. SEDCO FOREX	Import of one drilling rig Trident II, valued at Rs. 210.83 crores, without payment of any Customs duty and without the Customs formalities.	The CEGAT vide order dated 2nd February, 2001 has modified the Commissioner's order reducing the fine from Rs. 15 Crores to Rs. 25 lakhs and penalty from Rs. 5 Crores to Rs. 5 lakhs respectively.
3. Siemens Ltd.	Ms declaration of re-export goods. Duty involved Rs. 4,31,000/-	The goods were being exported under drawback claim. As these appeared to be mis-declared they were confiscated imposing redemption fine to Rs. 50,000/- and PP. Of Rs. 10,000/-.

1	2	3
4. AHP Manufacturing B.V.	The importer mis-declared the goods claiming benefit of Customs duty exemption notification 16/2000 dated 1.3.2000.	The goods valued at Rs. 1.19 crores were adjudicated and an extra duty of Rs. 29.75 lakhs collected. No RE/PP was imposed.
5. M/s. Motorola Ltd., 88, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Bangalore-561229	The Company had obtained a license bearing No. 07001273 under DEEC Scheme for export of 70,000 Nos. of pagers. Against the said license duty free import of goods valued at Rs. 75 lakhs involving a duty of Rs. 40 lakhs were made. But the company failed to fulfill the export obligation.	An offence case was registered against the company. The company has deposited a sum of Rs. 57.25 lakhs towards customs duty and interest. The case was adjudicated by the Commissioner of Customs, Bangalore on 9.6.2000. Redemption fine of Rs. 3.50 lakhs and penalty of Rs. 50,000/- was imposed.
6. M/s. Siemens Public Communication Networks Ltd.	Duty evaded Rs. 257.06 lakhs.	Case was adjudicated and goods i.e. CD Roms were confiscated. A redemption fine of Rs. 5 crores with option to re-ship goods on payment of Customs duty and penalty of Rs. 3 crores was given.
7. M/s. Ericson Services Communication Ltd.	Evasion of Customs duty of Rs. 461.00 lakhs by importing telecommunication Software.	Rs. 4.8 crores towards duty evaded/interest have been recovered so far from the party. SCN issued demanding duty evaded by the party.
8. Schhumberger Asia Service	Duty evaded of Rs. 72.00 lakhs.	SCN issued. For the imports at Chennai, the Commissioner of Customs ordered demand of duty of Rs. 9.11 lakhs and penalty of Rs. 1 lakh. Adjudication for imports at Mumbai is pending.
9. Emirates Trading Agency	Duty evaded of Rs. 160.00 lakhs.	SCN issued and the case is under the process of adjudication.
10. M/s. Seagram Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.	Evasion of Customs duty of Rs. By misdeclaration of value of imported goods.	SCN issued by ADG, DRI.
11. M/s. L.G. Electronics Pvt. Ltd., Noida (UP)	Duty evaded of Rs. 355 lakhs. Purchased transferable DEPB license from M/s. Sundram Express and utilised them for duty free imports. M/s. Sundram Exports had obtained the license by gross valuation of exports of CD Roms.	SCN issued by ADG, DRI.
12. M/s. Sony India Ltd. Haryana	Purchased transferable DEPB licenses from M/s Netcompware Pvt. Ltd. And utilized them for duty free imports. M/s. Cyber Express had obtained the license by gross over-valuation of exports of CD Roms.	Duty evaded of Rs. 42 lakhs. SCN issued by ADG, DRI.

[English]

**Social Audit of Food Items given
under PDS**

*54. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to ask for utilisation certificates and social audit of food items given to various States under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have in principle agreed to give utilisation certificates to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the social audit of the food items is going to check diversion of food items allocated under PDS?

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

(a) to (d) With a view to devising a mechanism to ensure the foodgrains lifted by the State Governments from Central godowns get actually distributed to the beneficiaries under the Targetted Public Distribution System, the Government of India has suggested that future allotments of foodgrains be linked to the receipt of a certificate from the State Governments to the effect that the allotted quantities of foodgrains have been actually distributed to the beneficiaries. The Guidelines issued by the Government of India in regard to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched recently provide that the allocation of foodgrains to the States will be linked to the receipt of Utilisation Certificates from them to the effect that the foodgrains already allocated have actually reached the Antyodaya families. In principle the States have agreed to the suggestion and have asked for a lead time of 3-4 months for submission of Utilisation Certificates.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the Fair Price Shop level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of the Public Distribution system at the grass root level will make the said System transparent and accountable and thereby help in checking the diversion of PDS commodities to a great extent.

Dumping of Chinese Foods

*55. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

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

(a) the names of domestic industries which have been affected adversely due to dumping of Chinese goods;

(b) the extent to which business of these industries have been affected;

(c) whether investigation of cases against China has been completed by DG, Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations of DG, Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties;

(e) whether the issue of dumping of Chinese goods legally/illegally was discussed with Mr. Li Peng, Chairman, National People Congress of China during his recent visit to India;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) the response of Chinese delegation thereto; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to check the inflow of Chinese goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received recently from certain industries like Dry Batteries, Sports Shoes and Toys etc. complaining about their being affected by imports from China. It is not possible to quantify the effect of imports of China on their business.

Companies can, if they so desire, file fully documented petitions with the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties against any dumping of goods. In the Financial year 2000-01, 13 petitions were received by the Designated Authority for anti-dumping action against Chinese companies. Proceedings were initiated in all such cases, preliminary duty has been recommended in 5 cases and provisional duty has been imposed in 3 cases. Levy of provisional duty in respect of remaining 2 cases is awaited. Proceedings in respect of other 8 cases are under progress. In addition, the Designated Authority initiated suo-moto proceedings in three cases for Dry Batteries, Sports Shoes and Toys from China on 20.11.2000. Preliminary duty has been imposed in two of the three cases namely Dry Batteries and Sports Shoes. In the absence of any evidence of any injury to the domestic

industry in respect of Toys, the proceedings were terminated in the third case.

(c), (d) and (h) Apart from Anti-dumping investigations, imports of all packaged commodities have been subjected to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Order, 1977 as also applicable on domestic producers. 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 the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Safeguard duties can be also imposed in cases where there is a surge in the import of good into the country.

(e) to (g) The issue of dumping of Chinese goods was not raised by Mr. Li Peng or discussed with him during his recent visit to India.

Dumping of Unfit Foodgrains

*56. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) whether huge foodgrains stock are rotting in Government warehouses and in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and are no more fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the quantity of such foodgrains as on 31.12.1999, 31.12.2000 and as on date alongwith the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of corrective steps initiated to stop its recurrence;

(d) whether the Government have decided to dump the unfit foodgrains into the sea to avoid storage problem;

(e) whether any re-assessment about the fitness of unfit foodgrains was made;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) the persons responsible for this poor maintenance; and

(h) the action taken by the Government against them ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :
(a) and (b) The stocks of foodgrains held by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are divided into two categories, i.e., Issuable stocks and Non-issuable stocks. Issuable

stocks are fit for human consumption whereas Non-issuable stocks are unfit for human consumption. As on 31.12.2000, the FCI had a quantity of 1.59 lakh MTs of Non-issuable foodgrains out of a total stock of 257.69 lakh MTs. On 31.12.1999, the quantity of Non-issuable foodgrains available with the FCI was 1.62 lakh MTs.

(c) The FCI undertakes storage of foodgrains on scientific lines. Various prophylactic and curative measures are undertaken to avoid deterioration in quality.

(d) Non-issuable stocks are categorized as Feed-I, Feed-II, Feed-III, Industrial use, manure and dumping. There is a set procedure for disposal of these stocks. The stocks meant for dumping are first offered to the State Governments and, in case no response is received within 10 days, the same are to be dumped in the premises of the FCI or outside the Municipal limits, at the expense of the FCI, through a Committee appointed for the purpose.

(e) and (f) Foodgrains stocks beyond PFA standards and unfit for human consumption are not upgradable and, hence, not reassessed.

(g) and (h) Whenever it is found that the stocks were damaged due to negligence on the part of certain officers/officials, suitable action is taken against them as per the rules and regulations of the FCI.

Failure to Revive the Heavy Engineering Corporation

*57. SHRI Y.V. RAO :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether an Enquiry Commission was set up to go into the failure to revive the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) in Ranchi:

(b) if so, whether the Enquiry Commission has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the main recommendations made in the report;

(d) whether any fresh proposal is mooted for the revival of this Corporation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir, there is no proposal at present.

Loss to TV and Radio Transmitters

*58. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) the details of loss and damage reported to TV and Radio transmitters in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat;

(b) the action by the Government to repair them;

(c) whether the Government propose to draw an action plan to deal with such natural calamities in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the countries which have provided monetary assistance and other technical assistance to restore these stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Doordarshan have reported that all its transmitters in Gujarat are functioning normally. The building of Low Power Transmitter (LPT) at Rapar had been extensively damaged. Therefore, the transmitter is operating from a porta cabin. AIR has also reported no damage to its transmitters in earthquake affected areas of Gujarat and they are all functioning normally. Most of the AIR/DD buildings have suffered damages. The details are given in the statement. Wherever buildings have suffered damages, these are being replaced by earthquake-proof structures. Repair/reconstruction work has been initiated.

(e) Prasar Bharati has not received any monetary assistance or relief material from any country for this purpose.

Statement

Damaged AIR/Doordarshan Installations in the Earthquake affected areas of Gujarat

A. All India Radio

S. No.	Stations	Details
1	2	3
1.	Bhuj	The studio building, office building, overhead tanks and S/qtrs in AIR Bhuj got severely damaged. First floor of the office, machine block in the studios, overhead water tank and structures of

1	2	3
		some S/Qtrs need to be demolished/reconstructed. There is no major damage in the transmitter building but the ATU hut and enclosures around guy mast need reconstruction. Other buildings also need some repair.
2.	Ahmedabad	All the buildings at Ahmedabad have developed cracks of varying degrees and these need repairs.
3.	Rajkot	All the buildings have developed cracks of varying degrees and need extensive repairs.
4.	Surat	S/Qtrs have developed cracks of varying degrees and need to be repaired.

B. Doordarshan

S. No.	Stations	Details
I. Studio Centres		
1.	DDK Ahmedabad	Studio and office blocks, security fencing and staff quarters (17 Nos.)
2.	DDK Rajkot	Studio, transmitter and office block and staff quarters (68 Nos.)
II. HPTs		
1.	HPT Bhuj	Transmitter building, city office, security fencing, approach road, staff quarters (13 Nos.) and 2 security guard quarters.
2.	HPT Dwarka	Transmitter building and 12 staff quarters
III. LPTs		
		Limbdi, Tharad, Ambreli, Botad, Diu, Dhari, Rajula, Mahuva, Bhavnagar, Una, Palitana, Mangrol, Rajpipla, Dharampur, Dandi, Valsad, Bantwa, Jamnagar, Morvi, Surendernagar, Dharangdhara, Jambhodhpur, Rapar and Khambalia.
IV. DMC		Rajkot.

**Insurance Scheme for Natural
Calamity**

*59. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Comprehensive Insurance Scheme on lines of calamity relief bond floated by USA and Japan to meet the cost of post calamity relief and reconstruction:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this Scheme is likely to be made Operational; and

(d) the other steps being taken to raise funds for post natural calamity relief and reconstruction works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no such proposal at present under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Steps undertaken to raise funds for making expenses on natural calamity relief and reconstruction work include relaxation of overdraft regulation scheme of Reserve Bank of India, release of "On Account" funds pending its formal conversion into assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund, rescheduling of loans from commercial banks, grant of loans to individuals at concessional rates by public sector banks, assistance from multilateral and bilateral funding agencies etc.

Dumping of Edible Oils

*60. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether various edible oils are being dumped in India by various countries;

(b) if so, whether the domestic edible oil industry is facing a severe crises in the wake of the dumping of different edible oils particularly by Malaysia and Indonesia; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps the Government propose to take to help the domestic oil industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been, however, some increase in the volume of imports of all Edible Oils in the Country recently. Volume of imports were about 29 lakh tonnes between Apr.-Oct.2000 as against the total import of approximately 42 lakh tonnes during the whole of 1999-2000. However, Oil seeds production in the Country has been more or less stagnant at about 21 to 25 million tonnes. The international prices of Oil in general had exhibited a sharp downward trend between Apr.-Nov. 2000.

Increased imports in itself is not an evidence of dumping unless the dumping of the foreign goods, material injury to the domestic industry and causal link between these is prima-facie established. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties conducts investigation, if it is satisfied with the information received from the Collector of Customs or from any other source that sufficient evidence exists regarding dumping of the foreign goods, material injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the two. In the case of import of Edible Oils, no specific information or fully documented petition has been received from the domestic industry indicating any dumping or injury to the domestic producers and therefore, no investigations have been initiated as on date.

(c) Some of the measures taken by the Government to help the domestic industry are :

(i) Upward revision duty rate structure on Vegetable Oils of edible grade. The rates of duty have been changed with effect from 21.11.2000. The details are given below :

S.No.	Item	Crude		Refined	
		Rates of Duty pre 21.11.2000 Total Duty	Rates of Duty post 21.11.2000 Total Duty	Rates of Duty pre 21.11.2000 Total Duty	Rates of Duty post 21.11.2000 Total Duty
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Soyabean Oil	27.5%	35%	44.04%	50.8%
2.	Palm Oil (for manufacture of Vanaspati)	16.5%	25%	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Palm Oil (for other than manufacture of Vanaspati)	50.8%	55%	50.8%	71.6%
4.	RBD Palmolein	—	—	44.04%	71.6%
5.	Groundnut Oil	27.5%	35%	44.04%	50.8%
6.	Sunflower/safflower	27.5%	35%	44.04%	50.8%
7.	Coconut Oil	50.8%	45%	50.8%	50.8%
8.	Rapeseed Oil	27.5%	35%	44.04%	50.8%
9.	Colza or mustard Oil	27.5%	35%	44.04%	50.08%
10.	Other Oils	27.5%	35%	50.8%	50.8%

(ii) The stipulation of Actual User Condition is designed to minimize the diversion of edible oils for usage not intended and thus, regulate the import of edible oils.

(iii) In order to give boost to the efforts for indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils, use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. The measures should also help in effectively regulating the unrestricted import of edible oils.

[Translation]

Construction of Godowns under RIDF Scheme

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

(a) whether the Bihar Government have submitted any proposal to NABARD for the construction of godowns in the State under the R.I.D.F. scheme.

(b) if so, the names of the places at which the NABARD has given approval to construct godowns;

(c) the amount sanctioned for this purpose during the year 2000-2001;

(d) the action taken for sanctioning amount for the construction of godowns at the remaining places in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the State Government of Bihar had submitted a proposal to contract 1500 godowns with loan assistance from Rural Infrastructure Development

Fund (RIDF), before bifurcation of the State. The proposals could not be processed by NABARD as the State Government had not furnished details of the project/ additional information, etc. The 27 districts where godowns are proposed to be constructed fall both in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand. These are Gopalganj, Sewan, Chapra, Sitamardhi, Madhubani, Khagria, Sheohar, Gaya, Rohtas, Kaimur, Bhojpur and Buxar in Bihar and Bokaro, Koderma, Dumka, Godda, Deoghar, Sahebganj, Pakur, Giridih, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Chatra, Lohardagga, Ranchi, East and West Singhbhum in Jharkhand.

(d) NABARD has further reported that these cases will be considered after the concerned State Government provide the additional information sought for.

[English]

24 Hour Oriya Channel

411. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to telecast 24-hour Oriya Programmes on national channels of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be through terrestrial channel; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUŚHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that modalities are being worked out to launch a 24 hour Oriya Programmes Channel on Regional Language Satellite Service (RLSS) from DDK, Bhubaneshwar.

(c) The proposed Channel will be in the satellite mode.

(d) Does not arise.

Banks in Gujarat

412. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several branches of various banks in Gujarat are not able to conduct their daily business especially after earthquake; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to deploy additional staff to restore normalcy in these banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Dena Bank, the Convenor of State Level Bankers' Committee for the State of Gujarat has informed that out of a total 4945 bank branches operating in the Gujarat State, 68 branches were totally damaged and 80 branches were partially damaged due to earthquake. However, all these 4945 branches have since started functioning.

[Translation]

Currency Notes

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

(a) whether the Government have taken measures to check the circulation of fake currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the printing capacity of the Government Note Printing Presses working in the country at present, and the currency notes of different denomination being printed at present; and

(d) the number and value of mutilated currency notes being exchanged by the Reserve Bank of India every year.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The measures taken by the Government to check the circulation of fake currency notes are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The combined annual note printing capacity of all the Government Note Printing Presses is 5900 million pieces. Besides, two other Presses under the control of the Reserve Bank of India have a printing capacity of 4770 million pieces each per annum. The notes in the denominations of Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 are being printed.

(d) The number of mutilated currency notes exchanged by the Reserve Bank of India in various denominations during the last 3 years is as under:

(Pieces in lakhs)

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1889	1439	1581

Data regarding the value is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

Steps taken by Government to Combat Counterfeiting

Steps taken by the Ministry of Finance

- (a) A six-member Fact Finding Committee had been set up under the convenorship of General Manager, RBI, comprising experts on note-printing/currency paper etc., for examining fake notes seized in the past in order to enable the Government to take remedial action vis-a-vis printing and security features.
- (b) A High Level Technical Committee of Experts in the note printing field has been constituted under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (C&C) for examining the whole gamut of the problem caused by the circulation of fake currency notes, which have been reported upon in the past. The Committee has representation from MHA, NSCS, RBI and the Printing Presses.
- (c) A proposal for amendment of Cr. PC so as to include the officers of Bank Note Press, Dewas, Currency Note Press, Nashik and State Forensic Laboratories as 'Experts' for detection of suspected fake currency notes has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (d) The RBI has been advised to go in for a publicity campaign about security features incorporated in the genuine notes.
- (e) A proposal for training of Customs Officers posted in the borders to enable them detect fake currency has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Steps taken by the RBI :

- (a) The security features of Rs. 500 denomination notes has been widely publicised in the print media to help the people to detect fake notes.

- (b) A film on security features of Rs.500 denomination note produced in English, Hindi and other regional languages has been telecast in Doordarshan.
- (c) For the benefit of the public, a booklet has been brought out which, inter-alia, describes the features of genuine notes. This booklet has been placed on the RBI's website besides being available to the public for sale at RBI's Issue Offices.
- (d) Rs.1000 denomination notes and new design Rs. 500 denomination notes with advanced security features have been introduced

Steps taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs :

- (a) CBI has created a special unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency note cases.
- (b) The BSF has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant in checking the smuggling of notes across the border.
- (c) Instructions have also been issued to all State Government, particularly border states, to be more vigilant.
- (d) State Governments have been instructed to furnish information on recovery/seizure of fake notes to NCRB regularly in order to enable the NCRB to create a data bank on the criminal/gangs operating in the field including their modus operandi.

[English]

Disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Limited

414. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of the proposal for the disinvestment in the Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL);
- (b) the Government's stake proposed to be disinvested in the MUL; and
- (c) when it is likely to be disinvested?

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 Government have decided, at this stage, to commence formal negotiations with Suzuki Motor Company Limited (SMC) on a proposal for offer of shares by Maruti Udyog Limited on a rights basis with renunciation option for the Government, which could be in favour of Indian Financial Institutions.

Export of Cement

415. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the countries which are importing cement from India together with the quantity of cement annually imported by each of them during the last three years and the foreign exchange annually earned therefrom;
- (b) the reasons for shortfall in supplies, if any, and the steps taken to increase the export;
- (c) whether the indigenous demand for cement has necessitated the reduced exports; and
- (d) if so, the production, demand and supply position of cement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Value of Indian export of various categories of cement for the last three years is as under :

Year	Exports (In Rs. Crores)
1997-98	267.4
1998-99	144.0
1999-2000	218.3

(Source : DGCI&S)

Country and quantity-wise data on exports of various categories of cement are available in the DGCI&S publication viz. "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India"

(b) to (d) There has been a decline in exports of cement because of decrease in international prices. No other specific reasons for decline in exports have been reported. Normal export incentives applicable to all exporters are available to exporters of cement also. Moreover, Government is extending Market Development Assistance for exporters through the Export Promotion Councils for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions and for mounting trade delegations.

NPA of Public Sector Banks

416. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Non-Performing Assets of Public Sector Banks exclusive/inclusive of unrealised interest as on 31st December, 2000, separately;

(b) out of total NPAs as on 31st December 2000 state the portion that belongs to the agriculture sector; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the NPA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to the information available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks as on 30th September, 2000 was Rs.55, 971.44 crores. RBI has further reported that as per its guidelines, the banks are not to recognise the interest on advances which are classified as NPAs.

(b) According to the information available with RBI, the Gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks in the agriculture sector as on 31st March, 2000 was Rs. 7,450.05 crores.

(c) Government of India and RBI have advised banks to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non-performing accounts at various levels in the bank. RBI vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 has framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. Effective action by banks for rehabilitation, one-time settlement or filing of suits in all necessary cases by 31.3.2001 has to be ensured by the chief executives.

Difficulties to Exporters of Assam

417. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether exporters of Assam have been facing problems in despatching their agricultural and forest products for exports, for want of phytosanitary certificates timely;

(b) if so, whether this has hampered tea exports from Assam;

(c) if so, upto what extent, and the arrangements made for issue of the requisite certificate for the purpose; and

(d) the steps being taken for speedily and timely issue of phytosanitary certificates for smooth exports of such products ?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) Appropriate arrangements have been made for issuance of phytosanitary certificates at Guwahati and Kolkata by authorizing the Joint Director of Agriculture (Plant Protection), Directorate of Agriculture, Guwahati, Assam and the Deputy Director, Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Salt Lake City, Kolkata for the purpose. All Phyto Sanitary Certificate issuing officers are enjoined upon from time to time to ensure timely issuance of phyto sanitary certificate so as to avoid delay to the exporters.

[Translation]

Sale of Wheat to States by FCI

418. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) the total quantity of wheat allocated under open market sale scheme by Food Corporation of India to several States including Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the traders who have received this wheat allocation have sold it to traders of other States;

(c) if so, the details of the rules laid down for selling wheat in the open market and the State-wise details regarding the rates at which this wheat has been sold to these traders separately; and

(d) the action taken against these traders for not selling wheat in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) During 1997-98, a quantity of 3.09 lakh M.Ts. of wheat was allocated under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) to various States including Maharashtra. From 1998-99 onwards, no allocations were made under this scheme. The State Governments including bulk purchasers like Roller Flour Mills, Wholesalers, Chakkies, Co-operatives, Super Bazaars were, however, allowed to purchase wheat under this scheme, subject to a minimum purchase of 10 M.T.

(b) No such reports have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

- (d) Does not arise.

Ethic Guidelines for Newspapers

419. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue any guideline regarding putting a restriction on showing and publishing of vulgar and seminude pictures in print media;

(b) whether the Government are aware of a race among various newspapers for publishing seminude photographs in name of fashion; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The print media in the country is free of any Government restrictions. However, the Press Council, which is a self-regulatory body of the press, has laid down norms of journalistic conduct advising against publication of obscene photographs.

[English]

Expenditure Reforms Commission Report on Food Subsidy

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

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission's Report on Food Subsidy has been presented to the Government on July 10, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Commission particularly to the suggestion at Point 31 of the Report relating to Gunny charges to reduce Subsidy Bill ?

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

(b) The details of the recommendations made by the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its report are listed in the statement. It will be seen there from the Government has accepted and implemented such of the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission as did not require consultations with State Governments and other Ministries/departments of the Central Government. The other recommendations, including the suggestion at point 31 of the report relating to Gunny charges to reduce

subsidy bill which require consultations with State Governments and other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, have been forwarded to them for their comments. Further action on these recommendations would depend on the views/comments to be received from the State Governments and the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government.

Statement

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPENDITURE REFORMS COMMISSION (ERC) WHICH REQUIRE CONSULTATIONS WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS/MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS ETC :

1. The State Governments will have to put in major efforts for identifying the BPL population, giving them ration card and reaching the benefits intended for them in a transparent manner.
2. A national food security buffer stock of 10 million tonnes-4 million tonnes of wheat and 6 million tonnes of rice should be maintained at all times.
3. The cost of holding the stocks in excess of the requirement for national food security and for PDS due to very generous minimum support prices based procurement policy, could be reflected in the Budget as producers' subsidy rather than consumer subsidy.
4. Inducing the State Governments and the private sector to enter into the foodgrains trade-procurement, storage as well as including exports, in an organized and big way by moderating the increase in MSP effected every year.
5. Freezing the MSP for paddy/rice and wheat in the forthcoming procurement seasons at the same level as fixed for the last procurement season and accepting the prices recommended by a body of experts like the CACP without making further increases.
6. State Government/private Sector with surplus foodgrains production could be allowed to procure, sell and also export upto 3 million tonnes of rice and 5 million tonnes of wheat every year and also that this policy will remain unchanged for at least 15 years and that in the event of drop in foodgrains' production in any year, domestic consumption requirements would be met through imports.
7. Move towards a procurement price instead of minimum support price that will include the MSP

as well as reasonable levels of taxes and other levies that can be imposed by the States, thus leaving it to the States to decide on what they should retain by way of taxes and levies and what should be passed on to the farmers.

8. Encouragement to rice procurement through levy route.
9. There be only one rate as is the case with wheat and that be the common variety alone.
10. Fixation of revised levy price with reference to strick quality standard may be announced before the coming season and levy percentage be fixed anywhere between 50%-70% as the miller may choose.
11. Speedy action to be taken on all cost reduction measures in respect of the Food Corporation of India as may be recommended by the Administrative Staff College of India, which is currently undertaking a study to suggest ways and means of reducing the economic cost.
12. Use of synthetic bag for procurement of rice.
13. The States which distribute quantities larger than what is allocated under BPL be paid cash instead of supply of foodgrains at subsidized rates for the BPL population. This would enable the States to procure the required foodgrains directly or through traders at competitive cost which may work out to be less than the economic cost of the FCI.
14. Only quantities sold through the PDS to APL and BPL population, and allocations made to various welfare schemes and sales at the economic cost, should be taken into account for determining the distribution stocks.

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

15. Freight charges and transit losses to the extent of 1/3rd of the opening stock of buffer in addition to charging in full the transport cost and transit losses to the extent there is accretion to the buffer should be charged to buffer carrying cost as against the present practice of attributing the transportation cost entirely to distribution cost if there is no accretion to the buffer stock in a year.
16. Carry over charges in the form of storage and interest charges paid to the State agencies in

the case of wheat for holding stocks beyond 30th June of a year should be charged to the buffer carrying cost instead of being accounted for as a part of pre procurement cost and thus included in the economic cost of wheat.

17. The benefit of stocks procured in the previous years at lower prices should be passed on to the beneficiaries by including it in the economic cost as against determination of the economic cost on the basis of MSP notified for a year.

Cement Industry

421. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the cement industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to revive the cement industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The problems faced by cement industry are mainly due to :-

- (i) Heavy burden of taxes/levies
- (ii) Inadequacy of the infrastructure facilities needed for the growth of the industry.
- (iii) Poor Growth of demand.

(c) Cement industry is decontrolled and delicensed. Government is providing infrastructural support to cement industry to maximise cement production. Rail wagons are provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement of deficit areas.

[Translation]

Opium Cultivation

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

(a) whether the farmers have surrendered their opium cultivation licences in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the latest decision taken in respect of test procedure and weighing procedure of opium?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Opium is classified on the basis of consistence determined by the method of Hot Air Oven testing. Weighment is done at various weighment centres where cultivators come with their produce.

[English]

IRDA as a Regulator of Pension Fund

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

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is going to become regulator for pension fund, which is being looked after at present by the Labour Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has referred S.A. Dave Committee Report to IRDA for formulating Rules and Regulations for new pension players.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Rules and Regulations are likely to be framed by IRDA for pension funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no such proposal at present in this regard.

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

(c) No decision has been taken on the recommendations made in S.A. Dave Committee report.

(d) and e) Do no arise.

Export Processing Zones

424. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in West Bengal and Kerala;

(b) the products and value of export made through these EPZs during the last three years;

(c) the total export and import made from each EPZ and the percentage share of EPZ in the total export and import from West Bengal and Kerala; and

(d) the difference of imports and exports between the said EPZs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ) is functioning in the State of West Bengal. The EPZ at Cochin, Kerala has been converted into Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) with effect from 1.11.2000.

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

Statement

Product-wise exports from Falta Export Processing Zone and Cochin Special Economic Zone during the last three years are given below :

(Rs. Crores)

Product Group	Falta			Cochin		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Electronics hardware	—	—	2.70	72.74	87.87	120.81
Electronics software	—	0-10	—	0.14	0.35	1.63
Gem and Jewellery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	37.84	7.93	4.69	—	—	—
Textiles and Garments	6.11	23.31	165.92	9.43	23.40	29.35
Engineering Goods	2.89	11.80	42.70	5.21	5.39	5.87
Plastic and Rubber Products	2.56	11.24	25.41	34.94	27.00	19.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Food and Agro products	—	—	—	21.03	42.71	24.31
Leather	—	2.57	10.98	—	—	—
Others	3.54	15.82	14.20	31.02	13.33	39.43
Total	52.94	72.77	266.60	174.51	200.05	241.00

Export and Import and difference during last three years in respect of Falta EPZ and Cochin SEZ are as under :

(Rs. Crores)

Name of the EPZ/SEZ	Year	Export	Import*	Difference
1	2	3	4	5
Falta EPZ	1997.98	52.94	51.94	1.00
	1998.99	72.77	65.42	7.35
	1999.2000	266.60	64.07	202.53
Cochin SEZ	1997.98	174.51	120.34	54.17
	1998.99	200.05	117.01	83.04
	1999.2000	241.00	132.68	108.32

Data on State-wise import and export is not maintained.

*Includes capital goods and raw materials.

Loan Relief Scheme

425. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of artisans, farmers and unemployed persons benefited from the loan relief scheme, State-wise; and

(b) the total assistance provided for each State under the said scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990, formulated by the Government of India and implemented by the State Governments. The Scheme had come to a close on 31 March 1991 and final settlement of claims were made. The period of operation of the scheme was treated as closed on 31 March 1995. The State-wise details of the number of beneficiaries including artisans, farmers and unemployed persons are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Government of India had met the entire liability of the claims of the borrowers of public sector banks and regional rural banks. In respect of the cooperative banks, the liability was shared by Government of India and State Governments in ratio of 50:50. The State-wise position of grant provided by Government of India and loans provided by NABARD to State Governments for meeting their share are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the number of beneficiaries under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6867
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1901949
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12252
4.	Assam	574095
5.	Bihar	3878769
6.	Chandigarh	3375
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1273
8.	Daman and Diu	432
9.	Goa	19196
10.	Gujarat	1350511
11.	Haryana	530643
12.	Himachal Pradesh	352054
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	209744
14.	Karnataka	1599244
15.	Kerala	900690
16.	Lakshadweep	90
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1996787

1	2	3
18. Maharashtra		2914146
19. Manipur		84958
20. Meghalaya		71441
21. Mizoram		6686
22. Nagaland		24622
23. NCT of Delhi		11143
24. Orissa		2155445
25. Pondicherry		47979
26. Punjab		445604
27. Rajasthan		2015770
28. Sikkim		9390
29. Tamil Nadu		1936280
30. Tripura		259311
31. Uttar Pradesh		5145768
32. West Bengal		2661056
Total		32027462

Statement-II

*State-wise details of total assistance provided by
Government and NABARD under ARDR
Scheme, 1990*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Assistance Provided
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands@	8.50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	43457.86
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	151.93
4.	Assam	5858.85
5.	Bihar	61708.61
6.	Chandigarh	31.24
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
8.	Daman and Diu	-
9.	Goa	129.24
10.	Gujarat	34179.95

1	2	3
11. Haryana		11217.11
12. Himachal Pradesh		6580.68
13. Jammu and Kashmir		3652.23
14. Karnataka		19646.07
15. Kerala		8508.82
16. Lakshadweep		-
17. Madhya Pradesh		26729.72
18. Maharashtra		48155.56
19. Manipur		810.49
20. Meghalaya		1027.45
21. Mizoram@		154.55
22. Nagaland		411.68
23. NCT of Delhi#		-
24. Orissa		21939.70
25. Pondicherry@		179.97
26. Punjab		10982.89
27. Rajasthan		38578.18
28. Sikkim		-
29. Tamil Nadu		28370.96
30. Tripura		2556.30
31. Uttar Pradesh		73814.26
32. West Bengal		19171.24
Total		468014.04

- @State Governments/Administrators of A and N Islands, Mizoram, Pondicherry had not availed loan from NABARD.
- #Scheme is not implemented by co-operative banks in New Delhi.

Losses Suffered by Super Bazar

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

(a) whether several Branches of Super Bazar are incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the total accumulated losses thereof, separately as on date; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter including closure thereof?

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

(b) Super Bazar has reported that the accumulated losses of Super Bazar as on 31.3.2000 was Rs. 2299.92 lakhs. Branch-wise figures of accumulated losses are not maintained.

(c) Government of India is examining various options in the matter. Super Bazar which is a Cooperative Society has been advised to improve its business activity and to curtail expenditure.

Sale of Additional Commodities through PDS in States

427. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) the names of additional commodities distributed through Public Distribution System during the year 2000 in each of the States:

(b) whether in view of the collapsing Public Distribution System the Government propose to increase ration items in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Central Government makes available five essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and kerosene generally at subsidized rates to the State/ Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). State Governments are also distributing items of daily use in addition to the above five items. The Government of India does not maintain on a regular basis the list of additional items being distributed by the State Governments/UT Administrations through the PDS.

(b) to (c) The State Governments have been advised that Fair Price Shop owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through PDS outlets to improve the viability of Fair Price Shops through increased turnover. Distribution of additional items of daily use as per local requirement will also help making articles of daily use easily available to ordinary consumers.

With the objective of making available quality consumer goods at affordable prices and to improve the viability of Fair Price Shops apart from containing inflation, a scheme titled : "Sarvapriya" has been launched. The scheme envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use namely, arhar dal, gram dal, malka red, urad whole, salt tea, toilet soaps, detergent, cakes, exercise note books, edible oil and toothpaste on no profit no loss basis. This is a voluntary scheme optional to the State Governments.

[Translation]

Import of Plastic Goods from Nepal

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

(a) whether the import of the plastic goods from Nepal to India has been continuously increasing.

(b) if so, the value of import of the plastic goods from Nepal during each of the last three years;

(c) whether more than 30 plastic processing units of the country have been closed down due to mass import of plastic goods from Nepal:

(d) if so, the details of such units; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to save the domestic plastic industry?

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

(b)	1997-1998	=	6.32 Crores
	1998-1999	=	24.06 Crores
	1999-2000	=	39.98 Crores

(c) and (d) No Specific study has been conducted by the Government in the matter. However the Organisation of Plastic Processors of India, Mumbai have intimated that 13 Units in Rajasthan and 3 Units in Delhi have closed down due to import from Nepal. This matter has not been verified.

(e) Imports from Nepal are governed by Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade. The Treaty provides, inter-alia, for preferential treatment to imports of manufactured articles from Nepal. The Treaty also provides "In the event of this facility leading to a surge in the imports generally or in the import of any particular article, the two Governments shall enter into consultation with a view to taking appropriate measures". Accordingly the Government is

closely monitoring the imports and all necessary measures, shall be resorted to, in case imports seriously affect or threaten to affect the domestic producers.

[English]

Nexus between Customs Officials and Smugglers at Indo-Nepal Border

429. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the nexus of Customs officials posted at Indo-Nepal border at Champaran, Bihar with smugglers and they free allow the smugglers to pass after talking money;

(b) if so, the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government in the last three years;

(c) the action taken against the customs officials; and

(d) the amount of customs duty recovered by Champaran post in each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No case of nexus of Customs Officials posted at Indo-Nepal border at Champaran (Bihar) with smugglers has come to the notice of the Government;

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

(d) The amount of customs duty collected at Champaran Customs post, i.e., Land Customs Station, Raxaul during last 3 years is as under :

Year	Customs Duty Collected
1997-98	Rs. 21.09 Crores
1998-99	Rs. 30.06 Crores
1999-2000	Rs. 53.02 Crores
2000-2001 (up to Jan. 2001)	Rs. 67.93 Crores

FDI in Film Industry

430. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow hundred percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in film industry and advertising agencies in the country ?

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

(c) the impact on Indian film industry and advertising agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is already permitted in the film sector subject to certain sectoral guidelines. Foreign investment to the extent of 74% is permitted at present in the advertising sector. No decision has so far been taken for increasing the foreign investment to 100% in the advertising sector. Any proposal for allowing 100% investment in the advertising sector would be considered only after taking into account the interests of the advertising sector in the country.

Illegal Trade of Drugs

431. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey was conducted by the Government to identify the routes and the place of origin for carrying out illegal trade of drugs;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the estimated annual illegal drugs trade being carried out by these drug peddlars through these routes; and

(d) the reasons for failure to check their activities and the steps contemplated by the Government to strengthen the machinery to curb their activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, Gathering of intelligence and information on drug trafficking is a continuous activity. India's proximity to the major opium producing regions – the South-West Asian region near the western borders and the North-Eastern region near the Eastern borders makes India prone to drug trafficking. The existing drug trafficking trends indicate that the Indo-Pak border is the most sensitive area for drug trafficking. However, the Indo-Myanmar border, the Indo-Nepal border and the Indo-Sri-Lanka border are also identified as sensitive regions.

(c) Since drug trafficking is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate the annual drugs trade being carried out by the drug peddlars through these routes.

However, during the year 2000 the following drugs were seized in the country :

Sr.No.	Name of the Drug	Qty. in Kgs.
1.	Opium	2524
2.	Morphine	37
3.	Heroin	1198
4.	Ganja	94682
5.	Hashish	4923
6.	Cocaine	0083
7.	Methaqualone	1095

(d) There is no failure on the part of the Government to check drug trafficking activities in the country. The significant steps taken by the Government to curb the illegal trade of drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, making sale of narcotic drugs a criminal offence under the NDPS Act punishable with imprisonment of up to 20 years, notifying sensitive precursor chemicals as "controlled substances" under the NDPS Act, gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings between representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies, holding of quarterly coordination meeting attended by all enforcement agencies involved in drugs law enforcement at the highest level and stringent action under NDPS Act against persons arrested for drug trafficking.

Transfer of Bank Employees

432. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Nationalised Banks working in Delhi/New Delhi are being transferred to other States falling under National Capital Region are entitled for transfer benefits;

(b) if so, whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government that transfer benefits have not been extended to some of the employees;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Bank employees are entitled to Travelling Allowance and transfer benefits from one place to other as per provisions contained in the Bipartite Settlement/Officers' Service Regulations. Any employee transferred from a place within the Urban Agglomeration of Delhi/New Delhi to a place outside Urban Agglomeration falling under National Capital Region is eligible for transfer benefits. No such case has come to the notice of the Government. Cases of violation of any of the provisions contained in the Bipartite Settlement/Officers' Service Regulations as and when brought to the notice of the Government are taken up with the concerned bank/Indian Banks' Association for remedial action.

[Translation]

'Food for Work' Scheme

433. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to distribute foodgrains under the scheme 'Food for work' or free of cost in the drought hit States on the request of State Governments;

(b) if so, the names of the States who have sought foodgrains assistance alongwith the quantum of foodgrains sought by each State; and

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to meet the demand of these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Government of India has allotted 3.49 lakh tonnes of foodgrains at rates applicable for families below poverty line (BPL) and 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost for organizing 'Food for Work' programmes in drought affected States. A statement showing the demand for additional allocation of foodgrains for 'Food for Work' programmes received from the State Governments and the allocations made by the Government of India is enclosed.

Statement

The Demands for Additional Allocation of Foodgrains for 'Food for Work' Programmes in Drought Affected Areas received from various State Governments and the Allotments made

(In tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Demand			Allocation			Rates applicable
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total	
1.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	80,000	20,000	1,00,000	Free of Cost
2.	Rajasthan	Nil	2,52,500	2,52,500	Nil	2,52,500	2,52,500	BPL rates
					Nil	1,00,000	1,00,000	Free of Cost
3.	Madhya Pradesh	20,000	50,000	70,000	10,000	25,000	35,000	Free of Cost
4.	Chhatisgarh	3,30,000	Nil	3,30,000	96,600	Nil	96,600	BPL rates
					1,60,000	Nil	1,60,000	Free of Cost
5.	Gujarat	2,40,000		2,40,000	20,000	70,000	90,000	Free of Cost
6.	Maharashtra	30,000	60,000	90,000	2,000	8,000	10,000	Free of Cost
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	5,000	Nil	5,000	Free of Cost

External and Domestic Debt

434. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
 SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
 DR. NITISH SENGUPTA :
 SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
 SHRI S.P. LEPCHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the external/domestic debt of the country has increased abnormally;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the amount of external/domestic loan obtained during each of the last three years till date, country-wise and institution-wise;

(d) the total amount of external/domestic debt outstanding as on date, country-wise and institution-wise separately;

(e) the comparative figures of the external/domestic debt during the last three years till December 31, 2000;

(f) the amount paid in the term of principal and interest to the external/domestic creditors during each of the last three years; and

(g) the plan of the Government to repay the debt and to avoid burden of more debt ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Total outstanding debt of the Government of India including external debt on Government Account and domestic debt stood at Rs. 1,174,363 crore at the end of September 30, 2000 as compared to Rs. 1,159,932 crore at the end of March 31, 2000 and Rs. 884,380 crore at the end of March 31, 1998. However, as a proportion of GDP, the debt stock increased marginally from 58.1 per cent as on end-March, 1998 to 59.3 per cent as on end-March, 2000. The Debt-GDP ratio is estimated to decline to 53.9 per cent at end-September 2000.

(c) The amount of net receipts (i.e., disbursements less repayments) on account of external and domestic loans obtained by the Government of India amounted to Rs. 88,655 crore during 1997-98, Rs. 112,363 crore during 1998-99 and Rs. 109,203 crore during 1999-2000. The detailed net receipts on account of external and domestic (market borrowings) loans obtained by the Government of India during the last three years, country-wise and institution-wise are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) The total amount of debt outstanding of the Government of India stood at Rs. 1,174,363 crore at the end of September 30, 2000 as compared to

Rs. 1,159,932 crore at the end March, 2000, Rs. 1,012,486 crore at end-March, 1999 and Rs. 884, 380 crore at end-March, 1998. The detailed amount of outstanding external/domestic debt of the Government of India during the last three years, country-wise and institution-wise are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(f) The total amount of principal repayments (excluding other liabilities like Small Saving Deposits, Provident Funds, Special Deposits etc.) by the Government of India amounted to Rs. 357,267 crore during 1997-98, Rs. 357,749 crore during 1998-99 and Rs. 328,285 crore during 1999-2000. The total amount of interest payments (including other liabilities like Small Savings Deposits, Provident Funds, Special Deposits etc.) by the Government of India amounted to Rs. 65,637 crore during 1997-98, Rs. 77,882 crore during 1998-99 and Rs. 96,518 crore during 1999-2000. The detailed break up of principal and interest payments on account of external/domestic loans during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-III.

(g) The proposed Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000, introduced in the Parliament, aims to reduce the debt burden of the Government of India by bringing down the ratio of debt stock to 50 per cent as a proportion of GDP by March 31, 2011. This would be achieved by reducing fiscal deficit and revenue deficit as a proportion of GDP from April 1, 2001.

Statement-I

*Net Receipt (i.e., disbursements less repayments)
on Loans Obtained by the Government of India*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Government Debt	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (R.E.)
1	2	3	4	5
I. External Debt on Government Account				
		809	934	1211
(a) Multilateral Institution				
		1141	1652	1645
1.	BIRD	-1451	-1761	-1301
2.	IDA	2131	2433	2147
3.	IFAD	42	31	23
4.	ADB	450	985	800

1	2	3	4	5
5.	EEC (SAC)	-1	-2	-4
6.	OPEC	-30	-34	-19
7.	ISO	0	0	0
(b) Bilateral Debt		-331	-717	-434
1.	Australia	2	-2	-3
2.	Denmark	-9	-27	-28
3.	Germany	-317	-411	-421
4.	France	-16	-182	-141
5.	Japan	1217	1348	1575
6.	Kuwait Fund	-44	-64	-62
7.	Netherlands	-173	-134	-152
8.	Saudi Fund	-24	-15	-1
9.	Russian Federation	-228	-225	-222
10.	Austria	-11	-11	-11
11.	Belgium	-24	-27	-25
12.	Canada	-53	-55	-59
13.	Rep. of Czech and Slovak	-4	-4	-4
14.	Spain	-10	-17	-17
15.	Italy	-32	-77	-72
16.	Switzerland	-26	-31	-27
17.	Sweden	-19	-163	-157
18.	U.K.	-69	-54	-17
19.	U.S.A.	-490	-565	-591

II. Domestic Debt	87846	111429	107992
(a) Market Borrowings	32499	68988	77065
(b) 91-day Treasury Bills*	-910	-209	3470
(c) Other Liabilities	56257	42650	27457
III. Total Government Debt	88655	112363	109203

*: The figures represent draw down of cash balances.

Note : The figures may not tally exactly due to rounding off errors.

Statement-II*Outstanding Debt of the Government of India*

(Rupees Crore)

S.No.	Government Debt	31-Mar-98	31-Mar-99	31-Mar-00 (RE)	30-Sept-00 (P)
1	2	3	4	5	6
I.	External Debt on Government Account*	161418	177934	186791	191924
(a)	Multilateral Institution	104218	114531	120319	124644
1.	BIRD	25438	25747	25342	25575
2.	IDA	69392	77725	82720	86166
3.	IFAD	834	939	1033	1008
4.	ADB	8220	9805	10928	11594
5.	EEC (SAC)	186	191	188	181
6.	OPEC	125	100	83	94
7.	ISO	23	24	25	26
(b)	Bilateral Debt	57200	63403	66472	67280
1.	Australia	47	48	47	48
2.	Austria	163	166	141	137
3.	Belgium	246	241	195	190
4.	Canada	1478	1432	1467	1487
5.	Rep. of Czech. & Slovak	30	26	21	17
6.	Denmark	460	473	406	383
7.	Germany	11286	11845	10354	9863
8.	France	3658	3785	3326	3117
9.	Italy	739	722	634	615
10.	Japan	25737	31600	37906	39811
11.	Kuwait Fund	368	330	274	256
12.	Netherlands	2586	2673	2286	2107
13.	Saudi Fund	66	56	56	51
14.	Sweden	1054	962	860	696
15.	Switzerland	136	117	81	72
16.	Spain	182	178	166	166
17.	U.K.	98	17	0	0
18.	U.S.A.	6698	6683	6313	6318
19.	Russian Federation	2198	2047	1941	1947

1	2	3	4	5	6
II.	Domestic Debt	722962	834552	973141	982439
	(a) Internal Debt	388998	459696	728627	765010
	(b) Other Liabilities	333964	374856	244514	217429
III.	Total Government Debt	884380	1012486	1159932	1174363

*: Government Account External debt is estimated at prevailing market exchange rates and not at Book Value.

Note : The figures may not tally exactly due to rounding off errors.

Statement-III

Principal and Interest payments on Government Debt

(Rupees Crore)

S. No.	Government Debt	1997-98 (R.E.)	1998-99 (R.E.)	1999-2000 (R.E.)
I.	External Debt on Government Account	10878	12459	13221
	(a) Principal	6768	8095	8713
	(b) Interest	4110	4364	4508
II.	Domestic Debt	412026	423172	411582
	(a) Principal*	350499	349654	319572
	1. Internal Debt	350499	349654	319572
	(b) Interest :	61527	73518	92010
	1. Internal Debt	31270	39832	72707
	2. Other Liabilities	30257	33686	19303
III.	Total Government Debt	422904	435631	424803
	(a) Principal*:	357267	357749	328285
	(b) Interest	65637	77882	96518

*: Principal payments for total Government debt does not includes repayments on other liabilities like Small Savings Deposits, Provident Funds, Special Deposits etc.

Note : The figures may not tally exactly due to rounding off errors.

Income Tax dues from Banks

435. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding amount of income-tax payable by each nationalised bank, foreign banks and the financial institutions in country, till date;

(b) the date from which this amount is outstanding;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of this outstanding amount; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government as on date to recover the outstanding amount of income tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The details of nationalised banks, foreign banks and the financial institutions with outstanding demand of over rupees 1 crore as on 31.3.2000 are given in Statement.

(b) The reported out standing demand in part (a) consist of demands of many years and under various heads like tax, interest, fine, penalty etc. All this is further subject to continuous modifications owing to possible rectifications, appeal effects, revisions etc. It would, therefore, not be possible to give the exact period since when the demands are outstanding.

(c) The outstanding taxes have accumulated because of several reasons such as litigation in appeals, stay granted by appellate authorities, pendency in Settlement Commission and BIFR, demands having not fallen due, instalments and stay granted by departmental authorities and demands pending verification of payments etc.

(d) High priority is given to the work of collection/reduction of arrear demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of cases. Wherever the recovery proceedings are stayed by the Courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures are also taken in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand. In bigger cases, the dossiers are maintained and the recovery position is reviewed regularly.

Statement

Outstanding arrear amount of Rs. 1 crore and above Banks/Financial Institutions/Foreign Banks as on 31.3.2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Banks/ Financial Institutions	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3
1.	A.P. State Finance Corporation Ltd.	1291
2.	Andhra Bank Financial Services Ltd.	1169
3.	Andhra Bank (Intt. tax)	2872
4.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	711
5.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	127
6.	Bombay Mercantiles Co-op Bank Ltd.	119
7.	Canara Bank	19235
8.	Canbank Financial Services Ltd.	3033
9.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	811
10.	City Union Bank Ltd.	249
11.	Enfield Business Finance and Leasing Ltd.	168
12.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.	21845
13.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	377
14.	Global Trust Bank Ltd. - II	2808
15.	H.D.F.C. Bank Ltd.	718
16.	H.D.F.C. Ltd.	2620
17.	Haritha Finance Ltd.	362
18.	I.D.B.I.	31026
19.	I.F.C.I. Ltd.	31438
20.	I.F.C.I. Ltd. (Intt. Tax)	911

1	2	3
21.	ICICI Banking Corporation	436
22.	Indian Bank Ltd.	3275
23.	Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.	8200
24.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1995
25.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1015
26.	Kerala Financial Corporation	530
27.	Kerala State Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	220
28.	Metropolitan Co-op Bank Ltd.	9464
29.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	268
30.	Orissa State Co-operative Bank	121
31.	P.L. Finance & Invt. Ltd.	433
32.	Rajkot Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	683
33.	S.B.I. Capital Markets Ltd.	2524
34.	S.B.I. Fund Management Ltd.	1996
35.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	503
36.	State Bank of Hyderabad	464
37.	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	122
38.	State Bank of Mysore	4471
39.	Tamilnadu Industrial Investment Corp. Ltd.	1211
40.	The Ahmedabad Dist. Co-op Bank Ltd.	289
41.	The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	252
42.	The Kalupur Commercial Bank Ltd.	153
43.	The Karun Vysya Bank Ltd.	1351
44.	The Peerless General Finance and Inv. Co. Ltd.	21855
45.	The Thane Distt. Central Co-op Bank Ltd.	588
46.	Visya Bank Leasing Ltd.	133
47.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	3727
48.	XEDD Finance and Investment Pvt. Ltd.	120
Total		185292

Sl. No.	Name of Foreign Banks	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Sakura Bank Ltd.	361
2.	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	122
3.	A.B.N. Amro Bank	2954
4.	The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd., Calcutta	1760
5.	The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd., Delhi	697
Total (Rs. in lacs)		5894

[English]

Fall of Public Sector Investments

436. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public Sector Investments have fallen behind private sector investment during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the investment in Public Sector Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) As per available information, Rs. 38944 crores have been invested in the Central Public Sector Undertakings during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 as compared to investment of Rs. 261372 crores approved for delicensed sector (IEMs) and licensable sector (LOIs) during the same period.

(b) Due to economic liberalization certain sectors of economy earlier reserved for the public sector have been opened up to the private sector in order to increase private investment in the economy.

(c) Under the scheme of granting Navratna/Mini-Ratna status to CPSUs, enhanced financial autonomy for investment decisions have been granted to allow them to invest from their own resources. At the same time, in the case of loss making CPSUs, Government considers revival of the viable sick CPSUs by further investment on case-to-case basis based on appropriate rehabilitation packages.

Modified VRS for Central Government Employees

437. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
DR. V. SAROJA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Central Govt. employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As on date, there is no proposal under consideration to introduce modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Central Government employees in general. However, a recommendation for a more liberal Voluntary Retirement Scheme in respect of surplus personnel based on the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission has been made by the Expenditure Reforms Commission.

Surcharge on Income-Tax

438. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued notification to levy surcharge on income-tax in the wake of earthquake disaster in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the other taxes being levied for the purpose;

(c) the total amount expected to be generated through it during the current financial year;

(d) the amount proposed to be provided to the State Government of Gujarat for relief and rehabilitation work; and

(e) the details of funds mobilised/being mobilised as soft loan from International Funding Agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) An Ordinance has been promulgated on 3rd February, 2001 levying a surcharge on income-tax. The Ordinance levies a further surcharge at the rate of 2% on the income-tax payable by domestic companies and by non-corporates having income above Rs. 60,000/- for the Assessment Year 2001-2002.

(c) Rs. 1,300 crores.

(d) Release of funds under the National Contingency Fund (NCCF) is governed by the guidelines of the Scheme for Constitution and Administration of National Calamity Contingency Fund, and the same is provided to meet expenditure on immediate relief and rehabilitation for calamities of severe nature relating to cyclone, draught, earthquake, fire, flood and hailstorm. The scheme envisages imposition of special surcharge for recouping of expenditure from NCCF.

(e) International Development Agency (IDA) is the soft loan affiliate of the World Bank. An assistance package is being discussed with the World Bank, including major soft loan component. The World Bank team is currently making damage and needs assessment in Gujarat.

Production of Sugar

439. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of sugar produced during last three financial years in each State and Union Territory;

(b) whether the production has exceeded the target during the same period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the quality of sugar produced by private mills has less calorie content than the sugar produced by Government mills;

(e) whether the Government propose to take action to reduce calorie level in the sugar in future;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is any proposal to withdraw the levy imposed on sugar; 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) Sugar season is reckoned from Oct. to Sept. Accordingly, the quantum of sugar produced during the last three sugar seasons in each State and Union Territory is given in and enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) No targets are fixed for production of sugar.

(d) The pure sugar has calorie content of 3955 (approx. 4000) K Cal/Kg. The sugar factories in India produce sugar as per Standard Specifications having

minimum sucrose content of 99.5% which is more or less pure sugar.

(e) There is no proposal to amend the Standard Specifications in respect of sucrose content of sugar.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) The Government has decided to de-control the sugar industry in a phased manner. The levy obligation was reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000. Government has further reduced the levy obligation from 30% to 15% with effect from 01.02.2001.

Statement

State-wise Production of Sugar

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 1997-98	Sugar Season 1998-99*(P)	Sugar Season 1999-2000* (P)
Punjab	3.29	2.94	3.90
Haryana	3.82	4.03	4.75
Rajasthan	0.29	0.26	0.14
Uttar Pradesh	39.22	37.23	45.76
Madhya Pradesh	0.68	0.85	1.03
Gujarat	8.90	10.07	11.41
Maharashtra	38.46	53.43	64.68
Bihar	2.99	2.67	3.70
Assam	0.03	0.04	0.04
Orissa	0.57	0.74	0.53
West Bengal	0.03	0.05	0.07
Nagaland	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	7.82	11.20	11.78
Karnataka	9.59	13.76	15.78
Tamilnadu	12.22	17.20	17.08
Pondicherry	0.37	0.44	0.48
Kerala	0.06	0.09	0.13
Goa	0.10	0.20	0.15
All India	128.44	155.20	181.41

*P - Provisional

Lifting of Ban on Import of Natural Rubber

440. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received demands from CAPEXIL to lift all the restrictions imposed by the Government on import of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken or being taken to protect the interests of domestic rubber cultivators ?

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

(b) CAPEXIL have requested for lifting of the ban on import of natural rubber on grounds of non-supply of all grades of Natural Rubber and delayed supply to the Advance Licence Holders (ALHs) by State Trading Corporation(STC).

(c) and (d) Import of Natural rubber against Advance Licences was banned with effect from 20-02-1999, to augment the consumption of indigenous rubber. The Advance Licence holders are required to procure natural rubber from State Trading Corporation(STC). STC have been directed to procure natural rubber from domestic market and supply the same to advance licence holders at international prices. The present policy not only provides support to the natural rubber growers, but also provides raw material for export production at international prices. There is no proposal to amend this policy.

Health Insurance Coverage for Poor

441. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for conducting an in-depth study on health insurance coverage for the poor people in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The need for adequate provision of health services to the poor people in the country cannot be over-emphasized. Presently this is taken care of through different schemes and programmes of the State and Central Governments. In addition, schemes for health insurance are also offered

by insurance companies which are available to everyone. The insurance companies have from time to time conducted surveys to identify the health insurance requirements of the people. There is no fresh proposal to conduct any in-depth study on health insurance coverage for the poor people in the country.

Coverage of Events by DD

442. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the coverage of day-to-day events by Doordarshan is poor and the private TV channels are ahead in all fronts;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to find out the factors responsible for such poor coverage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the new initiatives the Government propose to take to activate Doordarshan to compete with the private channels ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has been continuously taking various suitable steps to improve its professional standards in the presentation of news programmes etc. In fact, the improvement in any sphere including mass communication media is a continuous process and Doordarshan always adopts the latest techniques from all quarters for improvement in quality of its presentation/coverage with a view to competing with other private TV channels.

[Translation]

Posts Abolished as per 5th Pay Commission Recommendations

443. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts abolished on the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission, category-wise, so far out of the proposed abolishment of three lakh posts;

(b) the number of posts, category-wise are likely to be abolished by 31st March, 2001;

(c) whether the Government proposed for more curtailment in the number of Central Government employees from 2001-2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Decision to abolish posts is taken on the basis of functional need and justification for performing assigned functions. Recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, Report of the Staff Inspection Unit and austerity instructions issued by Government provide relevant inputs for this purpose. The abolition of posts is therefore a continuing process spread across all Ministries/Departments and no data is centrally compiled regarding the number abolished on various counts.

[English]

Increase of PDS Sugar Quota to Karnataka

444. 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 Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to increase the allocation of sugar to 33.723 metric tonnes as there are more than 111 lakh card holders and the Union Government instead of increasing the sugar quota have decreased it from 21,884.2 tonnes to 20,497.2 tonnes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Union Government propose to reconsider the request of Karnataka and increase the allocation quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government of Karnataka in December, 1998 had made a request for increasing their monthly levy sugar quota to 33723 M.Ts from 19117 M.Ts but it could not be acceded to then due to inadequate accrual of levy sugar and the same was conveyed to the State Government. However, when the monthly levy sugar quota of the States/UTs was revised to more up-to-date population figures, i.e. the projected population as on 1.3.1999 from March, 2000, the monthly quota of the Government of Karnataka got enhanced to 21860 M.Ts. Subsequently, when the Central Government decided to exclude the

Income Tax assesseees and their family members for the drawal of levy sugar from the PDS, the monthly levy quota of the Government of Karnataka got reduced to 20437 M.Ts. w.e.f. July, 2000.

Further, in view of reduction of levy sugar from 30% to 15% and restructuring of PDS w.e.f. 1st February, 2001, the Central Government have decided that levy sugar supply under PDS will be restricted to only Below Poverty Line (BPL) families except in case of Special Category States. 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 to 500 gms per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get more benefit. Accordingly, the Government of Karnataka's monthly levy quota works out to 8636 M.Ts.

Hawala Operators

445. SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi is a biggest centre of hawala dealings according to Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Central Bureau of Investigation's recent reports submitted to Government;

(b) if so, whether one of the major factor for hawala business in India is underinvoicing of imports; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Sir, no such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decline in Income in Service Sector

446. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of a sharp boom in service sector market, the growth rate of income in service trade of the country has decreased due to high growth rate of imports in comparison to exports during the year 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the latest Reserve Bank Bulletin, the total exports and imports in the services along with the net income from services during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under and both exports and net income show an increase :

	US Dollar Million	
	1998-99	1999-2000
Exports	13186	15721
Imports	11021	11865
Net Income	2165	3856

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of the Vanaspati

447. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of the vanaspati in the country during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the quality and percentage of indigenous oil and imported oil used by the manufacturers in the above period;

(c) whether import of crude palm oil has increased alarmingly in the last 11 months due to low import duty;

(d) whether a large portion of imported crude palm oil is diverted by the manufacturers for non-vanaspati use; and

(e) if so, the actions taken against the erring companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The total production of vanaspati in the country during the last three years, zone-wise is given below :

	(Qty. in '000 tonnes)			
Year	East	West	North	South
1997-98	107.8	230.4	587.2	86.3
1998-99	145.5	318.3	787.7	89.0
1999-00	131.0	236.4	805.6	98.3

(b) The quantity and percentage of indigenous oils and imported oils used by the manufacturers of vanaspati during the last three years is as under :

(Quantity in lakh MTs)

Year	Indigenous Oils used in manufacture of vanaspati		Imported Oils used in manufacture of vanaspati	
	Qty.	%age	Qty.	%age
1997-98	6.6	61	4.2	39
1998-99	5.9	42	8.1	58
1999-00	3.3	25	10.2	75

(c) Main reasons for increased import of Crude Palm Oil are significant fall in international prices, rationalisation of duty structure which encourages import of crude vegetable oil by processing units and thus value addition within the country.

(d) and (e) Based on the information furnished by the vanaspati manufacturing units, diversion of Crude Palm Oil by the manufactures for non-vanaspati use was not found.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Infrastructural Facilities

448. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has again started funding of projects for creation of infrastructural facilities in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and other States;

(b) if so, the details of the loan provided in this regard;

(c) the financial reforms and the power sector reconstruction programmes placed under "Human Need" category; and

(d) the terms and conditions prescribed in regard to the loan provided to the State Governments particularly of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The World Bank resumed funding projects for creation of infrastructural facilities after a brief gap post Pokharan II when infrastructure projects were not taken to the Board

by the World Bank management on account of expected opposition from countries, which had imposed sanctions. There is no restriction on funding infrastructural projects in any state of India through the Bank is focussing on certain reforming states.

(b) The recent infrastructure projects sanctioned by the World Bank are as under :

1. Rajasthan Power Restructuring USD 181 Million.
2. Gujarat State Highway USD 381 Million.
3. IREDA-II USD 130 Million.
4. National High Way USD 516 Million.
5. TA for telcom Sector USD 62 Million.
6. UP Power Sector Reform USD 150 Million.
7. AP Power USD 210 Million.

(c) 'Finance Reforms' as such and 'power sector restructuring programme' were not amongst 'human needs' category which was exempt from sanctions.

(d) The World Bank does not provide loans to State Governments directly. The Government of India on lends the receipt under loans in State Sector as Additional Central Assistance under standard terms of 70% loan and 30% grant (10% loan and 90% grant in certain specific States). The loan is for 20 years with 5 years grace period and carries 12.5% rate of interest.

[English]

Raids on Exporters

449. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the raids conducted by the Enforcement Directorate recently in Mumbai certain Indian exporters, who export their goods to Russia were found involved in multi-crore fraud;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount involved and the modus-operandi of the exporters involved in the fraud; and

(d) the action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

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

(b) and (c) On the basis of documents recovered by the Enforcement Directorate and subsequent interrogation of persons involved, it is suspected that certain unscrupulous exporters were abusing the policies governing exports from India to Russia against Repayment of State Rupee Credits. Among other things, overinvoicing and hawala payment abroad of large amounts are suspected.

(d) Eight persons involved in the alleged fraud, were arrested.

Storage Capacity of FCI

450. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has constructed godowns for storage of foodgrains in various State;

(b) if so, the storage capacity of these godowns as on date in each State alongwith its location;

(c) whether these godowns have been constructed keeping in view the foodgrain production of respective State;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the additional storage capacity proposed to be created in next three years in these godowns State-wise; and

(f) the amount spent annually by the Government on the maintenance of these godowns ?

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

(b) A Statement indicating the (Owned and Covered) Storage capacity as on 1-1-2001, location wise, available with FCI is given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) FCI constructs the godowns taking into account its needs for procurement, distribution and buffer stocking.

(e) During the current Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002). FCI has proposed to construct storage capacity of

4.67 lakh tonnes of which 2.11 lakh tonnes capacity has been constructed upto December, 2000.

The Central Warehousing Corporation has also been assigned to construct about 2.20 lakh metric tonnes storage capacity during the current plan for the use of FCI. The State Warehousing Corporations in Punjab and other procuring States are also constructing godowns for the use of FCI.

The Government has also formulated a National Storage Policy aimed at harnessing the resources of the private and public sector for augmentation of infrastructure to handle foodgrains including construction of Bulk Storage facilities and also for conventional godowns under 'Build-Own-Operate' Scheme.

(f) The amount spent on maintenance of FCI godowns during the last three years is as follows :

	Rs. in Crores (Provisional)
1997-98	22.41
1998-99	18.00
1999-2000	25.00

Statement

The owned covered Storage Capacity Location-wise available with FCI as on 1.1.2001

Figures in '000' Tonnes

Name of the State : Bihar

Name of the Revenue District	Name of the Centre	Capacity (Owned)
1	2	3
Deoghar	1. Jasidish	12.50
Darbhanga	2. Darbhanga	5.74
Madhubani	3. Jainagar	9.67
Gaya	4. Gaya (FSD)	64.72
	5. Gaya (Bins)	32.00
Dhanbad	6. Dhanbad	13.74
Chanpatia	7. Chanpatia	6.28
Muzaffarpur	8. Muzaffarpur	7.60
	9. Narainpur Anant	39.67

1	2	3
Buxer	10. Buxer	25.00
Patna	11. Dighaghat	32.44
	12. Mokameh	57.63
	13. Phulwari Shariff	56.97
Purnea	14. Belouri (Purnea)	8.98
Katihar	15. Katihar	10.84
Palamu	16. Daltonganj	14.64
East Singhbhum	17. Jamshedpur	10.84
Gumla	18. Gumla	3.34
Ranchi	19. Ranchi	11.67
Saharsa	20. Saharsa	14.64

Name of the State : Orissa

Bhadrak	21. Ranital	20.00
Balasore	22. Rupsae	10.00
	23. Jaleswar	5.00
Mayurbhanj	24. Badam Pahar	10.00
Keonjhar	25. Keonjhar	5.00
	26. Barbil	5.00
Berhampur	27. Jagannathpur	14.42
Khandamal	28. Phulbani	5.00
Khurda	29. Bhubaneswar	8.14
	30. Khurda Road	16.48
Dhenkanal	31. Dhenkanal	10.00
Angul	32. Angul	5.00
Kalahandi	33. Kesinga	13.34
Sonepur	34. Dungarpalli	15.00
Baragarh	35. Attabira	8.34
Sambhalpur	36. Hirakud	20.00
Jharsuguda	37. Balijhari	40.00
	38. Jharsuguda	10.00
Sundargarh	39. Rourkela	12.50
Korapur	40. Umeri (Jypore)	17.50
Nowrangpur	41. Nowangpur	7.50
Rayagada	42. Rayagada	10.00

1	2	3
Name of the State : West Bengal		
Bankura	43. Adra	80.00
	44. Bikna (FSD)	24.48
	45. Bikna (MRM)	2.31
Birbhum	46. Suri (Abdarpur)	43.20
Cooch Bihar	47. Baburhat	5.00
Hooghly	48. Chunsurah	5.00
	49. Dhankuni	20.00
	50. Saree Rempore	6.24
Malda	51. Mangalabari	26.50
Midnapur	52. Midnapur	35.78
Murshidabad	53. Behrampur	11.28
Nadia	54. Bhat Jungla	20.00
	55. Mabadwip	1.26
Purulia	56. Balrampur	8.20
	57. Chharrah	17.56
24-Paraganas	58. Ashok Nagar	5.00
Dakshin Dinajpur	59. Buniadpur (FSD)	21.20
	60. Buniadpur (MRM)	1.20
Uttar Dinajpur	61. Raiganj	7.50
Darjeeling	52. Debgram	68.00
Calcutta	63. Calcutta (Port)	19.00
Calcutta (North)	64. Jinjira Pool (JJP)	174.00
Calcutta (North)	65. OJM (Budge Budge)	110.47
Nadia	66. Kalyani	117.38
Burdwan	67. Durgapur	25.26
	68. Sitarpore	8.20
Name of the States : Delhi		
Bomdilla	69. Bhalukpon	5.00
Papumpara	70. Banderdewa	5.00
Changlang	71. Khar song (*)	5.00
East Siang	72. Passighar	2.50
Name of the State : Meghalaya		
West Garo Hills	73. Tura	5.00
East Khasi Hills	74. Shillong	5.00

1	2	3
Name of the State : Mizoram		
Lunglei	75. Lunglei(*)	3.00
	76. Bhairabi(*)	5.00
Aizwal	77. Aizwal	4.59
	78. Kolasib	5.00
Name of the State : Manipur		
Imphal	79. Songauprow	12.75
Ukhrul	80. Ukhrul	5.00
Name of the State : Nagaland		
Kohima	81. Dimapur	0.50
Mon	82. Mon	2.22
Mukuchong	83. Mukuchong	2.50
Tuensang	84. Tuensang	2.50
Name of the State : Tripura		
West Tripura	85. Churiabari	1.67
North Tripura	86. Dharam Nagar	15.00
(*) Capacity completed but not yet taken over.		
Name of the State : Assam		
Kamrup	87. Guwahati	31.06
Thiu	88. Thiu	9.04
Jorhat	89. Cinnamora	13.84
Kokrajhar	90. Gossaigaon	7.10
North Lakhimpur	91. Narainpur	15.00
	92. North Lakhimpur	8.98
Dhemaji	93. Dhemaji	5.64
Karbianglong	94. Diphu	5.00
Nagaon	95. Hojai (12.70FSD + 4.51MRM)	17.24 (2)
Cachar	96. Sanchowa	6.92
Karimnagar	97. Ram Nagar	20.00
Gowalpara	98. Badarpurghat	5.00
	99. Joggigoppa	5.00
Dibrugarh	100. Dibrugarh	11.28
Tinsukhia	101. Tinsukhia	9.42

1	2	3
Darang	102. Tangla	16.28
Sonitpur	103. Bindukuri	12.50
Name of the State : Delhi		
Mayapuri (South/West)	104. (Naraina (FSD)	81.66
	105. (Naraina (Silo)	21.30
Central District	106. (New Pusa (CTO)	17.62
New Delhi	107. Okhla	13.36
Shaktinagar (West)	108. Ghevra	122.13
North/East	109. Narela	50.00
North	110. Shakti Nagar	30.00
Name of the State : Haryana		
Faridabad	111. Faridabad (FSD)	43.34
	112. Faridabad (Silo)	20.00
	113. Palwal	11.06
Bhiwani	114. Bhiwani	11.67
	115. Bhiwani Khera	10.00
Hissar	116. Barwala	10.64
	117. Hissar	21.92
	118. Tohana	10.00
Fatehabad	119. Bhattu	15.00
	120. Fatehabad	19.62
	121. Debwali	20.00
	122. Ellananbad	13.34
	123. Kalanwali	15.00
	124. Sirsa (Old)	22.50
	125. Sirsa (BG)	23.24
Karnal	126. Karnal	18.23
	127. Karnal (TS)	4.00 MRM
	128. Taraori	33.56
Ambala	129. Ambala Cantt.	11.31
Panipat	130. Panipat (Old)	15.00
	131. Panipat (BG)	53.34
Kurukshetra	132. Kurukshetra (Old)	10.64

1	2	3
	133. Kurukshetra (BG)	30.00
	134. Sahabad	2.56
	135. Pehowa	23.32
Kaithal	136. Cheeka	12.18
	137. Gulha	10.00
	138. Dhand	9.60
	139. Kaithal (Dhand BG)	70.00
	140. Kaithal	13.56
Rohak	141. Rohtak	23.78
Jind	142. Narwana (Old)	8.34
	143. Narwana (BG)	80.92
	144. Safidon (Old)	9.60
	145. Safidon (BG)	25.00
Sonepat	146. Gohana	22.29
	147. Sonepat	10.00
Name of the State : Himachal Pradesh		
Una	148. Una	2.50
Hamipur	149. Hamipur	1.67
	150. Noorpur	5.00
Kullu	151. Kullu	1.67
Jammu	152. Chatha	13.84
	153. Jammu	21.60
Khatua	154. Khatua	5.00
	155. Khillani (Doda)	2.50
Rajouri	156. Rajouri	2.50
Poonch	157. Poonch	2.50
Anantnag	158. Anantnag	10.00
Srinagar	159. Srinagar	11.00
Baramulla	160. Baramulla	3.40
Leh	161. Leh	2.50
	162. Kargil	2.50
Name of the State : Punjab		
Amritsar	163. Bhagtanwala	7.60
	164. Bharariwal	16.15
	165. Bhikiwind	5.00

1	2	3	1	2	3
	166. Chhabal-1	9.03		201. Roranwali	8.34
	167. Jandiala-1	30.00		202. Talwandi	14.40
	168. N. Pun nawan	10.00		203. Zira	18.35
	169. Majitha	6.12		204. Guruharsahai	20.00
	170. Mehta	9.85	Gurdaspur	205. Batala-I	23.30
	171. Rayya	21.50		206. Batala-II	16.20
	172. Tarantaran	12.10		207. Dhariwal	18.34
	173. Vallah	15.00		208. Gurdaspur-I	12.12
Bhatinda	174. Bhatinda	29.81	Pathankot	209. Pathankot	25.47
	175. Bhuchu	9.46	Hoshiarpur	210. Balachaur	16.67
	176. Budhalada	10.84		211. Dasuya	21.27
	177. Sardulgarh	15.00		212. Garhshankar	6.25
	178. Talwandi-Bhai	15.00		213. Hoshiarpur	15.00
Mansa	179. Mansa	12.73		214. Mukerian	10.17
	180. Rampuraphul	10.00		215. Nasarala	9.78
Faridkot	181. Bariwala	18.34		216. Tanda (Old)	16.67
	182. Faridkot	27.25		217. Tanda (New)	48.36
	183. Kotkapura	24.75	Jalandhar	218. Adampur	10.00
	184. Kotkapura (B.G.)	80.00		219. Apra	13.59
	185. Lakhewali	11.28		220. Banga	13.94
	186. Nihalsinghwala	8.75		221. Bhogpur	3.34
Moga	187. Bhagpurna	10.00		222. Jalandhar	18.76
	188. Malout (Old)	10.00		223. Ladanwali	9.46
	189. Malout (BG)	30.00		224. Lohiankhas	10.00
	190. Moga (Old)	43.41		225. Nakodar	11.38
	191. Moga (Silo)	20.00		226. Nawansahar	38.98
	192. Doda	12.31	Ludhiana	227. Chawapail	11.00
Mukhtasar	193. Bhagsar	8.84		228. Doraha	15.64
Ferozepur	194. Abohar	15.00		229. Gobindgarh (Silo)	20.00
	195. Dharmkot	15.00		230. Hathur	15.00
	196. Fazilka	10.00		231. Jagraon (FSD)	27.95
	197. Ferozepur	10.20		232. Jagraon (Silo)	20.00
	198. Jallalabad	22.50		233. Jamalpur	30.00
	199. Laduka	8.34		234. Khammanan	10.00
	200. Makhu	11.67		235. Khanna GT Road	45.65

1	2	3
	236. Kilaraipur	13.75
	237. Ludhiana (Gill Road)	18.05
	238. Machiwara	13.14
	239. Maloud	16.67
	240. Rajkot	10.43
	241. Sahnewal	75.00
	242. Sahghol	15.58
Patiala	243. Mullanpur	17.89
	244. Amloh	15.00
	245. Bannur	13.34
	246. Dhudhan	13.49
	247. Chinarthal	14.23
	248. Ghannur	12.24
	249. Patiala (Old)	25.10
	250. Patiala (BG)	79.18
Nabha	251. Nabha	20.00
	252. Patran	17.14
	253. Rajpura (Old)	11.68
	254. Rajpura (BG)	60.00
	255. Samana	12.84
	256. Sirhind	11.89
Sangrur	257. Ahmedgarh	21.76
	258. Barnala	56.92
	259. Bahadur	13.59
	260. Bhawanigarh	5.00
	261. Dhuri	20.00
	262. Dhuri (BG)	61.69
	263. Khanauri	10.00
	264. Malerkotla	33.34
	265. Mehalkalan	12.95
	266. Sangrur	48.14
	267. Suram	18.47
	268. Tapa	6.92
Kapurthala	269. Bhalot	15.00
	270. Kapurthala (Old)	10.00

1	2	3
	271. Kapurthala (BG)	15.00
	272. Phagwara	14.39
	273. Sultanpur Lodhi	18.34
Name of the State : Rajasthan		
Alwar	274. Alwar	13.34
	275. Kherli	13.40
Bharatpur	276. Bharatpur	12.31
Dholpur	277. Dholpur	11.67
Ajmer	278. Ajmer	42.34
	279. Kishangarh	14.42
Bhilwara	280. Bhilwara	11.68
Nagaur	281. Nagaur	17.90
Pali	282. Marwar Junction	10.00
	283. Pali	15.22
Bikaner	284. Bikaner-4	17.50
Jhunjhunu	285. Jhunjhunu	13.13
Churu	286. Churu	11.93
	287. Sadulpur	9.61
	288. Sujangarh	8.34
Dausa	289. Bandikui	19.42
Jaipur	290. Gandhi Nagar	26.78
Sikar	291. Sikar	13.34
Tonk	292. Newai	21.34
Barmer	293. Barmer	26.54
Jalore	294. Jalore	12.92
Jaisalmer	295. Pokhran	15.00
Jodhpur	296. Jodhpur	32.50
Baran	297. Baran	7.50
Bundi	298. Bundi	15.00
	299. Keshor Patan	11.67
Kota	300. Shivpura (Kota)	32.18
Jhalawar	301. Bhawandi Mandi	10.00
Sawaimadhopur	302. Sawaimadhopur	91.12
Sriganganagar	303. Sri Bijaya Nagar	20.65

1	2	3
Hanumangarh	304. Hanumangarh	41.42
Banswara	305. Banswara	10.00
Chittorgarh	306. Chanderia	24.00
Sirohi Road	307. Sirohi Rload	11.67
Udaipur	308. Udaipur	41.19
Name of the State : Uttar Pradesh		
Agra	309. Agra	54.80
Ferozabad	310. Shikohabad	24.21
Mainpur	311. Mainpur	0.54
Bareilly	312. Bareilly	39.51
	313. Parasakhera	25.00
Pilibhit	314. Pilibhit	7.50
Bulandshahr	315. Bulandshahr (Imlia)	13.34
	316. Khurja (FSD)	16.10
	317. Khurja (Silo)	20.00
	318. Shyamnagar	8.79
	319. Chandpur Road	25.84
Barabanki	320. Barabanki (Old)	17.56
	321. Barabanki (New)	55.00
Faizabad	322. Faizabad	39.23
Basti	323. Basti	5.74
Gorakhpur	324. Gorakhpur	35.54
Ghaziabad	325. Hapur (61.91+15.36)	77.27(2)
Meerut	326. Partapur	29.58
Pithoragarh	327. Pithoragarh	2.50
Rampur	328. Dhamora	35.00
Udhamsing Nagar	329. Bazpur	10.00
	330. Rudrapur (FSD)	45.40
	331. Rudrapur (MRM)	5.60
Jalaun	332. Orai	29.48
Jhansi	333. Jhansi	19.04
Etawah	334. Etawah	13.06
Kanpur	335. Chanderi (Kanpur)	121.08
	336. Kanpur (Silo)	72.00

1	2	3
Raibareilly	337. Raibareilly	40.00
Lucknow	338. Lucknow (Talkatora)	36.50
	339. Lucknow (Silo)	20.00
Moradabad	340. Moradabad	23.35
Mirzapur	341. Mirzabad	7.32
Varanasi	342. Varanasi	71.42
	343. Vyasnagar	25.00
Allahabad	344. Naini (Allahabad)	51.97
Fatehapur	345. Fatehapur	8.34
Azamgarh	346. Azamgarh	22.30
Padrauna	347. Padrauna	2.50
Banda	348. Attra	12.30
	349. Banda	5.00
Mahoba	350. Mahoba	10.00
Gonda	351. Gonda	30.00
Sahajahanpur	352. Roza	50.00
	353. Sahajahanpur	13.98
Hardoi	354. Hardoi	11.92
Lakhimpur Kheri	355. Lakhimpur Kheri	12.24
Sitapur	356. Sitapur	25.77
Aligarh	357. Aligarh	12.50
	358. Harduaganj	82.20
Hathras	359. Hathras	13.36
Etah	360. Etah	11.89
	361. Kasganj	9.16
Mathura	362. Kosikalan	57.58
	363. Mathura	13.10
Name of the State : Andhra Pradesh		
Hyderabad	364. Sanathnagar	53.76
Rangareddy	365. Cherlapalli	100.00
Warangal	366. Kazipet	84.97
Karimnagar	367. Jammikunta	40.00
	368. Pedapalli	13.30
Adilabad	369. Macherial	25.50
Khammam	370. Khammam (Old)	10.84
	371. Khammam (New)	60.00

1	2	3
Nalgonda	372. Nalgonda	30.00
	373. Miryalguda (FSD)	57.40
	374. Miryalguda (MRM)	5.60
Chittoor	375. Chittoor	10.00
Anantpur	376. Zangapalli	75.0
	377. Tiimancheral	26.48
Guntur	378. Sattanapalli	17.56
Prakasham	379. Ongole	30.00
Krishnacanal	380. Krishna Canal	12.31
	381. Nizavidu (hanuman Jn)	30.00
	382. Guddivada	60.00
West Godawari	383. Tadepalligudem	9.20
	384. Bhawanivaram	19.80
	385. Palakole	10.64
	386. Aktividu	14.62
	387. Eluru	26.76
	388. Pennada	70.00
	389. Nidadavole	14.59
East Godawari	390. Kakinanda	36.60
	391. Biccavole	20.00
	392. Samalkot	50.00
	393. Doweleswaram	50.00
Srikakulam	394. Amdalavalsa	24.87
	395. Vizag (FSD)	40.79
	396. Bobbili	2.00
	397. Vizag Port	41.56
Andaman Nikobar	398. Port Blair	7.50
Name of the State : Kerala		
Alleppy	399. Alleppy	10.00
	400. Mavelikara	20.00
Calicut	401. Thikkodi	39.00
	402. West Hill (Calicut)	36.48
Malapuram	403. Kuttipuram	5.00
Wynad	404. Meenangudi	5.00

1	2	3
Ernakulam	405. Angamali	40.00
	406. Willingdon (Island)	60.30
Kottayam	407. Chingavanam	50.64
Kuttikanam	408. Arnakulam	5.00
Kannur	409. Muzhappulangad	12.56
	410. Mileswhar	10.00
Palaghat	411. Angadipuram	10.00
	412. Olavakot (Palaghat)	72.02
Quilon	413. Avaneswarm	9.20
	414. Karungapally	30.00
	415. Kililollur	5.00
	416. Quilon	13.18
Trichur	417. Chalakudy	10.00
	418. Mulakunnathukavu	50.24
Trivandrum	419. Kazhakkuttam	36.74
	420. Vailathura (TVM)	34.08
Name of the State : Karnataka		
Bangalore	421. Bangalore	49.54
	422. White Field	85.00
Kolar	423. Kolar	5.50
Dharwad	424. Hubli	10.92
	425. Bammapur	30.00
Udupi	426. Udupi	10.00
Mandya	427. Maddur	4.61
Mysore	428. K.R. Nagar	11.00
	429. Mysore	10.00
Ghamrajnagar	430. Nanjahgad	8.64
	431. Kushalnagar	2.50
Tumkur	432. Tumkur	5.00
Bellary	433. Bellary	25.00
Hassan	434. Hassan	10.00
Shimoga	435. Bhadrawati	5.64
	436. Gidikoppa	12.73

1	2	3
Name of the State : Tamilnadu		
Coimbatore	437. Coimbatore	55.25
	438. Peelamadu	110.00
Salem	439. Salem	15.00
Chennai	440. Avadi	161.00
	441. Egmore	29.37
Tuticorin	442. Tuticorin	35.20
South Arcot	443. Chidambaram (Silo)	5.60
	444. Chidambaram (MRM)	2.00
Thanjavur	445. Mannargudi	1.54
	446. Sambanarkoi (Silo)	6.10
	447. Sambanarkoil (MRD)	5.60
	448. Thanjavur	0.88
	449. SEP Sembanarkoi	0.48
North Arcot	450. Arkonam	29.26
	451. Sevoor	60.00
Chennai	452. Harbour (Port)	40.00
Name of the State : Gujarat		
Panch Mahal	453. Bhamaiya	30.00
	454. Godhra	23.96
Vadodra	455. Baroda	14.25
Valsad	456. Valsad	10.00
Bhavnagar	457. Bhavnagar	20.00
Jamnagar	458. Jamnagar	30.00
Rajkot	459. Wanker	10.00
	460. Ghanteswar	10.00
Surendranagar	461. Wadhwan (S. Nagar)	10.00
Ahmedabad	462. Sabarmati	101.62
	463. Viramgam	35.00
	464. Palampur	30.48
Banasakantha	465. Mehsana	11.12
Mehsana	466. Gandhidham	50.50
Kauchh	467. Kandla	93.36

1	2	3
Name of the State : Maharashtra		
Mumbai City	468. G.I.C.	20.94
	469. Sewree	27.36
	470. Wadala	39.00
Mumbai City	471. Genl. Motors	14.30
Mumbai City	472. Bhiwandi	10.00
	473. Borivilli (MSD)	169.86
	474. Borivilli (Silo)	104.00
Panval	475. Panval	91.67
Manmad	476. Manmad (FSU)	330.00
	477. Manmad (Silo)	84.00
Bhandra	478. Gondia	30.00
Nagpur	479. Nagpur	74.98
Wardha	480. Wardha	105.00
Ahmednagar	481. Ahmednagar	5.00
Sholapur	482. Sholapur	32.00
Ratnagiri	483. Ratnagiri	10.00
Pune	484. Poona	29.00
Name of the State : Madhya Pradesh		
Bhopal	485. Bhopal	25.00
Betul	486. Betul	10.00
Hishingabad	487. Itarsi	86.25
Bilaspur	488. Behla	8.34
	489. Bilaspur	35.12
	490. Kargi Road	15.00
	491. Shakti	12.50
	492. Naila	14.28
Raigarh	493. Pharsia	30.64
	494. Phaigarh	10.64
Shahdol	495. Sahado	5.64
Sargurja	496. Bishrampur	13.34
Suna	497. Ashok Nagar	11.98
Datia	498. Datia	7.50
Gwalior	499. Gwalior	12.50

1	2	3
Nageena	500. Sherpur Kalam	11.28
Jhabua	501. Megh Nagar	5.00
Balaghat	502. Balaghat	20.31
	503. Katangi	13.98
	504. Wara Seoni	10.00
Jabalpur	505. Jabalpur	10.64
	506. Katni	8.64
Seoni	507. Seoni	8.34
Bastar	508. Jagdalpur	10.64
Durg	509. Durg	53.95
Rajnandgaon	510. Rajnandgaon	71.63
Raipur	511. Baghtpara	10.67
	512. Dhamand	21.67
	513. Mahasasund	14.16
	514. Mandi hasaud	25.00
	515. Neora Pilda	21.92
	516. Raipur	25.09
	517. Rajin	15.64
Chhatarpur	518. Harpapur	10.00
Satna	519. Satna	6.92
Tikamgarh	520. Tikamgarh	15.00
	521. Newar	18.14
Sagar	522. Bina	6.28
Vidisha	523. Vidisha	10.00
Ratlam	524. Ratlam	8.96
Ujjain	525. Ujjain	15.00
Goa	526. Goa	15.00
Goa		
Pondicherry(UT)		
South Arcot.	527. Pondicherry	5.00
Villupuram	528. Keraal	7.50
Ramaswamy	529. T.V. oil	28.70
Chandigarh(UT)		
Ropar	530. Chamkur Sahib	13.34
	531. Kharar	7.20

1	2	3
	532. Rupar	11.90
	533. Mori	7.50
Sikkim(UT)		
East Distt.	534. Rangoo	7.30
	+1 in Hapur	
	+1 in Sikkim	
<hr/>		
Total 536		
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Decontrolling of Sugar Sector

451. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to decontrol the sugar sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the supply of sugar in Public Distribution System will be totally stopped as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to make available sugar through public distribution system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to de-control the sugar industry in a phased manner. The levy obligation was reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 01.01.2000. Government has further reduced the levy obligation from 30% to 15% w.e.f. 01.02.2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Losses Incurred by Insurance Companies

452. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector General Insurance Companies are running under loss;

(b) whether the expenditure of all these four subsidiaries of General Insurance Companies is higher as compared to the income earned by them through premium; and

(c) if so, the company-wise details of the annual expenditure and income earned through premium by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. The companies are making overall net profits.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The company-wise details for the year 1999-2000 are as under :

Rupees in Crores

Company	National	New India	Oriental	United India
Net Premium	1615	2477	1632	1753
Expenditure				
• Incurred claims	1303	1906	13332	1529
• Expenses and Commission	472	603	494	430
• Unexpired Risk Reserves	72	146	104	71
Net Underwriting results	(-)232	(-)178	(-)298	(-)277

Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

453. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the Public Sector Undertakings in which investment is proposed to be made in the next financial year;

(b) whether the Public Sector Undertakings which are running in losses are likely to be selected for this purpose on priority basis;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of Public Sector Undertakings where investment is being made at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Investment in public sector undertakings is based on the need of new projects, requirement of existing PSUs, demand of market/strategic considerations, availability of funds and factors like availability of raw materials and other natural resources. For losses making PSUs referred to BIFR further investment is considered based on the appropriate rehabilitation/revival package approved by BIFR on case to case basis.

(d) Based on the information contained in PE Survey 1997-98 and 1998-99 an investment of Rs. 7602 crores were made in the PSUs during the year 1998-99.

Value of Rupee

454. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of rupee has fallen against the major foreign currencies;

(b) if so, the extent to which the value of rupee has fallen from January, 2000 to December 2000, month-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country's forex reserve has increased during this period;

(d) if so, the extent thereof and the sources from which the contributions have added to the forex reserve; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the fall in the value of Indian Rupee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The rupee appreciated by 5.1 percent against the Euro, by 2.8 percent against the Pound Sterling and by 1.6 percent against the Japanese Yen from January 2000 to December 2000, while it depreciated by 7.0 percent against the US dollar during the same period. The extent of appreciation/depreciation(-) of rupee against each of these currencies in each of the months from January 2000 to December 2000 is given below :

Month	Rs/US dollar	App/Dep (-) of rupee(%)	Rs./Yen*	App/Dep (-) of rupee(%)	Rs./Euro	App/Dep (-) of rupee(%)	Rs./Pound St.	App/Dep (-) of rupee(%)
Dec. 99	43.49		42.39		44.01		70.18	
Jan. 00	43.55	-0.14	41.50	2.14	44.29	-0.63	71.43	-1.75
Feb. 00	43.61	-0.14	39.90	4.01	42.92	3.19	69.92	2.16
Mar. 00	43.59	0.05	40.86	-2.35	42.08	2.00	68.93	1.44
Apr. 00	43.64	-0.11	41.42	-1.35	41.30	1.89	69.05	-0.17
May 00	43.98	-0.77	40.69	1.79	39.87	3.59	66.40	3.99
Jun. 00	44.69	-1.59	42.09	-3.33	42.41	-5.99	67.46	-1.57
Jul. 00	44.78	-0.20	41.53	1.35	42.14	0.64	67.59	-0.19
Aug. 00	45.68	-1.97	42.30	-1.82	41.38	1.84	68.02	-0.63
Sep. 00	45.89	-0.46	42.97	-1.56	39.93	3.63	65.76	3.44
Oct. 00	46.34	-0.97	42.76	0.49	39.71	0.55	67.34	-2.35
Nov. 00	46.78	-0.94	42.97	-0.49	40.03	-0.80	66.73	0.91
Dec. 00	46.75	0.06	41.73	2.97	41.87	-4.39	68.28	-2.27

*Rupees per 100 Yens.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The country's forex reserves increased from US \$34.9 billion at end-December, 1999 to US \$40.1 billion at end-December, 2000, an increase of US \$5.2 billion during January 2000 to December 2000. The forex reserves have further increased in the subsequent period to US \$41.7 billion as on February 9, 2001. Movements in foreign exchange reserves reflect the net outcome of inflows and outflows of foreign exchange on account of transactions in the current and capital accounts of India's balance of payments. Therefore, it is not possible to establish a one-to-one correspondence between changes in reserves and movement in each of these transactions. However, the rise in foreign exchange reserves during 2000-01 so far has been supported by the sharp increase in exports and continued buoyancy in invisible receipts. Capital flows were augmented by the inflow of about US \$5.5 billion from India Millennium Deposits (IMD) floated by the State Bank of India during October-November 2000.

(e) The day-to-day movements in exchange rates are largely determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market in India. The developments in the financial markets in India and abroad are monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to reduce excessive volatility in the exchange rate,

prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop an orderly foreign exchange market conditions and to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

[English]

Temporary Employees of Andhra Bank

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

(a) the State-wise number of temporary employees with Andhra bank;

(b) whether any representation to regularise them is pending with the Government; and

(c) if so, the final decision of Government to this demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) In terms of a settlement entered into by Andhra Bank with the majority Award Staff Union in the Bank on 9.1.1995 in the matter of empanelment and absorption of temporary candidates in the Subordinate Staff Cadre, bank has got 1169 empanelled temporary employees. State-wise details of these empanelled candidates are as under :

Kerala	8
Karnataka	26
Andhra Pradesh	985
Tamil Nadu	37
Maharashtra	14
West Bengal	17
Bihar	3
Orissa	60
Madhya Pradesh	7
Uttar Pradesh	7
Chandigarh.	2
Rajasthan	2
Pondicherry	1

(Rs. crores)

Total	1169
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(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Storing Buffer Stock of Foodgrains**

456. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the Government have to bear extra expenditure for the storage and maintenance of the additional buffer stock of Foodgrains in the Government godowns;

(b) if so, the annual extra expenditure incurred on this account in the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the amount of expenditure estimated to be incurred during the current year so far; and

(d) the source from which the Government has drawn money to bear this extra burden ?

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

(b) The estimated additional expenditure incurred on net surplus of wheat and rice over the requirement of TPDS during the financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was as under :

Year	Additional Expenditure
1997-98	904
1998-99	1392
1999-2000	2797

(c) The additional expenditure during the current financial year will be finalized after the finalization of the accounts for the year as the stock position varies on a day to day basis.

(d) Food Corporation of India undertake its operations through bank borrowings by availing cash credit facilities from a consortium of Banks constituted by the Reserve Bank of India. These borrowings are replenished by Government of India through the food subsidy budget in due course of time.

Export of Turmeric

457. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of India's monopoly in respect of Turmeric in World market, the percentage of export is only 5% of the total production;

(b) if so, the reasons for such low percentage of export; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of turmeric ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) During 1998-99, the percentage of turmeric exports was 6.2% of its total production. India, being the leading producer and exporter of turmeric in the World market, is already meeting approximately over 90% of the total international demand of turmeric. Since the international demand is limited, the percentage of turmeric exports to its total production is also low.

(c) Steps taken to increase export of turmeric include :

- Supply of polythene sheets at subsidized cost for drying turmeric under hygienic conditions.
- Assist exporters in setting up/upgradation of in-house laboratories.
- Regular training programmes for quality upgradation of turmeric.

- (iv) Undertake reproductive toxicology studies of curcumin for promoting export of turmeric products.

Spices Board is also implementing schemes like award of Spice House Certificate and Indian Spices Logo; Promotion of Indian brands abroad; Technology transfer and infrastructure upgradation; Trade promotion; Product development and end use development etc. for boosting export of spices including turmeric.

Industrial Growth

458. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI PUSP JAIN :

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

(a) the present industrial growth in the country at domestic as well as international level;

(b) the percentage of increase/decrease in the industrial growth rate as compared to previous three years;

(c) whether the industrial growth rate in the country during the current year has also slow-downed in comparison to the last year;

(d) if so, the estimated industrial growth rate during current year and the extent to which it is less than the targets fixed alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) the sectors where production has shown downtrend; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the industrial growth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The industrial growth rate during April-December, 2000 has been 5.7%. The industrial growth rate during 1990-99 for India and selected group of countries as per World Development Report 2000-01 is given below :

Country Group	Average annual industrial Growth (1990-1999)
Low Income	1.1
Middle Income	4.4
High Income	2.6
India	6.7

(b) The percentage increase in the industrial production during the previous three years has been as below :

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
6.7	4.1	6.5

(c) and (d) The industrial growth rate in the country during the current year (April-December, 2000) has declined to 5.7% from the growth rate of the 6.4% in the corresponding period of the previous year. The slow down during the current year has been mainly due to lack of aggregate demand, infrastructure bottle necks and increasing cost of energy, particularly in the wake of the increase in international crude oil prices.

(e) Manufacturing and Electricity sectors have shown down trend during April-December, 2000.

(f) To boost the industrial growth the Government has taken the following steps :

- Delicensing of all industries other than six for strategic and safety consideration.
- Reduction in the bank rate and cash reserve ratio announced by RBI.
- Liberalisation of Technology imports.
- Rationalization of the excise and custom duty regime.
- Liberalisation of FDI, with a number of sectors being put on automatic route.
- Replacement of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Patent of Herbs

459. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for patenting certain herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which necessary and effective action will be taken in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Excise and Customs Evasion Cases
Pending in Court**

460. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cases in regard to customs and excise duty evasion pending in the courts alongwith the amount involved in each case;

(b) whether the Government propose to enact any law for quick disposal of disputed cases and immediate recovery of outstanding dues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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.

Export Oriented Zones

461. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any comprehensive feasibility report from Bihar and other States for granting necessary approval to develop the selected centres as Export Oriented Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Committee of I and B Ministers
of State**

462. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee including Information Ministers of State for the development of entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the composition and the terms of reference made to the Committee; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations ?

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

(b) Details are given in the Statement.

(c) No specific time frame has been prescribed for the Committee to submit its recommendations.

Statement

The composition of the Committee constituted vide this Ministry's order No. 103/1/2001 dated 14.2.2001 is as follows :

- (i) Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting-Chairperson,
- (ii) Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting-Vice Chairman,
- (iii) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Assam,
- (iv) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government in Gujarat,
- (v) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
- (vi) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Jharkand;
- (vii) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Karnataka;
- (viii) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Maharashtra;
- (ix) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Mizoram;
- (x) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Rajasthan;
- (xi) Minister in charge of Information and PR, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The terms of reference of the Committee are :

- (i) To suggest a policy framework, both at the Centre and in the States, conducive for nurturing the entertainment sector;
- (ii) To recommend changes in the legislative and regulatory framework due to the changing/evolving canvas of the entertainment sector;

- (iii) To identify the additional infrastructure needs in terms of, inter-alia, education, training, software production facilities, exhibition etc.
- (iv) To suggest measures for boosting exports;
- (v) To identify ways for providing finance for cinema;
- (vi) To review the taxation regime and recommend changes which could be made conducive to greater revenue generation, and at the same time, also encouraging the entertainment sector;
- (vii) Any other issue related or incidental for achieving the potential of the entertainment sector.

Advisory Group on Tax Reforms

463. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Planning Commission Advisory Group on tax reforms has suggested lowering of corporate and personal income-tax during the 10th Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The suggestions of the Planning Commission Advisory Group on tax reforms are under consideration as a part of the annual budget exercise and the decision of the Government, if any, will be reflected in the Finance Bill, 2001 which is scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 28th February, 2001.

Shortage of Currency Note of Smaller Denomination

464. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of currency notes of smaller denominations;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce plastic currency notes on account of durability; and

(d) if so, by when the plastic currency notes are likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Currency notes in the denominations of rupee one, rupee two and rupees five are no longer printed and the notes already in circulation will get replaced by coins. The Government Mints are being modernised to increase their production capacity. As a short-term measure, Government is importing coins to improve the availability of coins to the public.

(c) and (d) A Committee constituted by the Government on increasing life of Indian Bank Notes is examining all aspects including change in substrate from paper to plastic.

Programme Advisory Committees

465. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Programme Advisory Committees have been set up for different Doordarshan and AIR Kendras;

(b) if so, the details of appointing authority norms for composition of such Committees and the number of meetings held by each Kendra during the last two years;

(c) whether such Committees have not been set up for some Kendras; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) With the constitution of Prasar Bharati as an autonomous body with effect from 23rd November, 1997, Prasar Bharati is competent to constitute Programme Advisory Committees (PACs). Prasar Bharati Board has decided to formulate new guidelines before forming PACs in Doordarshan Kendras/AIR Stations. Pending finalisation of guidelines, PACs which were constituted by the Government in 1995-96 for a tenure of two years are still functioning in 74 AIR Stations. Prasar Bharati has mentioned that meetings of such committees are held once in three months. Prasar Bharati has further intimated that no PACs exist for Doordarshan Kendras.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

466. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the States to which the World Bank has sanctioned Loan during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 along with schemes and amount sanctioned for each scheme separately;

(b) the State to which maximum amount has been sanctioned along with the scheme to which the amount has been sanctioned during the above period; and

(c) the details of progress made under the sanctioned schemes during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (c) The details of projects approved by the World Bank during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 along with amount approved and utilised as on 31.12.2000 are as under :

Data Provisional
In USD Million

State	Project Name	Amount approved	Utilization as on 31.12.2000
Uttar Pradesh	UP Diver. Agri. Support (1998-99)	128.50	16.826
	UP Sodic Land II (1998-99)	194.10	13.844
	UP DPEP-III (1999-00)	182.40	11.209
Andhra Pradesh	AP Eco. Restructuring (1998-99)	543.20	155.172
	AP Power APL-I (1998-99)	210.00	83.001
Maharashtra	Maharashtra Health System (1998-99)	134.00	4.162
Tamil Nadu	TN Urban Development (1999-00)	105.00	38.207
Rajasthan	Rajasthan DPEP I (1999-00)	81.90	4.002
Orissa	Orissa Health System. (1998-99)	76.40	5.131

(b) During this period maximum assistance was approved for Andhra Pradesh followed by Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SIU Report

467. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether VLPT in various Parts of the country are still unmanned installations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether her Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry to make urgent study of staff norms of various DD installations including LPTs to work out their overall staff requirement;

(d) if so, whether recommendations of the staff inspection unit (SIU) has been received by her Ministry; and

(e) if not, the time by which the recommendations of the SIU are likely to be received ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) VLPTs at any site are unmanned installations. At present, 297 VLPTs are functioning in Doordarshan network.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) It is not possible to indicate any time schedule for receipt of the recommendations of the SIU.

Annual Requirement and Consumption of Foodgrains

468. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the per capita annual requirement/consumption of Foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise particularly in case of Maharashtra;

(c) the total requirement of foodgrains in million tonnes by the end of 2005 in view of the growing population and demand; and

(d) the manner in which this requirement is likely to be met by the Government particularly under Public Distribution System ?

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

(b) The annual requirement of foodgrains is provisionally estimated to be 195.42 million tonnes for the country and 17.83 million tonnes for Maharashtra for the year 2000. The consumption requirement has been worked out by using normative requirement of foodgrains (182.5 kg/cu/year) recommended by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and projected population of 1002.14 million.

(c) The annual requirement of foodgrains is provisionally estimated to be 210.11 million tonnes for the year 2005.

(d) The annual requirement of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) is about 293 lakh tonnes. This requirement is met out of the central pool stock of foodgrains procured and stored by the Food Corporation of India and the State agencies.

Supply of Sugar to Poors through PDS

469. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to supply sugar from the Public Distribution System only to the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of people living below poverty line in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the present criteria of treating a person as living below the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to restructure the Public Distribution System (PDS) in so far as supply of levy sugar is concerned. Income tax assesses and members of their families were excluded from the purview of the PDS levy sugar with effect from July, 2000. The supply of levy sugar

under the PDS has been restricted, with effect from 1.2.2001, to the people below poverty line except in North-Eastern States/Hill States/Island territories, where the existing arrangements would continue. However, minimum per capita per month quantum of levy sugar under the PDS has been increased from 425 gms to 500 gms, which would benefit the people below poverty line.

(c) A statement indicating the estimated number of BPL household living below poverty line in the country, state-wise, as on 1.3.2000, is enclosed.

(d) The number of BPL families has been worked out on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Export Group on Estimates of Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala (Expert Group).

Statement

The Estimated Number of People Living below Poverty Line in the Country

(In lakh)

State/UT	Number of BPL Households as on 01.03.2000
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	40.63
Arunachal Pradesh	00.99
Assam	18.36
Bihar	89.17
Goa	00.48
Gujarat	21.20
Haryana	07.89
Himachal Pradesh	05.14
Jammu and Kashmir	07.36
Karnataka	31.29
Kerala	15.54
Madhya Pradesh	60.01
Maharashtra	65.34
Manipur	01.66
Meghalaya	01.83
Mizoram	00.68
Nagaland	01.24

1	2
Orissa	32.98
Punjab	04.68
Rajasthan	24.31
Sikkim	00.43
Tamilnadu	48.63
Tripura	02.95
Uttar Pradesh	111.77
West Bengal	51.79
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	00.28
Chandigarh	00.23
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	00.18
Daman and Diu	00.04
Delhi	04.09
Lakshadweep	00.03
Pondicherry	00.84
Total	652.04

Incentives for Rubber Export

470. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rubber Board is presently giving any incentive for natural rubber export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase the amount of assistance for rubber export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board has been providing an incentive of Rs. 3 per kg to block rubber processors and latex processors for export of Indian Standard Natural Rubber and concentrated latex respectively;

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to enhance the amount of incentive for rubber export.

Devolution of Central Tax Revenues

471. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Government had represented to the Union Government against the adoption of the new formula for devolution of Central Tax Revenues under the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the annual loss of revenue transfers under EFC report vis-a-vis that under the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) Report; and

(c) the Government's response thereto, to help the State Government make good the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Some State Governments have represented that the criteria/methodology adopted by Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has resulted in reduced transfers, to their respective States, by way of share in Central taxes and duties and quantum of grants-in-aid as compared to the transfers recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC).

The Finance Commission lay down the criteria for determining the share of transfers between the States, from time to time, keeping in view their assessment of States requirement, and the need for horizontal equity. A statement showing total estimated transfers to States under the recommendations of Tenth Finance Commission and Eleventh Finance Commission is enclosed.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission has made their recommendations on devolution to States after holistic assessment of the needs and resources of the Centre and each State. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission relating to devolution of Central taxes and duties, quantum of grants-in-aid and debt relief to States as contained in its main report for the period 2000-05. The main report of the Eleventh Finance Commission together with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission was laid on the Table of the both Houses of Parliament on 27th July, 2000.

The Eleventh Finance Commission in its Supplementary Report on Additional Terms of Reference has recommended Constitution of an Incentive Fund for release of fiscal performance based grants to States. Government of India has accepted the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission in this regard. A copy of the Report of Eleventh Finance Commission on additional Terms of Reference was laid on the Table of the both Houses of Parliament on 19.12.2000.

Statement

Estimated total transfers Recommended by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission

(Rupees crore)

Sl. No.	State	Tenth Finance Commission (1995-2000)						Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-05)					
		Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col. 2 to 6)	Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col. 8 to 12)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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 & Kashmir	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
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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

Sale of PDS Sugar to Income-Tax Payees

472. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether sale of sugar through public distribution system to non-income tax payees who are above poverty line will be discontinued during current year;

(b) if so, the effective date chosen to implement this decision with reasons therefor;

(c) the date when sale of sugar through public distribution system to income tax payees was discontinued;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell more commodities through public distribution system during current calendar year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Government has decided to restructure the Public Distribution System (PDS) in so far as supply of levy sugar is concerned. Income Tax assesses and their dependents were made ineligible for drawal of sugar under the PDS with effect from July, 2000. With effect from 1.2.2001, the supply of levy sugar under the PDS has been restricted to BPL population only excepting North-Eastern States/Hill States/Island territories, where the existing arrangements will continue. However, minimum per capita per month quantum of levy sugar has been increased from 425 gms to 500 gms, which would benefit the BPL families.

(d) and (e) The Government has launched the "Sarvapriya" scheme in July 2000, through NCCF of India Ltd. The scheme envisages distribution of 11 essential items like pulses, salt, tea, toilet soap, detergent cake, exercise notebooks, mustered oil and toothpaste through the PDS outlets, retail units of Civil Supplies Corporations and Consumer Cooperatives with the objective of making available quality consumer goods at affordable prices, supplement the PDS to make fair price shops more viable and also to contain inflation.

Export of Sub-Standard Tea

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

(a) whether India lost its tea export market in Libya due to allegedly supplying sub-standard tea, which was not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry was held in this matter;

(c) if so, the action taken against the erring persons; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not recur in future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Libya is not a stable market for Indian tea. Exports of tea to Libya during the last five years were as follows :

Year	Quantity in m.kgs.
1996	0.05
1997	1.65
1998	6.98
1999	Nil
2000	3.63

Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August 2000 brought to the notice of the Ministry regarding supply of un-satisfactory quality of tea to Libyan National Supply Corporation (NASCO) by an Indian Exporter.

Tea Board initially obtained comments of the Indian exporter on the allegation of supply of sub-standard tea and subsequently issued show cause notice to the exporter for suspension/cancellation of tea Exporter Licence granted under Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order 1957. The Indian exporter, in reply to the show cause notice has stated that he has not received any complaint directly from NASCO in Tripoli. Tea Board has therefore requested Embassy of India, Tripoli to obtain and forward a copy of the written complaint, if any, against the exporter by NASCO. In the light of this incident Tea Board will ensure that such things do not occur in future.

Performance of Manufacturing Sector

474. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's manufacturing sector is slowing down, while services are growing rapidly;

(b) whether the manufacturing sector provided 48% of total employment opportunities in 1995 whereas this has now come down to 20%;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government to arrest the slowing down of manufacturing sector?

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

share of manufacturing sector in GDP has revealed a declining trend, while service sector has shown an increasing trend.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The manufacturing sector employed 24% of the total employment in the organized sector during 1999 as against 23.7% during 1995.

(d) The increasing share of service sector vis-a-vis manufacturing sector is a phenomenon of economic

Statement-

State-wise Allocation and

Year : 1999-2000

State	Wheat					
	Allocation				Offtake	
	APL	BPL	ADDL.	Total	APL	BPL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	142.56	618.48	100.00	861.04	17.08	641.93
Orissa	0.00	0.00	420.00	420.00	51.70	49.90
West Bengal	776.40	283.80	0.90	1061.10	456.73	278.51
Sikkim	1.20	0.00	0.89	2.09	1.42	0.00
Total	920.16	902.28	521.79	2344.23	526.93	970.34
Assam	193.60	0.00	20.30	213.90	195.50	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	6.34	0.84	1.20	8.38	5.28	0.00
Tripura	15.36	0.00	1.80	17.16	7.64	0.00
Manipur	20.52	0.00	2.70	23.22	0.12	0.00
Nagaland	18.48	2.28	2.73	23.49	17.16	2.31
Mizoram	12.12	0.00	1.96	14.08	14.80	0.00
Meghalaya	12.00	0.00	2.46	14.46	15.69	0.00
Total	278.42	3.12	33.15	314.69	256.19	2.31
Delhi	484.80	0.00	240.00	724.80	53.94	0.00
Haryana	8.64	87.96	60.00	156.60	3.83	80.32
Himachal Pradesh	38.40	51.12	52.92	142.44	30.71	24.15
Jammu and Kashmir	88.32	17.76	258.48	364.56	29.16	16.93
Punjab	18.12	43.44	0.00	61.56	0.00	2.43
Chandigarh	11.64	1.92	8.04	21.60	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	392.16	257.40	60.00	709.56	51.68	191.76
Uttar Pradesh	266.04	768.00	494.00	1528.04	15.77	314.22
Total	1308.12	1227.60	1173.44	3709.16	185.09	629.81

development observed throughout the world. The important objective needs to be a growth in the income of the people, rather than the sector from which it is derived.

Decline in PDS

475. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any remarkable decline in the off take of PDS in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Statements I and II showing year-wise/State-wise allotment and lifting of wheat and rice under TPDS during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto January, 2001) are enclosed.

Offtake under TPDS

(Prpvisional)						(Figs. in '000 Tonnes)			
Rice									
		Allocation				Offtake			
ADDL.	Total	APL	BPL	ADDL.	Total	APL	BPL	ADDL.	Total
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.00	659.01	95.04	412.32	0.00	507.36	2.22	234.35	0.00	236.57
64.80	166.40	44.64	478.05	647.21	1169.90	118.30	769.30	0.00	887.60
0.00	735.24	128.76	264.84	120.00	513.60	169.34	100.99	0.00	270.33
0.00	1.42	35.64	4.08	48.00	87.72	65.81	4.21	0.00	70.02
64.80	1562.07	304.08	1159.29	815.21	2278.58	355.67	1108.85	0.00	1464.52
23.67	219.17	241.28	228.72	200.00	670.00	179.50	215.90	132.73	528.13
0.07	5.35	61.65	8.40	30.48	100.53	73.69	8.32	19.72	101.73
0.00	7.64	109.44	27.72	60.34	197.50	117.98	19.07	15.08	152.13
0.00	0.12	34.32	15.60	75.08	125.00	21.30	21.07	0.00	42.37
0.00	19.47	103.56	9.24	12.30	125.10	103.22	10.34	0.00	113.56
0.00	14.80	61.72	6.36	36.96	105.04	74.82	6.89	9.18	90.89
0.00	15.69	114.36	17.16	76.08	207.60	128.14	17.55	46.01	191.70
23.74	282.24	726.33	313.20	491.24	1530.77	698.65	299.14	222.72	1220.51
0.00	53.94	154.68	0.00	0.00	154.68	74.47	0.00	0.00	74.47
0.00	84.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	54.86	62.76	0.00	84.00	146.76	64.80	0.00	0.00	64.80
0.00	46.09	150.12	56.40	218.95	425.47	282.65	52.25	7.76	342.66
0.00	2.43	3.36	8.16	0.00	11.52	0.05	0.22	0.00	0.27
0.00	0.00	2.04	0.24	1.32	3.60	0.08	0.03	0.00	0.11
0.00	243.44	9.36	3.00	15.56	27.92	1.44	1.30	0.00	2.74
0.00	329.99	134.40	378.00	223.00	735.40	79.42	266.21	0.00	345.63
0.00	814.90	516.72	445.80	542.83	1505.35	502.91	320.01	7.76	830.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	96.00	0.00	50.00	146.00	117.60	0.00
Kerala	272.64	0.00	180.00	452.64	237.00	0.00
Karnataka	111.00	69.00	240.00	420.00	106.30	68.80
TamilNadu	0.00	0.00	360.00	360.00	131.79	0.00
Pondicherry	0.24	0.00	8.76	9.00	1.56	0.00
A and N Islands	8.16	0.84	0.00	9.00	4.57	0.18
Lakshadweep	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.03	0.00
Total	488.54	69.84	838.76	1397.14	598.85	68.98
Gujarat	354.00	145.50	240.00	739.50	144.49	149.93
Maharashtra	496.56	471.60	240.00	1208.16	644.42	432.11
Goa	20.28	1.44	12.00	33.72	13.19	0.14
Madhya Pradesh	151.80	352.08	0.00	503.88	8.56	64.23
Daman and Diu	0.48	0.12	1.65	2.25	0.03	0.00
D and N Haveli	0.60	0.36	2.04	3.00	0.18	0.18
Total	1023.72	971.10	495.69	2490.51	810.87	646.59
Grand Total	4018.96	3173.94	3062.83	10255.73	2377.93	2318.03

(This is inclusive of 50.00 Thousand Tonnes Wheat and 346.71 Thousand Tonnes of Rice Allotted for Super Cyclone Relief

Note : The Figures of Offtake Under Decentralised Procurement Scheme are not included.

Statement-

State-wise Allocation and

Year : 2000-2001 (Upto January, 2001)

State	Wheat					
	Allocation				Offtake	
	APL	BPL	ADDL.	Total	APL	BPL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	112.48	975.46	0.00	1087.94	1.04	383.90
Jharkhand	6.32	55.36	0.00	61.68	0.00	0.00
Orissa	0.00	0.00	98.20	98.20	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	647.00	477.44	2.00	1126.44	35.34	402.87
Sikkim	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.35	0.00
Total	766.80	1508.26	100.20	2375.26	36.73	786.77
Assam	103.00	0.00	0.00	103.00	0.40	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	5.30	1.48	0.00	6.78	0.44	0.00

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.00	117.60	1847.04	453.36	0.00	2300.40	1874.35	433.50	0.00	2307.85
0.00	237.00	1319.64	184.20	240.00	1743.84	1009.00	182.00	0.00	1191.00
40.50	215.60	444.00	276.00	180.00	900.00	419.30	278.10	125.60	823.00
34.13	165.92	461.28	549.48	748.00	1758.76	1271.88	535.39	0.00	1807.27
0.55	2.11	3.48	7.80	12.72	24.00	2.05	7.32	2.52	11.89
0.00	4.75	28.20	1.80	0.00	30.00	16.68	0.00	0.00	16.68
0.00	0.03	6.06	0.24	0.00	6.30	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
75.18	743.01	4109.70	1472.88	1180.72	6763.30	4598.26	1436.31	128.12	6162.69
0.00	294.42	198.00	94.50	0.00	292.50	72.13	96.92	0.00	169.05
0.00	1076.53	268.56	253.92	240.00	762.48	441.39	239.50	0.00	680.89
0.00	13.33	42.84	3.12	30.00	75.96	37.65	8.48	0.00	46.13
0.00	72.79	124.20	288.00	0.00	412.20	48.53	270.42	0.00	318.95
0.00	0.03	1.32	0.68	5.17	7.17	0.78	0.04	0.00	0.82
0.00	0.36	2.16	1.44	3.00	6.60	0.78	0.60	0.00	1.38
0.00	1457.46	637.08	641.66	278.17	1556.91	601.26	615.96	0.00	1217.22
163.72	4859.68	6293.91	4032.83	3308.17	13634.91	6756.75	3780.27	358.60	10895.62

to Orissa State)

II

Offtake under TPDS

(Provisional)

(Figs. in '000 Tonnes)

Rice									
		Allocation				Offtake			
ADDL.	Total	APL	BPL	ADDL.	Total	APL	BPL	ADDL.	Total
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.00	384.94	74.98	650.30	0.00	725.28	0.92	129.89	0.00	130.81
0.00	0.00	4.22	36.90	144.98	186.10	0.00	0.00	177.45	177.45
91.10	91.10	37.20	641.04	305.15	983.39	2.76	567.03	57.41	627.20
0.00	438.21	107.30	445.56	0.00	552.86	29.17	77.47	0.00	106.64
0.00	0.35	33.70	7.18	40.00	80.88	3.29	3.55	0.00	6.84
91.10	914.60	257.40	1780.98	490.13	2528.51	36.14	777.94	234.86	1048.94
0.00	0.40	259.40	381.18	20.00	660.58	5.17	308.05	0.38	313.60
0.00	0.44	51.25	14.80	0.00	66.05	10.13	12.46	3.02	25.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	12.80	0.00	0.00	12.80	0.00	0.00
Manipur	17.10	0.00	0.00	17.10	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	15.40	3.80	0.00	19.20	1.49	2.28
Mizoram	10.10	0.00	0.00	10.10	0.95	0.00
Meghalaya	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.12	0.00
Total	173.70	5.28	0.00	178.98	3.40	2.28
Delhi	426.40	8.18	0.00	434.58	0.08	0.00
Haryana	7.20	146.60	0.00	153.80	0.00	38.38
Himachal Pradesh	32.00	59.64	0.00	91.64	2.74	20.39
Jammu and Kashmir	73.60	29.59	0.00	103.19	7.87	18.66
Punjab	15.10	73.68	0.00	88.78	1.52	6.49
Chandigarh	9.70	3.20	0.00	12.90	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	326.80	433.62	503.89	1264.31	1.23	264.95
Uttar Pradesh	219.14	1274.08	0.00	1493.22	0.00	0.00
Uttanchal	2.56	5.92	0.00	8.48	0.00	0.00
Total	1112.50	2034.51	503.89	3650.90	13.44	348.87
Andhra Pradesh	80.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	3.30	0.00
Kerala	377.20	0.00	0.00	377.20	29.00	0.00
Karnataka	92.50	117.04	90.00	299.54	46.74	113.19
TamilNadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	0.68	0.00	4.52	5.20	0.00	0.00
A and N Islands	8.16	1.68	0.00	9.84	4.08	1.74
Lakshadweep	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Total	559.04	118.72	94.52	772.28	83.12	114.93
Gujarat	295.00	242.88	371.52	909.40	2.66	242.13
Maharashtra	413.80	798.70	0.00	1212.50	8.03	508.23
Goa	16.90	2.40	0.00	19.30	1.28	0.36
Madhya Pradesh	119.66	571.94	0.00	691.60	0.11	27.98
Chhattisgarh	6.86	14.86	0.00	21.72	0.00	0.00
Daman and Diu	0.40	0.22	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.02
D and N Haveli	0.50	0.60	0.00	1.10	0.12	0.30
Total	853.12	1631.60	371.52	2856.24	12.20	779.02
Grand Total	3465.16	5298.37	1070.13	9833.66	148.89	2031.87

Note : The Figures of Offtake Under Decentralized Procurement Scheme are not included.

Note : This includes allotment and offtake under relief operations.

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.00	0.00	91.20	46.22	0.00	137.42	6.23	44.33	0.00	50.56
0.00	0.00	28.60	26.02	0.00	54.62	2.06	18.25	2.54	22.85
0.00	3.77	86.30	15.40	0.00	101.70	0.28	14.87	0.00	15.15
0.00	0.95	56.10	11.22	0.00	67.32	24.13	11.21	0.00	35.34
0.00	0.12	95.30	28.64	63.40	187.34	1.01	24.85	0.00	25.86
0.00	5.68	668.15	523.48	83.40	1275.03	49.01	434.02	5.94	488.97
0.00	0.08	136.10	0.00	0.00	136.10	1.77	0.00	0.00	1.77
0.00	38.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.64	0.00	1.64
0.00	23.13	52.30	25.56	0.00	77.86	3.54	18.02	0.00	21.56
0.00	26.53	125.10	93.98	0.00	219.08	3.45	54.06	0.00	57.51
0.00	8.01	2.80	13.84	0.00	16.64	0.07	0.26	0.00	0.33
0.00	0.00	1.70	0.40	0.00	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
353.35	619.53	7.80	5.06	22.57	35.43	0.02	0.97	1.02	2.01
0.05	0.05	110.70	618.92	0.00	729.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	1.30	11.08	0.00	12.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
353.40	715.71	437.80	768.84	22.57	1229.21	8.85	74.95	1.02	84.82
0.00	3.30	1539.20	767.00	435.76	2741.96	852.11	775.79	430.81	2058.71
0.00	29.00	1146.20	307.76	0.00	1453.96	70.54	348.79	0.00	419.33
12.91	172.84	370.00	468.14	387.00	1225.14	302.28	430.40	42.98	775.66
0.76	0.76	384.40	927.16	0.00	1311.56	47.58	936.86	31.00	1015.44
0.83	0.83	2.90	13.74	10.00	26.64	0.05	6.26	2.35	8.66
0.00	5.82	28.20	3.60	0.00	31.80	2.33	2.27	0.00	4.60
0.00	0.00	6.06	0.48	0.00	6.54	5.29	0.00	0.00	5.29
14.50	212.55	3476.96	2487.88	832.76	6797.60	1280.18	2500.37	507.14	4287.69
0.00	244.79	180.00	161.92	147.68	489.60	2.53	97.01	21.21	120.75
0.00	516.26	223.80	430.04	0.00	653.84	33.29	280.51	0.00	313.80
0.00	1.64	35.70	5.20	0.00	40.90	7.06	1.19	0.00	8.25
0.00	28.09	93.50	428.16	0.00	521.66	1.05	310.58	0.00	311.63
0.00	0.00	10.00	51.84	0.00	61.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.02	1.10	0.42	0.00	1.52	0.15	0.13	0.00	0.28
0.00	0.42	1.80	2.44	0.00	4.24	0.53	1.62	0.00	2.15
0.00	791.22	545.90	1080.02	147.68	1773.60	44.61	691.04	21.21	756.86
459.00	2639.76	5386.21	6641.20	1576.54	13603.95	1418.79	4478.32	770.17	6667.28

Meeting on Economic Issues with European Union

476. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the bilateral economic issues discussed with the European Union functionary recently; and
- (b) the assistance expected out of such meetings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Mr. Christopher F. Patten, European Commissioner for External Affairs had visited India in the last week of January, 2001. During his meeting with the Finance Minister the Commissioner expressed sympathy for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake. Issues relating to Bilateral Development Cooperation, Investments and WTO also came up for discussion.

- (b) No commitments for any financial assistance were made by the Commissioner.

Sale of PSUs

477. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Apex Association of Public Undertakings, SCOPE have suggested the Government not to sell stakes in infrastructure and economically strategic PSUs to strategic patterns as such route is good for consumer products and services; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes Sir. In a Memorandum submitted to COPU in September, 2000 SCOPE had suggested off loading Government equity in the market rather than a strategic sale.

- (b) The Govt. has taken note of the suggestion.

Entry of Foreign Companies in Insurance Sector

478. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether with the opening of insurance sector to foreigners and allowing repatriation of profits and surpluses, the fiscal deficit of the country will go up;

- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid this situation;

- (c) whether there is any plan that foreign entities or their collaborators will not transfer any cash, foreign exchange abroad but may transfer declared profits only but through export of Indian Goods and Services only;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;

- (e) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to hold all foreign exchange in India and carryout foreign exchange arbitrage; and

- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Foreign Direct Investment in the insurance sector has been limited to 26% of the paid up equity capital of the Indian insurance companies. Profits can be repatriated by way of dividends only upto this limit. The IRDA has further estimated that it will be difficult for any new insurance company to make any profits in the first six or seven years. Hence, the opening up of the insurance sector is not likely to have any adverse impact on the fiscal situation of the country.

- (b) In view of answer to (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Insurance Act, the funds of the policy holders cannot be invested outside India. However, in the general insurance business a small percentage of premium income may be ceded abroad to seek re-insurance cover as is also being done presently by the public sector insurance companies. This is a normal practice in insurance business and is essential to ensure the safety of their operations. There is no plan to restrict transfer of dividends abroad through export of goods and services only. As explained in answer to (a) above, dividends upto a limit of 26% can be repatriated by foreign investors.

- (e) No, Sir.

- (f) Does not arise.

Non-Performing Assets

479. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the average in World Banking System about the non-performing assets and the present position in Indian Banking System in regard to non-performing assets in terms of percentage of World ratio; and

(b) the steps the Government are considering to take to realise the non-performing assets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to the information available with reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Gross/Net Non Performing Assets (NPAs) and their percentage to Gross/Net advances, in respect of Scheduled commercial Banks in India for the year ended March 2000 was as under :

	Amount (Rs. In crores)	Percentage to Advances
(i) Gross NPAs	60841	12.8
(ii) Net NPAs	30152	6.8

RBI has further reported that the information in respect of average percentage of NPAs of World Banking System are not available with it.

(b) Government of India and RBI have advised banks to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy of banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non-performing accounts at various levels in the bank. Recently, RBI vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 has framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. Effective action by banks for rehabilitation, one-time settlement or filing of suits in all necessary cases by 31.3.2001 has to be ensured by the Chief executives.

Privatisation of Exim Bank

480. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for privatisation of Exim Bank;

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

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be finalised ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

British Aid to Madhya Pradesh

481. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Britain Propose to provide assistance with 400 lakh pounds to Madhya Pradesh for the purpose of alleviation of poverty; and

(b) the terms and conditions governing the assistance by Britain ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government has not yet received any such proposal from the Government of United Kingdom.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions

482. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware sanctioned grant provided to Panchayati Raj Institutions of various States particularly to Tamil Nadu has not been released;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix any time for releasing the this amount; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 1600 crore for each year of its award period 2000-05 for Panchayati Raj Institutions of States. Out of this a total grant of Rs. 537.30 crore has been released to States during the current year so far. For the State of Tamil Nadu, the Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 93.22 crore for 2000-01 and out of this, the grant amounting to Rs. 46.61 crore has been released to State Government so far.

(c) and (d) The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended for release of grants to States over a period of five years 2000-05 subject to fulfilling of certain conditionalities. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Commission.

The main report of the Eleventh Finance Commission for 2000-05 together with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission was laid on the Table of the both Houses of Parliament on 27th July, 2000.

**Revenue Earned by Chennai
DD Kendra**

483. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and actual revenue earned by Chennai Doordarshan Kendra upto 31st December, 2000;

(b) whether there was decrease in the revenue; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the functioning of this Kendra ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the target fixed for the Chennai Kendra is Rs. 50.00 crore and the actual revenue earned by the Kendra, upto 31.12.2000 is Rs. 5.54 crore. Following reasons have been cited by Prasar Bharati for not reaching the target :

(i) Multiplicity of Channels and competition from private channels.

(ii) Under-cutting of rates by the private channels and inflexible rates of Doordarshan.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of Chennai Kendra :

(i) Prime time slot both on DD-I and satellite channel "Podhighai" is being given to highest bidder instead of first come first serve basis, adopted earlier.

(ii) A core marketing team has been created from amongst staff to aggressively promote the Channel's interest among new agencies and first time advertisers.

(iii) A data base of all advertisers who were with the Kendra earlier has been created and efforts are being made to bring them back to Doordarshan.

(iv) Kendra has taken steps with agencies to broad-base sample base for truly reflecting the viewership of Doordarshan programmes, to be reflected in the rating points.

NABARD Loan for Rural Sector

484. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has set up a Committee to look into various issues concerning rural credit under the Chairmanship of V.S. Vyas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith its terms of references;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) if not, time by which the Committee is expected to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has set up a Committee to look into various issues concerning rural credit under the Chairmanship of Shri V.S. Vyas., Professor Emeritus, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. The terms of reference and the composition of the Committee are given in the Statement.

(c) to (e) The Committee has been allowed time till June, 2001 for submission of its report.

Statement

I. Terms of Reference of the Committee on Rural Credit

i. Structure of the rural credit system and the roles of its major components;

ii. Role of the tiers in co-operative credit system in the context of the need to reduce the cost of credit delivery.

iii. Development policies and support system for effective rural credit;

iv. Strategy to meet gaps in supply of rural credit in relation to development needs of regions, sectors and client groups;

v. Procedural simplifications for borrower friendly effective rural credit;

vi. Administration of financial sector reforms like deregulation of interest rates, application of prudential norms and application of flexible credit instruments;

- vii. Legal framework for recovery and its adequacy.
- viii. Any other matter incidental thereto.

II. *Composition of the Committee*

Chairman : Prof. V.S. Vyas, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur.

Members :

Prof. Abhijit Sen, Ex-Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, New Delhi.

Shri Ashok Bandyopadhyay, Chairman, West Bengal State Cooperative Bank Ltd., Calcutta.

Shri B. Samal, Chairman and Managing Director, Allahabad Bank Calcutta.

Dr. Dayanatha Jha, National Professor, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi.

Ms. Elaben Bhatt, Chairperson, Self Employed Womens' Association, SEWA, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Katar Singh, Director, Institute of Rural Management, Anand.

Dr. P.R. Dubashi, Pune.

Dr. P.V. Shenoi, Chairman, Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), Mumbai.

Member-Secretary :

Shri S.B. Sharma, Executive Director (Retired). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai.

[Translation]

Insurance Scheme for the Poor

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

- (a) whether at present the poor are given insurance cover to reconstruct their homes devastated by fire only;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also propose to formulate any scheme for the poor to provide them insurance cover to construct their homes devastated by natural calamities like flood, earthquake and cyclone;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Insurance covers are available not only for fire but also for various other natural disasters like earthquake, cyclone, flood, hurricane, landslide, etc. with the four subsidiary companies of General Insurance Corporation of India viz. (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd., (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and (iv) United India Insurance Co. Ltd. These covers can be purchased from these companies by paying the requisite premium.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Disproportionate Assets of Excise/ Customs Officials

486. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government keep a vigil on the assets disproportionate to known sources of income of the customs and excise/Income Tax officers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of cases of corruption and income-tax evasion registered against such officials during the last three years till date with details?

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

[English]

Wastage of Food Articles due to Inadequate Technologies

487. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India wasted Rs. 70,000 crores worth of food articles every year due to inadequate technologies;
- (b) if so, whether there was a need to adopt technologies for extending the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables on one hand and proper processing of foodgrains on the other hand to check the wastage; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Exact quantum of foodgrain losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds, micro-organisms

etc. is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr.V.Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85%), insects (2.55%) and moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5% out of which the storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A joint survey conducted by the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985-88 in Bulandshahr district of UP has estimated total foodgrains losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest period.

The post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables estimated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) ranges from 20-30%.

(b) Various technologies are available for extending the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables. As regards foodgrains, most of them are now processed with modern technologies and there is very little scope for wastage during processing of foodgrains.

(c) The Government is operating plan schemes for extending assistance for adoption of modern technologies in handling of fruits and vegetables. The Government has also announced a National Policy for handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in order to reduce the storage and transit losses by introduction of modern technology.

Participation of SC/ST in Trade Areas

488. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST Parliamentarians in the Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 have demanded to make special provisions to ensure participation of persons belonging to the SC/STs in the areas of trade and commerce so as to provide them opportunity for participation in the economic development and thereby in the main stream of our national life;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the special measures, facilities, if any, being followed by his Ministry for ensuring participation of the persons belonging to the SCs/STs in the areas of foreign trade; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) In the three representations submitted by the Parliamentary Forum of SC/ST Members of Parliament on 17.12.96, 1.9.96, and 23.7.96 there is no specific demand to make any special provision to ensure participation of persons belonging to SCs/STs in the area of foreign trade. However foreign trade being a priority area necessary support is provided to all the entrepreneurs, including the entrepreneurs belonging to SC/ST communities.

SCs/STs in Public Sector Undertakings

489. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM :
SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN :

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

(a) the total number of posts in the rank of Head/CMD, Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Council of the Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous Statutory Organisations of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and

(b) the number of persons from SC/ST community working against such posts as 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts in the above organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

TV Serials

490. SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to telecast television serials which glorifies Indian History.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such T.V. serials which have been forwarded for approval and those which have been approved as on date ?

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

(b) and (c) The following proposals have been approved by Prasar Bharati :

- (i) Chhatrapati Shivaji – M/s. Ad Dict, Mumbai
- (ii) Kakathi Prataprudra – M/s. Madhu Art Creation, Warrangal
- (iii) Swami Vivekananda – M/s. Bimb, Mumbai
(the matter is sub-judice in the High Court)
- (iv) Meri Kahani – M/s. Raghav Productions, Mumbai
(Serial on Father of Nazionelecast commenced recently)
- (v) Raja Bhratruhari – M/s Deepak Arts

The following proposals on historical theme which have been sent for approval are :

- (i) 1857 Kranti – M/s Numero Uno, Mumbai.
- (ii) Dastan-e-Ishq – M/s Tabassum International, Mumbai.
- (iii) Taj Mahal – M/s Akbar Arts, Mumbai.

[English]

Annual Growth in Subsidies

491. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the annual growth in the volume of subsidies by the Union Government during the last three years; and
- (b) the steps to be taken to reduce them progressively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The annual growth in the total amount of subsidies was of the order 27.1 per cent in 1998-99, 3.7 per cent in 1999-2000 (Revised Estimate) and (-) 11.3 per cent in 2000-2001 (Budget Estimate). The expenditure on subsidies on various items is under constant review and adjustments in administered prices are made to the extent possible, to contain the growth of subsidies.

[Translation]

Bank Loan for Publication Industry

492. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the public sector banks provide loans to set up any industry;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for sanctioning such loans;

(c) whether bank loan is provided for publication business too; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Public sector banks do provide loans for setting up factories, workshops, etc. in the form of term loan payable over a period of 3 to 7 years.

(b) These term loans are considered for purchase of factory building, work shop machinery, tools etc. after satisfying about the techno-economic viability of the project and satisfying about the background of promoters.

(c) Yes, as a commercial loan as per bank's loan policy.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Bank Loans to SSI

493. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise number of applications seeking loan by small scale industries received by the public sector banks in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir State during the last three years;

(b) the number of loan applications have been cleared out of these and the amount of loan sanctioned/ provided; and

(c) the number of loan applications which are under consideration and time by which these applications are likely to be cleared particularly in Jammu and Kashmir State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Data available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relates to number of accounts and amount outstanding in the books of Public Sector Banks against advances to Small Scale Units (SSI). The details of Public Sector Banks' advances to Small Scale Industries (State-wise including Jammu and Kashmir, number of account-wise and amount outstanding-wise) for the years ending March, 1997, March, 1998 and March, 1999 are given in the Statement attached. RBI reporting system does not generate information relating to State-wise number of applications seeking loans by SSI Units.

Statement

Public Sector Banks Advances to SSIs (State-Wise, Number of Accounts-Wise and Amount Outstanding-wise) for the years ending March 1997, 1998 and 1999

Region/State	Small Scale Industries 1997		Small Scale Industries 1998		Small Scale Industries 1999	
	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	72080	11017963	43414	13235218	43875	17041406
Himachal Pradesh	19073	1496906	18625	1841855	17493	1876943
Jammu and Kashmir	9569	1097441	10067	1317758	10086	1424994
Punjab	102389	21264337	97056	26064423	100567	29635752
Rajasthan	95903	9392952	90231	14047365	79475	15136525
Chandigarh	4832	2340966	4285	2530198	3378	2734851
Delhi	42138	25265357	46313	31637041	42941	36688433
NORTHERN REGION	345984	71875922	309991	90674658	297815	104538904
Assam	61946	2487905	61935	2629335	58231	2741362
Manipur	14272	401574	15011	407974	15367	456120
Meghalaya	4248	96261	4350	133929	4203	170376
Nagaland	5976	213992	4348	202925	3657	215829
Tripura	16569	206868	17852	212745	17488	217895
Arunachal Pradesh	1371	37731	1353	41447	1426	45148
Mizoram	2137	64678	2388	68385	2258	79963
Sikkim	892	45553	2206	53643	1993	81740
NORTH-EASTERN REGION	107411	3554372	109443	3750383	104623	4008433
Bihar	221267	8705597	211727	9132639	201787	10789488
Orissa	343968	4498043	130991	5199851	134723	5922475
West Bengal	626585	20572464	559921	23307405	547705	25618425
Andaman and Nicobar	654	32638	1183	40036	844	42783
Eastern Region	1192474	3808742	903922	37679931	885059	42373171
Madhya Pradesh	122945	11864312	114037	14508265	118315	16364303
Uttar Pradesh	316306	27896569	272273	32286535	256003	35291556
CENTRAL REGION	439251	39750881	386310	46794800	374318	51655859
Gujarat	96040	22175981	72855	28145832	72663	30491522
Maharashtra	133367	53239874	110683	67909798	96147	78634756
Daman and Diu	126	37080	95	41957	99	49642

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	3809	1160259	3943	1613281	4040	2242807
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70	29009	127	90200	117	132600
WESTERN REGION	233412	76643003	187703	97801068	173066	111551327
Andhra Pradesh	157264	20340106	122206	23870130	119870	26463198
Karnataka	104727	19088545	96701	22277770	105540	25616250
Kerala	261600	10323759	120593	11538736	119972	12379787
Tamilnadu	240875	39562081	241839	43982509	238979	46956442
Pondicherry	6398	321462	6071	342408	6202	363016
Lakshadweep	32	846	23	600	18	562
SOUTHERN REGION	740896	89636799	587433	102012153	590581	111779245
All India	3059428	315269219	2484702	378712993	2425462	425906939

Insurance Claims of Earthquake Hit Persons

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

(a) whether the Indian Insurance Companies have since jointly set up special cells to look into the claims of the affected persons in the recent earthquake in Gujarat to help them;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of claims received till date by these cells, District-wise; and

(c) the number of such claims processed and settled to the families of the victims so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA), an Association of the four Public Sector General Insurance Companies and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have set up Special cells for expeditious settlement of claims. While four special cells have been set up by the General Insurance Companies, LIC have set up three claim settlement cells at Ahmedabad. GIPSA has so far received 22665 claims of which they have settled 2224 claims amounting to Rs. 657.02 lakhs. LIC of India has so far received 666 claims of which 441 claims amounting to Rs. 411 lakhs have been settled.

[Translation]

Capital Investment for Banks

495. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh capital to the tune of Rs. 10 to 13 million dollar is required to meet the heavy losses suffered by scheduled commercial banks of the country under the head of non-performing assets;

(b) if so, the details of those banks; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of these banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the scheduled commercial banks was Rs. 60,841 crores as at the end of March 2000. Out of these the NPAs of the 27 Public Sector Banks were Rs. 53,294 crores. The banks make provisions towards NPAs as per the guidelines issued by RBI and, after making such provisions, 26 out of the 27 public sector banks (except Indian Bank) have been able to achieve the minimum level of Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) as on 31st March, 2000.

(c) Government of India and RBI have advised banks to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non-performing accounts at various levels in the bank. Recently, RBI vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 has framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. Effective action by banks for

rehabilitation, one-time settlement or filing of suits in all necessary cases by 31.3.2001 has to be ensured by the chief executives.

[English]

Voluntary Retirement Schemes In SBI

496. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether voluntary retirement schemes has since been introduced and implemented in SBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is great discontentment amongst the officers of the bank as they have been discriminated with other staff regarding age factor;

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

(e) whether similar discrimination regarding age factor has also been introduced in other banks also;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for which age factor difference has been introduced amongst the staff and officers of SBI regarding voluntary retirement schemes; and

(g) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

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

(b) Salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement.

(c) to (g) In the model Scheme circulated by Indian Banks' Association to public sector banks it was, inter-alia, mentioned that 'it will be the prerogative of the bank's management either to accept a request for Voluntary Retirement or to reject the same depending upon the requirement of the bank'. Government has also emphasised to Banks to take decision on VRS applications in accordance with their manpower requirements. In order to ensure that outflow of employees under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is according to the requirements of the bank, the State-Bank of India has stipulated a condition in the scheme regarding the age factor if the number exceeds their requirements. This condition is for all employees and there is no discrimination between officers and other staff. The applications received by most of other public sector banks are still under consideration and criteria, if any, adopted by any of these banks to restrict

the number within their requirements will be known only after the VRS exercise gets completed.

Statement

Salient Features of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in State Bank of India

Eligibility	All permanent employees with 15 years of service or 40 years of age.
Ineligible :	Specialist officers/employees who have executed service bonds and have not completed it, employees/officers serving abroad under special arrangements/bonds, will not be eligible for VRS. The Board of Directors may, however, waive this, subject to fulfillment of the bond/other requirements.
	Employees against whom Disciplinary Proceedings are contemplated/pending or are under suspension
	Watch and Ward staff.
	Employees appointed on contract-basis.
	Highly skilled and qualified staff.
Amount of Ex Gratia	60 days' salary (pay plus stagnation increments plus special pay plus dearness relief) for each completed year of service or salary for the number of months service is left, whichever is less.
Other Benefits	I. Gratuity as per Gratuity Act/Service Gratuity, as the case may be. II. Pension (including Commuted value of pension)/bank's contribution towards PF, as the case may be. III. Leave encashment as per rules.
Other Features	In order to control outflow of employees according to the requirements, the bank retains the discretion to limit the number of employees to retire in each category of staff viz., officer, clerical and subordinate. For this purpose

category wise lists of eligible applicants would be prepared in descending order of their age and applications of employees coming in higher age groups above cut-off age would be accepted; the cut-off age in each category will of course depend upon the acceptable number of employees who can be permitted to retire.

Periodicity 15.1.2001 to 31.1.2001.

Mode of payment In cash within 5 weeks from the date of Ex gratia retirement.

[Translation]

Non-Banking Financial Companies in Bihar

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

(a) the number of non-banking financial companies functioning in Bihar;

(b) the number of persons who deposited their money in these companies during the last three years alongwith the total amount thereof;

(c) the number of companies out of the said companies which have vanished with the deposited fund;

(d) the action taken by the Government against such non-banking companies; and

(e) the measures taken to check the recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 507 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which were incorporated in Bihar State have sent applications for Certificate of Registration, out of which 288 NBFCs were in category 'A' i.e. companies accepting deposits from public. As per information available with RBI which is based on the returns submitted by the NBFCs, the total amount of deposits as on 31st March, 1998 was Rs. 6987.67 lakhs. The information for the years 1999 and 2000 is not available with RBI as those companies, whose applications for Certificate of Registration were rejected by the bank have not been submitting the returns to RBI. Out of 288 applications received from the companies in category 'A' (i.e. companies accepting public deposits), 239 did not respond to RBI's letters. RBI has treated them

as companies which disappeared/remained silent and has rejected their application for registration.

(d) and (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.

Indo-Vietnam Agreement

498. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Vietnam to boost the trade between the two countries during the visit of Prime Minister to Vietnam recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in strengthening the trade relations between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No. Sir, While no agreement has been signed between the Governments of the two countries during the visit of the Prime Minister, the businessmen of the two sides have signed MOUs etc. to strengthen business partnerships in the area of exploration and exploitation of hydro-carbons and supply of bus chassis to Vietnam. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India, have also signed a cooperation Agreement with Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to facilitate each other in strengthening and promoting bilateral trade and investment.

[English]

ADB Loan to Karnataka for Infrastructural Development

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recommended the proposal of State Government of Karnataka

for Asian Development Bank assistance for infrastructural development in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Karnataka State Government has received any ADB assistance during last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In December 1995, the Bank (ADB) approved a loan assistance of \$ 85 million for Karnataka State for the development of urban infrastructure in 4 towns of the State. In October 1999, the Bank approved a loan of \$ 175 million for the Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environmental Management Project for 10 towns. The major components under both the loans are water supply and sanitation, solid waste and waste water management, urban road improvement, and slum and environmental improvements. Both the projects are under implementation through Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (KUIDFC). While disbursement in the second loan is yet to begin, an amount of \$ 42.6 million has been disbursed under the first loan up to December 2000.

Bank Loan Defaulters

500. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank-wise number of loan defaulters of amount exceeding rupees five crores and above;

(b) the percentage of the above accounts which are unsecured;

(c) whether the Government have fixed responsibility/accountability on senior bank officials for these loans becoming non-performing assets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The information regarding the number of accounts of defaulters classified as "doubtful" or "loss" and where suits have been filed, with outstandings aggregating Rs. 5 crores and above, as on 31st March, 2000, bank-wise as furnished by the Reserve Bank of India is given in the Statement. The banks generally have securities to cover advances made by them.

(c) and (d) Banks generally examine staff accountability in loan cases that have become non performing, and take appropriate action wherever required.

Statement

List of Defaulters as on 31.3.2000 Outstanding amount Rs. 5 Crores and Above.

A	Public Sector Banks	No of A/cs
I	SBI Group	
1	State Bank of India	311
2	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	32
3	State Bank of Hyderabad	56
4	State Bank of Indore	16
5	State Bank of Mysore	27
6	State Bank of Patiala	31
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	17
8	State Bank of Travancore	45
Total		535
II	Nationalised Banks	
1	Allahabad Bank	55
2	Andhra Bank	16
3	Bank of Baroda	96
4	Bank of India	201
5	Bank of Maharashtra	41
6	Canara Bank	244
7	Central Bank	96
8	Corporation Bank	14
9	Dena Bank	36
10	Indian Bank	168
11	Indian Overseas Bank	34
12	Oriental Bank of Commerce	28
13	Punjab and Sind Bank	28
14	Punjab National Bank	99
15	Syndicate Bank	26
16	UCO Bank	24
17	Union Bank of India	24
18	United Bank of India	29
19	Vijaya Bank	35
Total		1294
Total of Public Sector Banks (I+II)		1829

B	Private Sector Banks	No of A/cs
I	Domestic Banks	
1	Bank of Madura Ltd.	4
2	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	3
3	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	23
4	Benares State Bank Ltd.	1
5	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	1
6	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	4
7	Centurian Bank Ltd.	4
8	Citi Union Bank Ltd.	1
9	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	3
10	Federal Bank	27
11	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	5
12	HDFC Bank Ltd.	3
13	ICICI Bank Ltd.	6
14	IDBI Bank Ltd.	2
15	Indusind Bank Ltd.	31
16	Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	4
17	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	6
18	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	2
19	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	2
20	Lord Krishan Bank Ltd.	1
21	SBI Commercial and INT Bank Ltd.	4
22	South Indian Bank Ltd	6
23	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	2
24	United Western Bank Ltd.	9
25	UTI Bank	10
26	Vysya Bank Ltd.	24
Total		188

C	Foreign Banks	No of A/cs
1	2	3
1	ABN Amro Bank	1
2	Abu Dhabi Bank	2
3	ANZ Grindlays	5
4	Bank Internasional Indonesia	2

1	2	3
5	Bank of America	3
6	Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait	4
7	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	33
8	Banq National De Paris	1
9	Barclays Bank	1
10	Citi Bank	3
11	Commerz Bank	1
12	Credit Agricole Indosuez	10
13	Deutsche Bank AG	4
14	Development Bank of Singapore	2
15	Dresdner Bank	2
16	Hongkong and Shanghai BKG	16
17	ING Bank	3
18	Mashreq Bank	4
19	Oman International	7
20	Sakura Bank	1
21	Scotia Bank	6
22	Societe Generale	2
23	Standard Chartered Bank	14
24	State Bank of Mauritius	
Total		127

State Share in Centrally Sponsored Schemes

501. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the State Governments in the North-East have urged the Union Government to reduce the State share in respect of Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of reduction in State share sought, State-wise; and

(c) the Government's response thereto indicating the details of the social sector schemes amongst them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The share of States in individual Centrally Sponsored Schemes is decided by the concerned Ministries taking into account the implementation needs. It would not be feasible to

consider a general across the board reduction for an Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Additional Staff for AIR Station

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

- (a) whether the additional staff for AIR, Parbhani has been sanctioned;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay in appointing the sanctioned additional staff; and
- (d) the time by which the in-house production of AIR, Parbhani is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Industrial Policy of A.P.

503. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has framed new industrial policy with greater emphasis on providing of quality infrastructure to make the State an attractive destination for foreign and domestic investors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have approved this policy; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to help the State Government to improve the infrastructure so that foreign investors are attracted in investing in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) The industrial policies of various State Governments (including Andhra Pradesh) do not require approval from the Central Government and as such the details contained in the industrial policies of various States are not Centrally maintained.

It is basically the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to frame plans and policies for their industrial development and for attracting investments into the State.

Central Government supplements their efforts through various schemes operated by it.

[Translation]

Loss to Foodgrains in Gujarat due to Earthquake

504. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

- (a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains were damaged by the recent earthquake in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the quantity alongwith the value of foodgrains damaged;
- (c) whether the Union Government and several countries have forwarded several tonnes of foodgrain to the earthquake affected victims; and
- (d) if so, the details of countries and exact quantity of foodgrain received so far and quantity of foodgrain supplied by Union Government also ?

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]

Modernisation of Sugar Mills

505. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some sugar mills in the country have sought the assistance of his Ministry in their efforts to modernise mills; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to get their loan sanctioned from the Sugar Development Fund and other banks and financial institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Applications from sugar mills for loans for rehabilitation/modernisation of plant and machinery that have been approved financial assistance from the financial institutions and/or banks are considered for loans from the Sugar

Development Fund in accordance with the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983.

New Guide Lines of IRDA

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

(a) whether IRDA proposes a broad-base guidelines and allow cooperatives and panchayats to act as agents in the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives of relaxation of guidelines by IRDA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Licensing of Insurance Agents) Regulations, 2000, the cooperatives and panchayats have not been made eligible to act as agents since there is a requirement of minimum educational qualifications, a period of practical training and compulsory passing of examination. However, to give impetus to the rural insurance business, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority is examining the issue of allowing cooperatives and panchayats also to act as insurance agents.

[Translation]

Demand of Leather Products in Foreign Countries

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

(a) whether the demand of leather products manufactured in India has increased in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries where the demand has increased;

(c) whether the Government have formulated or formulating any special scheme to encourage the leather exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the export of leather products has increased during the last year;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the foreign exchange earned therefrom ?

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

(b) The demand of leather products manufactured in India has increased in Germany, USA, UK, Italy, France, Spain, Russia, Sweden, Greece, Indonesia, and Rep of Korea.

(c) and (d) The Government is formulating an Indicative Medium Term Plan for the year 2001-2006 for export of leather goods. Under the plan specific products to be marketed in specific countries are being identified for a more focussed approach.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The export of leather products have shown a healthy growth during the current year. The Foreign Exchange earned upto April-October 2000 is 945.14 Million US \$ as compared to 784.07 Million US \$ during the corresponding period of year 1999 showing an increase of 20.54%.

[English]

Subsidised Foodgrains to Quake Hit Areas

508. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to distribute the foodgrain items at very low prices in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the foodgrains are likely to be disturbed and the details of agency involved in the distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has allotted a quantity of 80,000 tonnes of wheat and 20,000 tonnes of rice to the Government of Gujarat for distribution in the earthquake affected areas with validity period for lifting the allotted foodgrains upto 31.3.2001. Food Corporation of India has been asked to release the foodgrains to the State Government or their nominees without payment.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Drugs and Explosives

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

(a) whether the incidents of smuggling of explosives, narcotics and other types of items are on rise in the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any short term/long term policy has been formulated by the Government to check such activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Smuggling being clandestine activity, it is not possible to state whether incidents of smuggling are on rise. However, the reports available as well as seizure trends of narcotic drugs, explosives and other contraband goods do not indicate any significant variation, in the recent past.

(c) and (d) To deal with smuggling of contraband goods. Customs Act, 1962 has been enacted, which apart from seizure and confiscation of smuggled goods, provide for penal action against smugglers including prosecution thereof. Besides, COFEPOSA Act, 1974 has been enacted to provide for preventive detention of persons indulging in organised smuggling activities. The Government also reviews deployment of anti-smuggling equipments such as baggage x-ray machines, Binoculars, metal detectors, arms and ammunition etc., deployed in the field formations, from time to time.

As regards drug trafficking, the Govt. of India has taken a number of statutory and administrative measures, to counter the same, such as :

- (i) Enactment of NDPS Act, 1985 and PITNDPS Act, 1988 which provide for stringent punishment including preventive detention, for those who are engaged in drug trafficking;
- (ii) A number of Central and State Government enforcement agencies have been empowered to enforce the NDPS Act, 1985;
- (iii) Setting up of a nodal agency at the national level, i.e., Narcotics Control Bureau, to coordinate and monitor drug law enforcement in the country;
- (iv) Officers of various drug law enforcement agencies are trained on a regular basis in order to improve their effectiveness;
- (v) India is a member of all the UN Conventions as well as SAARC convention, which envisage multilateral cooperation against drug trafficking.

[English]

FDI in Power Sector

510. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether in a more having far reaching consequences, the Government have mooted the proposal to allow 100% Foreign Direct Investment in power sector through the automatic routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this proposal has been forwarded to Power and finance Ministries for their consent;

(d) if so, whether the consent of these Ministries have been received; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the system is likely to be given effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) Government have already permitted, vide Press note No.2 of 1998 read with Press note No.7 of 2000, 100% Foreign Direct Investment under automatic route in power projects for generation, transmission, distribution except atomic power plants.

Opening of FCI Depot

511. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the decision to open various depots of Food Corporation of India in most of the States particularly in Orissa is not being carried out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise, total number of existing FCI depot;

(d) whether the Government propose to open more FCI depot in all the States particularly in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) constructs godowns at micro

level as per the requirements at the most strategic locations subject to availability of funds.

(c) At present, the total number of existing FCI depots (owned) are 536. A statement indicating State-wise number of existing FCI's depots is enclosed.

(d) and (e) During the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), FCI proposes to construct storage capacity of 4.67 lakh tonnes at various centers of which 2.11 lakh tonnes (including 0.25 lakh metric tonnes at Orissa) has already been constructed. Construction of about 22 lakh tonnes capacity godowns has been entrusted to the Central Warehousing Corporation for use of FCI. In procuring regions, the State Warehousing Corporations also provide capacity for use of FCI to meet the increased demand of procurement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of owned Godowns (Covered)
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	20
2.	Orissa	22
3.	West Bengal	26
4.	Sikkim	01
Total (East Zone)		69
5.	Assam	18
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	04
7.	Meghalaya	02
8.	Manipur	02
9.	Mizoram	04
10.	Nagaland	04
11.	Tripura	02
Total (N.E. Zone)		36
12.	Delhi	07
13.	Haryana	37
14.	Himachal Pradesh	04
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	11
16.	Punjab	111
17.	Chandigarh	04

1	2	3
18.	Rajasthan	35
19.	Uttar Pradesh	56
Total (North Zone)		265
20.	Andhra Pradesh	35
21.	Kerala	22
22.	Karnataka	16
23.	Tamil Nadu	16
24.	Pondicherry	03
Total (South Zone)		92
25.	Gujarat	15
26.	Maharashtra	17
27.	Goa	01
28.	Madhya Pradesh	41
Total (West Zone)		74
Grand Total (All India)		536

Extension of Time Slot for Varanasi DD Kendra

512. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to extend the time slot on National Network for Varanasi Doordarshan Kendra is under consideration of the Government; and;

(b) if so, the extent of extension likely to be given in time slot and the date since when it will be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal for consideration of the Government. Decision on programmes and content are taken by Prasar Bharati on its own.

Amendment of Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983

513. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 in order to help the sick sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sick sugar mills likely to be revived after the amendment, State-wise and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the other steps taken for healthy growth of sugar industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) As on 31.12.2000, 39 sick sugar companies in the private/public sector are registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). As per information furnished by NABARD, as on 31.3.1999, 92 sugar mills in the cooperative sector had a negative network.

Government is considering to amend the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 to provide loans on concessional terms to potentially viable sick sugar mills.

Purchase of Items by NCCF

514. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

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

(a) whether NCCF purchase items from manufacturers or its authorized distributors;

(b) if so, actual value of Eveready Cells and Torches, Milton products, Bombay Dyeing products, Fabre Castle items, Action wall clocks, ECE/Osram bulbs and tubelights purchased in the last two years;

(c) if no such purchases have been made, what other brands of similar items were sold giving their brand names, price to NCCF with maximum Retail Price and how does those prices compare with the authorized dealers of the manufacturers above stated;

(d) whether there is any proposal to direct the NCCF to pass all such requirements to the authorized dealers/distributors; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The NCCF is an autonomous cooperative society registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act. It has its own Board of Directors to decide about the business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that they make purchase of major branded items either the

manufacturers or the distributors/dealers registered with them.

(b) and (c) The NCCF does not make the item-wise accounts of supply of various items. The compilation of the above information for the last two years will be voluminous and difficult to compile as large volume of transactions are involved.

(d) and (e) In view of the reply given in part (a) above, Government has no proposal to interfere in the business activities of NCCF.

Development Assistance to India by U.K.

515. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether UK has decided to triple its development assistance to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds likely to be made available to India during the next three years;

(d) whether UK Secretary of State for International Development has released White Paper on Globalization of Economies while on a visit to India;

(e) if so, whether India has gone through the White paper; and

(f) the main points of the benefit to India brought out in that White Paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) After the recent visit of Ms. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom, she has sent a letter to Finance Minister indicating UK's plan atleast to triple their direct assistance to India from present around Rs. 700 crores to more than Rs. 2000 crores a year, in three years time. However, the UK Government has not yet conveyed their approval thereto.

(d) The British Government has released a new White Paper in December, 1999 on International Development entitled "Eliminating World Poverty : Making Globalization Work for the Poor". This paper was launched in India during the visit of UK Secretary of State for International Development on 16.1.2001.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) It has been indicated in the White Paper that in India, the UK Government is developing effective partnership with World Bank and Asian Development Bank at State level. They are working alongside World Bank with the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa to improve economic performance and deliver a greater level of resources in support of pro-poor policies in these States. If good progress is made on policy reform, the UK will consider providing financial aid through the State budget alongside World Bank loans. In Madhya Pradesh, the UK is working in a similar way with the Asian Development Bank.

Amendments in Copyright Laws

516. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Copyright laws by making import and sale of counterfeit products a non-bailable offence;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the problem of counterfeiting of products have an adverse impact on exports also; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decisive decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) as per Section 51 of the Copyright Act, 1957, amended in 1999, imports into India of infringing copies of a work has been made an offence to check import of counterfeit products in all its dimensions. Chapters XII and XIII of the Copyright Act contain provisions for civil and criminal remedies providing imprisonment for a period of six months and fine of Rs. 50,000/-. There is no proposal to amend the Copyright Act to make import and sale of counterfeit products a non-bailable offence.

Remedies also exist in the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958, both civil and criminal, under which action against piracy of products of registered brands, resulting in infringement of rights, can be secured in the appropriate courts. The Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 is proposed to be replaced by the Trade Marks Act, 1999 under which the penal provisions for infringement of trademarks rights have been enhanced. Sections 101 to 105 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, provide for necessary penalties for counterfeiting. Offences under Section 103, 104 and 105 have been made cognisable and the period

of imprisonment provided is to be not less than six months with a maximum of three years with a minimum fine of Rs. 50,000/- which may be extended to Rs. 2,00,000/-.

Export of Sugar

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

(a) whether the agriculturists in the country have suggested several steps for sugar sector particularly to increase sugar exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to boost sugar exports especially to Iraq to barter oil for food ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Suggestions have been received for improving the viability of the sugar industry including export of sugar.

(b) and (c) In order to boost export of sugar, Government have 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 the same may be availed by the concerned sugar factory from the production in the 2000-2001 sugar season.
- (iv) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the F.O.B. value of exports of sugar has been allowed.
- (v) APEDA have waived 5% Performance Bank Guarantee to be furnished by the exports.

All exports to Iraq are permissible under the U.N. sponsored 'Oil for Food' programme. Contracts for supplies are awarded as per prescribed tendering process. It is not

on barter basis for oil but payments to exporters are made through a specially U.N. maintained "Escrow Iraq Account".

Fashion Television Channel

518. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have conducted a survey of the various TV channels, including the FTV (Fashion Channel) to ensure that the programmes beamed by them are in accord with the set code and culture of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to screen, regulate, control and if necessary, ban the objectionable and obscene transmissions beamed from overseas particularly, FTV channel as also by indigenous firms and companies ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Govt. has not conducted any survey of the programmes of various satellite channels. However, on receipt of complaints of violation of the prescribed codes, the matter is taken up with the concerned channels. Where found necessary, the programmes of the channels are also monitored. In the event of continued violation of the prescribed codes, the Ministry can notify such channel for prohibiting its transmission by cable operators.

Meeting of World Economic Forum

519. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian delegation participated in World Economic Forum in Davos recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) the Indian stand against industrialised nations for the "Unfair" globalisation process which led to "win-lose" situation for developing countries; and

(e) the response of the participants on India's stand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The

31st Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum took place in Davos, in Switzerland from January 25 to 30, 2001. The official Indian participation at the Forum comprised the Union Finance Minister and the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. A large number of representatives from the Indian industry and several Indian academicians also participated in the discussions.

The discussions focussed mainly on strengthening conditions for global growth particularly in the developing world, social environmental sustainability, international security and peacekeeping systems, reduction of technical, economic and social disparities, improvement in the global health and nutrition, promoting human rights and democratic values and safeguarding cultural identity in an increasingly homogenised world.

(d) and (e) The Union Finance Minister pointed out that the real challenge of globalisation was to transform into real benefits, the theoretical benefits, which were supposed to flow from globalisation. He explained that globalisation could not be achieved in an unequal world and there were enduring double standards in the creation of sustainable growth. He criticised the indifference of developed nations to the strengths of the developing countries, particularly India, and mentioned that while developing countries have opened up their markets, the advanced nations were keeping their markets off-limits through high tariffs and other barriers. He highlighted that the process of growth must be recast around the principles of equal opportunities. The Indian views and intervention during the various seasons were well received and favourably commented upon.

Pension Scheme for NHB Employees

520. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Housing Bank has formulated any specific schemes for financial assistance to SC/ST households;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the manner in which NHB plans to help these households;

(d) whether the issue of pension scheme for National Housing Bank employees is pending with his Ministry for a long time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the action taken by the Government for early finalisation of the pension scheme for the NHB employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per information furnished by National Housing Bank, no separate housing loan scheme has been formulated to provide loans for housing to SC/ST households. However, schemes which have been introduced by NHB for primary lenders to disburse housing loans to the weaker sections of the society including SC/ST, Rural areas are :

- (i) Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme-reference is provided to primary lenders for their disbursements in the notified rural areas.
- (ii) Refinance Scheme for Housing Finance companies-refinance scheme for housing loans advanced by HFCs to community Based Finance Institutions for their onward lending to members of Self Help Groups.
- (iii) NHB has also formulated a scheme for refinance assistance to HFCs in respect of their lending for repairs of houses damaged by the flood, and
- (iv) Scheme for extending financial assistance for the projects covering slum redevelopment and low cost housing for the poor (economically weaker sections/low Income Group), both in urban and rural areas under special fund (Voluntary Deposit Scheme).

(d) to (f) NHB had submitted a draft pension regulation for its employees in November, 1999 which is likely to be finalized early.

[Translation]

Distribution of Surplus Wheat

521. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a new scheme for distribution of surplus wheat in its godown to poor and the needy through Member of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be launched ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Wheat and Rice

522. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
DR. SANJAY PASWAN :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice exported against the target fixed during each of the last two years, country-wise;

(b) the price at which these commodities are exported;

(c) whether there is difference in export price and the price at which it is supplied within the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the actual loss incurred as a result thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to distribute the wheat to certain States at the same price is exported;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

DA to Central Government Employees

523. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly rate of Consumer Price Index during the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether another instalment of D.A. is due to Government employees and its pensioners w.e.f. 1.1.2001;

(c) if so, the percentage of DA due as on 1.1.2001;

(d) the burden on Government's exchequer due to hike in Dearness Allowance; and

(e) when it is likely to be announced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The available figures for All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) ranged between 431 to 446 during January to December 2000.

(b) to (e) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The instalment due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April. The decision in the matter will be taken well in time.

VRS in SBI

524. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the protests raised by the State Bank of India Unions against 'forcible' Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such representation has been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Supply of Cereals under PDS

525. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether a number of States have been requesting the Union Government for increased supply of cereals under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of such States as on January 31, 2001; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced from June, 1997, rice and wheat are allotted to States/UTs as per TPDS guidelines. On requests received from States/UTs, additional allocation of rice and wheat are also given, over and above the normal allocations, at central issue price applicable to above poverty line (APL) families or the rates under open market sale scheme whichever are lower.

State Governments of Sikkim, Mizoram and Tamil Nadu have requested recently for increased allocation of rice/wheat under TPDS. The details of these requests and reaction of the Government of India thereon are as under :

1. **Sikkim** : Government of Sikkim requested for allocation of 500 tonnes of wheat at rates applicable to below poverty line (BPL) families. The request has not been acceded to because under TPDS, rice and wheat are allotted at BPL rates within the quantum of BPL allocation fixed for a State under TPDS guidelines. The Government of Sikkim did not opt for any wheat out of their BPL allocation of foodgrains.
2. **Mizoram** : As requested by Government of Mizoram an additional quantity of 1000 tonnes of wheat per month is being allotted to the State at APL rate from January 2001 over and above their normal monthly allocation under TPDS.
3. **Tamil Nadu** : Government of Tamil Nadu has requested for allotment of 20,000 tonnes of wheat every month at BPL rate under PDS without insisting upon deduction of equal quantity of BPL rice from the allocation of rice. The request can not be acceded to because under TPDS, rice and wheat are allotted at BPL rates within the quantum of allocation fixed for a State under TPDS guidelines and BPL allocation can not be altered for any State in isolation.

Programmes on Education

526. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the guidelines with regard to the programmes being shown on Indian TV and to what extent these are being observed by the different channels; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to deal with the violation of the guidelines ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the programmes of satellite channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the prescribed programme and advertisement codes. In case of violation by any channel of these codes, the Ministry will notify such channel for prohibiting its retransmission by the cable operators. Enforcement of the provisions of the Act rests with the authorized officers i.e. DMs, SDMs, Commissioner of Police and other officers as may be notified by the Central/State Governments. TV channels uplinking their programmes from India are also bound through appropriate licensing conditions, to abide by the programme and advertisement codes, as applicable to Doordarshan.

Crude Palm Oil

527. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :
DR. RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

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

(a) the current rate of duty for import of crude palm oil by vanaspati manufacturers and traders;

(b) whether vanaspati manufacturers were allowed concessional rate duty for importing Crude Palm Oil;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the monthly production of vanaspati since January, 2000 vis-a-vis consumption of Crude Palm Oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The current rate of duty for import of crude palm oil is as under :

Crude Edible Oils	Rate of Duty
Palm Oil for manufacture of vanaspati	25%
Palm Oil for other than manufacture of vanaspati	55%

(b) The duty on import of Crude Palm Oil by vanaspati manufacturers is 25%, while that on other oils is 35%.

(c) The basic reason for maintaining the duty at the level of 25% has been to counter to the extent possible, the adverse impact on domestic vanaspati industry with the cheap imports of vanaspati from Nepal.

(d) The average monthly production of vanaspati and consumption of Crude Palm Oil since January, 2000 are estimated at 1.1 lakh MT and 0.57 lakh MT respectively.

Visit of Chinese Delegation to Diamond Industry in Surat

528. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent visits of Chinese delegation to the diamond industry in Surat in a bid to allure the business community for setting up trade in China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the Chinese move and the implications involved in so far as the country's diamond trade and industry is concerned; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government with regard thereto ?

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

(b) to (d) The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), an autonomous representative body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has informed that Chinese delegations have been visiting India and have been having discussions with the office bearers of the GJEPC and their other members having diamond cutting and polishing units for the setting up of diamond cutting and polishing units in China. The interests of Indian diamond industry could be adversely affected if China also becomes a major supplier of the cut and polished diamonds.

The GJEPC has been advised to take effective steps for the further growth of the Indian share in the total world trade in cut and polished diamonds while also ensuring that the predominant market share as has been assiduously carved out by the Indian diamond industry in the world market is not allowed to be adversely affected. Government through the fine tuning of its Exim Policy year after year has been facilitating the exports of this very important sector so as to enable it to maintain India's predominant position in the world market of cut and polished diamonds.

[Translation]

Performance of Public Sector undertakings in Maharashtra

529. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the profits of many public sector units have decreased during 1999-2000, 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for decline in the profit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 1998-99, which was laid on the table in the Lok Sabha on 10.3.2000, there were 235 operating Central Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.3.99. Out of these, 114 PSUs recorded either increase in profits or decrease in losses, 118 PSUs had recorded either decrease in profits or increase in losses and in three cases there was no change during 1998-99 as compared to the previous year. The reasons for such down fall are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons are outdated technology, old plants and machinery, severe competition, financial crunch, higher input costs, surplus manpower etc.

(c) Performance improvement is a continuous process. Enterprise specific steps are taken by the administrative Ministries/Departments/Management of PSUs from time to time. However, some of the common steps include managerial and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, upgradation of technology, modernization of plants and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies etc.

[English]

Appointment of Liaison Officers in State Bank of Indore

530. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of Indore has appointed some clerks to the officer grade (liaison-officer) without conducting any examination or interview for the purpose during the last year;

(b) if so, whether vacancies of liaison officers to be filled from clerical staff without holding any examination interview were notified and applications called for the purpose; and

(c) if not, who is responsible for making such arbitrary appointments and the action proposed to be taken against the concerned officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State Bank of Indore has reported that the bank has not appointed any clerk to Officer Grade (Liaison Officer) during last year without conducting examination and/or interview.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Surplus Foodgrains

531. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell the surplus Foodgrains in the open market in order to reduce the burden on Government godowns;

(b) if so, the sale prices of wheat and rice fixed by the Government to sell them in the open market;

(c) whether the sale price is different from the export price; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the difference in prices and the quantity of foodgrains already sold in the open market and exported during 2000-2001 ?

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

(b) The open sale prices of Wheat and Rice are given as under :

Commodity	Domestic Sale	Rate per qtl.	
		Domestic Rate	Export Rate
1	2	3	4
Wheat	North Zone Including the State of M.P. and Chhatisgarh	Rs. 650/-	

1	2	3	4
	South Zone	Rs. 743/-	Rs. 415/-
	West Zone	Rs. 724/-	
	East/North East Zone	Rs. 736/-	

It has been decided to sell C and D Category and luster lost wheat to the Roller Flour Mills at a rate of Rs. 50/- per qtl. less than the ibid prices for domestic sale.

Rice is sold at a fixed price of Rs. 950/- per qtl. to State Government and private parties in non-negligible procuring States and in Andhra Pradesh. In case of procuring States, the stocks are liquidated at current levy price plus cost of gunny.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) There is poor off take of rice and wheat in the domestic market. Export is one of the options for liquidation of stocks since there is every likelihood that the quality is liable to deteriorate due to prolonged storage and thus downgrading of stocks would require to be sold subsequently at reduced rates. Storage is also becoming difficult and hence there is every need to get the surplus stock liquidated to accommodate fresh stocks on procurement.

The export price of wheat is calculated on the basis of economic cost which is Rs. 8300 per M.T. minus two years carrying cost which is Rs. 3892 per M.T. since the Central Issue Price (CIP) for wheat for BPL category is Rs. 4150 per M.T. export price is fixed at par with this rate.

The details of wheat sold in domestic and export market from 1.4.2000 to 31.01.2001 is given below :

Wheat : Domestic - 4.60 lakh M.T.
Export - 8.75 lakh M.T.

During the period, Government has not exported any rice.

[English]

Losses to Banks due to Earthquake in Gujarat

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent devastating earthquake has caused a great loss to various Banks in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether crores of rupees were buried under the rubble in various banks;

(c) if so, the amount that has been estimated to have been buried in rubbles; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to locate this money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Dena Bank, the Convenor of State Level Banker's Committee for the State of Gujarat has informed that out of a total 4945 bank branches operating in the Gujarat State, 68 branches were totally damaged and 80 branches were partially damaged due to earthquake. However, all these 4945 branches have since started functioning. As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, 5 bank branches having currency chests in the State of Gujarat were affected by the earthquake. A total balance of Rs. 97.16 crores was held in these chests. It is also reported that the local authorities have taken all necessary precautions to safeguard the treasure in the affected currency chests. No loss of funds from currency chests have been reported so far.

[Translation]

Conference of State I and B Ministers

533. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

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

(a) whether a conference of the State Ministers for Information and Broadcasting was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the matters on which general agreement was reached ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The 24th Conference of State/UT Ministers of Information and Cinematography was held on 21st January, 2001.

(b) and (c) The details are given in Statement.

Statement

The Conference was inaugurated by hon'ble Prime Minister of India and attended by 2 Chief Ministers, 13 Ministers of Information and Public Relations of different

States, one Lt. Governor and official level delegations from States/Union Territories.

2. The issues discussed at the conference were, inter-alia, action taken on 23rd SIMCON, developments in the field of Broadcasting, changes in the Cable Television Network Act, needs voiced by states in broadcasting, information and film sectors, need to curb violence and obscenity in films, issue of video piracy, rationalization of the existing entertainment tax structure to make entertainment sector more vibrant and the need to bring cinema on to the Concurrent List.

3. It was decided to set up a Committee to go into the issues related to the entertainment sector. This Committee will be headed by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister and will have the MOS (I and B) as the Vice-Chairman. Other members of the Committee are 9 Members of information representing different parts of the country. It was also agreed to curb the tendency to depict violence and obscenity in films and to ensure that Cable Network Regulations (Amendment) Act is enforced. It was agreed to make efforts to cover the remote areas with Doordarshan and All India Radio network. All the states agreed to provide special emphasis to observance of the year 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment.

Visit of World Bank Chairman to India

534. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of World Bank visited India during the first week of November, 2000;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the issues discussed with the Finance Minister;

(c) the aid provided to India by the Bank before the visit of Chairman of World Bank to India;

(d) whether the sanctioned funds have been fully utilized;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the reasons for withholding the increase in the aid to be given to India by the Chairman of World Bank ?

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

(b) The purpose of the visit was to familiarize with operations of the World Bank in India, to understand more about the country and to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The President discussed with FM issues of size of Bank assistance to India, improvement in disbursement, how to reduce poverty in India, infrastructure development, application of IT and formation of a joint venture for evolving IT application to rural development.

(c) No aid or assistance was linked to President's visit. India has received assistance to the tune of USD 53.03 billion for 408 projects from the World Bank from inception upto 30th June 2000.

(d) to (f) Most of the projects utilized funds fully. However, some projects had savings/cancellation due to problems relating to project management, shortage of counterpart funds, procurement and natural calamities, application of foreign exchange and so on.

(g) The President, World Bank has not done so.

Refund of Duty to Exporters

535. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had to pay Rs. 700 crore to the exporters as refund of duty in November, 2000 according to the Delhi Exporter's Association;

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

(c) whether the Government has also not made payment under the Duty entitlement passbook scheme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

Contract Labour System

536. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) the number of godowns of Food Corporation of India and the number of godowns where contract labour system is still being followed;

(b) whether facilities as provided in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 are being provided in godowns where contract labour system is still being followed;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government or the corporation to enforce the above said provisions;

(d) whether the Government propose to abolish Contract Labour System from these godowns; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor particularly not following the recommendations of Report of G.C. Asnani Committee to abolish the Contract Labour System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Presently, 975 depots/centres of the Food Corporation of India, out of total number of 1412 depots/centres, are operating under the Contract Labour System for handling and transportation of foodgrains.

(b) and (c) The handling and transport contractors are required to strictly adhere to the provisions of all Acts including the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. To ensure implementation/adherence of these provisions, the concerned enforcement authorities of the Government also undertake periodical inspections in the establishments of the Food Corporation of India.

(d) and (e) In view of the sporadic and seasonal nature of work in the Food Corporation of India godowns, it is not considered essential to abolish Contract Labour System in every depot/godown of the Food Corporation of India, particularly when engagement of labour under Contract System is permissible under the law.

[English]

IT In Doordarshan

537. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan is suffering from shortage of correspondents and latest equipments on Information Technology;

(b) if so, the number of correspondents put in service at present by Dooradarshan in the country, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;

(c) whether the interest of people is continuously in Doordarshan declining; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the image of Doordarshan among the people?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) DD at present has 25 TV News Correspondents posted all over India. State-wise break-up of the TV News Correspondents

and Assistant News Correspondents if given in Statement. In case of emergent requirements, the Correspondents are moved from various Kendras to the place of action for adequate coverage of the event. As and when required, casual News Reporters are also engaged for assignments, which are limited to a maximum of 10 days in a month. 4 TV News Correspondents were deputed to meet the requirements of Gujarat after the recent earthquake. Modern equipment is available at all the Kendras of DD and upgradation and augmentation of the equipment is a continuous process.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise list of the Doordarshan's Correspondents posted in the country

S.No.	State	No. of Correspondents
1.	Delhi	4
2.	Karnataka	3
3.	Orissa	1
4.	West Bengal	4
5.	Tamil Nadu	3
6.	Andhra Pradesh	3
7.	Rajasthan	1
8.	Punjab	1
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3
10.	Bihar	1
11.	Jharkand	1
Total		25

[Translation]

Exploration of Export Possibilities

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

(a) whether the Government have explored or propose to explore the possibilities of export of agricultural products and their sale in International Market from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States where these possibilities have been explored so far and the achievement made in this regard till date ?

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

(b) The Government through Spices Board has been implementing export promotion schemes for production and export of Spices in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe areas of the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam and Nagaland. The Government is providing assistance in production and processing of post harvest handling. These areas are being developed as organic export production villages. As a result, 2915 tonnes of organic spices produced in these areas have been exported and 1810 families have been benefited. The quantum of exports are expected to increase further from these areas during the year 2001-02. The Government through APEDA is also implementing a project at an outlay of Rs. 9.59 lakhs during the current year to promote export of organic sugarcane, rice from Assam passion fruit from Manipur, Pineapple from Meghalaya and Tripura.

[English]

Fall in Prices of Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Pepper

539. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers of natural rubber, tea, coffee and pepper are in great difficulty due to steep fall in prices of their produces;

(b) if so, the details of price structure for each of these items during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government intend to help the farmers of these produces; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) There has been a decline in the prices of tea and coffee and the growers of these commodities are not getting the same prices as they were getting two years ago. While in respect of natural rubber there has been a marginal increase in the prices, in respect of prices of peeper there has been a significant improvement as is evident from the price structure of these commodities given below :

Year	Natural Rubber	Tea	Coffee		Pepper*
			Arabica	Robusta	
1998	30	76	130	83	173
1999	30	73	115	79	206
2000	31	62	96	53	215

*Prices of pepper are financial yearwise.

(c) and (d) In order to stabilise the declining prices of Natural Rubber the Government of India have since August 1997 made a market intervention through STC for procurement of Natural Rubber on Government account. STC has so far procured 52,429 MT of Natural Rubber. To enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber Government has also imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licensce Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999. The procurement of Natural Rubber by STC is continuing for supply to ALHs against indents placed by them with STC.

With a view to help the growers of tea to come out of unremunerative price situation at the auctions Govt. has taken various steps which include implementation of a price subsidy scheme w.e.f. 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy 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 is provided to the small tea growers, implementation of quality upgradation programme in the Nilgiris Dist. of Tamilnadu and removal of the condition of obligatory sale of 75% of tea production through public tea auctions.

The fall in prices of coffee in the global and domestic market is due to surplus production of coffee. The Govt. of India has recently approved implementation of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) Retention Scheme for Coffee. It is hoped that the Plan which will be put in operation by the Coffee Board for a period of six months, will help in boosting the prices of coffee.

Recruitment of OBC Employees

540. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the effective date of reservation to OBC employees for recruitment was September 8, 1993 as per Mandal Commission report;

(b) if so, whether the General Insurance Company and its subsidiary companies had implemented the above decision in the year 1996;

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

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In respect of all recruitments carried out since 1996, due reservations were applied for the OBCs including backlog on account of appointments made since 8th September, 1993.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

Development of Infrastructure for Handling Export

541. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the Union Government in North-Eastern States for developing infrastructure for handling exports since January, 1999 onwards;

(b) the total amount announced by the Prime Minister in January, 1999 for this purpose;

(c) the reasons for sluggishness in the development of infrastructure; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the development of infrastructure in the North Eastern States ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) An amount of Rs. 27.54 Crores has been sanctioned for development of infrastructure in the North Eastern States for handling exports since January 1999. Out of this amount Rs. 17.60 crores have been released.

(b) As per the PM's Package for development of North East region, Rs. 20.00 crores have been earmarked for the development of four border townships at Zokhawthar (Mizoram), Moreh (Manipur), Dawki (Meghalaya) and Suterkhundi (Assam). Minimum 10% of the budgetary provision of various schemes of Department of Commerce are earmarked for development of trade related infrastructure in the North East.

(c) and (d) The development of infrastructure requires coordination with various agencies on different issues, including provision of land. Regular meetings with the State Governments of the North East region and other concerned agencies have been held to expedite the implementation of the sanctioned projects.

Functioning of Directorate of Anti-Dumping

542. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of Directorate of Anti-Dumping with a view to make it more effective and efficient in handling anti-dumping cases for Indian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms with emerging trend;

(c) the areas identified for strengthening/restructuring/upgrading anti-dumping directorate; and

(d) the action plan formulated to provide specialised services of professionals to the Directorate for dealing with anti-dumping cases efficiently in public interest ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The Additional Secretary and Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) assisted by a Senior Joint Secretary have at their disposal requisite technical and administrative staff for conducting the Anti-Dumping proceedings. The endeavour to deal with petitions on expeditious basis within the mandated time schedule at various stages, is a continuous process in the DGAD. It is proposed to strengthen DGAD further depending the number of cases at hand. The DGAD has held interactive sessions with the various Chambers of Commerce and has also held discussions with legal experts so that the body of knowledge represented by them becomes useful to the industry as well as to the Directorate on Anti-Dumping aspects.

Financial Institutions Investment in States

543. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans sanctioned by the public sector financial institutions to industries in each State during each of the last two years institution-wise and

(b) the amount actually released by these institutions during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Institution-wise (IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, IIBI, SIDBI and Exim Bank) and State-wise assistance sanctioned during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the Statement-I attached.

(b) Institution-wise and state-wise amount released (disbursed) by the above mentioned institutions during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the Statement-II attached.

Statement-I

State-wise/Institution-wise Assistance Sanctioned by IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, SIDBI, IIBI and
Exim Bank during 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Sr. No.	State	IDBI		IFCI		ICICI		SIDBI		IIBI		Exim Bank	
		1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1865.12	4394.82	475.46	287.18	1645.1	3406.9	180.88	253.51	109.74	88.42	189.82	155.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh							1.49	1.46				
3.	Assam	48.12	43.43	13.61		27	181.71	8.18	13.29	2.4			
4.	Bihar	678.3	241.5	35.6	23.23	292.5	607.63	95.86	103.03	12.61	12.93		
5.	Goa	187.09	71.47	10		45	136	86.19	54.46	85	20		
6.	Gujarat	2091.37	4538.93	318.27	615.63	4615	5677.54	457.61	552.37	278.75	154.89	94.86	84.47
7.	Haryana	520.24	572.84	89.6	43.65	780.5	959.91	306.27	247.87	28.15	51.79	14.49	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	66.7	373.01	192.5	64.32	0	175	38.66	37	5	45		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir		41.48			15	262.45	20.09	17.33				
10.	Karnataka	2319.7	1262.31	292.7	206.36	1427.75	2689.18	418.5	353.05	122.7	190.25	49	28.43
11.	Kerala	367.36	222	55		179.13	162	265.57	353.48	20	8	6	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	700.83	1122.72	184.51	22.8	1169.88	630.95	243.18	263.8	51	69.85	5	22
13.	Maharashtra	5539.39	4878.48	1305.07	317.47	11678.09	11755.37	865.53	737.96	644.94	456.44	84.51	213.56
14.	Manipur							3.69	4.79				
15.	Meghalaya							4.84	4.09				
16.	Mizoram							0.98	1.06				
17.	Nagaland							1.46	1.48				
18.	Orissa	142.4	46.33			616.36	2275.26	135.16	141.66	105	300		
19.	Punjab	546.81	1526.15	1153	84.79	817.21	443.1	226.16	269.99	50.85	5.77		
20.	Rajasthan	1020.5	778.22	91.89	38.81	150.05	419.07	151.74	243.59	78	100		

(Rs. crores)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21. Sikkim		0.4						6.58	2.45				
22. Tamil Nadu		2532.01	3368.14	510.85	54.6	3573.23	3801.87	509.4	557.14	228.09	349.56	55.54	166.67
23. Tripura								3.94	5.01				
24. Uttar Pradesh		2048.73	810.94	458.75	178.19	865.17	2112.81	271.68	186.54	140.5	60.92	83	50
25. West Bengal		509.37	925.21	57.7	75.14	2145.64	1920.82	294.58	218.19	185.43	319.7	111.35	78.25
26. National Capital Territory of Delhi		2251.53	1927.18	76	108.24	1842.51	5739.43	186.53	261.91	17.5	103.56	4.65	12.34
27. Union Territory		213.68	169.79	162.4	255.8	65.2	166.3	25.56	28.64	9.5	1		
(a) Andaman and Nicobar								0.08					
(b) Daman and Diu		56.78	56	10		12	65	0.24	2.19				
(c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli		105.5	66.43	92.4	255.8	37.7	51.3	15.74	16.21	9.5			
(d) Chandigarh		22.7	42.36	55				2.42	8.37		1		
(e) Lakshadweep													
(f) Pondicherry		28.7	5	5		15.5	50	7.08	1.87				
28. Multistate/non-specific areas						420.26	955.46						
Total		23649.7	2731.5	4445.2	2376.2	32370.6	44478.8	4810.3	4914.5	2175.2	2338.1	698.2	845.9

Statement-II

State-wise/Institution-wise Assistance Disturbed by IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, SIDBI, IIBI and Exim Bank during 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Sr. No.	State	IDBI		IFCI		ICICI		SIDBI		IIBI		Exim Bank	
		1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1234.8	1692.6	329.6	303.4	643.7	1275.6	154.5	211.7	15.2	88.8	120.9	111.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			3.8				1.5	1.5				
3.	Assam	26.3	29.9	15.8	5.6	25.1	102.1	9.6	13.1	2.4	0.5		
4.	Bihar	137.7	317.4	8.5	2.7	461.2	512.5	78.7	96.7		10.1		
5.	Goa	113.8	103.4	28.8	58.8	34.0	95.7	72.8	57.8	70.4	30.0		
6.	Gujarat	2340.6	2457.5	694.5	416.8	3112.1	3680.0	323.3	311.0	256.6	125.4	85.6	56.8
7.	Haryana	303.4	385.2	112.2	46.4	495.3	734.6	295.0	229.2	30.8	6.1	10.3	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	95.1	362.3	94.9	61.5	71.9	48.4	38.7	31.6	5.0	31.1		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.0	42.3				16.5	16.8	16.6				
10.	Karnataka	1292.5	955.6	480.1	177.0	1102.9	2178.7	323.3	263.4	97.7	209.0	23.3	0.8
11.	Kerala	174.9	118.0	47.7	1.3	119.0	173.2	202.5	315.0	13.7	2.7	1.4	56.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	718.4	658.9	494.1	101.2	549.5	284.6	194.0	226.8	40.3	62.3	13.5	19.3
13.	Maharashtra	2706.4	3563.5	887.0	1104.2	6885.5	6419.3	734.9	654.4	511.6	331.1	99.0	100.3
14.	Manipur							0.7	4.2				
15.	Meghalaya							2.8	3.7				
16.	Mizoram							1.0	1.0				
17.	Nagaland							1.4	1.5				
18.	Orissa	236.4	202.9	174.0		386.5	484.8	82.6	91.2	65.3	61.7		
19.	Punjab	525.8	559.9	202.4	99.9	196.3	264.6	146.7	210.3	59.1	12.8	12.9	3.1
20.	Rajasthan	864.6	680.1	156.4	47.6	226.7	278.8	131.3	195.0	76.7	45.0		
21.	Sikkim							6.1	3.4				
22.	Tamil Nadu	1407.4	1213.5	423.2	157.4	1470.4	1922.4	363.3	439.1	126.5	138.6	22.3	67.4
23.	Tripura							3.8	5.1				
24.	Uttar Pradesh	881.1	814.6	277.9	468.4	445.7	968.1	240.5	173.5	86.3	49.2	39.7	
25.	West Bengal	669.6	627.7	133.8	97.5	1462.8	1733.8	206.2	183.5	210.4	187.6	5.1	18.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
26.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	452.9	1330.8	35.8	56.1	1065.5	3871.6	191.6	133.8	5.5	46.2	3.5	40.7
27.	Union Territory	192.8	95.3	218.9	56.7	50.6	82.1	22.5	28.5	15.1	1.5	14.0	
	(a) Andaman and Nicobar							0.1					
	(b) Daman and Diu	51.3	18.1			23.0	18.3	0.7	1.3	1.1			
	(c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli	102.8	32.4	144.2	54.4	8.7	31.9	16.1	13.3	14.0	0.6		
	(d) Chandigarh	17.6	27.9	68.0				1.2	11.1		0.9	12.4	
	(e) Lakshadweep												
	(f) Pondicherry	21.1	17.0	6.7	2.3	19.0	31.9	4.4	2.8			1.6	
28.	Multistate/non-specific areas					420.3	708.4						
	Total	14375.1	16211.5	4819.3	3262.3	19225.1	25835.7	3845.9	3902.5	1688.5	1439.6	451.6	474.7

**UN Panel Named India in Blood
Diamond Trail**

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "UN panel names India in blood diamonds' trail" appearing in the Indian Express dated January 22, 2001;

(b) if so, whether an expert panel of United Nations has listed India among the countries which could have an indirect link to the trail of blood diamonds from Sierra Leone;

(c) if so, whether panel has asked India to impose stringent import and invoicing procedures on diamond trade; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The United Nations Panel of Experts under the Chairmanship of Mr. Martin Chungong Ayafor during their visit to India was apprised of the various actions taken by the Government of India and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council to ensure that India does not have any dealings in conflict/blood diamonds. The UN Panel in turn had expressed its satisfaction about the actions taken by India. In its report, the Expert Panel has states that it is essential and urgent that major trading centres, which includes India, come to a common agreement on the recording and public documentation of rough diamond imports which is consistent from one country to another and that clearly designates the country of origin in addition to the country of provenance.

The Government of India are willing to fully cooperate with any reasonable global documentation scheme which does not cause any undue delays and does not create unnecessary hardships to the legitimate trade in diamonds, with a view to eliminate the possibility of any conflict diamonds entering India.

Effect on Export to USA

545. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA is India's biggest export market;

(b) if so, whether India could be hit hard since the US running a trade deficit of a mammoth dollar 450 billion; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken or propose to be taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. USA is India's largest trading partner and export destination. The massive US trade deficit should not be regarded as a negative factor since during the last 5 years, the balance of India-US trade has consistently been in India's favour and has increased with each passing year. It is the endeavour of the Government to further boost its export to USA through a medium term export strategy which strives to exploit the untapped potential in bilateral trade with focus on special efforts towards developing new and fast areas of cooperation, close monitoring of, as well as liaison with the US authorities on important bilateral trade related issues.

[Translation]

Industries in Jharkhand

546. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) The number of public/private industries functioning in Jharkhand as on date;

(b) whether any Government and Non-Government Organisation have provided funds for the revival of the closed industries in Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have made any efforts to promote small scale industries in Jharkhand; 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, 29 non-SSI Units have set up in the State of Jharkhand. In addition 38,556 SSI units are reported to have been set up as on 31st December, 1999 in the State of Jharkhand.

(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 the State of Jharkhand.

(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 Jharkhand. This policy provides fiscal/credit incentives together with infrastructural, technological and marketing support. The central policies for the SSI sector serve as guidelines but each State evolves its own policy and package of incentives.

[English]

Recommendations of Commission on Constitution Review on WTO

547. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission on Constitution Review has made certain recommendations to the Government for taking view of the public and the Members of Parliament on the WTO agreement which endangers the financial freedom of the country;

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

(c) the number of agreements signed with WTO so far and the effect thereof on the Indian economy?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By ratifying the WTO Agreement, India became a party to the "Agreement Establishing the WTO" and its associated multilateral agreements which besides GATT, 1994 include 16 other multilateral agreements. The WTO agreements have provided a predictable rule based multilateral trading system. By virtue of signing the WTO Agreement, India is automatically entitled to get the most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment for its exports from all WTO Members. There are also provisions under WTO agreements to address non-tariff barriers existing in foreign markets. WTO also has a strong Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve any disputes between members. Being a fully democratic organisation, with equal voting rights to each member, India is assured of a say in the multilateral rule making process.

Closure of HMT Unit at Hyderabad

548. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the HMT Watch Unit at Hyderabad;

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

(c) whether the State Government have sought Union Government to reconsider the decision; and

(d) if so, the status of the request made by Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) a turnaround plan has been approved for HMT which proposes various measures like financial, organisational restructuring, etc. The plan also provides for closure of some of its unviable, perennially loss making units, including the Watch Unit at Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have already been informed that the decision was taken after due consideration.

Movement of Foodgrains

549. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding despatch of maize procured in Andhra Pradesh to consuming States like Rajasthan and Gujarat permitting Andhra Pradesh marked and FCI to dispose the stocks in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with the action taken on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Government of Andhra Pradesh that AP MARKFED and FCI be allowed to dispose of stocks of maize either in the open market, or permit them to dispatch the stocks to the consuming States like Gujarat and Rajasthan, as it would not be possible to sell these stocks under the PDS in A.P.

(c) Since there is no demand of maize under PDS, it has been decided to dispose of the procured quantities of stocks by open tenders.

[Translation]

**Demand for Disassociating India
from WTO**

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

(a) whether the Government have received memoranda from the farmers, labourers and small industry owners of several States demanding disassociating India from the World Trade Organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States from whom Memoranda have been received;

(c) whether the Government have considered the matters raised in these memoranda;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) There have been representations from a few organisations from different parts of the country for disassociation of India from the WTO mainly on the grounds that WTO agreements have severely constrained domestic policy options and have mainly benefitted the developed countries and the interests of the domestic producers in developing countries have been seriously compromised.

(c) to (e) WTO provides a predictable rule based multilateral trading system which protects the developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed trading partners. By virtue of being a member of WTO, India is automatically entitled to get most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment for its exports. WTO also has a strong Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve any disputes between members. Being a fully democratic organisation, with equal voting rights to each member, India is assured of a say in the multilateral rule making process. However, during the implementation of various agreements under WTO, India and many other developing countries have experienced some implementation related problems due to some imbalances in the existing WTO Agreements, and due to non fulfilment of their obligations in letter and spirit by the developed countries. India along with 11 other developing countries have raised these "implementation issues" vide WTO documents No. WT/GC/W354 and 355 dated 1/10/1999. The WTO General Council in its May 2000 meeting, had decided as a part of the confidence building exercise for the developing countries that the implementation related concerns of the developing countries should be addressed as reflected in the work programme of WTO.

[English]

**Stepping up of Food Crops
Procurement**

551. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to step up procurement of several foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise to be increased;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government to enhance the procurement of maize, jowar, ragi and paddy from that State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Under the present policy, Government procures foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications through FCI and State Government agencies under price support operations. The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State agencies at support prices, or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. No targets, as such are fixed for the procurement of foodgrains.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 (till 19.2.2001), 145498 tonnes of maize and 1003 tonnes of paddy have been procured by Food Corporation of India as against nil procurement during the corresponding period last Kharif Marketing Season.

As regards Jowar and Ragi, the Government of Karnataka proposes to procure these coarse grains under Decentralized Procurement Scheme.

Recovery of NPA

552. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank-wise, amount spent by the Government on advertising and publicity for recovery of Non-Performing Assets; and

(b) the amount of NPAs realised as a result of the advertising campaign during the last three months ?

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

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Proposal to Set Up Film Institute
in Goa**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a unit of the National Film Institute, Pune in Goa in collaboration with Goa University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Ministry of information and Broadcasting has already set up two national level Institutes, namely, film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. The investment involved in setting up of an Institute of this nature is extremely high and on account of constraints of funds, this Ministry has no plan to set up any other Institute.

[Translation]

Sale of Government Equity

554. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether transparency is needed in the sale of the Government equity;

(b) if so, whether the entire process of disinvestment is aimed at converting the public sector into a productive and effective sector.

(c) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the target of mobilising rupees ten thousand crore by disinvestment during 2000-2001 is much below than the loan liability; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government's disinvestment policy is aimed at optimal utilization of capital, better corporate governance, reduction in commercial risk of tax payer's money, release of scarce resources for deployment in social sectors like family welfare, health, education and other sectors of great public interest.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The target for disinvestment for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 10,000 crore which is much below the loan liability of the Government of India. However, the process of disinvestment is not being linked to filling the fiscal deficit.

[English]

**Amendment of Essential Commodities
Act, 1955**

555. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHAL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Essential Commodities Act 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering some specific measures to reduce the huge surplus of foodgrains stocks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to allow inter-State trading in foodgrains and also to relax the stock limits maintained by traders in rural areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which these measures would obviate the effect of brought ?

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

(b) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8.3.2000

to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The amendment aims at providing more deterrent action against hoarders and blackmarketeers while eliminating scope for unnecessary harassment to genuine traders. The proposed amendment includes increase in fines and imprisonment, making of all offences cognizable and non-bailable except the minor offences committed for the first time, requirement of prior permission of an officer not below the rank of Executive Magistrate for making entry, search and seizure, power of arrest to be exercised by an officer not below the rank of sub-inspector of police, seized good to be sold through Public Distribution System, provision for allowance of margin between physical stock and stock in record, appeal against confiscation to lie with the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details have been given in Statement.

(e) to (g) As per the Central Government's policy decision taken in March, 1993, all the States/UTs were requested to remove all the informal/formal inter-state/intra-state restrictions on movement of foodgrains. However, some State Governments like Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal have kept the restrictions on movement of foodgrains (paddy/rice) on account of local conditions.

The Government of Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir are still keeping stock-limits on rice on account of local conditions, inspite of the policy decision of the Central Government to abolish stocks limits on rice. All the State/UTs except Bihar have kept stock limits on wheat.

Taking into account the overall comfortable food situation and also keeping in view the storage constraints faced by FCI, the State Governments have been requested in November, 2000, to do away with all the restrictions on trade in wheat and wheat products and also to remove restrictions on movement, if any, imposed informally by the States/UTs on their own. Similarly, in January, 2001, the State Governments have been requested to remove all restrictions on trade in rice.

Statement

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

1. Open sale of wheat at reduced prices has been started from 11.07.2000.
2. Open sale of rice has been started from 4.9.2000.

3. The Central Issue Prices of Wheat and rice were revised downwards on 25.7.2000.
4. The (Central Issue Prices) CIPs of rice and wheat for (Above Poverty Line) families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost or the open market sale price decided by the FCI from time to time, whichever is lower. The open market rates being less than the economic cost, the States can avail of this offer and make foodgrains available to APL population at reduced rates.
5. The allocation of food grains for (Below Poverty Line) families @ 20 kg per family per month is now being made on the basis of population projections of the Register General as on 01.03.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.
6. Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Governments @ 5 kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST backward students/Nari Niketans etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.
7. Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.
8. Foodgrains at the rates applicable for BPL families will be allotted to the State Governments for undertaking 'Food-for-Work' programmes in the States, as also for the Greening India Campaign.
9. Foodgrains will be allocated at BPL rates for development schemes (Where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.
10. 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.

Reduction in the Quantity of Levy Sugar

556. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce the quantity of levy sugar in a move to further liberalize the sugar sector and improve the health of beleaguered sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to make timely payment of cane prices and to liquidate farmers' arrears; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Indian Sugar Industry is likely to be benefited as a result of these steps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have reduced the levy obligation from 30% to 15% w.e.f. 1st February, 2001 on every domestic producer and importer of sugar.

(c) The Central Government have taken the following measures to clear/liquidate the cane price arrears :

1. Closely monitoring the cane price payment position and writing to the State Governments from time to time at the highest level wherever necessary as the responsibility of cane price payment lies primarily with the State Governments;
2. Reduction in levy obligation of sugar mills from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000 and again to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001.
3. Increased the custom duty 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.
4. pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas.
5. Making advance releases of freesale sugar to needy sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price dues of the farmers.
6. Permitted export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar.

7. Bringing about amendment in the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 w.e.f. 29.11.2000 thereby giving more powers to the Central Government and the State Governments for recovery of sugarcane dues by treating them as the dues of land revenue.

(d) These steps/measures are sure to improve the health of the industry in general and reduction in levy in particular will enable the sugar producers more realisation out of freesale sugar.

Implementation of Indian Standards by BIS

557. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards has decided to strictly implement Indian Standards on the wide range of imported products/goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether imposition of BIS standards will check the inflow of sub-standards imported goods; and

(d) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, have issued a Notification on 24th November, 2000 making import of 131 items subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian Quality Standards as notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and also applicable to domestic goods.

(c) and (d) The above requirement is intended to ensure that imports of any of the 131 items specified meet the standards laid down by BIS.

Foodgrains Storage Facilities in Rural Areas

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to allocate funds to various States for setting up of storage facilities for Foodgrains in rural areas; 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) The Government is operating a centrally sponsored scheme namely 'Construction of Godowns' to Strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in all States/Union Territories for construction of godowns upto 2000 tonnes capacity to ensure smooth flow of PDS commodities especially in rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas.

(b) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations on 50% grants-in-aid (subsidy) and 50% loan basis. The funds are to be utilised within two years of the date of sanction. Loan is repayable in five annual instalments. In case of default panel rate of interest is charged. Proposals for construction of godowns by the State Governments have to be accompanied by technical estimates and a certificate that land is available. Utilisation certificate of past assistance, if any, is a necessary precondition for consideration of fresh proposals.

Seizure made by Customs

559. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Customs officials have confiscated any illegal material in international airports and seaports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which these materials are likely to be disposed of;

(d) whether Members of Parliament are also being informed about the venue of auction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Any goods imported or exported in contravention of the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 are liable for seizure and confiscation.

(c) The seized goods, get confiscated through due process of law, i.e., after issue of show cause notice, and personal hearing etc. The confiscated goods, after expiry of appeal/revision proceedings, are generally disposed of to the National Consumers Cooperative Federation (NCCF), and other cooperative societies approved by the Central Govt./State Govts., in case of consumer goods. Small portion of consumer goods is sold in retail also by the Customs formations. Other confiscated goods such as

industrial goods and raw materials are disposed of through public Auction/Tenders.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, while disposing of goods through Public Auction/Tender, wide publicity about the venue and the goods, is given in the local newspapers.

Reduction in CRR and SLR

560. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the RBI Act to reduce the minimum Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has submitted proposal for amendment to Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which, inter-alia, include amendment to provisions relating to the minimum Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). The matter is under examination.

Investment by LIC

561. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance company has decided to make investment in some loss making companies;

(b) if so, the names of such companies; and

(c) the reasons for making investment in such companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) LIC have stated that they have not made any investment in loss making companies.

(b) and (c) does not arise.

Tie-Up with Mexican Firms

562. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey of trying-up with NAFTA countries in North America to enhance Indian exports;

(b) whether tie-ups with Mexican firms would offers excellent trade access with low tariff to the USA market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any discussions have taken place with Mexican Government and Mexican Industry to study this potential;

(e) whether an overall strategy likely to be put in place for making a major entrance to NAFTA and nearby countries for exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a), (e) and (f) NAFTA Zone is the world's most powerful engine for global trade. The intra-NAFTA trade benefits from the preferential regime both from the viewpoint of tariff and non-tariff barriers. The Government has regularly been sensitizing the Indian companies about the long term linkages with NAFTA partner countries for improving market access for entire NAFTA region, to discuss with their counterparts cooperation in areas of particular interest to them and to facilitate an improvement in bilateral ties to the undertaking of joint projects to mutual benefits.

(b) to (d) Mexico has certain advantages for being a relatively low cost economy and due to this it can play an important role to enhance our market access in the NAFTA. However, because of the origin rules, this advantage could only accrue through joint ventures or investments. This aspect has attracted attention of the Government of India and Indian businessmen have been sensitized for exploring long term ties with Mexican partners.

Autonomy to Gramin Banks

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide more autonomy to the Gramin Banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present. Gramin Banks already have sufficient autonomy.

(b) Does not arise.

Surplus Stock of Sugar

564. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

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

(a) the total quantity of sugar stock with each State and the total domestic demand in these States;

(b) whether country is facing the problem of surplus sugar stocks;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to tackle the problem of excess stock of sugar; and

(d) the cost of sugar production in other countries compared to that of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The State-wise sugar stocks as on 15th January, 2001 is given in the enclosed Statement. The requirement of sugar of the State/UTs. is met partly from the levy sugar through Public Distribution System (PDS) which has a fixed quota for each State/UT and partly from the free sale sugar available in the open market on which there is no restriction of movement, and as such, it is not possible to assess the State/UT-wise domestic demand/requirement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Central Government to tackle the problem of surplus sugar :

(i) Export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has been allowed.

(ii) To restrict the inflow of imported sugar in the country, the custom duty has been increase to 60% w.e.f. 09.02.2000 alongwith the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850.00 per tonne.

(iii) A policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market is being pursued through judicious releases of free sale sugar quotas. Higher releases as compared to corresponding months in the last sugar season have been made.

(iv) Advance releases of free sale sugar are being made to needy factories.

(d) The actual cost of production of sugar incurred by various sugar mills in different States is not maintained

by this Ministry and hence, the comparison with the other country is not possible.

Statement

Stocks of Sugar as on 15th January, 2001

(Figures in Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of the State	Quantity
1.	Punjab	311245
2.	Haryana	266202
3.	Rajasthan	17994
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2889615
5.	Madhya Pradesh	53269
6.	Gujarat	759255
7.	Maharashtra	4711033
8.	Bihar	210864
9.	Assam	2743
10.	Andhra Pradesh	729651
11.	Karnataka	1082837
12.	Tamil Nau	940365
13.	Kerala	7592
14.	Orissa	19669
15.	West Bengal	3678
16.	Pondicherry	13613
17.	Goa	8551
All India Total		12028173

Government Employees

565. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expenditure on establishments in India is very high;

(b) if so, the percentage of amount spent on payment of salaries to staff, category-wise. Class-I, II, III and IV;

(c) the number of staff employed in each category;

(d) whether the Government have made any survey about the percentage of amount spent by other countries on their staff, their service conditions, viz PF, gratuities, pension, etc.; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The total expenditure on Pay and allowances and pensions of Central Govt. Employees (including Armed Forces personnel and employees of UTs) during 1999-2000 (RE) was Rs. 66055.87 Crore. The amount spent on salaries was Rs. 45444.87 crore which is 14.96% of total Government expenditure. Category-wise data on expenditure is not maintained;

(c) The **Estimated Strength** of Central Govt. (Civil) staff including the employees of Union Territories as on 1st March 2000 is contained in Expenditure Budget Volume-I. Based on ratios available seperately, the category-wise breakup is as under :

Group	I	II	III	IV	Total
Strength	78708	176987	2419235	1151735	3826665

Armed Forces personnel are not distributed into the same categories as civilians and their details are not included in the above break-up;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pension to Employees

566. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please refer to the reply given in the Lok Sabha to USQ No. 4032 on the August 18, 2000 and state :

(a) whether responsibility of the officers of the State Bank of Indore for not forwarding consent for pension of fourteen employees, has been fixed; and

(b) if so, the names thereof and the action taken against them for dereliction of duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of Indore has reported that the process of disciplinary action is under progress against their officials for the alleged lapse.

Raid by Enforcement Directorate

567. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate raided the offices and residence of film financier and diamond merchant on charges of nexus with the underworld;

(b) if so, whether these raids were carried out in different residential and office complexes in Mumbai;

(c) if so, the details of seizure made in raids;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted;

(e) if so, the extent in which the nexus between the financier and the underworld was established; and

(f) the action has been taken against those held responsible ?

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

(c) As a result of searches, certain documents and foreign currency were seized from different premises.

(d) to (f) Investigation has been undertaken and it is still to be completed.

[Translation]

Programmes for Children

568. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expenditure Reform Commission constituted for exercising control over Government expenditure have made some recommendations in their report submitted to the Government in regard to showing educational programmes for the children on each and every channel of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the details of these recommendations and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement it so far ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Geethakrishnan Committee (Expenditure Reforms Commission) Report in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has commented that all TV channels including private channels should spare telecasting time for programmes of interest and relevance to children. It has also recommended that it should be mandatory for all TV channels in India to telecast such programmes and at timings appropriate for viewing by children. The present legal frame does not mandate such powers with the Government.

[English]

New Schemes of UTI

569. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new schemes launched by UTI during the last three years;

(b) the amount collected during the same period under these schemes;

(c) whether the value of the units sold by the UTI has reduced;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of new features added to several existing schemes;

(f) whether UTI has delisted some equity schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of new schemes launched by UTI during the last three years are provided in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The total amount collected under these schemes during the last three years is Rs. 17,903 crore.

(c) and (d) Value of units or Net Asset Value (NAVs) of mutual fund schemes keep changing depending upon the movement in the market prices of the underlying shares and other securities in portfolio. NAVs of UTI schemes are published regularly in the press and on UTI's website at www.unittrustofindia.com.

(e) The details of new features added to several existing schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) UTI has delisted 11 enquiry schemes.

(g) The details of schemes delisted are given in enclosed Statement-III. UTI has intimated that the facility of listing with stock exchanges was originally provided for certain closed-ended equity schemes in order to provide an exit route for unit holders. However, subsequently, when such closed-ended schemes were converted into open-ended schemes or when the schemes opened for repurchase of units, it was noted that investors could encash their units from UTI itself through repurchase (selling their units back to UTI) thereby giving more value to unit holders as listed units have a tendency to get quoted below their respective NAVs. In addition, listing involves a cost which is borne by the schemes.

Statement-I

*Details of new schemes launched by UTI
(since July 01, 1997 to February 15, 2001)*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sr.No.	Scheme Name	Date of Launch	Amount*
1	2	3	4
1997-98			
1	Monthly Income Plan-1997 IV	16-Sep-1997	95193
2	Monthly Income Plan-1997 V	17-Nov-1997	47903
3	Institutional Investors' Special Fund Unit Scheme-1997 II	24-Nov-1997	67390
4	Master Equity Plan-1998 (Growth)	24-Nov-1997	2163
5	Monthly Income Plan-1998	28-Jan-1998	96471
6	Institutional Investors' Special Fund Unit Scheme-1998	23-Mar-1998	97953
7	UTI NRI Fund-1998	06-Apr-1998	6364
8	Unit Growth Scheme-10000 (Growth)	28-Apr-1998	7937
9	UTI Bond Fund-1998	04-May-1998	13740
10	Monthly Income Plan-1998 II	12-May-1998	79007
11	UTI Small Investors' Fund-1998	25-May-1998	7
12	Master Index Fund-1998 (Growth)	01-Jun-1998	17689
13	Master Value Unit Plan-1998 (Growth)	01-Jun-1998	10063
Sub-Total-A			541879
1998-99			
1	Institutional Investors' Special Fund Unit Scheme-1998 II	02-Nov-1998	112464
2	Master Equity Plan-1999 (Growth)	01-Jan-1999	348
3	Monthly Income Plan-1998 III	06-Jul-1998	134141
4	Monthly Income Plan-1998 IV	28-Sep-1998	88287
5	Masterplus 91**	01-Oct-1998	12126
6	Monthly Income Plan-1998 V	23-Dec-1998	85998
7	Children's Gift Growth Fund-1999	01-Feb-1999	4324
8	Rajlakshmi Unit Plan-1999	08-Feb-1999	2504
9	Monthly Income Plan-1999	05-Apr-1999	272264
10	Growth Sector Fund-Brand Value (Growth)	27-May-1999	1831
11	Growth Sector Fund-Petro (Growth)	27-May-1999	547
12	Growth Sector Fund-Pharma and Healthcare (Growth)	27-May-1999	1451

1	2	3	4
13	Growth Sector Fund-Services (Growth)	27-May-1999	331
14	Growth Sector Fund-Software (Growth)	27-May-1999	1267
Sub-Total-B			717883
1999-2000			
1	G-Sec Fund-1999	23-Aug-1999	85131
2	Monthly Income Plan-1999 II	27-Sep-1999	132558
3	Mastergrowth-93***	01-Oct-1999	244
4	Equity Tax Savings Plan-1999 (Growth)	15-Nov-1999	1394
5	Monthly Income Plan-2000	20-Dec-1999	145829
6	Nifty Index Fund-2000 (Growth)	14-Feb-2000	10256
7	Monthly Income Plan-2000 II	19-May-2000	51371
Sub-Total-C			426784
2000-01			
1	Monthly Income Plan-2000 III	30-Aug-2000	62287
2	Index Select Equity Fund-97****	16-Oct-2000	20
3	Monthly Income Plan-2001	08-Jan-2001	41500
Sub-Total-D			103807
Grand Total (A+B+C+D)			1790353

*Amount mobilised during initial sale period.

**Became open ended w.e.f. October 01, 1998.

***Became open ended w.e.f. October 01, 1999.

****Became open ended w.e.f. October 16, 2000.

Statement-II

Changes/improvements in Schemes January 1998 to January 2001

Scheme	Changes/Improvement Made	Effective Date
1	2	3
Institutional Investors Special Fund Unit Scheme 1993 (IISFUS'93)	Termination	01.04.1998
UGS 10000	Sales to be open at periodic intervals as determined by the Trust.	27.01.1998
CRTS 1981, CCCF 1993 and Primary Equity Fund	Minimum investment in rupees (as against in units with multiples thereof earlier) without any restriction on amount invested thereafter.	25.03.1998

1	2	3
Master Value Unit Plan 1998	'Stock Split option' renamed as 'Bonus unit option'.	27.05.1998
MIP 94 (III)/MIP 95/MIP 95 (II)/MIP 95 (III)	Change in investment norms from upto 20% in equity, equity related and Money Market Instruments to upto 20% in equity and equity related instruments	24.07.1998
Mastershare 1986	To specify Trusts as eligible investors to regularise investments made by Trusts	
Rajlaxmi Unit Plan (II)	Suspend sales under RUP (II)	01.10.1998
Mastershare 1986/Mastergain 1992/Grandmaster 1993/Mastergrowth 1993	Dematerialisation of units	28.08.1998
Materplus 1991	Open ending	01.10.1998
Children's Gift Growth Fund 1986	Relaunch of scheme. Sales were earlier suspended from 01.11.1997	01.02.1997
IISFUS 1996 and IISFUS 1998	Consolidation/Sub-division of certificates	25.09.1998
UTI Bond Fund	Reduction of minimum investment from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 5000/-	25.11.1998
MIP 95 (II)/MIP 95(III)/MIP 96/MIP 96 (II)/MIP 96 (III)/MIP 96 (IV)/DIP 95/ DIP 91	Expenses to be calculated on monthly average NAV as against weekly average NAV.	23.12.1998
RUP (II)	Re-launch	08.02.1999
Masterplus 91/Mastergain 92/Master-growth 93	To allow investment by a company or other body corporate along with another company or body corporate or an individual or individuals, none of whom is a minor	19.01.1999
Omni-Unit Plan 1991	To accept funds for a period of less than 15 days income to be paid at savings bank rate of SBI.	22.02.1999
CGGF 1986	To issue membership advice instead of unit certificate	22.02.1999
Special Plan for the Handicapped	Re-launch	03.05.1999
ULIP 1971	Ratify provisions by deleting restriction of pregnant women from joining the scheme	11.05.1999
PEF/Mastergain 92/Grandmaster 93/ Masterplus 91/UGS 10000	Calculation of NAV, sale and repurchase price on daily basis. Change in acceptance date for applications with drafts	
UGS 2000/UGS 5000/US 92/EOF	Calculation of NAV, sale and repurchase price on daily basis.	
CCCF 1993	Premature repurchase at 5% discount to NAV. Monthly multiplier factor done away with.	
UTI Bond Fund	Introduction of monthly withdrawal plan	01.10.1999
	Introduction of a facility to roll over investment in UTI Bond Fund.	06.03.2000

1	2	3
Master Index Fund	Introduction of folio concept – Minimum investment of Rs. 5000/- and subsequent investment in a folio minimum Rs. 1000/-	01.09.1999
	Reduction of discount to NAV from 2% to 1% on repurchase made within 6 months from the date of purchase and at NAV thereafter.	01.07.1999
UGS 10000	Extension of 7 days period of sales/repurchase to 8 days i.e. 1st Monday of the month to the immediately succeeding Monday. Applications will be accepted at UTI branch offices only on days which are working days for the concerned office.	10.08.1999
	Inclusion of enabling clause for income distribution. Investors will have two options (1) income option (2) re-investment option.	10.08.1999
Retirement Benefit Plan	Increasing the permissible frequency of investment from 4 to 12 in a year for all categories of investors.	17.09.1999
	Introduction of Salary Savings Plan. Relaxation of minimum investment of Rs. 500/- under salary saving plan. However, an institution will have to invest a minimum amount of Rs. 5000/- per month.	17.09.1999
Omni Unit Plan	Suspension of scheme	01.11.1999
Unit Scheme 95	Repositioning US 95 as a balanced fund	13.03.2000
Index Equity Fund	Change in the name – Inex Select Equity Fund	
Primary Equity Fund Unit Scheme	Change in the name – PEF Unit Scheme	
Master Value Unit Plan 98	To buy-back units of MVUP 98 from the secondary market in order to provide liquidity to the unitholders of the scheme.	23.02.2000
UTI Growth Sector Fund	To allow partial repurchase/switchover subject to the member maintaining a minimum balance of Rs. 5000/- under the respective sector fund to be computed at the repurchase price applicable as on the date of acceptance of repurchase/switchover application.	22.03.2000
	Removal of the restriction of investment in multiples of Rs. 1000/- beyond initial investment of Rs. 5000/-	27.04.2000
	To allow the switchover facility to any other open end equity scheme of the Trust or vice versa as may be decided.	27.04.2000
UTI-Equity Tax Savings Plan	To allow partial repurchase under ETSP after a lock-in-period of 3 years subject to the member maintaining a balance of Rs. 5000/- from that year's investments	27.04.2000
UTI-Money Market Mutual Fund	To include provision for marking income distribution.	29.05.2000

1	2	3
Senior Citizens' Unit Plan '93	Suspension of sales	01.07.2000
Children's Gift Growth Fund Unit Scheme-86	Provision for declaration of interim dividend and re-investment thereof.	22.05.2000
	Suspension of sales	01.07.2000
Rajlakshmi Unit Plan (II)	Suspension of sales	01.07.2000
US 1964	To issue membership advice in lieu of unit certificate	01.09.2000
CRTS 1981	Amendments to bring provisions in conformity with SEBI Regulations. Introduction of folio system, change in acceptance date definition	
ULIP 1971	Amendments to bring provisions in conformity with SEBI Regulations. Increase in minimum target amount to Rs. 15000, introduction of folio concept, tie up with National Insurance Company Ltd. for personal accident insurance personal accident insurance cover increased to Rs. 50,000/-, investor allowed to continue beyond 10/15 years, additional bonus of 0.5% for each completed year after 10/15 years, NRIs allowed to invest, renewal contributions can be paid 2 months in advance.	
CCCF 1993	Amendments to bring provisions in conformity with SEBI Regulations. Name changed to Children's Career Plan introduction of folio concept and periodic investment plan, introduction of growth option, provision for income distribution, beneficiary under growth option can nominate after 18 years	

Name of the Schemes	Changes/improvements to the scheme
1	2
PEF, Mastergain 92, Grandmaster 93, UTI-Bond Fund, MIF, Masterplus, UGS 10000, MEP 96, MEP 97, MEP 98, EOF, IEF, IISFUS 95, IISFUS 96, IISFUS 97, IISFUS 97(II), IISFUS 98, MIP 95(II), MIP 95(III), MIP 96(II), MIP 96(III), MIP 96(IV), MIP 97, MIP 97(II), MIP 97(III), MIP 97(IV), MIP 97(V), MIP 98, MIP 98(II), MIP 98(III), MIP 98(IV), DIP 91, DIP 95, UTI NRI Fund, UTI Small Investor's Fund, MVUP 98	Re-christening of 'Staff Welfare Trust' as 'Staff Welfare Fund' in 37 schemes on 10.08.1999
Masterplus 91, Mastergain 92, Grandmaster 93, PEF, MIF and UGS 10000 – amended w.e.f. 23.02.2000.	Amendment to seven equity schemes to bring them on a common platform and have a common publicity campaign and sales promotion exercise.
Master growth w.e.f. 01.12.99	
(i) overseas investment : Inclusion of the provision in all schemes except IEF, UTI-MMF, MIF and NIF	Inclusion of provisions regarding (i) overseas investment (ii) Stock holding (iii) derivatives
(ii) Stock holding : inclusion in all schemes except UTI MMF, UTI Bond Fund and UTI G-Sec Fund.	

1

2

(iii) **Derivatives** : inclusion in all schemes except UTI MMF

MEP 96, MEP 97 and MEP 98

Inclusion of provision for making income distribution and/or issue of bonus units

Masterplus 91, US 92, Mastergrowth 93, MEP 91, MEP 92, MEP 93, MEP 94, MEP 95, MEP 99 EOF, ETSP, US 95 PEF, Mastergain 92, UGS 10000, UTI-GSF

Inclusion of provision for making issue of bonus units

Statement-III

Sr. No	Name of the Scheme	Date of Delisting
1	Master Growth Unit Scheme 1993	Delisted with effect from 01.04.2000.
2	Grandmaster 93	Delisted with effect from 26.04.2000.
3	Mastergain 1992 (Capital Growth Unit Scheme 1992)	Delisted with effect from 26.04.2000.
4	Mastershares Plus Unit Scheme 1991 (Masterplus)	Delisted with effect from 26.04.2000.
5	Unit Growth Scheme 2000 (UGS 2000)	Delisted with effect from 26.04.2000.
6	Unit Growth Scheme 5000 (UGS 5000)	Delisted with effect from 26.04.2000.
7	Equity Opportunity Fund (EOF)	Delisted with effect from 26.06.2000.
8	Unit Scheme 92 (US-92)	Delisted with effect from 26.06.2000.
9	Master Equity Plans (MEP-93,95,96)	Delisted with effect from 26.06.2000.
10	Unit Scheme 95 (US-95)	Delisted with effect from 01.08.2000.
11	Index Select Equity Fund (ISEF) formerly Index Equity Fund (IEF)	Delisted with effect from 20.11.2000.

Simplification of Procedure for Export

570. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to rationalise and simplify the procedure relating to exports especially keeping in view the quantitative restrictions to be lifted by 31 March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given any assurance to Indian exporters in this regard;

(c) whether almost all the offices of the DGFT have been computerised to facilitate the exporters;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether his Ministry has advised the State Governments to frame State Export Policy to extend all possible assistance for export promotion; and

(f) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The review of the procedures under Export and Import Policy is an ongoing process and the suggestions received from various export promotion councils, apex chambers of trade and individual exporters are taken into consideration by the Government before formulating and amending such procedures. Presently, annual review of Exim Policy and Procedures is in progress and the annual revised versions of same are likely to be brought out by 31st March, 2001.

(c) and (d) The Office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade at New Delhi and all the Regional Licensing Offices working under it., except the Offices at Panipat, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have been computerized.

(e) and (f) Department of Commerce has requested State Governments to undertake various measures to boost exports and export production for the States. They have been asked to formulate export promotion policies for the State. Response from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have been received in this regard. State level Export Promotion Committee have been set up under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary in various States including Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. Some of the States have already set up separate Directorates of Commerce or Bureaus to attend to export related matters and for promotion of exports.

[Translation]

Export of Onion

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

(a) whether the onion is being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the names of countries to which this export is being made;

(c) the quantity and value of onions exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(d) the foreign exchange earned on account of this export during the said period;

(e) the names of the States which are major partner in the export of onion; and

(f) the incentives being given to the onion growers to promote the export of the onion ?

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

(b) The major countries to which onion is exported include Bangladesh. Malaysia. Maldives, Mauritius, Kuwait, UAE, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

(c) and (d) The quantity and value of onions exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows :

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)	Qty. (M. Tons)
1997-98	202.46	3,33,349
1998-99	176.05	2,15,694
1999-2000	202.70	2,60,475

Source : DGCI and S, Calcutta/APEDA, New Delhi.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India-Monthly/Annual Bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S), Calcutta, copies of which are kept in the Parliament Library.

(e) State-wise export statistics is not maintained. However, from the information available from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the major states which contribute to the exports of onion include Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.

(f) A study has been conducted in 1998 on logistic management in domestic supply and export of selected fruits and vegetables, including onions. One of the recommendations of the study to increase exports was to reduce post-harvest losses by setting-up of modern aerated storages, proper grading, sorting and introduction of contract farming. Canalised agencies and major exporters have been informed of the need to set up these basic infrastructure facilities.

Setting up of Sugar Mills

572. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any sugar mill in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the country. The sugar Industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.9.98. The entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 kms from the existing sugar factories.

Disinvestment of VSNL and CMC

573. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose disinvestment its stake in the VSNL and the Computer Maintenance Corporation;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) the income likely to accrue to the Government on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per stated policy of Government, in non-strategic sectors the Government equity is to be brought down to 26% or below. VSNL and CMC being non-strategic, it has been decided to bring down Government equity holding to 26%.

(c) Time frame for completion of the transaction would depend on the number of bidders, the time taken by them for due diligence, completion of documentation etc.

(d) No assessment can be made at this stage regarding the income likely to accrue to the Government.

[English]

OBC Employees in Insurance Companies

574. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations from All India General Insurance OBC Employees Welfare Association regarding the grievances of OBC Employees in the General Insurance Industry and its subsidiary companies; and

(b) if so, the details of the points mentioned therein and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government have not received any such representations. However, the General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) has reported that they have received a representation from the All India General Insurance OBC Employees Welfare Association listing issues which, inter alia, include recognition of Association, adequate representation in development function to OBC

officers, adequate representation in promotion to OBC employees and inclusion of OBC officers in interview committee. GIC is already seized of the matter relating to recognition of the Association. The issue of assigning development functions to officers is examined by the panel constituted for the purpose and all eligible officers including those belonging to OBC category are also considered for such assignment. Due care is taken to protect the interest of the OBC candidates at the time of promotion. Although nomination of OBC officers in the interview committee is not mandatory, due care is taken to include OBC representative in the Committee.

GDP Growth

575. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the projected Gross Domestic Product Growth during the next two years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is the same as projected by the RBI; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per the Advance Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth rate in real gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost is estimated at 6 per cent for 2000-2001. Growth targets are not fixed annually. However, the GDP growth target for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) is fixed at 6.5 per cent per annum on an average. The Reserve Bank of India in their Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy has placed the growth in real GDP in the range 6.0-6.5 per cent for 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Industrial Growth Centres

576. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number and location of industrial growth centres in Jharkhand;

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government to these industrial growth centres during the last three years; and

(c) the location-wise number of industrial growth centres proposed to be opened in Jharkhand during the financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) One growth centre at Hazaribagh (district Hazaribagh) falls within the new State of Jharkhand. An amount of Rs. 200 lakh has been released as Central assistance for the Hazaribagh Growth Centre since its sanction in May, 1995. Implemented by the State Government and its agencies, this project is in the implementation phase.

[English]

Disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India

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

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to carry out disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to involve the employees of SCI in the disinvestment process;
- (d) if so, to what extent; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Disinvestment Commission recommended that "Government should disinvest in SCI in favour of the Oil Refinery Companies. 30% of the equity of SCI may be offered to IOC, HPCL, BPCL, CIL and MRL in proportion to their net profits. In addition, 10% could be offered to the private sector and joint-sector refineries. In the event that this offer is not accepted by the private sector refineries it may be offered to the public sector refineries in the manner already indicated". Government has not yet taken a decision on the recommendations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Disinvestment in Public Sector Units

578. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to offload its stake in blue chip Public Sector Units to Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, whether new schemes are being prepared in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Financial Institutions; and

(e) if so, the response of the Financial Institutions thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Disinvestment of Government equity in Public Sector Enterprises is a continuous process. From the point of view of disinvestment of its equity in various Public Sector Enterprises, Government keeps examining various proposals. Typically, the proposals of disinvestment through 'offer of share' method involves placement of shares with the financial institutions. However, the decisions of the Government in regard to the disinvestment of its equity in PSUs are governed by the disinvestment policy as enunciated from time to time. Its main elements are :

- Restructuring and revive potentially viable PSUs;
- Close down PSUs, which cannot be revived;
- Bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and
- Fully protect the interests of workers

However, there is no separate scheme for disinvestment in case of blue chip Public Sector Units to Financial Institutions.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

FM Radio Stations

579. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of FM Radio Stations at present in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more FM Radio Stations in the country;

(c) if so, the number of proposals pending with the Government in this regard;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for their immediate clearance; and

(e) the total revenue earned by the Government from the existing FM Service during each of the last three years and strategy chalked out for increasing revenue from FM Radio Stations ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) There are 122 FM transmitters at present in the All India Radio network.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 3 nos. of FM projects are technically ready and 37 nos. of projects are under implementation.

(d) All out efforts are being made to complete these projects and commission them at the earliest.

(e) Details are given below, which relate to FM metro channels at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Panaji :

1997-98	Rs. 4,98,84,043/-
1998-99	Rs. 11,51,21,891/-
1999-2000	Rs. 11,21,18,465/-

The strategy being employed for increasing the revenue is to improve the quality of programmes and marketing through sponsorship, sponsored programmes and spots-buys..

Unit Linked Insurance Plan

580. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation propose to launch a Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Life Insurance Corporation of India have already launched a Unit Linked Insurance Plan titled 'Bima Plus' Plan on 12th February, 2001. LIC's Bima Plus provides life

insurance cover, along with the prospect of high growth. Under this Scheme, a portion of the premium is invested in equity and debt instruments in the capital market where scope for high growth exists. The premium under this plan is payable in yearly or half yearly instalments for a term of 10 years. The premium paid under this plan qualifies for rebate under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Plan provides, by way of benefit payment of the Bid value of the Fund units along with maturity bonus at 5% of Sum Assured on maturity and a specified percentage of the sum assured along with bid value of fund units and other benefits on death depending upon the duration of policy subject to deduction wherever applicable. The scheme also provides for payment on death due to accident.

Failure of FCI to Maintain Buffer Stock

581. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has failed to maintain buffer stocks in remote and inaccessible regions thereby leading to under nourishment of poor people in that region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to break Food Corporation of India into several autonomous Corporations to ensure proper procurement, storage, transport and distribution of foodgrains to poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India is holding adequate stocks of foodgrains in various region throughout the country.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Drive Against Tax Evaders

582. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a drive against the evaders of Central Excise Duty has been launched in December, 2000 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of Central Excise Duty realised during the drive with details of firms and persons;

(c) whether some officers of excise department were found helping the tax evaders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The drive against evasion of Central Excise Duty was intensified in Delhi in December, 2000. As a result of the drive, 14 cases of alleged evasion of Central excise Duty to the tune of Rs. 110.39 lakh were detected. Out of this Rs. 12.91 lakh was realised. The details of firms and persons are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) No such case has come to the notice. Accordingly the question of taking any action does not arise.

Statement

Details of the Cases of Alleged evasion of Excise Duty during a drive in Delhi in December, 2000

S.No	Name of the firm and Persons	Duty Realised (In lakhs)
1	Maharaja Cable	0.09
2	Deepanjali Stamping Pvt. Ltd.	0.17
3	Mahalasmi Cable	0.20
4	BEC Industries	0.23
5	Fixopan Engineers (P) Ltd.	0.29
6	SS Polymers	0.29
7	BB Steel	0.37
8	D.P. Industries	0.52
9	Kharkiya Alloys (P) Ltd.	0.78
10	Bansal Plywood	1.00
11	Oswal Cable Products	1.00
12	Aero Club	1.00
13	Ravi Enterprises	1.98
14	Sweet Voice Cassettes India (P) Ltd	5.00

National Broadcasting and Information Policy

583. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted an in-depth study regarding National Broadcasting and Information Policy;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof with reference to the provision to attract new foreign channels; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Role of ITPO

584. SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has made any special effort to enhance visibility of Indian products in Latin America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of India Trade Promotion Organisation in formulating a strategy to emphasise the potential of the best emerging export markets of Latin America among Indian exporters;

(d) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has targetted any particular area of region in Latin America to emphasise a positive image of exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Considering the potential that the Latin American and Caribbean Region offers, an activity based integrated programme "FOCUS LAC" was launched by the Commerce Ministry in November, 1997. The programme is an integrated effort of the Government of India, Export Promotion Councils, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Indian Missions in the Latin American Countries and Institutions such as, Exim Bank, ECGC etc. three products group i.e. textiles, engineering products and chemical products have initially been identified as the focus product groups under this programme.

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has been organizing exclusive Indian exhibitions in Latin American countries by rotation as per the details given below :

- (i) Indian Exhibition in Buenos Aires, Argentina (June, 1996)
- (ii) Indian Exhibition in Sao Paulo, Brazil (November, 1996)
- (iii) Indian Exhibition in Mexico City (March, 1998)
- (iv) Indian Exhibition in Santiago, Chile (July, 2000)

An exclusive Indian exhibition is proposed to be organised in Sao Paulo (Brazil) during September, 2001.

In addition to above, ITPO has been regularly organizing participation in a number of events in Latin American countries such as FENIT in Sao Paulo (June, 2000) and Expocomer in Panama City (March, 2000).

Details of other events organized in Latin American countries are as under :

Sl.No.	Year	Events and Country
1.	1998-99	Buyer Seller Meet for Engineering Products in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
2.	1999-2000	Contact Promotion Programme for Bicycles and Parts in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.
3.	2000-2001	Contact Promotion Programme for Electrical and Power Equipment in Mexico and Brazil.

A Buyer Seller Meet for Chemicals is proposed to be organized in Mexico during 2001-2002.

ITPO has also instituted 7 export awards from 1998-99 for promoting exports to Latin American Countries as a part of FOCUS LAC Programme.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. the countries focussed by ITPO are Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago. ITPO is also considering proposals to organize participation in events in Peru and Columbia.

[Translation]

National Calamity Banks

585. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a National Calamity Bank to deal with the crisis of natural calamities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHF PATIL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government at present to set up a National Calamity Bank.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Film Industry

586. SHRI MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to film industry to overcome the influence of underworld mafia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to check the nexus between the film producers and the underworld mafia?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) In order to facilitate the greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division), Ministry of Finance, where under the "Entertainment Industry including Films" has been specified as an approved activity under "Industrial Concern" in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2(c) (xvii) of the IDBI Act. The Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) has asked the IDBI to evolve well-recognized and acceptable standards to enable financial institutions to fund ventures relating to the film industry. The Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) has also asked the RBI along with the IDBI to circulate necessary guidelines to banks in this regard.

To help the film industry to function along organized lines, an advisory Group comprising key representatives of the film sector has been set up to advise the Ministry on policy and other issues relating to the film industry. A Committee for development of the Entertainment Sector has been set up, in addition under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting comprising

State Ministers for Information and Public Relations from nine States.

Export of Spices

587. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of spices has shown a decline of 13 percent in quantity and 32 percent in terms of rupee value in 2000-2001 till date in comparison to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the export of spices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) According to the latest data available on export of spices for the period April 2000-January, 20001, the export of spices has shown a decline of 11% in quantity and 29% in terms of rupee value, as compared to the exports during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) The major decline in export of spices is due to decline in export of pepper which accounts for major share of the total export earnings from spices. Fall in export of pepper is on account of cheaper prices offered by the competing countries and increasing supply position. Other reasons for decline in export of spices are non-availability of adequate exportable surplus in case of cumin, fenugreek, ginger and other seed spices; poor international demand in the case of celery and fennel and cheaper prices offered by the competing countries in case of ginger, coriander, chillies and fenugreek.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Govt. to boost export of spices include :

- (i) Rationalisation of cess on export of spices at a uniform rate of 0.5%.
- (ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like award of "Indian Spices Logo" to exporter of value added spices and the grant of "Spice House Certificate" to exporters of spices in bulk who adhere to quality standards.
- (iii) Striving to improve quality of Indian spices and spices products besides making products cost competitive through introduction of improved technology.
- (iv) Technology, transfer, process upgradation and product development.

(v) Product diversification by developing new markets, new applications and new brands.

(vi) Developing organic spices and spice products for catering to the niche markets for organic spice products.

(vii) Sending business delegations to develop market for Indian spices.

[Translation]

Production/Export of Tea

588. SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

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

(a) the approximate annual tea production in the country;

(b) the percentage of tea out of this exported annually;

(c) whether the production and export of tea has declined in the current fiscal year;

(d) if so, the comparative figures of production, domestic consumption and export of tea during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date, alongwith the reasons for decline.

(e) the details of special campaign to boost the production, domestic demand and export of tea and the assistance provided to tea growers during the above period;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaints from abroad regarding export of sub-standard tea to them from India.

(g) If so, the details thereof country-wise; and

(h) the remedial steps taken/being taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The production of tea during the year 1999-2000 was 816.06 mn. kgs out of which 23.58 percent was exported.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Production and export of tea during the period April to December 2000 registered an increase of 7.37 mn. kgs and 5.40m kgs respectively as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Production, export and domestic consumption of tea during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, are as under :

(in mn. kgs.)

Year	Production	Export	Estimated Consumption@
1997-98	834.88	211.26	597
1998-99	850.25	205.86	615
1999-2000	816.06	192.44	633
2000-2001 (Apr-Dec)	751.67	155.58	653 (Jan-Dec)

@ relates to calendar year

(e) Several steps have been taken by the Govt./Tea Board for increasing production of tea in India so as to meet the domestic requirements and to maintain India's share in the world tea exports. The steps include financial assistance by Tea Board/ to the Tea Industry through its various development schemes for encouraging extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning etc.

The steps taken to boost export of tea include consumer awareness of specially Indian teas in select markets, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, media campaigns and exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries. With a view to increase domestic demand, Tea Board is engaged in participating in various fairs and exhibitions within the country and also running tea centres at various places wherein liquid tea is served to the public.

(f) to (h) Yes Sir. Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August 2000 informed the Ministry about supply of unsatisfactory quality of tea to Libyan National Supply corporation (NASCO) by an Indian Exporter. Tea Board initially obtained views of the Indian exporter on the allegation of supply of sub-standard tea and subsequently issued show cause notice to the exporter for suspension/cancellation of tea Exporter License granted under Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order 1957. The Indian exporter, in reply to the show cause notice has stated that he has not received any complaint directly from NASCO. Tea Board has therefore requested Embassy of India, Tripoli to obtain and forward a copy of the written complaint, if any, against the exporter by NASCO.

[English]

Short Term Loan to Cyclone affected People of Gujarat

589. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided a Special Short term loan through banks to cyclone affected people of Gujarat for their rehabilitation, reconstruction and repair of houses; and

(b) if so, the bank-wise amount provided so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has issued standing guidelines to banks in August 1984, to be followed by them for providing immediate relief in areas affected by natural calamities/riots etc. without waiting for instructions from RBI. The said guidelines enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units, artisans, small business and trading establishments affected by natural calamities. In June 1998, these guidelines were further liberalized with a view to allowing greater discretion to banks to decide on the quantum of relief assistance to be provided to the affected farmers. The guidelines, inter-alia, enable banks to :

1. Convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage to crops.
2. Grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers.
3. Convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans.
4. Grant consumption loans.
5. Not to treat portion of converted/rescheduled loans as NPAs
6. Not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled etc.
7. Provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital
8. Relaxation in security and margin norms.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Balance of Payment Position

590. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to improve the country's balance of payment position; and

(b) if so, the achievement made in this regard during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The country's balance of payments position is monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to increase the growth of exports and invisible receipts and to enhance the level of non-debt creating capital flows, particularly foreign investments, so as to help maintain a viable balance of payments position and an adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

(b) India's balance of payments (BOP) position during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) remained comfortable, despite a very unfavourable world economic and financial situation as a fall out of the crisis in Asia and Russia. The deficit on the current account of BOP, which was 1.4 per cent of GDP in 1997-98, narrowed to 1.0 per cent of GDP in 1998-99 and further to 0.9 per cent in 1999-2000. Total net capital flows from all sources during these years were more than sufficient to cover the current account deficits. As a result, the foreign currency reserves of the country had increased by US \$3.61 billion in 1997-98, by US \$3.55 billion in 1998-99 and by US \$5.54 billion in 1999-2000. Table below gives a summary position of BOP, during 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

(US \$ million)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Exports (f.o.b.)	35680	34298	38285
Imports (c.i.f.)	51187	47544	55383
Trade Balance	-15507	-13246	-17098
Invisibles (net)	10007	9208	12935
Current A/c Balance	-5500	-4038	-4163
(As % of GDP)	(-1.4)	(-1.0)	(-0.9)
Total Capital flows (net)	9393	786	10305
Reserve Movement			
(+ increase)	+3893	+3829	+6142

Negotiations with WTO on Agriculture

591. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a proposal for negotiations with the WTO under the agreement on agriculture;

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

(c) whether the Cabinet Committee on WTO Matters has approved the proposal; and

(d) if so, the other issues likely to be put for discussion at WTO by India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. India has submitted its negotiating proposals to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the mandated negotiations under the Agreement on agriculture (AoA) in the areas of market access, domestic support, export competition and food security with the objective of protecting its food and livelihood security and creating increased market access opportunities with a view to promote agricultural exports. These proposals have been approved by the Cabinet Committee on WTO Matters.

India may consider submitting additional proposals including by way of clarifications or expansion of existing proposals or new issues, depending on the developments in the on-going negotiations in the WTO Committee on Agriculture.

The salient features of the Indian proposals are :

- Additional flexibility for providing subsidies to key farm inputs for agricultural and rural development.
- Clarifications on certain implementation issues, such as offsetting of positive non-product specific support with negative product specific support, suitable methodology of notifying domestic support in stable currency to take care of inflation and depreciation.
- Maintenance of appropriate level of tariff bindings on agricultural products in developing countries, keeping in mind their developmental needs and high distortions prevalent in the international markets with a view to protect livelihood of their farming population. Also linking the appropriate levels of tariffs in developing countries with trade distortions in the areas of market access, domestic support and export competition.
- Rationalisation of low tariff bindings in developing countries, which could not be rationalised in the earlier negotiations.
- Separate safeguard mechanisms on the lines of Special Safeguard Clause including a provision for imposition of Quantitative Restrictions to protect the interests of the domestic producers

in the event of a surge in imports or a decline in international prices, as a Special and Differential measure.

- No minimum market access commitments for developing countries.
- Measures taken by developing country members for alleviation of poverty, rural development, rural employment and diversification of agriculture should be exempt from any reduction commitments.
- Rationalisation of product coverage of Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) by inclusion of certain primary agricultural commodities such as rubber, jute, coir etc.
- Product specific support given to low income and resource poor farmers should also be excluded from the Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS).
- Flexibility enjoyed by developing countries in taking certain measures in accordance with other WTO covered Agreements should not get constrained by the provisions of AoA.
- Substantial reduction in tariff bindings including elimination of peak tariffs and tariff escalation in developed countries.
- Expansion and transparent administration of Tariff Rate Quotas pending their eventual abolition.
- Blue box measures, de-coupled and direct payments, as well as Government financial participation in income insurance and income safety-net programmes in Green Box to be included in the Amber Box to be subjected to reduction commitments.
- Accelerated reduction in AMS so as to bring it below de minimis by the developed countries in 3 years and by the developing countries in 5 years.
- Elimination through accelerated reduction in export subsidies and disciplining of all other forms of export subsidisation such as export credits, export insurance and export guarantees etc.
- Abolition of Pease Clause for developed countries.

DD Programmes in Maharashtra

592. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of scheduled programmes to be telecast on Doordarshan Kendras of Maharashtra have been cancelled/stopped during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such programmes, particularly Marathi programmes of different DD Kendras in Maharashtra, cancelled; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FM Radio Network

593. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have finalized a special package of programmes for the Doordarshan in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which Doordarshan would be able to cover the entire area of North Eastern Region;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to expand FM Radio Network in this region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) There are 105 and 14 existing transmitters, for relay of DD1 and DD2 services respectively, in the North-Eastern Region. For further expansion of TV coverage, 10 more transmitter projects are under implementation.

AIR has 10 FM transmitters functioning in the North-East. As part of the expansion plan, 11 more FM projects are under implementation. A population coverage over 80% has already been achieved by Doordarshan in the North-East including start of a 24 hours North-East channel.

Visit of European Union Commissioner

594. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether European Union Commissioner visited India during the last week of January, 2001;
- (b) if so, the subjects of mutual interest discussed with him; and
- (c) the agreement reached during his visit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Christopher Patten, European Commissioner for External Affairs visited India in the last week of January, 2001.

(b) Commissioner Patten called on the Minister for External Affairs and some other dignitaries. He also met the Finance Minister on January 29, 2001. During this meeting, he expressed sympathy for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake. Issues relating to Bilateral Development Cooperation, Investments and WTO also came up for discussion.

(c) No formal agreement was signed during the Commissioner's visit.

**Golden Handshake Scheme in
Maruti Udyog Limited**

595. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Maruti Udyog Limited propose to introduce 'Golden Hand Shake Scheme' for the employees to trim the work force and enhance profitability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) is a non Government Board managed Company and is competent to take appropriate commercial decisions including introduction of Golden Hand Shake Scheme. MUL has informed that some employees and union representatives have requested for a scheme for Voluntary Retirement.

Region Specific Fairs by ITPO

596. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation organises Region Specific Fairs in the country;
- (b) if so, whether India Trade Promotion organisation has organised any Region Specific Fairs in 1999-2000;
- (c) if so, the regions where such fairs were held;
- (d) whether any export oriented fairs have also been held; and
- (e) if so, the details of specific export oriented fairs held by India Trade Promotion Organisation in 1999-2000 ?

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

(b) to (e) The following trade fairs have been organized by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at the regional level during the year 1999-2000 of which the ones held at Chennai and Kolkata were primarily export-oriented fairs :

Southern Region

16th India International Leather Fair was held at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) from January 31-February 4, 2000 to promote Indian leather and leather products.

Eastern Region

International Leather Goods Fair was held at Kolkata (West Bengal) from March 4-6, 2000 to promote Indian leather products.

North Eastern Region

India Trade Show (a multi-product show) was held at Gangtok, Sikkim from March 11-18, 2000.

Status of PSE's

597. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Group of Ministers have been asked to give its recommendations on the status of public sector enterprises;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Group of Ministers have submitted its recommendations to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

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) A Group of Ministers has been constituted to consider the procedure to be followed for adding or deleting PSEs from the list of Navratna and Miniratna PSEs and for monitoring their performance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Sick/Closed Industrial Units

598. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

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

(a) the number of small, medium and large industries, seperately, lying sick/closed in each State as on date;

(b) the number of units out of them closed during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, seperately, in each State;

(c) the number of workers affected in these sick/closed units;

(d) the details of industries which have generally faced closure alongwith the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to revive these units within a fixed time-period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Details of sick industrial units up to March, 2000 are given in enclosed Statement-I.

Labour Bureau, Shimla, under the Ministry of Labour, collects information on industrial closure. 425 industrial units have been reported closed under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 from 1998 to 2000. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II. As a result of closure of 425 industrial units, 33,554 workers have been affected.

(d) According to Labour Bureau, Shimla, industries which have faced closure are mainly in the engineering, textile, food products, chemical and chemical products, rubber, plastic, petro and coal products sectors.

The main reasons for closing down of industries were financial stringency, shortage of raw material and power and lack of demand for products.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which inter-alia, include, guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India 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, etc.

Statement-I

Name of the State/ Union Territories	No. of SSI sick/ weak units	No. of Non-SSI sick/weak units
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	31	
Andhra Pradesh	12461	400
Arunachal Pradesh	120	12
Assam	11445	48
Bihar	26909	79
Chandigarh	156	14
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	46	9
Daman and Diu	10	8
Delhi	3309	79
Goa	161	14
Gujarat	5928	281
Haryana	2952	101
Himachal Pradesh	893	30
Jammu and Kashmir	2002	9
Karnataka	5416	218

1	2	3
Kerala	9017	76
Madhya Pradesh	6072	163
Maharashtra	9115	580
Manipur	5577	2
Meghalaya	528	13
Mizoram	41	5
Nagaland	168	8
Orissa	7444	60
Pondicherry	1052	15
Punjab	1897	90
Rajasthan	7560	88
Sikkim	25	1
Tamil Nadu	11602	285
Tripura	7170	3
Uttar Pradesh	21235	232
West Bengal	143893	241
Total	304235	3164

Statement-II

Name of the State/ Union Territories	No. of closed Non-SSI sick/weak units 1998	No. of closed Non-SSI sick/weak units 1999	No. of closed Non-SSI sick/weak unit 2000 (P)
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	0	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	0	1	0
Bihar	4	3	0
Chandigarh	0	3	0
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0
Delhi	2	0	0

1	2	3	4
Goa	2	4	4
Gujarat	34	14	19
Haryana	2	2	4
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	4
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
Karnataka	3	3	8
Kerala	0	9	8
Lakshadweep	0	0	Not available
Madhya Pradesh	4	9	0
Maharashtra	1	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0
Orissa	13	5	8
Pondicherry	21	5	17
Punjab	1	51	0
Rajasthan	1	5	3
Sikkim	0	0	Not available
Tamil Nadu	7	2	2
Tripura	42	18	6
Uttar Pradesh	38	13	Not available
West Bengal	0	10	5
Total	175	159	91

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla.

Calamity Relief Fund

599. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of State share for 2000-2001 for Karnataka under the Calamity Relief Fund and also the Union Government's share;

(b) the amount already released by the State Government for various relief measures under this scheme;

(c) whether the Union Government have released its share; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which this amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Karnataka for 2000-01 has been fixed at Rs. 74.57 crores with Central and State shares of Rs. 55.93 crores and Rs. 18.64 crores respectively.

(b) Expenditure by States from CRF is governed by the 'Scheme for Constitution and Administration of CRF and Investments therefrom'. The State Government has reported expenditure of Rs. 68.44 crores from CRF upto 06.01.2001.

(c) The Central Government has released its full share of Rs. 55.93 crore.

(d) Does not arise.

Mid Term Insurance Coverage to Earthquake Hit Areas

600. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector insurance companies have decided to offer mid-term earthquake cover to big industries, small units and dwellings all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy being adopted by insurance companies in this regard;

(d) whether said policy would also be applied in the case of other natural calamities;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(f) the other steps taken for early settlement of the claims of policy holders of earthquake hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA), an Association of the four Public Sector General Insurance Companies has decided to offer mid-term earthquake cover to all properties situated all over India. However,

while granting such covers, the following conditions have also been stipulated :

(i) Payment of premium to be made by cash or demand draft in case of mid-term inclusion of earthquake cover and premium for same to be charged on short period scale.

(ii) Risk to be accepted only after inspection by in-house surveyors in case of simple risks, such as residential buildings. However, in case of industrial risks/multi-storied buildings, risk to be granted on receipt of satisfactory inspection report from external structural engineers.

(iii) Cover against earthquake to commence after 15 days of receipt of premium.

(d) In respect of mid-term cover against other natural calamities like flood, storm, tempest, cyclone etc., tariff guidelines are already available.

(e) Do not arise in view of the reply to the question (b), (c) and (d) above.

(f) For the expeditious settlement of the claims, the insurance companies have drawn an action plan consisting of relaxation of the requirement for documents, strict time Schedule for Surveyors and a well coordinated publicity programme for the benefit of the policy holders.

Funds for Development of Sanctuaries Etc.

601. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Forests Departments have sought funds from Eleventh Finance Commission for the development of sanctuaries, National Parks and Zoological Parks in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released by Eleventh Finance Commission to each State Forest Department for this purpose;

(d) whether required fund has been released; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Some State Governments in their memorandum on 'upgradation and special problem grants' submitted to the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) had sought financial assistance for preservation/development of forests, National Parks and Sanctuaries etc.

(c) Based on their assessment of the need of States, EFC has recommended the grants for development/preservation of Forests, National Parks, Lakes and Sanctuaries etc. to the State of Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 13 crore for National Parks), Meghalaya (Rs. 10 crore for Forest Conservation/Protection measures), Nagaland (Rs. 5 crore for Wild Life Protection measures in the Intanky National Park and the Rangapahar Wild Life Sanctuary), Orissa (Rs. 10 crore for Restoration of the Nandan Kanari and Chandaka-Dampara eco-zoological complex and Rs. 30 crore for eco-restoration works in the Chilka Lake) and Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 10 crore for rejuvenation of lakes in Kumaon region (now falling in the newly created State of Uttaranchal) for its award period 2000-05.

(d) and (e) 25 per cent of the grant recommended for upgradation and special problem by EFC has been released to the States. Subsequent release of grants will depend on furnishing of detailed plans of action by the State Governments and the utilisation of the amount released by this Ministry.

Financial Assistance to Gujarat Earthquake Victims

602. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance received by the Government till date from various foreign countries/ FFI's and domestic industries and voluntary organisation for the purpose of relief work in Gujarat separately;

(b) the manner in which the loan component is proposed to be repaid;

(c) the mechanism being adopted by the Government to keep a check on disbursement and proper utilization of this aid; and

(d) the total amount required by the Government for the relief work in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per information available with the National Disaster Management Cell in Ministry of Agriculture, the Government of Gujarat has received cash assistance of Rs. 722.86 crores comprising of Rs. 500 crores from Government of India, Rs. 115 crores from 51 foreign countries and 3 international organisations, Rs. 49.18 crores donation received in Gujarat CM's Relief Fund, Rs 10 crores sanctioned from PM's National Relief Fund and Rs. 48.68 crores as financial aid received from other

States. Any cash assistance received in the form of loans will be governed by the terms and conditions thereof.

(c) For enabling proper coordination in relief and rehabilitation the Central Government has set up National Crisis Management Committee and the Empowered Group of Ministers. Gujarat Government has set up a Gujarat Disaster Management Authority for undertaking relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction works.

(d) Government of Gujarat have made a tentative assessment of damage to Public and Private property of Rs. 21,262 crores.

Prices of Natural Rubber

603. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the announcement made by the Prime Minister to procure 50,000 metric tonnes of natural rubber, the prices of natural rubber is low in the market;

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

(c) whether the Prime Minister has also assured to increase the benchmark price of natural rubber;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction;

(e) whether a huge quantity of natural rubber has piled up in the market due to lackness shown by procurement agencies;

(f) if so, whether growers are waiting for the Government to fix minimum support prices;

(g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction; and

(h) the time by which minimum support prices are likely to be fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The monthly average price of Natural Rubber which was Rs. 28.67 per kg in December, 2000 declined to Rs. 28.53 per kg in January, 2001 and was ruling at Rs. 27.50 per kg on 19.2.2001. The decline is due to availability of surplus stock in the market and slow down in consumption of Natural Rubber by the consuming industry.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Rubber Board's estimates a total stock

of 1,84,000 MT of Natural Rubber is available in the market. However, availability of this stock is not due to slackness of procurement agencies but on account of low off take of Natural Rubber by the end users.

(f) to (h) Fixing of minimum support price for Natural Rubber is not a feasible proposition as in the free market era, the prices are primarily determined by the demand and supply factors. Further, unlike most of the agricultural crops which are under minimum support price (MSP) mechanism, rubber is a perennial crop with long plant life and generally cultivated with high value crops.

Foreign Direct Investment

604. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether as per recent survey by FICCI, MNCs prefer India for investment;

(b) if so, the details of the survey with the suggestions given by ICCI and MNCs in regard to the FDI; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to attract more FDI in India particularly in infructured sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) FICCI has undertaken a survey on the experience of Foreign Direct Investors in India stating therein that a majority of the foreign investors are interested in investing in India. This interest is attributed to growth potential and profitability of companies in India. Other factors are the legal framework, quality and availability of manpower, ease of market penetration, ease of fund flow and profit repatriation available in India.

(c) 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 attracting more foreign investment into the country.

Soft Loans to Sugar Industry

605. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently formulated a package for giving soft loans to sugar industry from the Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also taken several steps in liberalise the sugar sector and to develop the sugar industry into a major export sector; 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) Loans are being provided at concessional rates to sugar units for sugarcane development and rehabilitation/modernisation of plant and machinery from the Sugar Development Fund.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken by Government to liberalise the sugar sector :

- (i) Government has delicensed the sugar industry. The entrepreneurs are free to set up a new sugar mill of any capacity or expand the capacity of their existing mills according to their best commercial judgement. The only stipulation prescribed by the Government is that the radial distance between an existing sugar factory and a proposed sugar factory should not be less than 15 kms.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Government has liberalised the sugar trade and lifted the stock holding limit on the recognised dealers of sugar.
- (iv) There were restrictions on sale of at least 47.5% of monthly free sale quota during each fortnight. Government has removed the said restriction. Further, Government has also allowed the sugar factories to sell upto 10% of the monthly freesale quota in the succeeding month subject to the condition that the sale should be effected by 7th of the succeeding month.

In order to boost export of sugar, Government have taken the following steps :

- (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 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, the same 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.

Settlement of Outstanding Dues

606. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI SHUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI G.S. BASAVRAJ :
 SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

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

(a) the details of the arrangements reached with different celebrities to settle their dues with Prasar Bharati indicating the interest and other dues written-off or otherwise settled, producer/agency-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of Earthquake on Economy

607. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of recent earthquake on the Indian economy;

(b) whether the assessment of the damage caused to the economy in terms of money has been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the packages announced by the Ministry to help the industrialists in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat;

(e) whether the Government propose to consider and give excise exemption for ten years for the industries in this area; and

(f) if so, the action plan drawn up to help the existing industries in Kutch and other affected areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) According to preliminary estimates as assessed by the Government of Gujarat, damage has occurred to personal properties, household properties, industrial and commercial establishments. The total loss of damage as reported by the State Government is estimated at Rs. 21262 crore. Any repercussion on the Indian economy due to the earthquake in Gujarat can be absorbed by the economy.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal under consideration at present to give exercise exemption for ten years to industries in affected areas of Gujarat. However, for providing relief to areas affected by natural calamities, RBI have issued guidelines to all banks inter-alia, to convert short term production loans into medium term loans, reschedule existing term loans and provide additional working capital with relaxation in security and margin norms.

Smuggling of Precious Goods

608. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
 SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
 SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ordered the Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Director-General (Vigilance) of the Customs and Excise and also the CBI for prosecution of several senior officials of Air Customs for allegedly allowing a women of Uzbekistan origin to smuggle precious goods by visiting India as many as eight times in one year;

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

(c) whether the enquiry has been completed;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed; and

(f) the further steps taken by Government to stop such activities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) The Government had ordered in November, 2000, the Director General, DRI and Director General, Vigilance of the Central Board of Excise and Customs to conduct investigations including the collusion of Customs Officials

for allegedly allowing a woman of Uzbekistan origin to smuggle goods through IGI Airport, New Delhi. On the basis of the preliminary investigation report of Director General (Vigilance), some officers have been placed under suspension. Besides, the matter has been referred to CBI.

(f) Preventive and Vigilance measures have been intensified at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

Laxity in Providing News Regarding Earthquake by Doordarshan

609. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the news regarding the devastating earthquake in Gujarat was reported by Doordarshan only at noon, when the calamity took place early at 9 a.m. on January 26, 2001, while the other private channels took lead in reporting the tragedy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the laxity and callous attitude of Doordarshan authorities in reporting the worst human tragedy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of Doordarshan ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has been continuously taking various suitable steps to improve its professional standards in the presentation of news programmes etc. Doordarshan adopts the latest techniques from all quarters for improvement in quality of its presentation/coverage with a view to competing with other private TV channels.

Dismissal of Employees

610. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

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

(a) whether there was widespread unrest among the employees of Maruti Udyog Limited;

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

(c) the number of employees suspended/dismissed from service by the management;

(d) whether the management of the Company has agreed to fulfil most of the demands of the employees; and

(e) if so, the details of demands accepted and rejected so far by the Management ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of the employees of Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) included revision of incentive scheme, formulation of company based pension scheme, promotion of workers to supervisory level in non-production areas and setting a grievance redressal mechanism in the company.

(c) to (e) The Management of MUL and Maruti Udyog Employees Union (MUEU) reached an agreement on 8th January, 2001. As per the Terms of Settlement, Union and Workmen accepted the productivity, performance and profitability linked incentive scheme introduced by the company on 11.10.2000. The other Terms agreed were, to revoke the orders of termination of 20 workmen belonging to essential services, 21 workmen trainees and another 5 workmen by the Management. Regarding 24 dismissed workmen it was agreed that the law will take its own course. In the cases of 10 suspended workmen it was agreed to proceed in accordance with the Certified Standing Orders.

Surplus Stock of Foodgrains

611. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether several Food Corporation of India godowns and other Government warehouses are overflowing with Foodgrains;

(b) if so, actual expenses incurred in maintenance of this surplus stock;

(c) whether Indian Science Congress recently gave some suggestion to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government also fears that there is a likelihood of diversion of these foodgrains; and

(g) if so, the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken to check this diversion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity of 30.07 million tonnes (Owned and Hired/Covered and Cover and Plinth) against the total stocks of 27.06 million tonnes with utilization of 90% all over the country as 1.01.2001.

(b) The quantum of surplus varies with reference to the level of procurement and offtake of foodgrains. Stocks of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 31.1.2001 were of the order of 241.18 lakh tonnes of wheat and 223.97 lakh tonnes of rice against the buffer norm of 84 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice respectively. However, the actual expenses incurred on the maintenance of the surplus stock would be known after the close of the year and the accounts are finalized, as the quantities vary on a daily basis. The carrying cost of buffer stock is estimated at Rs. 2211 per MT per annum.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Sale of Maruti Shares to Suzuki Motors

612. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government held discussions with the Suzuki Motors of Japan for sale of the Government equity held in Maruti Udyog Limited.

(b) if so, whether Suzuki Motors Limited has expressed its inability to buy the equity;

(c) if so, the reasons given by Suzuki Motors Limited for refusing to buy equity; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to proceed in the matter ?

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) Government have not held any formal discussions with Suzuki Motor Company Limited (SMC) as yet.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Government have decided, at this stage, to commence formal negotiations with Suzuki Motor Company Limited (SMC) on a proposal for offer of shares by Maruti Udyog Limited on a rights basis with renunciation option for the Government, which could be in favour of Indian Financial Institutions.

Manufacture of Power Plants Equipment by BHEL

613. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

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

(a) whether the BHEL is able to manufacture power plant equipment of high and globally competitive standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large quantum of power goes waste due to sub-standard quality of electric equipment in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to enact any law to punish the manufactures of sub-standard electric equipment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL manufactures Power Plant equipment for Power Generation (Thermal, Hydro, Nuclear and Gas based) and Systems and Products for Power Transmission conforming to global standards like ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), IEEE (International Electrical and Electronic Engineers), DIN (Deutsches Institute For Normung eV), IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) apart from BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) and IBR (Indian Boiler Regulation).

As a further step towards adhering to quality systems, all manufacturing units of BHEL have been certified for ISO 9001 and major units have also been qualified for the latest ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.

The Company has proved its International competitiveness by bagging over 86% of all the power plant orders

posed for international competitive bidding in the domestic market since 1978. It has also won a number of Power Plant Equipment orders in export markets in competition with global players.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A large quantum of power goes waste owing to energy inefficient and substandard equipments/appliances. It is estimated that there is a scope of 20% saving in domestic sector and 25% saving each in agriculture sector and industrial sector.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Energy Conservation Bill, after its enactment, will empower the Government to fix minimum energy consumption standards for different notified equipments and appliances. Failure to comply with minimum consumption standards will invite penalty.

Ways and Means Advance of State Governments

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

(a) whether RBI has enhanced the ways and means advance limit of the State Government;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued by the RBI to States in this regard;

(c) whether this step was taken on the recommendation of informal group of State Finance Secretaries; and

(d) if so, the other recommendations of the group accepted by the RBI in regard to finance the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the informal group of State Finance Secretaries, the RBI has enhanced the Ways and Means advance limit as incorporated in the "WMA Scheme, 2001" w.e.f. February 1, 2001.

The main features of the WMA Scheme, 2001 are as under :

- (i) The normal WMA limit has been enhanced w.e.f. February 1, 2001.
- (ii) The Special WMA continues to be linked to the investments made by the State Governments in the Government of India Securities.
- (iii) Overdraft Regulation Scheme which will be applicable to the State Governments w.e.f. February 1, 2001 is as under :

(a) No State shall be allowed to run an overdraft with RBI for more than 12 consecutive working days. In case the overdraft appears in the State's account and remains beyond 12 consecutive working days, RBI and its agencies shall stop payments on behalf of the concerned State Governments. The extension to 12 days is an adhoc measure subject to review.

(b) The overdraft shall not exceed 100 per cent of normal WMA limit. On the first occasion that this is exceeded in a financial year, RBI shall advise the State that the overdraft amount should not exceed 100 per cent of normal WMA limit on any subsequent occasion.

(c) Without prejudice to clause (a) above, if during the financial year, the amount of overdraft exceeds 100 per cent of WMA limit on a second or any subsequent occasion, the State shall be given only five working days' notice to bring down the overdraft amount within the level of 100 per cent of normal WMA limit. If this is not adhered to payments will be stopped.

Impact of Multilateral Treaties on Domestic Industries

615. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have registered its concerns with the World Trade Organization over the impact of multilateral treaties on Indian domestic industries;

(b) if so, the response of WTO thereto; and

(c) the countries which have supported India in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Based on the experience of implementation of various WTO agreements, India along with some other like minded group of countries had demanded urgent satisfactory resolution of several implementation related concerns of the developing countries in the preparatory process at WTO Geneva for the III Ministerial Conference at Seattle. After the inconclusive Ministerial Conference at Seattle, the General Council of WTO in its May 2000 meeting had, as a part of the Confidence Building exercise for the developing countries, decided that all implementation related concerns of the developing countries should be addressed as per

the WTO work programme. Though till now, only modest progress has been made in the resolution of the implementation related concerns, the General Council in its December 2000 meeting has reiterated that implementation related concerns of the developing countries should be addressed as per the work programme.

(c) On this issue, India has been supported by various developing countries which include Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Pakistan, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Uganda who had also cosponsored the Indian proposal on "Implementation Issues" under document No. WT/GC/W354 and 355 dated 11/10/1999.

Budgetary Support for Ninth Five Year Plan

616. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce the budgetary support for the final year of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and upto what extent; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to manage the projection of aggregate support for both Central and State level plans after reducing the budgetary support ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The position will be known after the presentation of the Union Budget, for the year 2001-02 on 28th February, 2001.

Indo-Russian Meet on Trade

617. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Russian meet on trade was held in Moscow during January, 2001;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the meeting;

(c) whether India has asked Russia to buy a large quantity of tea, tobacco, rice and wheat against the rupee-fund;

(d) if so, the response of Russian Government thereto; and

(e) the overall outcome of the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The

Seventh Session of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation under the aegis of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held at Moscow in January, 2001 wherein various issues concerning bilateral trade including review of implementation of the decisions of the earlier meeting, current status of trade and economic cooperation and steps for further development, as well as issues relating to cooperation in Transport, Banking and Financial and Agricultural sectors, etc. were discussed.

(c) to (e) The issue of export of tea, tobacco, rice and wheat were discussed during the meeting, wherein it was agreed that all possible steps need to be taken to meet the target of exporting 100 million kg of tea during 2001, for which purchases would be made on a regular commercial basis throughout the year. Further, it was decided that Association Tabacprom of Russian Federation and Tobacco Board of India need to have closer interaction for discussing measures needed to boost tobacco exports. Regarding export of rice and wheat, it was decided that the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation will identify and convey to the Indian side a list of commercial organisations interested in importing wheat and rice for holding further discussions with Indian commercial organisations in regard to quantities and price etc. The overall outcome of the meeting was positive, and the Sides also agreed that there was a necessity for further diversification of the basket of trade and for increasing the trade in hard currency. In this regard, it was also noted that there was considerable potential for increasing bilateral trade in software, "white goods", granite, medical equipment, machine tools, equipment for power, metallurgical projects, civil aircraft, mining equipment, leather and leather items, marine products, etc.

Amendment of Sugar Policy

618. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) whether the Government have made certain changes in the existing sugar Policy aimed at downsizing the PDS and paying way for the introduction of forward trading in sugar;

(b) if so, the details of changes made so far;

(c) its impact on market and public;

(d) whether the Government have also decided to provide additional financial assistance to sugar mills to improve the economic viability; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to restructure the Public Distribution System (PDS) in so far as supply of levy sugar is concerned. Income tax assesses and members of their families were excluded from the purview of the PDS levy sugar with effect from July, 2000. The supply of levy sugar under the PDS has been restricted, with effect from 1.2.2001, to the people below poverty line except in North-Eastern States/Hill States/Island territories, where the existing arrangements would continue. However, minimum per capita per month quantum of levy sugar under the PDS has been increased from 425 gms to 500 gms, which would benefit the people below poverty line.

Government has already decided to introduce forward-trading in sugar.

(c) As the changed policy has become effective only from 1st February 2001, it is too early to judge its impact on market and public.

(d) and (e) Financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund in the form of loans are being provided for cane development and modernisation/rehabilitation of plant/machinery on receipt of applications/proposals from the sugar mills.

Income Tax Law

619. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp of Income Tax Law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India have made some remarks in this regard during Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Income Tax appellate Tribunals; and

(d) if so, the details with the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Streamlining the present tax system and making it more

effective is an ongoing process. It is also under consideration during the current budget exercise and the decision of the Government if any will be reflected in the Finance Bill, 2001 scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2001.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Similar suggestions as indicated in (a) and (b) above are under consideration as a part of the current Budget exercise and the decision of the Government if any will be reflected in the Finance Bill, 2001 scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2001.

Negative Growth of Auto Industry

620. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Auto Industry have posted negative growth in the last nine month of current financial year;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The automobile sector as a whole has shown production growth of 2.9% during April-December, 2000 over the same period of 1999. While Two wheelers, Three wheelers and Multi utility vehicles have recorded growth. Passenger cars and commercial vehicles have shown decline in production as per details given below :

(Production in Nos.)

Category	April-December, 1999	April-December, 2000
Passenger Cars	422,080	358,785
Multi utility vehicles	84,925	88,231
Commercial vehicles	121,835	102,938
Three wheelers	155,554	170,432
Two wheelers	2,694,843	2,859,784
Total	3,479,237	3,580,170

The reasons for decline in production of cars and commercial vehicles are mainly attributed to demand constraint. The demand is expected to pick up as the economy grows.

Eradi Committee Report on Tax Reforms

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

(a) whether the Eradi Committee appointed to suggest tax reforms in the life insurance sector had submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The issues raised relate to Direct Tax provisions, various aspects of which are considered by the Government as part of annual Budget Exercise. The Government's response, if any, in this regard will be reflected in the annual Budget Proposals for the year 2001-2002.

(d) In view of (a) above does not arise.

Privatisation of Bharat Aluminium Company

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the private companies participating in bid for their stake in BALCO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Government has decided to disinvest 51% equity in BALCO in favour of Sterlite Industries with transfer of management control.

(b) This is in accordance with the disinvestment policy of the Government to bring down Government

shareholding in non-strategic public sector undertakings to 26% or less, in the generality of cases.

(c) The disinvestment process is in progress. Two private parties finally submitted their financial bids for the Government stake offered, and the higher bid made by Sterlite Industries was accepted.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 26(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3251/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, 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 3252/2001]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1999-2000.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3253/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey, 2000-2001' (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3254/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited Calcutta, for the years 1998-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited Calcutta for the years 1998-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3255/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : On behalf of Shri Omar Abdullah, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Export of Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 2720 in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2000, under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3256/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Tea (Marketing) Control (Amendment) Order, 2001 (Hindi and English versions)

published in Notification No. S.O. 40(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2001, issued under sub-section (5) of section 30 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3257/2001]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 41(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2001 containing order directing that every registered manufacturer in the State of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala is free to sell any percentage of tea manufactured by him in a year through Public Tea Auctions in India held under control or auspices of organizers of tea auction licenced to do so, issued under para 17 of the Tea (Marketing) Control (Amendment) Order, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3258/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No.S.O.2(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No.S.O. 477(E) dated the 25th July, 1991, under sub-section (2H) of section 29-B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 together with corrigenda thereto published in Notification Nos.S.O. 19(E) (in Hindi version only) and S.O. 29(E) (in English version only) dated the 9th January, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3259/2001]

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 the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs and Tariff Act, 1975 :
- (i) G.S.R. 919(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite, originating in or exported from China PR.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 920(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Phthalic Anhydride, originating in or exported from Indonesia.

[Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran]

- (iii) G.S.R. 922(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Black and White Photographic Paper, originating in or exported from United Kingdom, France and Hungary, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (iv) G.S.R. 923(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 93/2000-Cus., dated the 23rd June, 2000.
- (v) G.S.R. 931(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose, provisionally, anti-dumping duty on certain grades/types of alloy and non-alloy steel billets, bars and rounds, originating in or exported from Russia and China, and imported recommended by the designated authority.
- (vi) G.S.R. 932(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose, provisionally, anti-dumping duty on Ferro silicon, originating in or exported from Russia and China and imported into India, as recommended by the designated authority.
- (vii) G.S.R. 933(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose, provisionally, anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydroxide, commonly known as Caustic Soda originating in or exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan, the United States of America and France.
- (viii) G.S.R. 934(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Strontium Carbonate, originating in or exported from China PR.
- (ix) G.S.R. 935(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose, provisionally anti-dumping duty on Aniline, originating in or exported from the European Union.
- (x) G.S.R. 936(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to convert the rate of final anti-dumping duty imposed earlier on Thermal Sensitive Paper originating in or exported from European Union and Japan, and imported into India, from rupee terms to denomination in US dollars.
- (xi) G.S.R. 938(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe anti-dumping duty imposed on nylontyre cord fabric, originating in or exported from, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan in US dollars terms.
- (xii) G.S.R. 939(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Polystyrene, originating in or exported from, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand and imported into India, at the rate of duty expressed in US dollars terms.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 4(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the levy of provisional anti-dumping duty on Bisphenol-A, originating in or exported from, the European Union and Taiwan, as recommended by the Designated authority.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 28(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of final anti-dumping duty on Theophylline and Caffeine, originating in or exported from, China PR, although at a different rate.
- (xv) G.S.R. 29(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 14/99-Cus., dated the 5th February, 1999.

- (xvi) G.S.R. 30(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 27/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 34(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duty on Gamma Ferric Oxide for a period of two years and six months.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 45(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Ferrocyanide, originating in or exported from the European Union.
- (xix) G.S.R. 46(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Theophylline and Caffeine, originating in or exported from the European Union.
- (xx) G.S.R. 47(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Cyanide, originating in or exported from the United States of America, the European Union, Czech Republic and Korea RP, and imported into India, at the rate of duty expressed in US Dollars terms.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 48(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of final anti-dumping duty on 3, 4, 5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde, originating in or exported from China PR, although at a different rate.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 49(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 46/99-Cus., dated the 29th April, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3260/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of

section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-

- (i) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Third Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No.S.O. 1172(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000.
- (ii) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Third Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No.S.O. 1173(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2000.
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 32(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exclude cigarettes from the scheme of excise duty exemption applicable to units in the North East, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3261/2001]

12.02 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statement

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : I beg to lay on the Table Hindi and English versions of the Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in Chapter I of 16th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Ninth Lok Sabha) on "Delay in Remittances of collections by Public Sector Banks".

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Study Tour Report

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi) : I beg to lay on the Table the Study Tour Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings in respect of the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation.

12.03 hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Second Report

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : I beg to lay on the Table the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) and the minutes thereon of the Railway Convention Committee in respect of regarding the Rate of dividend for 2000-2001 and other matters".

12.03½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I beg to inform that the following items of business will be undertaken during the week beginning from Monday, 26th February, 2001 :

- (1) Deliberation on any item of business other than the today's agenda.
- (2) The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
- (3) The discussion on the statutory resolution seeking disapproval of Taxation Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 and Deliberation on and passage of the regulation seeking the substitution of the Ordinance.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (i) The tragic death of 30 employees of Bagdighi Colliery in BCCL.
- (ii) The mini-ratna, a profitable Public Sector like BALCO disinvestment at throwaway prices.

Mr. Minister is here. He should tell the House as to why did he disinvest BALCO at throwaway prices. . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Is it 'Zero Hour' now ? This is a submission and Members are submitting their

grievances now. There is procedure for it. Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (i) Serious situation arising out of Government's failure to streamline PDS in the country.
- (ii) Reported deterioration in the law and order situation in the capital city of Delhi affecting life and property of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Devria) : The following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

"The discussion on the report of the Review Committee on Kargil".

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) Need to immediately make functional in public interest the fully equipped T.V. L.P.T Relay Centre set up one year back in Vijaynagar Town of Ajmer district/appointing the staff therein.
- (2) The need to make functional on regular basis the small public sector unit of HMT situated at Ajmer in Rajasthan by issuing orders for the expansion of the working capacity keeping in view the interests of thousands of workers of the unit. This should not be closed down in any condition. Thank you.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) The need to immediately dispose off the pending cases regarding the appointment of the kith and kin of the diseased employees of Bokaro Thermal Power Plant and Chandrapura Thermal Power Plant under Damodar Valley Corporation on compassionate ground.
- (2) The need to set up new telephone exchanges in respectively Khairachatar, Dantu, Angwali, Bhendara, Tupkadhi, Telu, Pordag, Banspahar (Topchundhi) divisions in Bokaro, Giridih and Dhanbad districts of Jharkhand State and regularisation of the irregular telephone system in the area.

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) Need to convert existing highways in Tamil Nadu into National Highways and allocation of adequate funds for widening the existing National Highways.
- (ii) Need to make available potable water to all villages in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

- (1) The Government should ensure the distribution of diesel in the villages on the pattern of Kerosene in view of the on going power crisis and the importance of diesel from the agriculture point of view so that the time and money of the farmers could be saved.
- (2) Whether it is the killings of the elephants at the Pench Sanctuary in Sivni district of Madhya Pradesh or the death of the tigers in Corbett National Park all these activities seems to be the handwork of the poachers and the part of a deep rooted conspiracy. Hence the Government should take stern steps to probe into the matter.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

- (1) The action should be taken against the officers and builders found guilty of illegal construction in Delhi in view of the possibility of earthquake.
- (2) Special status should be granted to the historical Chandi Chowk region in view of it being the heart of Delhi.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) Need to amend the Medical Council of India Act, 1956 with a view to giving equal representation to all States.
- (ii) Need to take up Sethu Samundram Project on priority basis.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) The impact of the removal of quantitative restrictions on Indian Industry.
- (ii) The Impact of WTO on agriculture of this country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour'. Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

(Interruptions)

12.10 hrs.

RE : REPORTED SALE OF BALCO'S SHARES

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the scandalous and outrageous way in which the BALCO has been thrown away by this Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Who is now speaking ? I have not allowed anybody. Without being allowed, you are speaking.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It is most outrageous. It is most scandalous. I raised this issue yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : You raised it yesterday. Again, today also, you are raising it. What is this ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I raised it yesterday but I had not got a satisfactory reply. BALCO is a public sector company having Rs. 460 crore reserves and surplus. It is a company which is making a profit of Rs. 110 crore. 7000 employees will be in distress. What about their future ?

A Valuer has been appointed who says that the reserves and surplus are extraneous matters. He values only the fixed assets. What sort of a Valuer is he ? No market share has been taken into consideration. 15 per cent of the market share is BALCO's share. The Valuer asks : "What is a market share ?" He does not know what a market share is. He says that these are extraneous matters. This is the way our public sector units are being played with. Of course,

[Translation]

It is very unfortunate that we receive this information through the newspapers. This Government is playing with the interests of the country and the real wealth of the country is being drained out of the country. The issue is linked with the livelihood of the 7000 workers employed

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

in BALCO. If we do not raise this issue here then it tantamounts to failure on our part to bear our duties. Hence I demand from the Government to withhold the decision of selling BALCO till the discussion over it finishes in the House. I want that the Government should provide details of the deal in the House and discussion over this issue should take place in the House. If the Government do not come forward with a satisfactory reply in this regard then the sale of BALCO should not take place. The deal should not be sealed in haste. The hon. Minister says that we want to create a basket by selling the loss incurring units and want to include the profit earning units also in the same. But it is being noticed that not even a single loss incurring unit has been sold, rather such a unit is being sold which has a surplus reserve over 460 crore rupees. It is such a big company that our valuer could complete the evaluation process in more than 11 days and they say that reserve and surplus. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, there are other Members also who want to speak. Other notices are also there.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Our 7000 workers are facing problem. . . .(Interruptions) The hon. Minister has said that the retrenchment will not take place for one year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is there to give the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Though I would like to submit that after one year the workers will be given the option to either opt for the VRS or to face the retrenchment. Hence, I would like to demand that such a thing should not take place keeping in view the interests of the workers. The Mini 'Ratnas' of the country should not be sold hastily at throw away prices first because the Government is not managing to come to terms with its fiscal deficit. The interests of 7000 workers are being sacrificed in order to make up for the fiscal deficit and we will not tolerate it. Hence we want a reply in this regard.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I would like to submit that the selling out of BALCO is again an example

of this Government's surrender to the pressures of the industrialists. There are stories that they had made a commitment to the owner of the Sterlite company that BALCO would be handed over to him. According to that goal, they proceeded. The valuation processes were made to subserve the interests of the owner of the Sterlite company only. We are ready to place all the documents on the Table of this House. This is the second time that this Government is serving the interests of the Sterlite company. Maybe, it is on a ruinous path.

BALCO is a cash-rich company. It has made a profit of more than Rs. 104 crore. It has now been decided to sell 51 per cent of its shares. The Disinvestment Commission had suggested that the core sector should not be divested of more than 40 per cent of its share. Now, the Government have decided to sell 51 per cent share of the BALCO. . . .(Interruptions) They are selling it out totally. But the market has its own close-up story. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you have started the discussion. It is 'Zero Hour'. You can mention the points.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Some Ministers are hand-in-glove with this company. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are saying what the Government has to decide.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Some of the Ministers in this Government are hand in glove with this particular industrial group, not only to meet the fiscal deficit but also to benefit this particular group of industries. . . .(Interruptions) They have managed to do that. . . .(Interruptions) I charge this Government of corruption. . . .(Interruptions) The Minister owes an explanation to this House as to how and why such a disastrous and ruinous decision has been taken. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Seth, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Samar Choudhury, and Dr. Raghuvaran Prasad Singh can also associate with that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

12.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not want any reply from the Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not want any reply from the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking the Minister to give the reply but you are not hearing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the point and I am asking the Minister to give the reply. But you are not hearing. It appears that you do not want any reply from the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? I could not understand this. You have raised the point. I am asking the Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But you are not allowing the Minister to give the reply. Is this the parliamentary procedure which is to be followed in the House ? The Minister is going to reply to the issue you raised.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you not allowing the Minister to reply ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. You have raised an important point and the Minister is going to give reply. But you are not allowing the Minister to reply. Is this the practice to be followed in the House during the 'Zero Hour' ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you not interested in the reply of the Government ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The normal practice is that whenever any important issue is raised during the 'Zero Hour', the Minister generally gives the response.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the issue but you are not hearing what the Government wants to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? This is a peculiar situation.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

12.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past fifteen of the Clock.

15.35 hrs.

Lok-Sabha re-assembled at thirty five minutes past fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the legislative Business of the Private Members will be taken up.

15.35½ hrs.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT NAGPUR) BILL*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of Supreme Court at Nagpur.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

*Not recorded.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extratordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.2.2001

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of Supreme Court at Nagpur."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce** the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 3, etc.)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Official Languages Act, 1963.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Official Languages Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I introduce** the Bill.

15.36½ hrs.

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of all marriages in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of all marriages in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

MARRIAGE (RESTRICTION ON EXPENDITURE) BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to restrict expenditure on marriages.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to restrict expenditure on marriages."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 248, etc.)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (IDENTIFICATION AND DEPORTATION) BILL*

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to set up a Commission to identify and deport illegal immigrants in the country.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extratordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.2.2001.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extratordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.2.2001.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to set up a Commission to identify and deport illegal immigrants in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

THE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 51 etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Factory Act, 1948.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 3)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 77)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir I introduce the Bill.

15.41½ hrs.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 5)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Act, 1956.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir I introduce** the Bill.

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** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.42 hrs.

**PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT
ALLOWANCE BILL***

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir I introduce** the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 200, etc.)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of child labour and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of child labour and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 4.)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45½ hrs.

CONSUMER PROTECTION (PRICE DETERMINATION OF THE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR) BILL*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Bureau for determination of prices of products manufactured in the private sector and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Bureau for determination of prices

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of products manufactured in the private sector and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

DOMESTIC WORKERS (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) BILL*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixation of wages of domestic workers and for the improvement of their working conditions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixation of wages of domestic workers and for the improvement of their working conditions."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.47 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN BILL*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute a National Commission for Children and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to constitute a National Commission for Children and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 1, etc.)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.48½ hrs.

THE SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF UTTARANCHAL BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Uttaranchal for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Sections of people and for the development, exploitation and proper utilisation of its resources.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Uttaranchal for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward sections of people and for the development, exploitation and proper utilisation of its resources."

The motion was adopted.

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** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49½ hrs.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FULL PARTICIPATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Insertion of new section 68A, etc.)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL – Contd.**

(Insertion of new Article 75A, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have moved Constitution Amendment Bill to be passed by the House. We have seen five elections during past 10 years from 1989 to 1999. Not a single party has got clear majority in these elections.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, who would be responding to this debate from the Government side ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs would reply to this debate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : So, he is equally equipped with matters of the Law Ministry as well!

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since 1989, coalition Governments are formed in the country and frequent elections are held. Our country is a poor and a developing one. Even today, we are facing the problems of drinking water, education and roads etc. but thousands and crores of rupees are being spent on elections. The funds which were meant for the development of the country are being spent on elections. Political instability is prevailing in the country and in future also coalition Governments are likely to be formed. No party is in a position to form a Government on its own.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Is he pointing towards BJP ? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am talking about all the parties. We should accept the reality. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Geeteji, please do not get disturbed by interruptions.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Our economic condition is deteriorating day by day due to political instability. You and I are the Member of this House since 11th Lok Sabha. You may be even senior to me. I have seen the formation as well as fall of the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Members of different political parties stand together to topple the Government but do not support each other to from the Government. However, people of the country are bearing the brunt of it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : PMK has left the Government, TDP is about to leave and others are on the same path. What can we do. . . . (Interruptions) We are unable to do anything. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Dasmunsiji you can not do anything. . . . (Interruptions) However, one thing you can do that is you can sit in the opposition forever. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We get inspiration from you in this regard. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Frequent toppling of the Government should be stopped. Common man is

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facing its consequences. Elections take place after every 1½ – 2 years and thousands and crores of rupees are being spent on it. Political instability is prevailing in the entire country, that's why I have moved this Constitution amendment. Instead of No Confidence Motion, confidence should be moved in the House against the minority Government. Leader of the House should be elected with the majority of the House, then hon. President should be requested to appoint him as Prime Minister. That's why I have moved this amendments. I have seen so many instances when Members stood together to topple the Government but failed to make alliance to from the Government. In view of it, I have moved this amendment bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if a minority Government is formed and the House fails to choose its leader, the House should be adjourned for four months. Hon. President should call the House within these four months and another opportunity to be given to choose the leader. Frequent elections involve amount worth crores of rupees and this practice is required to be checked. Crores of rupees being spent on frequent elections are required to be checked. Few days ago, a major earthquake hit the Gujarat State in which life of 14000 to 15000 people and property worth Rs. 13500 crore was lost. Every year, we face natural calamities like this, sometimes it is flood, sometime it is drought or sometimes it is cyclone and every Government has to face them.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even today, 60 per cent people of our country live in rural areas. Our country belongs to farmers and labourers. Unemployment is increasing in our country day by day and developmental works are being slowed down. Apprehensions gripped the mind of the people at the time of presentation of Budget that more taxes and surcharges will be levied, petrol and diesel prices will be hiked. Consequently transportation will be more expensive and ultimately poor people will be over burdened. Therefore, in such a situation, when our country is facing financial problems, frequent elections are detrimental for the country. Frequent elections involving huge sums and the political instability create doubts about our Governments among other countries. The present Government has formulated and is executing its policies and programmes but it comes to the mind of the people that in case of fall of the Government, whether the incoming one will continue with the same policies and programmes. All these things affect our economy. Therefore, I have moved this Constitution Amendment Bill. I hope all the Members of the House would like to present their views on it and would support it. . . .(Interruptions) No Member

would like frequent elections in the country because the funds which have to be spent for the education of the poor people, health services and for the development works, are being spent on elections. It is against the interests of the country. Therefore, I would like to request the House to pass it unanimously.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in addition to his views, the hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in his speech, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Year Celebration of the Election Commission had expressed the same view, for which, I think, this matter is to be taken for granted with all seriousness and priority.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anant Geete also belongs to the NDA. They are one of its allies.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill presented by hon. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete albeit in a modified form.

It is a fact that for cobbling up a majority in the House, for the last ten to eleven years, ideologies, principles and achievements have been compromised, as a result of which there is a downgrade trend in the Indian polity. That is why what he said is absolutely correct. He said that there is a necessity to amend certain provisions of the Constitution of India. He has indicated Article 75, Article 85, Article 164 and Article 175. When we think of amending Article 75 and Article 85, *mutatis mutandis*, it would apply to Article 164 and Article 175. Here, I would like to invite attention to certain grey areas in the Constitution of India.

The framers of the Constitution never thought that the House of the People would be dissolved so soon on very frivolous grounds, or, for that matter that it would be extended beyond five years as it has been done in one instance. They thought that the Members of the House would be persons of integrity, persons with value and persons with education. As it had been indicated the other day through the obituary references to Shri Indrajit Gupta, the value of the Members of this House has degenerated to its lowest ebb. So, now there is a necessity of having a rethinking about the Constitution.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, had recently set the ball rolling by indicating that there should be some amendment to the Constitution to ensure a fixed term for the House of the People, the Lok Sabha. My contention here is that at the present juncture it might not be necessary to amend the Constitution. It would be necessary to interpret certain grey areas of the Constitution. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the person who had drafted the

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Constitution had thought of this. He was a visionary, no doubt. He thought that there would be degeneration and that is why he had incorporated certain ideas into the Constitution. I invite your attention to Article 83 to which Shri Geete has referred earlier. In Article 83, clause (2), it is said :

"The House of the People, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years. . . ."

The crux of the problem is the three words 'unless sooner dissolved'. My contention is to amend these three words. We can delete them from the Constitution so that we automatically have a five-year tenure.

If we have a five-year tenure, what are the difficulties that we may have to face? This is what he has thought out. What would happen when there is a vote of confidence in the Council of Ministers? In my humble opinion, if the Council of Ministers loses the confidence of the House, the House should be able to find out an alternative leader. That is why he has suggested 'Vote out confidence; vote in confidence'. If you are voting out somebody, you should find out another person who would be the leader. The German method, I think, would be suitable to our country at the present juncture because of the multiparty system. A large number of regional parties are coming to share power at the Centre. So, 'vote in, vote out' measures could be adopted, as he has very aptly indicated in his Constitution Amendment Bill. But as I had indicated, in the first instance, let us think about the grey areas of the Constitution.

Grey areas of the Constitution are in Articles 85 and 86 wherein the President has enough powers to direct one House or both the Houses to take a particular decision. I would invite your attention to the Twelfth Lok Sabha when the President of India had given directions that the Budget should be passed and the Budget should be adopted. There was no other go but to take the directive in its proper perspective. So, let us construe Articles 85 and 86 in that way. What does Article 85 say? Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your kind permission, may I read clause-2 of Article 85?

- "(2) The President may from time to time –
 (a) prorogue the Houses or either House;
 (b) dissolve the House of the People."

He may dissolve the House of the People. It is his discretion and that is not to be questioned also. It cannot be justiciable and it cannot be questioned anywhere. So, the point that I would like to impress upon the hon. Members and the country at large is that the President may

apply his discretion by refusing to dissolve the House or by refusing to take a particular decision in a particular manner and he may ask the House to elect another leader. That is very clearly indicated in Article 86. I again go to clause (2) of Article 86. Clause 2 is very important, it indicates :

"The President may send messages to either House of Parliament, whether with respect to a Bill then pending in Parliament or otherwise, and a House to which any message is so sent shall with all convenient despatch consider any matter required by the message to be taken into consideration."

This word 'otherwise' is very important. It is not indicated as to what is meant by 'otherwise' for the President of India. It may be a directive to the Lok Sabha to elect a leader. This word 'otherwise' is pregnant with thoughts and ideas. This is the grey area I was talking about. It is said :

". . . Or otherwise, and a House to which any message is so sent shall with all convenient despatch consider any matter required by the message to be taken into consideration."

What Shri Geete has said, is about for months period to reconsider about a decision. In the police or army, it is called cooling off period. Why give cooling off period? The President of India can say, 'You take seven or ten days and consider'. This is the message of the word 'otherwise'. He can say, 'You elect the leader and let him be the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister will choose his Council of Ministers'. In that way the first amendment should be deletion of 'unless otherwise dissolved' and a large and broad interpretation of 'otherwise' in Article 85 (2). This will help in keeping the House for five years and it would not create a problem at a later stage. Within the framework of the Constitution, with the least minimum amendment, we can achieve the objective of what Shri Geete has indicated in his Private Member's Bill. If a Vote of Confidence Motion is defeated, some other person can be elected with a mandate from the President. If the second person is not elected as Prime Minister, then it is up to the President, as Shri Geete has indicated, to dissolve the House. That would save a lot of expenditure and a lot of difficulties. Through this, criminalisation of politics can be minimised to a certain extent. Elections are expensive and criminalisation is done on a large scale. That is why when I stood up to support the Bill, I said I support it in a modified form. After all this Constitution has seen several ups and downs in the last fifty years.

I am reminded of a couplet of Lord Rochester. Very beautifully he has said about the King. If the same thing

continues for another fifty years, I think, the Constitution will also have the same meaning as Lord Rochester has said about the King. He said :

"Here lies our sovereign Lord, the King
Whose word no man relies upon
He never says a foolish thing
Nor ever does at wise one."

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution Amendment Bill introduced by the hon. M.P. Shri Geete is a very important Bill. The country is facing political instability due to which elections are held every year in the country. Whether it is Lok Sabha elections or Legislative Assembly elections, the country under the constitutional provision has to spend thousands of crores of rupees on every election, although the amount spent illegitimately i.e. over and above the constitutional provision, has no account and is not calculated in it. This has led to criminalisation. Even developmental works get obstructed because of the deteriorating situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House that different points would be made and lot of things said while discussing this important Bill. Constitution of our country has stood the test of time. Our Constitution makers framed the Constitution of India in consistence with time and period after going through the Constitutions of many other countries of the world. They have never anticipated that our moral values would be on decline to such an extent. They had never through that 40 small and big political parties would be represented in the Parliament. Situation has changed after 50 years of Independence i.e. after celebration of Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. There is a great difference between the standards of morality of that time and that of the present times. This decline in moral values is making an impact on the democratic values of India. Articles 83, 85, 86, 75, 175 and 185 might have found place in the constitution after a proper thought only. Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Baba Saheb Ambedkar had never imagined in the Constituent Assembly that in future, one would be compelled to prove majority in Legislative Assembly or the Parliament, police would arrest the leaders and politicians would make a Government even without proving their majority in the House. And that is why this Constitutional Amendment Bill has been introduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would recall that the hon. Prime Minister has recently held discussions on all these things that some solution should be found out to this effect so

that the people may not have to face elections in the Parliamentary democracy every now and then. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a veteran Member of this House and have witnessed a quick rise and fall of many Governments in a short span. It is right that a provision has been made in Shri Geete's proposal that the tenure of Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly should be fixed for five years as per the constitution. After the fall of a Government through No Confidence Motion, which party would form the next Government should also be ensured. Sometime, even those party leaders who do not like to see each other's face on any topical discussion, make incoherent agreements thereby bringing the No Confidence Motion and dragging the country into another election which puts a burden of heavy expenditure on the country, thereby increasing criminalisation and creating hinderance in the development work of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is MPLAD Scheme for the hon. Members. Funds are allocated for this scheme. You are also an hon. M.P. from Bihar. Money is not spent whenever required, sometimes we come to know that Bihar is severely afflicted by inundation by rivers coming from Nepal for as long as six months and when after six months, the developmental works are started then Code of Conduct is enforced in view of the elections in your area. That is why I feel that the funds allocated under MPLAD Scheme to the hon. Members are not being spent because of last three or four elections and the developmental works have not been executed. So development is affected is affected due to such ruination. Elections not only lead to criminalisation. The country is overburdened with the expenditure made on holding the elections.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I request that proper action should be taken to check black money being spent in elections. Some Commission should be constituted to see that black money is not siphoned in the elections of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies and elections are funded by the Government so that deterioration in moral values could be checked. I, through you, support this Bill and urge upon the Government that our constitution is the best Constitution. There is a massive difference in the moral standards of those times and that of the present times and that is why I have outlined and have given examples mentioning names but I am repeating that the makers of the Constitution had never thought that 40 parties would enter this Parliament, regionalism would take deep roots here, National parties would become weak and we would be faced with a situation of conducting elections every year. Leaders of that period would have never anticipated this. If they would have been present here in the present scenario, they would have brought

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

about a change in their thinking and would have naturally approved of such amendment in the Constitution. So an arrangement may be made that Members bringing 'No Confidence Motion' may also be prepared for winning the confidence of the House as well. Such a Member may bring the leader from his own party. If any crisis occurs even after this, then the hon. President should definitely have the power. Through the Constitution to put the Parliament in suspended animation for four months and give the time to MPs for proper deliberation, not once but twice. And if any conclusion is not reached out, then last resort should be to dissolve the Parliament. But in any case, the tenure of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies should be fixed and leader may be selected by voting in the House. This right may be vested with Lok Sabha. I conclude my speech by supporting this point of view.

16.24 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, I rise to support this Bill tabled by the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete suggesting a Constitutional amendment with regard to compulsory existence of five years' terms for elected Members. I really congratulate him on bringing this Bill for discussion in this august House. Lok Sabha once elected by the people should continue to serve the country and the people for a continuous period of five year. For, it has been enunciated as one of the fundamental principles of our democracy.

Before further expressing my views I would like to make it clear that this principle should not only be applicable to Parliament, but to all the State Assemblies as well where similar problems are being faced. Nowadays the democratic values have undergone a total change. It is not known now whether the horse is dragging the cart or the other way round. In the normal democratic practice, the horse should be before the cart and the people should give mandate to the Members of Parliament to serve them for five years. Unfortunately what is happening now is that Parliament itself is directing the people saying that it does not want to serve them for a full term of five years for various reasons and considerations; so, it directs the people to vote again and again once every year or one and a half years or two years. Therefore, in this set up whether it is the people who are giving directive to their representatives or the people's representatives are

directing the people to vote for them every year is to be determined.

Dissolution of the House is done in various considerations, whether it is palatable to the people or not. We are just forcing elections on them frequently. Ultimately what is happening and it is not a secret at all that in every election a lot of tension is being mounted on the people, among different groups of people within a single village and even within a single family. So, frequent elections create several types of tensions. People are going to the court after stabbing and murdering one another. Several criminal cases are pending in the courts. Even before these events are forgotten, we are raking them up once again, not allowing them to forget these factions. 'Once again you rake up your own tensions existing between you and elect me as your leader and give me power', seems to be the message we are giving.

As Shri Anant Geete rightly pointed out, since 1989 no single party has been given the mandate. Even after that we went in for elections in 1991, 1996, 1998 and 1999 at an average interval of two years. Is there any improvement in the political set up here? Day by day, in elections after elections, the number of political parties is getting mushroomed. People's representatives who are elected to this House and who is turn elect the leader to run the Government have started coming from more number of political parties. The number of political parties has multiplied itself. Today as many as 44 political parties are represented in this House. Tomorrow God alone knows, if once again there is an election, how many more political parties get formed. There will be only addition to the number of political parties and not deletion.

What exactly are the considerations on which certain Houses are dissolved? I can cite very flimsy considerations which are there. I may be forgiven if the word 'flimsy' that I have used is very strong. I am not trying to challenge the wisdom of the Members. It really pains several people when they come to know the grounds on which Houses are dissolved. Even for want of one vote this House had to be dissolved recently. There have been occasions when on the plea that some police people were parading before the leader of a political party, support to the Government was withdrawn and elections were pressed on the people.

There were occasions where the leader of the Treasury Benches was found faulty by a particular party leader that in his own party, he is not favouring that leader of the Treasury Benches and is in favour of another leader and as such he is withdrawing the support of his party. So, these are all various considerations which are not on

economic issues, not on economic policies, not on political differences nor on the philosophy of politics. It is not on these notes. It is really on very very flimsy grounds that the House had been pulled down and once again, elections were pressed on the people.

In this vast country, where the population is more than a billion now, where there is a lot of diversified activities, whether it is geographically or economically or language-oriented, etc., the scenario looks as if there is no scope that a single party will be voted to power in the near future. No national party will come to power on its own. It is bound to happen that a major party has to take into confidence a group of parties to come to power and then rule the country. Even after the coalition constituent parties coming together, there is no guarantee that these parties will support them for a period of five years and the same Government will continue. We have seen it in 1996 and 1998 and we are now passing through the present Government of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Under these circumstances, there is a real need to think over this particular aspect whether you call it as an amendment or as suggested by Shri Sahu, just a modification of some of the articles of the Constitution. Any slight modification amounts to constitutional amendment. It may be to article 75 or article 85 or even article 164 or 175 or whatever it may be. Comprehensively, there is a need for having a total look on this aspect.

The other aspect is the economic aspect of this country. Since there is no continued support for the Government, most of these economic activities empowering the poor people and addressing to poverty-oriented policies are being sidelined. They are never being pursued on a continuous basis. Even internal instability of political atmosphere is giving a rather peculiar look internationally. In a country like India, there is a frequent change of political parties. When the country is passing several problems like natural calamities, internal threat, militancy, insurgency, law and order problems which require to be addressed, the need for having a stable Government is very much realised. We should run through for a period of five years. So, under these circumstances, the Bill that has been introduced by Shri Geete is a welcome feature and I really support it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I support the Bill moved by Shri Geete in its spirit. I need not go into the repetition of the fact that the people of this country are being greatly distressed because of the frequent dissolution of Lok Sabha like within 13 months or one-and-a-half years and so on. I need not go into the details

because the Members who have already spoken before me have given a detailed description of that.

My point is that when this Government came to power, the National Democratic Alliance in its Manifesto, gave a promise to the people of India that there shall be a House for a fixed term. In the United States of America, the tenure of the Senate and the Tenure of the House of Representatives are fixed. The House of Representatives continue for four years. So, we can also do that.

Shri Anadi Sahu, who initiated the debate from the Treasury Benches, has mentioned that there are so many grey areas. I also repeat what he said. But I say that instead of allowing the Rashtrapati of this country to decide who should be the Prime Minister of this country, why not this House, this Lok Sabha take that responsibility? We elect the hon. Speaker of this House in this House itself. He is not being elected in a partisan manner. He is elected by the hon. Members of this House. If we make a slight change in the Constitution or in the interpretation of the Constitution, then we can bring in a lot of improvement upon the present situation by electing the Prime Minister of this country by the Lower House.

Take the example of article 356. There is a provision of President's Rule to be promulgated in a State. There is no provision of a President's Rule being promulgated at the Central level. So, we have not faced any embarrassing situation in the past. But take the example of the States. In one State, in Uttar Pradesh, one person was sworn in for a single day. Then, the court had to intervene. They had to bring in Shri Kalyan Singh as the Chief Minister. The hon. Member Prof. Venkateswarlu who was speaking is from the TDP. He knows from his experience as how the N.T. Rama Rao Government was dismissed in the past. What happened? He had to bring all the MLAs right up to the Rashtrapati Bhawan. They had to sit in front of the Rashtrapati Bhawan and take the photograph. It was the journalist who had to do the head-count. So, instead of making the Rashtrapati Bhawan or the Governor's house the place of determination as to who will be the Prime Minister of this country or the Chief Minister of a State, it is always better that the House decides it. Then, what will happen? The tenure of five years has been mentioned. Instead of just changing the Constitution or bringing in any further amendment to the Constitution, we can ascertain the position where the House can remain for five years because the House will elect its leader. If, at any time, the House expresses its inability, then there is the other option. Shri Anant Geete has mentioned that four months time should be provided.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

It has been mentioned in this Bill that the "President shall, upon the advice of the Council of Ministers, prorogue the House and suspend the operation of any provision of the Constitution relating to the House of the people for a period which shall not exceed four months." Instead of giving four months' time, when we ask the House to elect its leader, and if the House is unable to elect its leader, then we can send a message to the hon. President saying that the House is incapable of electing a leader. So, in that extreme situation, the House could be dissolved. So, in this case, we may not change the Constitution but we can see to it that the longevity of the House for five years is ascertained.

India is a vast country. Only a Parliamentary form of democracy can bring in justice to the people. We cannot have a Presidential form of Government like the United States of America. The representatives of the people who come from various parts of the country can only fulfil the aspirations of the people. We have varied languages, varied sub-cultures, and religions. You have to give a piece of cake to everybody so that everybody is made happy.

Ultimately, my point is that early dissolution of this House brings in economic chaos. It creates suspicion in the minds of the investors, specifically foreign investors about the stability – economic and political – of the country. Therefore, foreign direct investors would run away if they are faced with such a situation.

Let us interpret it in a different way and just allow this House to elect its leader so that all these points raised by Shri Geete could be sorted out.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Constitution amendment bill moved by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete to fix 5 years term for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. . . .(Interruptions) It is a private member's bill in all respect but Shri Geete ji has expressed only the intention of the Government. While speaking in Golden Jubilee function of Election Commission on 17th January, hon'ble Prime Minister stated that Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha should have a fixed term of office. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to clarify one thing if you kindly permit me. The bill I have introduced in the House was introduced before Election Commission's function was held. It was admitted and even discussion was initiated on it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : He is a member of one of their allied parties. That's why he do not have any objection. On 17th January, hon'ble Prime Minister stated that Vidhan Sabha should have a fixed term of 5 years to ensure the stability of the Government. I am happy that hon'ble President has expressed a different view. Also the National Commission set up under the leadership of Shri Venkat Challiah for reviewing the constitution is not in its favour. I feel that such an atmosphere is being created. The bill is against the democracy and its principles. It is a biggest misunderstanding that the Government run by the numbers. The Government can not run by the numbers rather it runs by the public trust. There are so many examples in our country and in other countries also where the Government could not run despite having majority. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan had initiated an agitation in Bihar during 1974-75 and I am happy that I also participated in it as a worker. It was a total revolution and one of the issues of this agitation was that the Public should have the right to call back their representatives. If a representative elected for 5 years is not working in the interest of the people and people have lost faith in him, they should have the right to call back representative.

Congress Party had got majority in 1984 and 1971. It could have remained in power but after winning the elections in 1971, circumstances were such that Shrimati Gandhi was compelled to impose emergency. Therefore, the question is not whether a Government run for 5 years or 10 years but the important point is the direction towards which the Government are moving. I would like to ask what is the meaning of a Government having majority, if they divide the country, cause communal riots, betray the faith of farmers and labourers, and also if the poor people are not safe in their regime. It is not important how long the Government run, the more important point is as to which direction the Government have worked whether they have safeguarded the interest of poor people, labourers, common man or capitalists, or they have compromised at the cost of the glory and prestige of the country.

I would like to humbly request that it is not justified to say that the term of Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha should be fixed for 5 years to ensure the stability of the Government. . . .(Interruptions) Their main intention behind it is that any other Government may not run but this Government formed with the alliance of 20-25 parties should continue for five years.

The bill introduced by Shri Geete ji is impractical in its approach and against the democratic principles. Therefore, I oppose this bill.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that you have given me a chance to participate in this very important debate. I was not prepared to speak with much substance as such, but looking at the debate and hearing the points made by the hon. Members, I would like to say that with all the discussion about stability, change of Government and that four Lok Sabha elections had to be held in a period of nine years, it does not quite reflect very well on the health of the country. It is a fact that illiteracy is very high in the country and when we go to polls everytime, a new party is added to the number of already existing parties. When there are 29 parties in the ruling alliance, it is not possible for the Government to function in a proper, consolidated manner. The other fact is that when there are so many parties in the alliance, the main party leading the Coalition is always under pressure.

Now, we say that the era of coalition has come to say. It is a statement of fact. It is historically proved now that coalition parties have a major role in forming the Government at the national level. So, it becomes all the more difficult for the leading party in the coalition to coordinate with 29 or 30 parties. So, the main party leading the coalition has to be pitted more than criticised. I find that they are under deep pressure because everybody does think alike. At the State level, to get the confidence of the public, the parties forge a separate issue. Even if issue 'A' happens to be very good, some party for the sake of making its presence felt, says that issue 'B' is better.

So, this kind of a gimmickry will go in a democracy. All the same, it is a very sad reflection that in a country with one billion and above people, we have had to face four Lok Sabha elections in a period of nine years causing enormous damage to the country's prestige and to the personal prestige of the person who has been elected a Member in the House. The most important thing is the economic drainage. Nobody is allowed to complete a term. Before the term is completed, they are told that they are inefficient, they have been a total failure, and they must go. I think, enlightened people in this august House must debate before they bring this kind of pressure into the House.

The second important thing, which I would definitely like to focus, would be that it is a very noble idea of having an Amendment or a Review Commission to go into the Constitution. But I would feel that it would be very nice and it would also be in good taste if the ruling party decided to have a debate in the House regarding this

Review Committee. I am sure that with all the Lok Sabha Members present, everybody would have reason. This Review Committee could then have been constituted. We could have been consulted in this august House for the simple reason that we are the people's representatives and we all have a right to voice the opinion of what we think is right. So, only four or five people in a Review Committee cannot make up for the entire august House. I would like this point to be noted.

I quite agree with the hon. Members. They have spoken a lot of truth because, I feel, there has been tremendous instability in India in the last one decade.

As far as this Bill is concerned, we all should discuss it together even though we are sitting in the Opposition. I would like to make this suggestion to the Treasury Benches.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I support the bill introduced by Shri Anant Geete to amend the Article 74 of our constitution.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Please get it passed.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : We have brought it with the same intention. He should show some courage. He is supporting Shri Geete ji here but would talk otherwise when goes to that side.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : There I tell the reality.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that people elect us to represent them in the House and Legislative Assemblies for 5 years. During our election campaign also when we go to them to seek their votes we demand the same thing. This bill has been introduced with a view to fix the term of these two institutions. At the time of framing the constitution, Shri Ambedkar and other leaders would never have imagined that the politics of our country will become so duty that it will incline towards castism, linguistic fanaticism and regionalism and that the politicians will give up the national interest and will run the House and Assemblies only for their vested interests. People of our country have been moving towards this tendency for the past 12-13 years. During the period, circumstances were such that neither Lok Sabha nor Legislative Assemblies have been able to complete their term. Therefore, the need of the hour is that as per the provision of the Constitution, the institutions i.e. Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies should complete

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

their term of 5 years but it is not happening. I have expressed my views on the reasons behind it. This Bill makes no provision that Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly would complete their term of 5 years. A provision in this bill is that if any Government are to be dismissed then it would be essential to first elect its alternative. Though this bill has failed to comply the wording of 75a(1) with full sentiments, I support Shri Geete ji. Its wording is required to be corrected otherwise it is unable to express its intention. I would like to read it. Clause I says that after passing the No Confidence Motion, the successor should be elected by moving a collective resolution with the consent of the majority of the House against Prime Minister and the council of Ministers in Lok Sabha. It means that No Confidence Motion will be moved after selecting the successor and the same intention will be expressed to hon'ble President who will appoint the newly elected leader as Prime Minister. It means it is essential to consider the alternative, i.e. who will be the new Prime Minister, in whose leadership, cabinet will be formed etc. Thereafter, such information will be sent to President and on the basis of this information hon'ble President will appoint the person who has been elected by the House as the Prime Minister. These provisions can be made but if we see the clause 2 of it, there is some contradiction in this regard.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : If it is not done.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : In the absence of any alternative, No confidence Motion will not be passed. When it will not be passed, then Government will continue and if the alternative has been elected and No-Confidence Motion is passed, then the President will appoint the newly elected person as the Prime Minister this has been mentioned in clause I but whatever has been added to clause II goes against it. Clause II states that if the Government fails to maintain its majority in the council of Ministers then there is no question of maintaining confidence for the elected persons. It is constitutional that after electing the alternative, only then the No Confidence Motion will be passed. Clause I includes the concept of failure but as per the current provisions if they fail to elect a person to be appointed as a Prime Minister then President on the advice of the council of Ministers against whom the No Confidence Motion has been passed and on the advice of the Cabinet, may suspend the House for 4 months. I am reading whatever is written in the Bill. ... (Interruptions) Geete ji, please speak later on. If you will be correct, I will be satisfied. If the Council of Ministers

fail to elect the person to be appointed our Prime Minister, then the President on the advice of the council of Minister will adjourn the House and will suspend any of the constitutional provision pertaining to Lok Sabha whose life is not more than 4 months. It means that the House will get the extension of 4 months. During the four months of suspension some adjustment or the horse-trading will take place to elect the leader like it happened in Uttar Pradesh where the Assembly was suspended for three months and thereafter Chief Minister was elected. Similar proposal is there in this clause of the Bill but there is no guarantee that the Lok Sabha will complete his tenure for five years even after this amendment. At the most, extension will be granted for four months. My request to Shri Geete ji is that the provision should be made in such a way that both the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly which are elected for five years should complete their five years duration. It should not be a matter of concern as to whose Government is formed or toppled but the Lok Sabha should continue for full term of five years for which it is elected. If No Confidence Motion is passed against the cabinet, then the 543 Members or the existing number of Members may elect their leader without concerning the party to which the candidate belongs. No restriction should be imposed and the leader be elected and constitute his Cabinet. Only then the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly will be able to complete their five year duration otherwise it would not be so. At the most, tenure would be extended for four months. Again the horsetrading and the adjustment will take place. In case of failure of adjustment, the whole process will have to be repeated but eventually these institutions will be dissolved.

17.00 hrs.

Therefore, the purpose of this Bill that these institutions will complete their tenure for five years will be defeated. During the function of election commission, hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly should complete their tenure for five years. I request Shri Geete ji to get an assurance from the Government on the subject that a detailed Bill with the provision of 5 years tenure of Lok Sabha and Legislative assembly will be presented by the Government. If the Government toppled through the No Confidence Motion then, the Parliament should be given power again to form the new Government. Only introduction of such a Bill will be favourable otherwise the nation will have to suffer a heavy loss. We are aware that the election expenses are enormous. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are representing the people in the House for quite a long time. I was the Member of 11th and 12th Lok Sabha and also representing the present 13th Lok Sabha and still I have not completed

the four years. I have contested three elections and remained in House for 18 months, 13 months and now for the 15 months i.e. 46 months in total and thus not completed 4 years. In such a situation development of the nation is hampered due to election expenditure. It also increase tension and develop feeling of hatred among the people. Under such circumstances, while improving the democratic process, efforts should be made that the tenure of both the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly should be five years. A detailed Bill in this regard should be introduced by the Government and action should be taken.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Constitution Amendment Bill.

Sir, I have been contesting Lok Sabha elections since 1989. I have contested Lok Sabha elections for five times, yet I have not completed 10 years as a Member though it should have been 25 years after contesting 5 elections. When we go for election campaign, we tell the people to give us the opportunity to serve them for five years. Shri Vishwnath Pratap Singh became the Prime Minister in 1989 elections and continued for 11 months and thereafter, Shri Chandrashekharji continued for 4 months. Then Shri Narsimha Rao became the Prime Minister who completed his tenure by means of manipulations. After that not a single Government completed its term of 5 years. Frequent elections causes loss of billions of rupees. People of our country have to face lot of difficulties for achieving various amenities. Panchayat elections are being held in Bihar. Code of conduct will be implemented from 7th March whereas code of conduct is not implemented on Panchayat elections. Due to rainy season in the months of May and June we would not be able to spend funds from MP local area development fund and MLA development fund. Development work could be carried out only after the month of December. Therefore, we should have definitely such a system in which elections are held only after five years. Otherwise, prices of diesel, petrol, medicines, clothes and all other commodities 'excluding farmer's produce will continue to hike.

Our country is predominantly an agrarian country. We all are aware of the plight of the farmers in our country. There was no one to purchase the paddy from farmers. We raised the issue in Lok Sabha time and again but the present Government has failed to open the paddy procurement centres for farmers at least at all block headquarters. They failed to make arrangements for providing remunerative prices and adequate compensation for their labour and inputs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that there are number of countries in the world where mid term polls are not held. They have a provision under which elections are not held before five years duration. Elections are held only after the completion of the tenure of the existing Government. We should also have such a system under which Lok Sabha election and Assembly elections should be held after five years does not matter whose Government is in power. I request all the hon'ble Members that elections of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly should be held after five years. With these words, I support this Constitution Amendment Bill.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all let me thank you for giving me this opportunity. Let me also congratulate my friend, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete for bringing what I consider to be a very timely sort of Constitutional amendment proposal.

Well, some of my friends have been talking about five years. Reading the text here, I do not find any reference to the continuance of the Lok Sabha for five years. On the other hand, the main substantive portion, that is Section 75A, the proposed new Section, I find, is very much influenced by a corresponding provision in the German Constitution. Now, in German Federal Constitution, there is a provision that any No Confidence Motion against the Chancellor, that is the Prime Minister there, must, in the same motion, name who according to the movers of the Resolution should be the next Chancellor. So, you can understand if that is the position, then very few No-Confidence Motions will at all come whereas in our system first remove this and then we will see about it. Then, they cannot agree. I remember the discussion in this House Of course, then I was not a Member. I used to see it from the television. When the Government fell by one vote only, some Members did express consternation that what will they do again. But one distinguished Member from Bihar said we will form new Government within five minutes. First remove the present one. And then after 15 days, 20 days, on new Government came. Now, when that happens, the entire system loses its credibility with the people.

Let me ask many of my colleagues here how many of them when they went again for election campaign in 1999 were faced with the question from the people that we sent you just less than a year ago, how are you coming back again to seek votes again. Then what has happened to you. Why can you not govern ? Now, this is a thing which has to be changed. I think it is a very salutary provision that all No-Confidence Motions must name who according to the movers of the Resolution should be the next Prime

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

Minister so that, that matter comes up and that will really bring in much more of a responsibility in the whole system to think about changing the Government.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the general question that I would like to say is that our Constitution was framed on the background where Congress was practically the only Party. Somehow or other, at the back of the mind of those who framed the Constitution, there was a feeling that Congress will continue to rule this country for all time to come and there is never any question of any other Party coming in. This is number one.

Secondly, there is a tremendous influence of the Government of India Act, 1935 which the British framed under different conditions. When we framed our Constitution, somehow or other, chapter after chapter was borrowed. So, Section 93 became article 356 and so on and so forth. But then we had become independent and that made our Constitution one of the longest in the world unlike many other Constitutions of the countries, which are much shorter documents.

Thirdly, those were the times when somehow or other the fact that India is a country of great tremendous diversity, a pluralistic society, was not quite borne in mind by the framers of the Constitution.

I am sorry, I am to criticise them. They were great people. But somehow or other they thought that the small English knowing elitist group all over the country, who could be listened to – let us say, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee or Gandhiji or Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru – could formulated opinion. They were the opinion mongers. But that happened all over the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that age is gone. Today, I do not think anybody, any All-India leader, who is a non-Marathi, can compete with Shri Anant Gangaram Geete is speaking in Marathi. Nobody would be able to compete with Dr. Raghuvans Prasad Singh in speaking Hindi in Bihar and nobody would be able to compete with Dr. Karunanidhi or other leaders in Tamil. Therefore, the age of All-India leadership, to some extent, has been very much affected. It will no longer be possible. The circumstances, which brought into being leaders like Gandhiji, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawahar Lal Nehru or Dr. Ambedkar, would never happen. On the other hand, the Constitution does not bear in mind the needs of the pluralistic society. The age of coalition politics has come into being and in this provision, I think, we will be very helpful to the situation

where it will make for stability; it will make for long-term stability and end the kind of uncertainty which happens when the Government falls. Mighty Government of India falls by one vote or by a number of votes and then the entire country is thrown into a State of uncertainty where planning process and economic development suffer. So, this will definitely make for stability.

Then, the other thing, of course, is not in this amending Bill. Sir, in the States, there is never the kind of instability which had happened in the Centre because there is a provision for the President's Rule and under the direct orders of the Governor, the officers carry on for a limited period. Unfortunately, our Constitution makers never thought about such a position that this can happen at the Centre, largely because, once again, they were never aware that Congress could ever lose and that the same stability will not continue any longer.

Sir, well, perhaps, time has come when you should think about for a limited period. There is a suggestion for four months. That is a good suggestion that in four months, at least, when you know that the Government stands to lose, perhaps, the hon. Members will come to a second thought. In fact, I did hear from many of the Lok Sabha Members, after the last Government fell by one vote, that had we known that this would have happened, we would have abstained or perhaps we would not have come to the House. We never realised that the Government would fall by only one vote.

So, Sir, I strongly support Shri Anant Gangaram Geete's very timely proposal for following the model of the West German Constitution that this Constitutional (Amendment) Bill should be moved through and then should be enacted by a law, as a part of the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution amendment proposed by Shri Geete is commendable and we extend our full support to it. Sir, we have entered into the twenty first century and the population of our country has increased from 33 crores to 103 crores. Ours is the sixth most powerful country in the world but political stability in our country has weakened today. The constitution makers had framed the constitution with a good purpose and feeling. But they did not have a little idea that there would be so many political parties which would encourage political interests regionalism and casteism.

They did not even dream that casteism and regionalism would be given were importance then that to

national interest. Earlier there was no Anti-defection Law. Afterwards an amendment was made in the Constitution and an Anti-Defection Law was enacted. Though the law has already been implemented but it is being criticized and violated.

One of our friends has rightly pointed out that No-Confidence Motion was brought and the Government fell just by one vote. How did the Government fall, on which party's ticket the Member was elected and to which party did he give his support – is the thing to be seen. If Anti-Defection Law had been enforced strictly, the Government would not have fallen by one vote. I was also in the Lok Sabha on that occasion. I remember that the Members of Opposition repeatedly warned that they were going to bring No-Confidence Motion. But they had no answer as to who would be the Prime Minister. Our colleague Gupta ji has rightly pointed out that it was assured at that time that they would form Government within five minutes. But why all that did not happen?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This time we are fully preparing ourselves.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Is it going to be repeated the same thing?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : At that time Lalooji had stated that he would form Government within two minutes.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Our friend is absolutely correct in saying that they are making themselves physically strong so as to ruin the democratic system. . . .(Interruptions) They are preparing themselves to destroy the parliamentary democracy. They do not intend to protect the country. Today, India has earned a good name for his rich democratic heritage in the world. The roots of Parliamentary democracy in a large country like India are very deep and efforts are being made to uproot them. This House should complete tenure of five years because people have elected their representatives for five years. The House should consider this issue. A proposal should be made to this effect so that Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha complete their tenure of five years. What is happening these days?

We could not make arrangement of drinking water after independence through we remained in power for a long time. We are wasting a huge amount on elections. It is not only that the money is being wasted but development projects are lying incomplete. We have read in the newspapers that funds under MPLADS have not been utilized. But how it could be? Scheme were chalked

out, funds were allocation but then Lok Sabha was dissolved. Again Lok Sabha was constituted, schemes made and submitted but Lok Sabha dissolved again prematurely. Members did not get the opportunity to utilise the funds under MPLADS. The entire House should contemplate as to which law should be brought and what amendment should be made in the Constitution to ensure that Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha complete their tenure of five years. Whatever Government may come in power and whoever Prime Minister may head the Government but Lok Sabha must complete five years. Difference of one vote should not cause the fall of the Government.

One of our friends has stated that the Government runs not on the basis of the number of supporting Members but on the basis of public faith. But when the Government fell by a margin of only one vote in 1998 was it due to the loss of public faith in them? Public had full faith in the Government at that time. It was only because one of the Members had lost faith in principles. The need of the hour is to check this tendency of defecting one party or the other through this constitutional amendment. If at all, there is a situation like this in the country, Lok Sabha should be suspended for four months, the matter be sorted out and the new Prime Minister be appointed. What is the problem in making such a provision? I am pleased that majority of the Members except the only one who is not present in the House have supported the Bill. He should also contemplate on the matter. Perhaps he has not been able to understand the things properly and is pleading for five years tenure again and again. It is not a matter of five years.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He felt that the matter was perhaps tricky and the Government was taking the initiative to keep themselves in power for five years.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter of poverty elimination has been raised. This programme would succeed only when the political parties or the political leaders restrain from putting a sudden agenda in the name of poverty eradication or the exploited. This won't do.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the proposal made by Shri Geete in the House and once again request the hon. Members to extend their cooperation in making the provision to ensure the complete tenure of Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha in order to restore stability, strengthen the roots of Indian Parliamentary democracy which would add to the good reputation of the country in the world.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Geete has given vent to his inner

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

thoughts in a very sophisticated manner through the constitutional amendment proposed by him. He has given vent to both the policy and intentions of the Government. However, the policy seems to be clear but not intentions. There is something tricky in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the tenure of Lok Sabha should be five years and a stable Government should be there but there is something foul in it. I do respect the hon. Prime Minister, even then Lok Sabha should consider this matter for which no panel has been constituted. What kind of this democracy is? This matter should have been dealt in a democratic manner. I would like to quote an example of 1979 Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister and Shri Charan Singh was against him. Sixteen Members of Shri Chavan were with Shri Charan Singh. I personally approached and said that there was shortage of seven persons, but sixteen Members were to come. We approached Shri Morarji Desai. But he said that he would not go against the principles of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and would not like to become the Prime Minister through unfair means, this was his principle.

He gave his approval in our presence such a person was Morarji Bhai, the head Constitution makers had made the provision of Commission after a great consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when there is stable Government, people are weak. Stable Government do what they like, they have their own way to work for people. Unstable Government may, sometimes have to make some considerations to maintain a coordination between the allies. However, it is a fact, that holding elections again and again cause financial loss to the nation, it is not appropriate. In this connection, I would like to submit that the tenure of Lok Sabha should be five years. The matter regarding the head etc. is something different.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The head should continue to change.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Yes the head should continue to change, however the tenure of Lok Sabha should be fixed.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a small man. During the tenure of Chandrashekharji, I was extended an offer of one crore rupees and the bearth of a Minister of State. I straightaway rejected it. The offer was repeated this time also. The next

day, high dignitaries from the Bhartiya Janata Party side came. I am speaking the truth in the House. I again refused and said that I was the only Member of Janta Dal Secular Party, I would never do it. I would never betray. When there is no change of hearts of the Members of Parliament, only then the Parliament shall function smoothly. I could have bargained with anybody. A Member of Parliament should think, people's representative should think that for what purpose he had come in the Lok Sabha. Here we have to remember the God, we have to think of development. When we think on these lines, functioning will be smooth. Policy and conscience, we have to balance both. This is the only request of mine to you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member Shri Anant Gangaram Geete has done a remarkable job by bringing the motion seeking a referendum in the country. Nobody would say the elections are conducted repeatedly within five years. Nobody would like that there are elections after every six months, one year and two years. We have been its victims. Some solution may be found out by amending the constitution. The five years term may be fixed for both, Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly by the Constitutional experts or scholars and their elections should be held simultaneously. Earlier elections used to be held Simultaneously. Now they are held separately causing more expenditure and difficulties. Shri Nitish Sen Gupta ji is a learned and qualified person. He has gone through the papers. It is being said that the tenure of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly should not be less than five years. Elections to both should be held together after five years. A formula should be evolved whereby the voting should be held simultaneously. Separate voting for these two bodies causes much difficulties. This is why the constitution amendment bill has been brought.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people have doubts in it. Shri Ramji Lal Suman and other hon. Members have expressed doubts about it. Prime Minister had also given a statement in this regard. My opinion is that Lok Sabha may continue but Government may go on changing. Government is based on vote, Government may change if it comes in minority. In foreign countries, people are used to run minority Governments but it is not so in our country. We have not accepted it. There are several countries where minority Governments exist. There neither the lower House is dissolved nor the voting is done in the mid way. But there is no such system in our country. A thought was given in this regard earlier also. Here No Confidence Motion is moved and it is moved according to rules.

Therefore, rules may be amended if the Prime Minister did not enjoy majority and No-Confidence Motion is going to be passed against him while seeing that in whose favour it was going to be passed. A provision should also be made that the decision with regard to an alternative of the Government may also be taken in the House itself. Action was initiated on this but it was said that there is a clause in our Constitution that it is the President who appoints the Prime Minister. When appointment is made in the House, the said clause would be violated, that is why this matter did not get momentum. However, in countries like Germany and others there is a provision through which they can save the Parliament from being short-lived by making amendments in the rules. But people raise doubts since an era of coalition Government is going on now a days. The doubts are raised that someone are manipulating, why the House is not being taken into confidence and Panel is constituted for amendment in constitution. People think that Constitution Review Commission is being constituted with a malafied intention. A lot of resentment is being faced due to this. Improvement is needed where there are weaknesses. When 85 constitutional amendments have taken place, further amendments can also take place. We do not consider it proper that the Government should go after a short tenure of one and a half year or 13 months. We are in favour of it that Lok Sabha should have a fixed term but we will not tolerate that incompetent Government remains in power for long. As chapati bake perfect when it turned continuously, in the same way Government should be changed regularly otherwise it will lead to dictatorship. Mishraji who was talking about democracy has gone. We keep our head high in the world as India is such a democratic country in the world where one vote can change the Union Government. It establishes that the roots of democracy are strong in our country. Who cares of vote in the world? See the neighbouring Pakistan and other countries. What is the value of vote there. People governing on the basis of votes were exiled, were put in jail. Thus it is said that the roots of democracy in our country are strong. The Union Government was changed with one vote. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It was Atalji who acceded. If it were you, you would have broken the machines and have not acceded. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Devgaudaji was the Prime Minister, V.P. Singhji was in power. You do not remember the stories of their sacrifice. You are responsible for it. When V.P. Singh was in power. You were there to demolish the Mosque. The Government was being

run with your support. You mixed 'Mandal' with 'Commendal' and ask that why Atal ji's Government was made to fall. Why did you topple the V.P. Singh Government, Devgauda Government, Gujral Government? Was our Government worse than yours? We were functioning properly. It is right that the Government should be sensitive. They talk about majority. In Phillipines, the majority Government was shown the door. There should be a provision to remove the Government in the mid way if in turn anti-people, some such amendment should be made in the constitution. If we remain in Lok Sabha for three terms, it comes to 15 years in total. But our three terms concluded within three years. When we go to the people they say that we have been Members of Parliament for three terms and even then there was no road in the village and virtually nothing had been done.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the road was not completed in three years. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the right to referendum should be given to all and the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, both should have a tenure of five years and if dissolved earlier, mid-term elections to both the bodies should be held simultaneously. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Today we are not enjoying your speech. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You will enjoy only when I speak against you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, however the proposal submitted by Shri Geeteji does not have the sense of five years term but it does have the sense that the Government should continue untill there is some alternative. There is no harm in it. Alternative may be made. If there would have been any alternative, we would have been here in your place. No one is less than anyone. It is our fault that you are in power. Neither we nor people are in favour of your Government. The removal of elephant alike dead body is possible only when all helps in its removal. Our people are not united at present. Thus, your Government is continuing. Your Government will be removed in no time when we will be united. All the Members of the opposition are not coming together. That is why your Government is continuing. Removal of your Government will not take any time when we are united. We know the plight of your allies. We are seeing the plight of poor people and farmers of the nation. You are feeling in your heart and we are also feeling it. We also know the condition of your party. The people who gave their vote to you are repenting today that why had they chosen you.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier people were enchanting the slogan "Ab ki Bari Atal Bihari." But now we are seeing people are repenting for casting their vote in their favour. There is a commotion everywhere, sensation is spreading every where, destruction and devastation is seen every where. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you would have also visited the villages, you also might have heard the voice of the people. The poor people and farmers are ruined today. Thus, the sense of the Bill presented by Geeteji is good. We are in favour of the Government in such matters and we would like the Government should consider in and pass it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji has an apprehension that if this Government is allowed to last for five years, last there should be a move behind it. Suppose any Government are doing anti people work, then should it remain in power for five years. I do not feel that it should be so. The people should be capable enough to remove the anti people Government but the Lok Sabha must not be dissolved rather, it should remain functional for full five years. So his apprehension is not misplaced. I am in support of the Bill moved by Shri Geeteji. I want that such amendment should be made. I am supporting this Bill.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill that has been moved by hon. Geeteji. I congratulate Geeteji that he has moved excellent Bill in the House for the consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members have expressed their views in an excellent way over the phenomenon of frequent elections in the country. I also associate myself with their views. Through you, I would like to say that I belong to Scheduled Caste and usually visit villages and know that the people residing in remote villages have no water and food. It is not reasonable to impose frequent elections on them. If such things happen then the poor villagers, farmers, labourers and the people residing in remote areas may not progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the bill moved by hon. Geeteji is excellent. I do not have words to praise the Bill. I visit villages. I know that there are no schools in the villages for the education of children of poor villagers and farmers and they are compelled to study under the open sky. The funds which should be utilised for the construction of school buildings are spent in the elections and the papers which should have been utilised for printing books and copies for school children are used for printing posters in the elections. The cloths that should have been used for

covering the bare bodies of the poor people are used for making election flags.

The cloths are used for making posters, flags and binding works in elections. I would like to tell that India is an agricultural country and the agricultural labourers are very much dependent on agriculture. Since I reside in the village, so I am well aware of the condition of the farmers and labourer in the villages. You are aware of the fact that whenever there are elections gatherings no rich person comes to attend it at the cost of their works, rather poor people are persuaded to attend such gatherings and are brought there by trains and buses. They are not paid even their daily wages and it is claimed in media that look so many persons had come to attend the meetings. I would like to tell as an impartial Member that whether it is ruling party or the opposition, I am not in support of any party, rather I would like to tell in the House that some measures should be taken to protect the country from such frequent elections but nothing is being done in this regard. I am basically a follower of Arya Samaj sect. Anant Swami has written a story. The story is that there was a ground out side of a village that was covered by four walls. There was a door in that walled ground. Once a story teller visited that place and told the story to the people. After that, his fame as a good story teller spread all over the village that he has no ill will against any one and that he tells story in universal interest. When the fame of the story teller was being talked about, one blind man heard this and expressed his desire to listen to the story. The story telling was performed in the night. Everyone went to listen the story teller. When the blind person had expressed his desire to listen to the story, fortunately one young man had heard it and so he guided him through his stick to the place of story telling and took him to a seat. The story was excellent as is going on at present under the leadership of Atalji. When the story was finished the people went to their home and the blind person was left there. No one was there to guide him to his home. Now the blind person was thinking as to what to do then one idea came to his mind that there must be a door in the walled ground that can be found. Keeping in mind this resolution, he reached to the wall with the help of his stick and started checking for the door with the help of his hand. He thought that wherever there will be vacant place that will certainly be the exit point. Thus doing this, as he reached to the door itching started at his back and he started itching and in course of that he missed the door. Then again he inspected the wall. Thus whole night he kept on walking along the wall and as he reached the door the itch would start and he would miss the door. Through this story, I would like

to say that similar is the situation as far the development of the village, poor people and the farmers is concerned because whenever it comes to the development of the villages and the poor farmers, some people create obstacle in the way and the entire process of development is get derailed. Through you I would like to say that the Government should be a little bit more considerate that it is not a Government's Bill rather it is a private Member's Bill. The number of suggestions have been left out in this private Members Bill. Just now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji was telling that first Shri Devegowda Government was removed then Government of Shri Gujral was toppled. Similarly, when the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was voted out the other Government should have been formed. I would like to say that the Members who oppose such move do not oppose at all when the Bill for increasing their allowance is introduced in the House. They do not oppose when their pay allowance and facilities are enhanced and they unanimously pass such bills.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It is essential.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI : If that is essential then it is also essential that whether it is Lok Sabha or State Assemblies or Gram Sabha, its tenure should be for five years so that the poor people, farmers and the students may get some relief. When elections are held, the students remain busy in study for their examination. When they are busy in study, the surroundings is full with election announcements that please vote for BJP or Congress or for so and so candidates. It creates hindrance in their study. So the students resort to unfair practices like copying to pass the examination.

Such frequent elections create so many problems. I would like to tell that if you are so apt to do anything again and again then something should be done for the welfare of the poor people. We should support the Government in its effort to provide drinking water to the people and its effort towards poverty alleviation and the welfare of the farmers. But we should not push the Government for the frequent elections.

There are several political parties in the House. But there are some political parties which are in fact caught in quagmire and do not come out of it. There are several Members who would like to support the bill of Shri Geeteji but they cannot do so as the whip has been issued. They are bent upon opposing whatever is moved whether it is good or bad. I feel that if our country succeeds in overcoming the electoral and political quagmire then it may become one of the most powerful and progressive country of the world.

I would once again like to emphasize that gone are the days when one political party used to rule the country for five years. Now the regional parties will take the centre stage. I would like to cite two lines –

That was a different year, this one is different],
That was different century, this one is different.

It is twenty first century. We will have to make provisions and prepare rules so that our country may progress. . . .(Interruptions)

Hon. Member Shri Mohaleji was telling that the integrity has become doubtful so if the intention is noble then the policy will also be good. But first of all let us all introspect.

The following are two lines written by Shri Keshav Kamudi :

Unche ghar mandir ke ander rahne wari
Unche ghar mandir ke ander raheti hai
Teen ber khati so ab teen ber khati hai

Shri Raghuvansh Babu you are a senior Member, your language is eloquent. The country would prosper only if you take entire House in confidence. With these words, I support the resolution moved by Shri Geete.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1999, moved by Shri Geete ji. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two hours were allotted for this Bill. Two hours are about to be over. I would like to have consent of the House to extend the time allotted for it by an hour. If the House agrees, the time be extended by an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : It is okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time is extended by an hour.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : I congratulate Geeteji, since he has moved a very good Amendment Bill. Several senior Members are sitting here. Ten years ago, election used to be held for five years and the Government used to serve for full tenure. But now the situation has changed. Since no party gets majority, Governments often change. And ultimately, we have to resort to dissolution of the Lok Sabha. So, there should be a fixed five years tenure for Lok Sabha as Rajya Sabha has six years tenure.

Lok Sabha may be dissolved anytime but Rajya Sabha has a fix tenure of six years. Members of Lok Sabha are elected directly by the people whereas Members of

[Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit]

Rajya Sabha are elected by the State Legislators. Everyone demands that the constitution should be suitably amended to provide for a fixed tenure. Country loses a lot by conducting elections time and again. Since crores of rupees are wasted on conducting election very often, our mega projects are pending for want of adequate funds. If elections are held so often, projects costing 1-2 thousand crore can be take up, but we are not able to do so. If the constitution is not amended suitably, we would keep wasting crores of rupees on conducting elections.

Country loses a lot by conducting elections often. Though the Election Commission has stipulated a ceiling for expenditure to be incurred by a candidate contesting election, but often candidates spend much more money than the stipulated limit. It is public money. Some candidates borrow and contest election. I have heard that some Members even mortgage their land, house etc. and contest election. Therefore, it is a proposal relating to amendment of constitution which would provide for five years fixed tenure for Lok Sabha.

I would like to urge upon the Government also to ponder over seriously over the resolution brought by Shri Geeteji and to bring an official Bill to make amendment in the constitution. Though the Bill contains all provisions and articles and the Government should bring an official Bill on the same lines. I, again, convey my thanks to Shri Anant Geeteji, a Member of Parliament from my State Maharashtra, for bringing such a nice Amendment Bill and I conclude my speech and support this resolution

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : Sir, I congratulate Shri Geete for bringing about the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1999. Except for one or two odd hon. Members, most of them have supported this Bill. I would not like to repeat the arguments that they have put forth. They have said that thousands of crores are being spent for the elections. In the last five years, we have seen three of them. It affects the stability of the country and the economy of the country. We do not have very friendly neighbours. They also get some sort of support if our country is not stable. All these goods arguments have been put forth.

What I would like to stress upon is that even the founding fathers have never thought that we would have three elections in five years. Had they imagined a situation of this kind, they would have had some sort of a clause to give stability to the system.

They started with a system which may not be the perfect one. You cannot have a perfect system. Even the democratic system is not the perfect system but this is the best that we know of. Tomorrow we may have a system which may be better than the Presidential or the Parliamentary system. We have not been able to evolve the one. The founding-fathers though that a country as vast as India should have the Parliamentary system and we went about it.

Madam Shyama Singh has rightly said that a review is required but the way we have come about with the Committee is not the right one. I am not criticising here but if you read between the lines she supports that a review is required but how it will come about is a different thing. It is altogether a different issue as to whether it should come through Parliament or whether the Committee should have been there or not. A Committee comprising of five members cannot do everything. To change the Constitution, we require the consensus or the referendum. We all represent that. After 50 years, I think we should have a referendum as to where we have gone wrong and how we should correct it.

In a country like India we have the black money, which is an economy by itself, and we have corruption which we are trying to sort out but we have not been able to do it. We have political corruption. In this country we have a number of other problems. We do not want to go to the Presidential system because a lot of people do not want it. Even in America, the most developed country having the Presidential form of Government, we all know what happened during the election of the President. It showed how shallow even that country is. I feel that we must have a referendum to support this Private Member's Bill. The Presidential system has a definite term of either five or six years but in the Parliamentary system there is no such thing. I think the best thing is to evolve a system, maybe on the lines of what Shri Geete has put forth in this Bill, in such a way that the House has a full five years term. People may feel that it is our personal outlook because we do not want to go for elections again and again and that is why we think about it. Therefore, if there is referendum the country will also support the Private Member's Bill moved by Shri Geete.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I came here not to participate in the discussion but when Shri Geete presented the amendment Bill, it made me think and did provoke me to participate in the discussion. He also made a very eloquent reference to the repeated

elections which had cost us hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees.

Such funds could have been utilised for the good and welfare of the people at large. But at the outset, I would like to point out that I have gone through the Bill and it is true that though the intention was good but there is a technical flaw in it as the five-year term was not inserted. There is a need to do it. So, on this point I have to oppose it.

Then of course, I may mention that I am a great admirer of the Constitution of India. We have seen how for the last 51 years, we have been able to withstand the shock, distress, and tension of the polity. Today, we have come where we are because of this beautiful document

which had been drafted and passed and adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. It is a document that made us really democratic people.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speech would continue the next day.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday. February 26, 2001/
Phalguna 7, 1922 (Saka)*

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