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Friday, August 2, 2002

Sravana 11, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, August 2, 2002/Sravana 11, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Obituary references will be taken up first.

...*(Interruptions)*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I rise to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleague, namely, Shri M. Ramgopal Reddy.

Shri M. Ramgopal Reddy was a member of Fifth to Seventh Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1984 representing Nizamabad Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Reddy was a member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1967.

Before joining active politics, Shri Reddy served as an officer in Nizam Sugar Factory from 1942 to 1961.

Shri Reddy was a member of Consultative Committee constituted under the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1973 during Fifth Lok Sabha, Committee on Estimates from 1975 to 1977, Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions during 1977 and Committee on Official Language from 1980 to 1984.

Shri Reddy was an active social and political worker. He took keen interest in the Co-operative movement and was the Chairman of Nizamabad Co-operative Sugar-Factory, Nizamabad and Andhra Pradesh State Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories. He was also the Director of Nizam Sugar Factory, Bodhan and member of Consultative Committee constituted by Indian Sugar Mills Association and National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories. He was the founder member of Cane Growers Association, Nizamabad and also the founder and life member of Bharat Krishak Samaj.

Shri Reddy had special interest in development of rural areas and worked relentlessly for helping the needy and sick persons in rural areas.

Shri Reddy was the founder member of Girraj College at Nizamabad and Jagitial College at Karimnagar.

A strong votary of integrating science with environment, Shri Reddy played a key role in inculcating scientific approach in children. He took special interest in scientific research and development of alkaline lands and made efforts to stop spread of desert, pollution of water and air.

Shri M. Ramgopal Reddy passed away on 15 July, 2002 at Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 85, in a road accident.

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.

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I gave a notice for suspending the Question Hour to raise a serious and scandalous event that has been exposed in The Indian Express today. It has rocked and shook the nation's basic foundation and the fabric of honesty and integrity of this Ministry, headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the hon. Prime Minister of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Other Members should sit own. Your Leader is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, earlier when

the Government was headed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Supreme Court *suo motu* took cognisance of the distribution of discretionary quota power of a Minister. At that time, there was a power with the Minister to distribute pumps from the discretionary quota to the deserving people, like people from the Armed Forces who retired, the families of the freedom fighters, social workers, etc.

Even then the Supreme Court took *suo motu* cognisance and thereafter the advice of the Supreme Court was responded to by the Government and the Government acted upon it. Now this scandalous revelation has been reported in the news item today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (BIJNOR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this going on during 'Question Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Please sit down, why are you speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I have received four notices today for adjournment and also for suspension of the Question Hour. One is from Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, the other is from Shri Bherulal Meena, the third is from Shri M.O.H. Farook and the fourth one is from Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. Since I received four notices, I wanted to know from the hon. Member the reasons for the request for suspension of the Question Hour. I only allowed him to speak for a minute. I hope, you will come to the point and thereafter I shall give my ruling whether the Question Hour can be suspended or not.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tall claim of the NDA Government of running the country with good governance and transparency is totally a betrayal in the light of the news item that has been reported today in The Indian Express. This scandalous revelation of distributing the petrol pumps among the party functionaries, ignoring all norms, demands instant resignation of the Petroleum Minister, Shri Ram Naik, handing over all the documents and papers to CBI, withholding the operation of all the petrol pumps distributed so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI: SOUTH-CENTRAL): This matter can be raised during Zero Hour. Please do not disturb the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, this subject is, no doubt, important. My only request is, you can raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, please allow me to formulate why I gave this notice for suspension of the Question Hour.

Therefore, I appeal to you, Sir, that this question is the moot question today in the country where the Government is caught, one after the other, in corruption and scandals. Unless the Government comes forward to clarify immediately when and what time the Minister resigns, pending an inquiry by the CBI and prosecution, and finally, withholding the operation of the petrol pumps, how can we co-operate with the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue during 'Zero Hour' because that is the only time to raise it. I will not be able to suspend the Question Hour because this is not an issue for which the Question Hour should be suspended.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Shri Bansal ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Irregularities are going on here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please raise it during 'Zero Hour', why do you want to suspend the 'Question Hour'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, you can raise this issue at a proper time. The proper time would be 'Zero Hour'. I am agreed to give you permission to speak on this, but the Question Hour must continue. The Question Hour is important. I am ready to allow you to speak on this issue during 'Zero hour', even though the notice is for suspension of the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Government always keeps quiet whenever we bring an issue of corruption. We are allowed only to shout. *...(Interruptions)* In this matter, the Petroleum Minister should forthwith resign. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Sir, this is a serious matter. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, all the relatives of the MPs and Ministers of BJP have got the petrol pumps. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): Sir, all the RSS and BJP functionaries have got the petrol pumps. ... *(Interruptions)* The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas should resign. *...(Interruptions)* The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas is answerable to the country.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh ji, you cannot show papers in the House in such a way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Once again, I request all of you that you can raise your question in the House but in the absence of consensus among the members of both sides. I cannot admit your notice regarding suspension of Question Hour. Therefore, I want all of you to raise your matters during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me speak. During the 'Zero Hour', I will request the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to come here, if he is in Delhi and not gone to Mumbai, I will ask him to present here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask to switch off T.V. They will sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs like to say something?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All those who have taken undue advantage be put behind the bar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Government wants to respond. Please listen.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): They are interrupting continuously. *...(Interruptions)* They can say anything but do not have courage to listen to others. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In a democracy, one has to listen the Government's version also.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Government say whatever they want to say. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you. I have given an opportunity to you. Let us listen to the Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have also read what you have read in newspaper.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Your name. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: None of my relative's name is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, he is making a personal allegation. Even in today's newspapers, none of my relative's name is there. Please do not make a false allegation. ...*(Interruptions)* You read it. You first read the newspaper. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not make personal allegation . ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Names of all the Members of their Party are there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am replying on behalf of the Party.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Shri Brar, you must cooperate. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on? Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann, you cannot come to the Chair. Please observe discipline.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you come here and show me the newspaper from there? Please do not do it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can a Member come to the Chair and speak to me?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I can tolerate all this to an extent. After that I will lose my patience.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. He is an old aged member, I respect him. However, it is inappropriate for him. He should not do it again.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, please allow the Government to say something on this issue.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, if the Opposition wants a discussion on any subject at any point of time, we have never said no to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): We first want resignation and not discussion. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, what is this? There had been discussion after discussion. What is the result of all those discussions that have taken place in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is not an issue for discussion. This is an issue for resignation of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, let him say that whatever has appeared in the newspaper today is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is the news-item published in newspaper not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the Petroleum Minister has no discretionary quota as it used to be in the past, in the Congress regime. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We are ready to give a list of all the petrol pumps allotted by the NDA Government and the Congress Government in the past using the discretionary quota. We should then decide and make an analysis of the whole country as to which political party's

workers have majority petrol pumps with them. I have no objection to decide on that. Let them discuss when the Minister comes, but there is no question of suspending the Question Hour. We can decide it in the BAC and put everything on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (RIWA): Such a big loot in such a large security with such a planning has not taken place in our country ever before. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have heard Shri Pramod Mahajan. I can say with all humility that it is not done under discretionary quota. Discretionary quota was there earlier. It was abolished. In spite of that, manipulating with the Selection Boards which were in the grip of the Minister, they have favoured distribution among the party functionaries, shamelessly ignoring the claims of Kargil martyrs and families of freedom fighters. It is not only blatant corruption but is loot by the BJP in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR): Petrol pumps have been distributed to each and every Minister of Rajasthan. There is no such Minister of Rajasthan who do not have petrol pump. There is no such MLA of Congress Party in Rajasthan who do not possess petrol pump. In fact, the State Government itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please let me say one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, you know that it is an important matter. You seek a reply from the Government on this issue. You want resignation of a Minister. But Shri Pramod Mahajan do not have the right to demand a resignation from a Minister. You are very well aware that only Prime Minister can do that. We all are aware of it. The House is a prestigious body and it is the responsibility of all of us to run it properly. I would say that this issue can be discussed during' Zero Hour.'

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. This question can be discussed during Zero Hour. This time we have several important issues on which supplementary questions would be taken during 'Question Hour' and replies would be given. Despite that I will allow you to take up this matter again during 'Zero Hour'. Shri Bansalji, I will permit you to speak first of all. You can raise this matter during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Please allow me just now Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: How can I allow you just now? You know that I have not suspended 'Question Hour' yet, however, these questions are also so important. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Even the constituted Selection Board is indulged in corruption on large scale. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting all of you. I am allowing to raise this question. Government have no objection to hold discussion on this issue. I am ready to call the hon'ble Minister in the House. But, how the business can be conducted when you are not ready to discuss it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, let Shri Pramod Mahajan on behalf of the Government only assure the House that what has been reported is all incorrect. If he says that this is all incorrect, we are prepared to co-operate just now. Let him say that it is all incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not entitled to direct Pramod Mahajan ji to direct as to what answer he should give.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister say this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You also understand that your demand cannot be accepted by the hon. Minister. How can the Minister say that this is all incorrect or not? It is concerning another Department. The Petroleum Minister can say this.

Let the Minister concerned come to the House. You give me a chance till 'Zero Hour'. Let me check up whether the Minister is here. If he is here, he will come to the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here.

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot be expected to give the reply to such questions.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We would like to know whether it is correct or not. I can understand that the senior Minister is not here, but the junior Minister is here. Let him say that all that has been reported in the Press and the names are all incorrect. Let him say that.

MR. SPEAKER: How can he say that?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: It is Bhartiya Jilman Party. They are looting the whole country. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member please keep that paper down. You can quote from the paper but you cannot show the paper in this manner. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In the process, even the retired judicial officers have been abused. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal is speaking. Let me listen to him and find out what his proposal is.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We are raising this issue during Question Hour because this is a question which is of utmost importance today. In the process of allotting these petrol pumps to their own party men and party functionaries, even the senior judicial officers who headed the Boards have been abused in the process.

[Translation]

The entire list has been manipulated....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Mr. Speaker, Sir, question 281 is a very important question. It says, "whether the Government are aware that the circulation of fake currency notes has been increasing in the country;" Let the House discuss this important question. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What are you talking? This is a very important matter. You are looting the country. How will we keep quiet? There is no question of keeping quiet on this. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is up to me to decide which issue is important and which is not.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to give you a new proposal. Understanding the sentiments of the Opposition Parties, understanding the importance of the subject. I will be able to take it up immediately. However, I remember having given the commitment to Shri Banatwalla who has a very small question to raise. After he raises his question, immediately you can open up this topic again. In the meantime, I would like the Minister to be present here, if he is here. Otherwise, some senior Minister will come; the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. We are prepared to listen to the arguments that you want to raise on this issue. However, my request to all sections of the House would be that since the notice for these questions have been given much earlier, we will continue with these questions. Some of them are really important questions, and the Members must have taken a lot of pains to bring these questions before the House. Therefore, my earnest request to all Members is that though your sentiments on this are very important, you must permit the Question Hour to go on. After the Question Hour, immediately, I am ready to take up this again. Please cooperate with me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My submission is this. Who will respond on this issue? My question is a very simple one. I did not raise any personal allegations against anybody. I only wanted to make a submission. Can the Government deny what has been reported in the Press? If they deny, we will be happy to allow the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the question and you want the reaction of the Government immediately. It is not possible.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The junior Minister is here. If he denies what has been reported in the Press and states that it is wrong, we are prepared to cooperate with you. We are always thankful to you for your observations.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have no alternative than to

go ahead with the Question Hour. Let us take up Q. No. 283.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have made an observation that the Minister will come and reply. We want to know who is that Minister who will reply and whether he is related to the Petroleum Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that the Question Hour has been suspended three times so far, when there was a consensus in the House. Now, there is no consensus in the House. Shri Pramod Mahajan has already said this. Therefore, suspension of Question Hour is not possible.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the discretionary quota has not been used. There is no discretionary quota now and that is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: That you can discuss during 'Zero Hour'. Now, you must cooperate please. I am prepared to give you permission to raise the issue. I am prepared to allow a debate, a discussion, on this issue during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are prepared to cooperate with you to take up the business of the House. We have no hesitation in doing that, but my submission is very clear. Will it be the Minister of Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik, or the Minister of State, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, who will respond to our questions? It cannot be that Shri Pramod Mahajan will respond on this matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If the Petroleum Minister is here in the town, I will have to check up, he will come and reply. If he is not in the town, then somebody else will have to reply or we will have to wait till Monday. I have no other option.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We cannot wait till Monday. The Minister of State is here.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If they are satisfied, the Minister of State will reply, and I have no objection to that.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Members are satisfied, the Minister of State will reply, if the senior Minister is not here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He can respond now.

MR. SPEAKER: During the Question Hour, I will not permit it. You can raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I cannot question your observation and ruling. We respect your observations. But you should also appreciate. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the TV recording be stopped. There should be no TV relay

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

I am on my legs. You please resume your seat.

[English]

Hon. Members, we are trying to find out a way or a solution to the problem that has been created here in the House. The hon. Minister has agreed to respond to the questions that you have raised in the House. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is trying to find out whether the Petroleum Minister is available. If he is available, then there is no problem. He will come and reply. If he is not available, then the Minister of State will reply. In the meantime, the business of the House will have to go on. Therefore, I am returning back to the business. I think, he has made a fair proposal, which must be accepted because we are all interested in knowing as to what has happened, that is, in relation to what has been reported in the Press. Therefore, let me continue the business till the Minister is able to reach the House. If he does not reach, then the Minister of State for Petroleum will reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: A detailed discussion should be held on this subject. *...(Interruptions)*

11.30 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Circulation of Fake Currency

+

*281. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the circulation of fake currency notes has been increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount of fake currency seized by Reserve Bank of India during the last six months and the total estimated amount of fake currency in circulation;

(c) whether the RBI/Government have formulated any plans to check the flow of fake currency in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact of fake currency circulation in the country on our economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Data on detection of fake currency in the recent past do not show any definite trend. The total amount of fake currency recovered at the counters of Reserve Bank of India and Bank branches during the last 6 months amounted to Rs.2.34 crores.

To curb circulation of fake currency notes in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps which *inter-alia* include setting up special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation, exclusively for investigation of counterfeit currency notes. Shoring up of vigilance by the Border Security Force/Custom Authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency notes into the country, incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes and dissemination of information on security features through print media and Doordarshan for the benefit of public. A High Level Committee of experts, with representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Sectt., Reserve Bank of India and the Printing Presses, constituted to examine the whole gamut of problems caused by circulation of fake currency has recently submitted its report wherein it has made several recommendations.

Considering the insignificant volume of fake currency detected against that of the notes in circulation, there is no apprehension regarding any impact of fake currency circulation on our economy.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Finance Minister was also the Minister of External Affairs earlier. Will he inform us whether the attempt of the ISI to destabilise India through fake currency notes and their dumping have been brought to the notice of the leaders of the international coalition? If so, what has been their response? If not, why not?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I would like to share with the hon. Members one or important points on the aspect of fake currency notes.

Sir, as a ratio of the total currency in circulation, the quantum of fake or fraudulent or any other kind of currency is actually a tiny and minuscular fraction. It is a tiny and minuscular fraction. Therefore, we should not exaggerate or overstate the totality of this problem because it needlessly and quite avoidably falls into the obvious trap that our adversaries wish to set, which is to rob the currency of its legitimacy and strength.

Sir, I will answer about the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan. The hon. Member wanted to know if the Government is aware of the activities of the Inter- Services Intelligence. Of course, we are. A Committee was established by the Finance Ministry to go into the totality of this. The National Security Council is the nodal agency that deals with it. We are aware as to what interest certain sections of the Governmental machinery of Pakistan has taken in promoting needlessly to destabilise and cause confusion in Indian currency.

Sir, she has specifically asked whether this has been brought to the notice of the international community or not. This is not really a part of the UN Security Council Resolution 1373. This is really an internal issue. We are quite capable of managing it ourselves. The problem gets exaggerated exposure and therefore, a notion that it has an exaggerated dimension is, in fact, completely unsustain-

able. Therefore, I would say that so far as raising it with the international community is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, my question is not being replied to by the hon. Minister. I have asked about what effects these fake currency notes can create on cross-border terrorism. One, it can cause economic disorder. I would like to know whether our international coalition partners are helping us to curtail the movement of cross-border terrorism and ISI activities in the country. This was my question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I did understand the question. Normally I am not slow in understanding.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, no, you are not.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as informing the international community in this regard is concerned, we never felt the need of it because the country is quite capable of coping with this menace on its own.

Sir, on the totality of terrorism and international community's commitment to combating terrorism as a part of 1373 has an altogether different dimension. Does fake currency result in encouragement to terrorism? Terrorism is not simply a bye-product of fake currency. Narco-terrorism, Narcotics smuggling and fake currency are all aspects of criminal activity, some promoted from across the border and some from within.

Sir, so far as fraudulent currency or fake currency part is concerned, the amount involved as a percentage of the total currency that is in circulation is so minuscular that we should not really blow it out of proportion.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I am not very happy as to what I heard from the hon. Minister. However, why is the Government not introducing systems similar to bar-coded digital codes insertion and use of plastic emulsion in currency notes to make counterfeiting of currency impossible in this country? It is very important for the simple reason that at the moment we are only talking of cross-border terrorism and how attacks are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. I know that this huge amount of fake currency has a very vital role to play in this. If the Minister goes through the data of 2000, 2001 and 2002, he will realise that counterfeiting of currency in the country has increased manifold from all sections. There is money coming from the border areas into Bikaner, to Jammu and Kashmir, and large sums of money are being given to ISI operatives who are stationed in India for funding them very prosperously so that they carry on the activities of terrorism in this country. That is the important point about fake currency. That is the real point, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has made much more of a statement than ask a question. I will not enter into a disputation of the assertion she made. It is a matter of some regret to me that she says she is not happy with how I replied. Happiness or unhappiness is really a subjective issue, and it is difficult for me to do. ...*(Interruptions)* It is entirely possible, Sir, that the hon. Member remained dissatisfied with what I have said. I do dispute the assertion that has been made that the fake currency - if I remember the word she used - was of very substantial dimensions. I dispute that. The hon. Member wanted to know if I am aware of the percentages of fake currency. Indeed, I am aware. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: My question was about the bar-coding.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete the reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Also about Pakistan, we can quite easily cope with the situation. What I am trying to say is, let us not ourselves exaggerate the problem. By exaggerating the problem we contribute to robbing our own currency of its legitimacy and its strength in the eyes of our own citizens.

The hon. Member wanted to know if certain specific security measures have been adopted. I hope the hon. Member will understand and appreciate my reticence in spelling out the security measures that the Government has already introduced in this regard. If I were to make public the security measures that the Reserve Bank or the Finance Ministry has already introduced and will constantly keep in review, then in fact I would be robbing those security measures of their entire efficacy and effectiveness. I am sure she will understand that. Otherwise, the Reserve Bank has really a limited problem. We have addressed ourselves to it. The Reserve Bank is fully seized of it. I can assure the hon. Member that we do not minimise the role that Pakistan plays in this regard. But we are quite capable of combating Pakistan's efforts not only to destabilise our currency but to destabilise other aspects of the polity and society of India.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary question is more important than the question of fake notes. It is regarding the mutilated and

soiled notes. R.B.I. exchanges such notes through brokers at less than half of their value and these notes again come into circulation. Fake notes can be seized but mutilated one cannot be as they are issued by the Reserve Bank itself. Have the Government taken any action to keep a check on this practice? If so, the details thereof?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the hon'ble Member does not relate to the question of fake notes. However, it is an important matter and I would try my best to reply to it.

I agree to it. While in circulation, if a note is mutilated or soiled, its face value does not decrease or it does not affect Reserve Bank's commitment. That remains as it is. However, in practice it does not happen. Earlier one rupee note was very problematic.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Hon'ble Member is saying that R.B.I. exchanges mutilated and soiled notes through brokers at less than half of their face value. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Minister is not replying to the question actually asked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not yield to Shri C.N. Singh. You please go ahead with your reply to the Supplementary asked by Shri Sohan Potai.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: These notes again come back to Reserve Bank. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you work in the Reserve Bank? Let the hon. Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, the Reserve Bank sends the money to Dewas, to the Bank Note Press, and they return it back saying that they do not have the technology. ...*(Interruptions)* This do not have the infrastructure, and it is returned back without even checking the counterfeit. So, what is the reason for that?

MR. SPEAKER: Please Shrimati Shyama Singh. I may not be able to take your question on record.

Mr. Minister, you may reply to his question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir a good debate has started. Before I could reply the supplementary question of the hon. Member another Member has asked me a question regarding mutilated notes. Let me reply first to his question. He has mentioned that the broker exchange torn and mutilated notes in RBI worth half of the face value of the original torn notes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not disturb.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would not be able to give an immediate reply to this question nor I would be able to take immediate action, I am of the opinion that if the Reserve Bank has made commitment to the citizens as regards the currency notes then it is a legal tender and in case it is torn then whether the legal tender remains or ceases, we will look into this matter and would certainly take action in this regard. Hon. Member has said that the fake notes come to the Reserve Bank via brokers. It is not possible in Reserve Bank. Alongwith other things we have initiated some security measures in Reserve Bank and have also prepared a booklet. I would request the hon. Members to pass in this information in their parliamentary constituency that the Reserve Bank has recently brought out a booklet and

[English]

Sir, this booklet of the Reserve bank of India is known as "Your Guide to Money Matters." The hon. Member can have access to it on the Reserve Bank site and download it themselves. That Guide to money matters has answers to all those queries including about the security of currency.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the written answer is incomplete because 'the last six months' in the answer is not defined. Is it the last six months of the current financial year or is it the last six months of the previous financial year? There is no doubt that the question was also incomplete. But on this, the Finance Minister should give the exact reply. What does he mean by 'the last six months'?

Secondly, an amount of Rs. 2.34 crore may be insignificant for the hon. Finance Minister because he is faced with the problem of Rs. 83,000 crore of NPAs and the budget of lakhs of thousands of crores of rupees. But this is very important. It is the question of fake currency notes printed by anti-social elements in this country and fake currency notes printed by anti-social elements in the neighbouring country.

What is important is the cost of *Supari* in Mumbai. In the good olden days, it was between Rs. 25 lakh and

Rs. 50 lakh. *Supari* means the money paid to professional killers. Now, it has come down to Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 50,000. As a result, this amount of Rs. 2.34 crore is not a small amount, and it is not connected with only economy. It is definitely connected with the national security.

Sir, we have got notes of various denominations, namely, Re.1, Rs. 5, Rs.10, Rs.50, Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1,000; we have got notes of various sizes and colours.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: It can be asked from you and all these problems can be resolved. How many killings on 'Supari' take place in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know everything about 'Supari'.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Shri Pravin Rashtratpal, please come back to your question.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether we can partly solve this issue by switching over to some standard size of currency notes and by having currency notes of the same colour for a particular denomination. Right now, we have got currency notes of different colours in the denominations of Rs.100 and Rs.500. Like in foreign countries, can we switch over slowly to have a system whereby currency notes in the denominations of Rs.10, Rs.50, and more particularly in the denominations of Rs.500 and Rs.1000, will be of the same colour and of the same size? I feel that the sizes of the currency notes in the denominations of Rs.100 and Rs.500 should be adequately different. This is my question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is really only one question in this long dissertatio.., which is the question as to the definition of 'six months'. This is rather really an auditor's question - is it six months of the current year or is it six months of the past year, etc. Without going into the audit intricacies of it, I would say that it is six months from the date of the questioner asking this question. The hon. Member has asked this question in August. So, he may please count six months from that period and he could get the last six months from that date. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I do not know why they are laughing. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, why are the hon. Members from the Ruling party laughing? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may just ignore their laugh.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The hon. Minister has now defined 'six months'. What is there to laugh? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIYA: Mr Speaker, Sir, is laughing banned in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not laugh, just pass a smile.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir they cry initially they cry and laugh when issue of money is raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You listen to the reply of the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence. The Minister may continue his reply now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as his point about the uniform size of the currency notes is concerned, it is a suggestion from the hon. Member.

I might explain that the Finance Ministry, in fact, is not directly involved with the designing of the currency notes. It is a function of the Reserve Bank of India. What we will do is to communicate the hon. Member's suggestion to the right authorities in the Reserve Bank of India and it is for them to decide what they wish to do in this regard.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity. The hon. Minister in his statement as well as in his oral reply said that the quantum of fake currency in circulation is very limited or very minuscule compared to the total currency in circulation. I am not going to ask the questions which are already asked, which are about the economic and strategic significance or impact. I would like to put a question pertaining to another aspect of it - the social implications of this very great problem.

Recently one of the staff from the Parliament Secretariat, during her journey from Jodhpur to Jaipur got

a fake currency note in the denomination of Rs.500, from a railway station. When she went to exchange that note for further transaction, she was warned saying that he could call the police and he could keep her in custody, but since she was known to him he was not taking any action. This is a very important social problem.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the fact that ordinary and innocent people are caught unawares of this problem of fake currency notes, as a result of the transactions that are going on. If the Government is aware of that, may I know whether the Government has already taken steps to curb this impact of the severe problem?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the question which the hon. Member has asked has two parts. One part is about the quantum of the problem. I reiterate that the quantum of fake currency in circulation is in fact minuscule considering the total currency in circulation of which I would like to reiterate again with emphasis that if the hon. Members themselves keep talking of this great menace then they are in fact exaggerating the problem to the detriment of the confidence in our own currency which, with respect, I would like to caution you.

On the social aspect, yes, this is unacceptable. Have we got a ready answer to it? No, because this kind of currency is more often found, in one fashion or another, being smuggled into the border States of India, particularly from adjoining areas of Pakistan. Therefore, you find that there are more instances of such notes being seized from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. Government is also aware that these fake currency notes quite often are deliberately circulated, I must share this with a sense of responsibility with hon. Members, during election time. This is so because a great deal of expenditure takes place during election.

I am quite ready to believe what the hon. Member has said that at railway station an innocent person was found in possession of it. We have put all this on a website. I know the Reserve Bank is not the bank that can be accessed by ordinary citizens. We have faced this difficulty really in the denomination of Rs.500 notes of one particular year. We have taken a number of measures. RBI has a website. I would request the hon. Member to access the Reserve Bank website. There is a booklet called 'Your Guide to Money Matters', and there they will receive all the advice in regard to from where to have the fake currency notes checked and how they can be checked. If it is disseminated, then I think a great deal of purpose will be served.

[Translation]

Interest Rates of Banks

*282. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rates of interest on various deposits are cut down by the Government from time to time;

(b) if so, the number of such cuts in interest rates during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, rates of interest on loans given by the banks are also cut in the same proportion; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Interest rates on deposits and advances by banks, regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have, over time, now been largely deregulated. Since October 1997, RBI has given freedom to commercial banks to determine the interest rates on deposits except for interest rate on savings deposit. The term deposit rates of the public sector banks during the last three years have been as follows:

	March 2000	March 2001	March 2002	July 2002
Deposit Rates	5.00-11.00	4.00-10.50	4.25-8.75	4.25-8.25

The current softening of interest rates on deposits is largely attributed to a comfortable liquidity position of the banks, as well as a decline in inflation rate.

(c) and (d) Interest rates on advances were also deregulated with effect from October 1994 and individual banks are free to determine the interest rates for credit limits above Rs.2 lakhs with the approval of their respective Boards. For credit limit upto Rs.2 lakhs, the banks have been advised to charge interest not exceeding the Prime Lending Rate (PLR). The PLR of public sector banks during the last three years are given below:

	March 2000	March 2001	March 2002	July 2002
PLR	12.00-13.50	10.00-13.00	10.00-12.50	10.00-12.50

The lending rates of commercial banks during the last three years have also shown a downward trend although not in the same proportion, mainly due to the high cost of long-term deposits mobilized by banks at fixed interest rates and the relatively high overhang of non-performing assets (NPAs) etc.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it into the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance that the rate of interest on bank deposits has decreased by 3 percent during the last two years. It has resulted in the shortfall in the bank deposits as the common man is less interested to deposit his money in banks. Due to this decline in rate of interest on bank deposits and also the increase in the rate of interest on loans has resulted in more withdrawal of money from the banks and the deposits amount in banks have also decreased a lot. If so, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the rate of interest on deposits and also how far the performance of our Indian Banks differ from the foreign banks in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an important question. The Ministry is quite vigilant as regards this institution. My old colleague and friend Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya has stated that the difference in the interest rates on the bank deposits and the bank loans has increased a lot. This difference has increased because of soft interest rates. The rate of interest on loans should be soft and it is a right step. In our banking system this difference is of three to four percent which is not satisfactory.

This has been analysed and we have found that the profit of banks remains limited to 1 and 1½ percent on average. ...*(Interruptions)* The profit is not 8 percent. ...*(Interruptions)* Perhaps you are talking about NABARD and rural credit. Laxminarayan Pandeyaji did not ask about rural credit. The bank services are certainly asking for improvement and it cannot be done overnight. However, this difference of 3 to 4.5 percent would decrease with the improvement in banking system. I accept that the difference in the interest rate on deposits as well as on loans should be minimum.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: With regard to the PLR details given in the second part of the question, hon. Minister has clearly accepted that the rate of interest on loans are showing a trend of decline and one of the reasons given for it is the decrease in inflation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government to check this downward trend so that people may be duly benefited?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Laxminarayan Pandeya has said about downward trend (Adhogami Pravariti) - he has used such difficult terminology. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: He has used the kind of terminology in Hindi which you do in English.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It will take some time to understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

What Laxminarayanji is saying is simple language means that is declining. You asked whether the inflation is decreasing – I would say that yes it is so. The question which you did not complete and just gave an indication about is that there is a difference in the rate of interest on deposits and loans. One of the reason for this difference is the non-performing assets of banks. I am of the opinion that the rate of interest on loans given by banks to the citizens would also decrease with the improvement in the non- performing assets.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: By downward trend, I meant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister has replied. You be seated.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are many poor persons in the country who do not have any other means of earning and they used to make a living out of the interest on the bank-deposits. Now they have not been left with any other option after the banks have cut down their rate of interest on deposits upto 5 percent. Where would they deposit their money. What would the hon. Minister do for them? Whether rate of interest on deposit has been reduced only to benefit the big industrialists and industrial houses and does it not tantamount to harm the interest of the poor persons? Has this rate of interest been decreased to benefit the big industrialists and also where will the poor people deposit their money and how they can be benefited from this step of the Government?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to make it clear that the perception of the hon. Member that the decrease in the rate of interest by the Government is being done to benefit the big industrial houses and it will harm the interests of the poor is absolutely wrong.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: The interest has been decreased by five percent.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the inference drawn by the hon. Member after analysing the situation is not at all correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwariji, very little time is left. Hence ask the questions in very brief.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, while decreasing the rate of interest on the small savings, Union Government had declared that the dividends received from it would be transferred to the States. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to how much more share has been transferred to Madhya Pradesh vis a vis the earlier share under the said proposal?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member does not fall in the ambit of this question. It would not be a proper criteria to gauge that by adopting this measure how far Madhya Pradesh, the home State of the hon. Member, has been benefited and we have not adopted any such criteria.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Production of Sugar

*283. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply position of sugar during each of the last two years, till date;

(b) whether the Government have estimated the domestic demand of sugar during 2002-2003;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the production target fixed for 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The internal demand of sugar during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 sugar seasons (October-September) was about 155 lakh MTs and 162 lakh MTs respectively. For the current sugar season, the internal demand is estimated at about 170 lakh MTs. The production of sugar in the sugar seasons 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was 181.93 lakh MTs and 185.10 lakh MTs respectively. During the 2001-2002 sugar season, the production is estimated to be over 180 lakh MTs.

(b) and (c) During the ensuing 2002-2003 sugar season, the internal demand of sugar is projected at about 179 lakh MTs.

(d) The production target for 2002-2003 sugar season is provisionally estimated at 185 lakh MTs. However, considering the weather conditions, it is premature at this stage to indicate the likely production during 2002-2003 sugar season.

It may also be pointed out that carry forward stocks of sugar as on 30.9.2001 were 103.63 lakh MTs. After accounting for internal consumption of 170 lakh MTs and export of 10 lakh MTs, the closing stocks as on 30.9.2002 are projected at 103.63 lakh MTs. Therefore, the availability of sugar from domestic sources is comfortable to meet the internal demand.

[English]

Vanaspati Units

*284. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vanaspati units in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of such units which are lying closed, State-wise;

(c) whether the vanaspati industry has shown only marginal growth during the past two years;

(d) if so, the reasons for such slow rate of growth of the said industry in the country; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to revive the closed vanaspati units?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) There are 232 vanaspati units in the country out of which 86 units are lying closed at present. Statewise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) According to available information, annual capacity of the vanaspati industry (in terms of vanaspati,

margarine, bakery shortening and refined oils) has increased from 45.22 lakh MTs to 63.09 lakh MTs during the last two years, thus representing a growth of 39.5%.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The closure of the vanaspati units was on account of various factors, such as creation of production capacity not commensurate with availability of raw materials, obsolete technology, poor economies of scale, competition from cheaper imports from Nepal under the India-Nepal Trade Treaty, etc. The measures taken by the Government to improve the health of the domestic vanaspati industry include, inter alia, the following:

(i) On the import of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) intended for the manufacture of vanaspati, customs duty is levied at a concessional rate.

(ii) The India-Nepal Treaty of Trade has been revised w.e.f. 6.3.2002. Under this revision, the total quantity of duty free import of vanaspati from Nepal has been fixed at one lakh MTs per annum. The import of vanaspati from Nepal has also been canalized now through the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC).

(iii) With effect from 1.3.2002, Special Additional Duty (SAD) @ 4% is being levied on import of vanaspati from Nepal.

Statement

Vanaspati Units in the Country

As on 24.7.2002

State/Zone	Total No. of Units	No. of Running Units	No. of Closed Units
1	2	3	4
East Zone			
Assam	2	0	2
Bihar	6	3	3
Orissa	4	1	3
West Bengal	14	9	5
Manipur	1	0	1
Sikkim	1	0	1
Sub Total	28	13	15
West Zone			
Gujarat	12	8	4
Maharashtra	23	12	11
Madhya Pradesh	15	10	5
Sub Total	50	30	20
North Zone			
Delhi	1	0	1
Himachal Pradesh	2	2	0
Haryana	14	11	3
Jammu & Kashmir	8	6	2
Punjab	33	22	11
Rajasthan	19	8	11
Uttar Pradesh	33	23	10
Sub Total	110	72	38
South Zone			
Andhra Pradesh	21	15	6
Kerala	4	1	3
Karnataka	5	2	3
Tamil Nadu	14	13	1
Sub Total	44	31	13
Grand Total	232	146	86

Powers to SEBI

*285. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering granting sweeping powers to SEBI for undertaking inspection, investigation, search and seizure as well as enforcement to put a check on scamsters from manipulating the market;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the SEBI Act in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government has initiated examination of possible legislative changes including grant of search and seizure powers to the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), with adequate safeguards. These legislative changes are aimed at further strengthening provisions in the SEBI Act, 1992 for investors' protection and to make SEBI a more effective body for regulation and development of capital markets.

Duty Free Import of Agricultural Goods

*286. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of agricultural products from certain countries by reducing the rate of import duty either by half or zero per cent of existing rate of import duty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of agricultural items on which imports duty has been reduced and the names of countries to whom this facility has been given;

(d) the extent to which import of agricultural products has increased as a result thereof; and

(e) the impact of such imports on the prices of domestic agricultural product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) India is exchanging tariff concessions with certain countries under existing bilateral as well as regional frameworks namely SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), Bangkok Agreement, Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) etc. Under these arrangements, negotiations are held on receiving and granting tariff concessions on products, including agricultural products, of export interest to the participating countries.

(c) While concessions under SAPTA are exchanged among SAARC nations, under the Bangkok Agreement presently India has exchanged concessions with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Republic of Korea whereas it has bilateral preferential arrangements with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Under SAPTA, concessions have been given to SAARC member countries in respect of various agricultural items as indicated below:

Peas, beans, lentils, pistachios, arecanuts, dates, figs, oranges, mandarins, lemons, other citrus fruits, grapes, watermelons, papaya, apricots, jackfruit, cloves, nutmeg, mace and lac.

SAPTA also provides for special and more favourable treatment to be given exclusively to the Least Developed Member Countries of SAARC. Under this provision, India allows exclusive and deepened tariff preferences to the LDC member countries. Concessions on various agricultural items under this provision are being given on pineapple, jackfruit, sugar, various preparations of vegetables, fruits, nuts or parts of plants.

Under the Bangkok Agreement, concessions are being given to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Republic of Korea on desiccated coconut, cloves, nutmeg, mace, cocoa beans etc. The Bangkok Agreement also provides for special and more favourable treatment to be given exclusively to the Least Developed Member Country i.e. Bangladesh. Though India has granted exclusive and deepened tariff preferences to Bangladesh, none of the agricultural products are covered under this provision.

Under the India Nepal Treaty, 100% tariff concessions are given to products originating from Nepal including the agricultural products. However, no concessions are available on alcoholic liquors/beverages and their concentrates except industrial spirits, perfumes and cosmetic with non Nepalese/non Indian brand names and tobacco.

The India–Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement seeks to establish FTA through elimination of tariffs in a phased manner. India has proposed to reduce tariffs across the board on all tariff lines over a period of 3 years, except for a Negative List. On the items in the Negative List, for example Coconut, Copra, Alcoholic beverages and Rubber, no concessions are available for imports from Sri Lanka, while on rest of the items tariff concessions ranging from 90% to 100% are available for imports from Sri Lanka. However, under this Agreement import of tea is allowed under Tariff rate Quota (TRQ) at a preferential duty of 7.5%

(d) and (e) As the data on import of various products is not captured in relation to-specific Preferential Trading Arrangements, it is not feasible to indicate the extent to which import of agricultural products has increased as a

result of grant of tariff concessions and the impact of such imports on the prices of domestic agricultural products.

The trade data is available only in case of import of tea from Sri Lanka under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) allowed under ISLFTA. The import of tea under TRQ under ISLFTA since its operationalisation is as follows:

(In Million Kgs)

Period	Annual TRQ allotted	Actual allocation of quota	Actual Imports
2000 (March-December)	11.25	0.48	0.46
2001 (January-December)	15.00	1.32	0.31
2002 (January-March)	15.00	0.06	0.20*

(* This includes 0.147 million kgs of tea imported during 2002 out of the quota allocated during the year 2001 by the Sri Lanka Tea Board)

Development of SC/ST and OBC

*287. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the projects/schemes sanctioned for the socio-economic development of SCs/STs, OBCs and the economically backward classes under the National Finance and Development Corporation, National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation etc., during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that genuine persons are not getting the benefits of these schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) State-wise details of projects/schemes sanctioned during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) and National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) are given in the enclosed statement-I, II and III respectively. The detail in respect of Scheduled Tribes for the years 1999-2000 is given in enclosed statement-I pertaining to NSFDC as NSTFDC commenced operations from April, 2001.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Amount Sanctioned	No.of Beneficiary	Amount Sanctioned	No.of Beneficiary	Amount Sanctioned	No.of Beneficiary
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1223.06	3315	1365.27	11037	2685.51	25300
3	Arunachal Pradesh	35.37	17	61.99	26	0	0
4	Assam	706.33	337	725.24	645	1173.34	2469
5	Bihar	204.05	305	876.95	611	1059.00	470
6	Chandigarh	93.20	65	123.00	75	195.25	170

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	391.65	105
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	34.21	10	0.85	1	5.45	5
9	Delhi	100.85	65	221.34	222	344.16	638
10	Goa	17.70	10	35.70	27	75.30	27
11	Gujarat	1522.39	3478	3056.24	4567	1098.10	6638
12	Haryana	184.70	80	0	0	507.20	190
13	Himachal Pradesh	302.65	99	304.02	151	373.42	118
14	Jammu & Kashmir	41.00	10	0	0	347.42	498
15	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0	0	297.20	198
16	Karnataka	526.18	601	1152.93	3410	2030.96	8914
17	Kerala	342.12	285	477.04	859	442.33	774
18	Lakshadweep	28.99	8	20.61	63	0.00	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	1074.53	1314	1037.35	1505	1240.11	1675
20	Maharashtra	216.24	60	1234.03	1742	1495.36	1489
21	Manipur	117.00	25	15.04	104	98.05	75
22	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
23	Mizoram	166.23	134	285.75	2093	0.00	0
24	Nagaland	157.73	92	134.39	26	0.00	0
25	Orissa	1614.59	1031	458.05	502	641.72	202
26	Pondicherry	85.14	47	195.61	92	116.18	91
27	Punjab	42.70	15	379.20	250	370.55	615
28	Rajasthan	683.35	396	427.85	260	885.05	780
29	Sikkim	106.08	76	171.28	308	79.95	89
30	Tamil Nadu	791.77	377	91.11	220	1103.33	548
31	Tripura	324.85	426	135.42	92	378.47	626
32	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	1469.05	12354	3598.05	23951
33	Uttaranchal	0.00	0	0.00	0	247.95	614
34	West Bengal	656.74	6147	1038.27	11619	2111.45	17596
	Total	11399.75	18825	15493.58	52861	23392.51	94855

Statement-II

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-2002	
		Amount Sanctioned	No. of Beneficiary
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	372.04	718
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0
3	Arunahcal Pradesh	32.64	9
4	Assam	425.85	82
5	Bihar	0	0
6	Chhattisgarh	0	0
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0
8	Goa	0	0
9	Gujarat	867.57	283
10	Himachal Pradesh	247.66	93
11	Jammu & Kashmir	255.48	207
12	Jharkhand	286.5	165
13	Karnataka	324.69	841
14	Kerala	15.6	24
15	Lakshadweep	7.24	6
16	Manipur	0	0
17	Maharashtra	259.75	375
18	Meghalaya	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	753.44	1327
20	Mizoram	51.85	10
21	Nagaland	88.13	30
22	Orissa	482.81	149
23	Rajasthan	720.45	435
24	Sikkim	127.23	123
25	Tamil Nadu	0	0
26	Tripura	69.68	100
27	Uttaranchal	142.28	80
28	Uttar Pradesh	0	0
29	West Bengal	493.69	326
	Total	6024.58	5383

Statement-III

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Amount Sanctioned	No.of Beneficiary	Amount Sanctioned	No.of Beneficiary	Amount Sanctioned	No.of Beneficiary
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1902.59	28570	439.00	1730	2045.00	16584
2	Assam	76.93	56	100.00	86	159.53	585
3	Bihar	210.74	515	700.00	1145	500.00	686

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Chandigarh	11.01	21	2.00	4	12.00	21
5	Gujarat	456.24	475	534.30	1515	1040.00	2475
6	Goa	19.90	27	69.40	45	112.38	57
7	Haryana	212.50	1234	261.78	1037	100	470
8	Himachal Pradesh	206.53	187	472.27	336	333.50	282
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0	0	0	5.00	50
10	Karnataka	562.87	1094	577.45	1100	1276.25	7350
11	Kerala	1347.70	3855	2342.88	5273	2032.60	7083
12	Madhya Pradesh	287.00	574	627.17	2694	515.22	2358
13	Manipur	92.00	80	0.00	0	0	0
14	Maharashtra	0.00	0	650.57	1405	798.64	1131
15	Sikkim	77.10	120	120.23	281	154.14	170
16	Orissa	271.12	1558	18.40	548	646.00	2298
17	Punjab	100.00	200	165.00	341	0	0
18	Pondicherry	0.00	0	86.04	288	71.98	196
19	Rajasthan	376.12	638	100.00	170	100.00	190
20	Tamil Nadu	406.37	1380	277.24	847	212.04	965
21	Tripura	57.26	230	0	0	0.00	0
22	Uttar Pradesh	235.00	510	689.99	1638	1144.00	1732
23	West Bengal	618.65	1400	467.68	1035	677.25	1250
	Total	7527.63	42724	8701.40	21518	11935.53	45927

[Translation]

Handloom Village Development Programme

*288. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Integrated Handloom Village Development Programme was introduced by the Government for the development of handloom weavers dominated villages;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof so far;

(c) the number of villages, particularly that of Madhya Pradesh, included under the said programme;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to include more villages under the said programme during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Integrated Handloom Village Development (IHVD) Scheme was introduced in the year

1991-92. The scheme aimed at providing assistance for development of handloom villages in the country.

(b) and (c) During the period in which the IHVD scheme was under implementation, Central assistance was given for covering 208 villages in 18 States of the Country on the basis of viable proposals received from them. Under the scheme, Central assistance of Rs.3086.80 lakh was released to those 18 States for covering 21,234 beneficiaries.

In so far as Madhya Pradesh State is concerned, Central assistance of Rs.79.40 lakh was released for covering 500 beneficiaries in 5 villages.

(d) No, Sir. The IHVD scheme stands discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.1997.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Operational Freedom to State Cooperatives

*289. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is all set to greatly operational freedom to large multi State cooperatives by allowing them to incorporate themselves as reported in The Hindustan Times dated July 3, 2002 under caption "Large Co-ops may be corporatised";

(b) if so, whether cooperatives are likely to get financial and functional autonomy to enable them to compete with multi-national corporates;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of guidelines likely to be issued or plan chalked out by the Government for cooperatives in this regard; and

(e) the time by which this decision is likely to be taken by the Government in the interest of cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2001, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 31st August, 2001, provides for incorporation of cooperatives as 'producer companies' and for conversion of existing cooperatives into "producer companies" on a voluntary basis. Cooperatives, when formed as or converted to companies will have more or less the same autonomy as a company incorporated in the Companies Act, 1956.

(d) and (e) The Bill was referred to Department related Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The Committee presented its report to the Lok Sabha on 14.5.2002. The Bill is under consideration of Parliament.

Revamping of FCI

*290. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the study report of Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad to arrive at ways and means to reduce the economic cost of acquisition and distribution of foodgrains by FCI;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the study report;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the other steps taken to remove corruption and make FCI economically viable and self-supporting?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main findings and recommendations made in the Study Report of the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The recommendations made in the report are under examination.

(d) The steps taken to weed out corruption in the Food Corporation of India include, inter alia the following:

(i) Surprise as well as regular checks to plug loopholes in procedure so that the officers/officials working in the field do not take undue advantage of any lacunae;

(ii) expeditious investigation into complaints and allegations;

(iii) disciplinary action against delinquent officers/ officials and institution of criminal cases, where warranted;

(iv) recovery of losses from officials found responsible for various losses;

(v) induction of CISF at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.

The FCI has been entrusted, inter alia, with the responsibility of maintaining buffer stocks and issuing foodgrains under TPDS and other welfare schemes at subsidized rates to meet the social objectives under the Government policies. Given this mandate, it may not be possible to make the FCI economically viable and self-supporting.

Statement

The main findings and recommendations made in the Study Report of the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad to suggest ways and means to cut down the administrative and economic cost of the Food Corporation of India are as under:

(a) The autonomous existence in FCI is desirable and dispensing with FCI as an organization will not be in the interest of the nation.

(b) For making the FCI viable, the Government of India has to give up control over any two of the three factors consisting of (i) fixation of procurement price; (ii) fixing of procurement quantity; and (iii) fixing of issue price.

(c) To reduce stock levels, the FCI may be allowed to carry out open market sale as a routine process.

(d) Food security is an important issue and this should not be left to private traders, who are motivated by profit alone.

(e) State Governments may be insisted upon to lift the allotted quantity for PDS. For the unlifted stock, with reference to the allotment, State Governments should be asked to pay storage and interest charges.

(f) The Railways should take full responsibility of the consignments received for transport. They should not only issue clear RR, but deliver the consignment in the same condition at the destination to the FCI, fulfilling the obligation of the Bailee under the Contract Act.

(g) The Hill Transport Subsidy Scheme applicable for the North Eastern region and Jammu & Kashmir should be dispensed with.

(h) Financing of buffer stocks with borrowed funds from the Banking sector should be done away with and the same should be financed through Government grant/equity.

(i) Decentralized procurement should be encouraged.

(j) High cost departmental labour should be dispensed with.

(k) The FCI may sell out all storage assets to the Central Warehousing Corporation which can become a prominent storage agency in the country.

[Translation]

Export Promotion Centres

*291 PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified locations for opening Export Promotion Centres so as to further boost the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area of their working, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to provide financial assistance to enable them to cater to the needs of the exporters of the small scale sector;

(d) if so, whether there is any plan to form any advisory body for maintaining cordial relations between the Banks and small industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) State Governments, Export Promotion Councils and other Export Promotion bodies have been asked to identify important centres from where substantial exports takes place and they have been advised by the Central Government to take measures for development of infrastructure and other facilities at such places.

Financial assistance under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities (ASIDE) Scheme, Industrial Infrastructure Development Centre (IID) Scheme of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and credit from financial institutions for support in terms of inputs, packaging and exports are available to all industries including small scale industries at such centres.

State Governments have been advised to form State Level Export Promotion Committees under the Chief Secretaries which will include, inter-alia, the representatives form Reserve Bank of India, banks, local chamber of Commerce and Industry to facilitate flow of credit to export unit.

[English]

Misutilisation of External Aid

*292 SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank provides financial assistance for the National and State highways and drinking water schemes;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism to ensure that the loan amount is utilised properly;

(c) whether any case of abuse or misutilisation of loan has come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the measures taken to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The expenditures incurred out of the passed on/on-lent funds borrowed under the World Bank projects are duly audited by the Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India and audit certificates are submitted to the World Bank at the end of every fiscal year. The projects are also periodically reviewed by Government of India and suitable directions are issued to the project implementing authorities to adhere the time schedule drawn by the Bank so as to utilize the funds in a timely and proper manner.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Strategy for WTO Talks

*293. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of strategies adopted by the Government for WTO talks on textiles held on July 16, 2002; and

(b) the formula devised for negotiation with major trading partners in textiles including the EU countries and the US ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No meeting on textiles issues was held on 16th July 2002 at WTO.

Commission for Scheduled Areas/Tribes

*294. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently appointed a Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled areas and welfare of Scheduled Tribes in States;

(b) if so, the composition of the Commission, Powers and other terms of reference of the Commission;

(c) whether any such Commission was appointed in the past;

(d) if so, the main features of the report of the last such Commission; and

(e) the reasons for appointing the Commission at present?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have recently appointed an 11 Member Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled tribes.

(b) The composition, powers and terms of references of the Commission have been included in the office order issued by order of the President. A copy of the order is enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The first Scheduled areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission was constituted under Article 339 (1) of the Constitution in 1960.

(d) The main features of the report are the

findings of the study conducted by that Commission on the problems and condition of Scheduled Tribes prior to independence, a review of programmes, policies, administrative structures at the State and Central level. The report also gave several recommendations after a thorough review of the programmes and policies, for the allround development of Scheduled Tribes and Tribal Areas.

(e) The Government felt that it was necessary to review all the tribal development policies and programmes, keeping in view its mandate under Article 46 of the Constitution and the social, political, economic and administrative changes that have taken place since the first Commission's report was submitted.

Statement

[To be published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii)]

F.17014/8/93-TD(R)
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(R&P Unit)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 18th July 2002

No.17014/8/93-TD(R)-In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 339 of the Constitution, the President hereby appoints the Scheduled Areas and the Scheduled Tribes Commission (hereinafter in this Order referred to as the Commission) consisting of the following persons with effect from the date of publication of this Order, namely:-

(i)	Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria	Chairperson
(ii)	Prof. Mei jin Lung Kamson	Member
(iii)	Dr. Bhupinder Singh	Member
(iv)	Smt. Chokila Iyer	Member
(v)	Shri Kuwarsingh Fulji Valvi	Member
(vi)	Dr. Babubhai Doljibhai Damore	Member
(vii)	Prof. Diwakar Minz	Member
(viii)	Shri S.K. Kaul	Member
(ix)	Dr. P.K. Patel	Member.
(x)	Shri Ram Sewak Paikera	Member
(xi)	Shri P.S. Negi	Member-Secretary

2. The following shall be the terms of reference of the Commission, namely:-

(1) Keeping in view the various provisions of the Constitution and taking an overview of the tribal scenario in the country, the Commission shall adumbrate a perspective and a vision for the future and formulate an outline of a viable comprehensive tribal policy.

(2) It shall examine the constitutional provisions in so far as they relate to the Scheduled Tribes, with a view to constitutional, legal, financial and administrative devices for promotion of tribal interests and recommend measures for adequate and appropriate operation of the Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

(3) The Commission shall review the functioning of policies, programmes and schemes being followed as per the recommendations of the Dhebar Commission and/or being implemented otherwise and suggest formulations in this regard as may be called for.

(4) It shall examine the development strategies followed so far and in particular, it shall scrutinize the tribal sub-plan integrated approach covering facets like -

(a) plan and non-plan sectors e.g. agriculture and allied sectors, forest, education, health, employment, role of financial and cooperative institutions, displacement of tribals,

(b) protective measures of a legal and administrative nature as in the fields of land alienation, money-lending, excise etc.,

(c) financial and budgetary arrangements and make such suggestions for modifications and innovations as it may consider necessary.

(5) It shall examine the socio-political and administrative set-up, particularly with reference to Part IX of the Constitution relating to Panchayats and the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996, and suggest measures to make it effective for self-governance and socio-economic advancement of the tribal people.

(6) Any other matter connected with the administration of the Scheduled Areas and/or the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the States and Union territories.

3. The Commission may -

(a) obtain such information as they may consider necessary or relevant for their purpose from the Central Government, the State Governments and such other authorities, organizations or individuals as may, in the opinion of the Commission, be of assistance to their work;

(b) appoint such sub-committees from amongst their members as the Commission may think fit for the purpose of exercising such powers and performing such duties as may be delegated to them by the Commission;

(c) visit or depute any sub-committee to visit such parts of India as the Commission may consider necessary or expedient;

(d) hold their sittings or the sittings of any sub-committee at such times and such places as may be determined by or under the authority of the Chairperson;

(e) act notwithstanding the temporary absence of any member of the Commission or the existence of any vacancy amongst the members; and

(f) regulate their own procedure in so far as no provision is made in this Order in that behalf.

4. The Commission shall submit its report to the President as soon as possible but not later than one year from the date of publication of this Order.

By Order of the President,

Place New Delhi (S. Chatterjee)
Date 18th July 2002 Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Quantitative Restrictions on Procurement of Foodgrains

*295. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce Quantitative Restrictions on Procurement of Foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a High Powered Committee has been constituted to evolve the facts;

(d) if so, the details of the findings of the Committee and its recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy has submitted its final report on 31.7.2002. The Committee has made the following major recommendations in regard to the procurement policy:

(i) The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) policy should continue with an immediate correction. In recommending the MSP for foodgrains, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) should go strictly on the basis of C2 cost of production (i.e. all costs including the imputed costs of family labour, owned capital and rental on land) in more efficient regions. At this MSP, there should continue to be open ended procurement. The MSP should have statutory status.

(ii) The implementation of this revised MSP policy will require a compensation package to be given to the State Governments for compensating cultivators.

(iii) All compulsory levy orders on rice millers under the Essential Commodities Act should be removed and be replaced by Orders requiring mills to custom mill the paddy procured under the MSP.

The Government will take a view after examining the recommendations made by the Committee.

Foreign Investment in Power/ Infrastructure Projects

296. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the

Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether enough foreign investment or loan has been ensured for boosting the power and infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal for private participation in this sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Total Foreign Direct Investment approved in infrastructure sector (Power, Telecom, Railways, Roads and Ports) from January 1991 to May 2002 was Rs. 101709.89 crore. Total foreign loans for these sectors approved during 1991-2002 were US $ 19825.35 million. Tenth Five Year Plan is under finalisation.

Growth Centres

*297. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) the number and location of Growth Centres established in the country till date, State-wise;

(b) the funds released by the Union as well as by the State Governments to these growth centres, so far, till date, centre-wise;

(c) whether these centres have achieved their goal;

(d) if so, upto what extent and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to establish some more Growth Centres during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, initially, 71 locations were identified and out of the same, 68 Growth Centres have been sanctioned by the Central Government and are in various stages of implementation. The Growth Centres in Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Chayagaon (Assam) are yet to be sanctioned. Growth Centres sanctioned State-wise and the funds released by the Centre as well as by the States to each Growth Centre is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The objective of the Growth Centre is to provide required infrastructure in the identified, industrially backward locations with a view to attract investment in the industries and to achieve the dispersal of industries. Out of 68 Growth Centres sanctioned, 38 Growth Centres have become functional and these Growth Centres have attracted a Capital Investment of Rs. 8531 crores. In the remaining Growth Centres, due to various constraints inter-alia land acquisition, procedures, lack of demand of developed plots, absence of social infrastructure, poor natural resource base and change in the Government policies like de-control and de-licensing of the industrial sector, lack of local initiatives etc. were responsible for slow progress.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to establish more than 71 Growth Centres already sanctioned under the Scheme.

Statement

Financial progress of Growth as on 26.7.2002

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State, Growth Centre/ District	Amount of Central Release	Amount Released by States & its Agencies
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Hindpur (Anantpur)	200.00	147.76
2.	Khammam (Khammam)	50.00	
3.	Bobbili (Vizianagaram)	551.00	487.63
4.	Ongole (Prakasam)	650.00	666.33
Arunachal Pradesh			
5.	Niklok-Ngorlung (East Siang)	148.00	137.50
Assam			
6.	Matia (Goalpara)	250.00	139.91

1	2	3	4
7.	Chariduar (Sonitpur)	300.00	179.85
Bihar			
8.	Begusarai (Begusarai)	300.00	636.25
9.	Bhagalpur (Bhagalpur)	50.00	408.40
10.	Chhapra (Chhapra)	50.00	90.00
11.	Darbhanga (Darbhanga)	50.00	-
12.	Muzaffarpur (Muzaffarpur)	50.00	90.00
Chhattisgarh			
13.	Borai (Durg)	793.00	768.53
14.	Siltara (Raipur)	1000.00	1610.36
Goa			
15.	Electronic- City (Verna-Plateau)	824.00	1239.24
Gujarat			
16.	Gandhidham (Kutch)	585.00	500.00
17.	Palanpur (Banskantha)	250.00	500.00
18.	Vagra (Bharauch)	1000.00	3940.25
Haryana			
19.	Bawal (Rewari)	1000.00	6259.19
20.	Saha (Ambala)	400.00	892.96
Himachal Pradesh			
21.	Kangra (Kangra)	450.00	387.63
Jammu & Kashmir			
22.	Lassipora (Pulwama)	250.00	320.43
23.	Samba (Jammu)	900.00	933.13
Jharkhand			
24.	Hazaribagh (Hazaribagh)	200.00	241.19
Karnataka			
25.	Dharwad (Dharwad)	1000.00	5165.00
26.	Raichur (Raichur)	1000.00	1916.69
27.	Hassan (Hassan)	1000.00	6319.52
Kerala			
28.	Kannur-Kozikode (Kannur-Kozhikode)	1000.00	2508.37
29.	Alappuza-Malappuram (Alappuza-Malappuram)	1000.00	3004.37
Madhya Pradesh			
30.	Chainpura (Guna)	100.00	160.00
31.	Ghirongi (Bhind)	1000.00	3178.93
32.	Kheda (Dhar)	1000.00	1161.63
33.	Satlapur (Raisen)	535.00	500.00
Maharashtra			
34.	Akola (Akola)	1000.00	1168.26
35.	Chandrapur (Chandrapur)	815.00	732.25
36.	Dhule (Dhule)	580.00	746.69
37.	Nanded (Nanded)	910.00	976.03
38.	Ratnagiri (Ratnagiri)	440.00	116.64
Manipur			
39.	Lamlai-Napet (Imphal)	150.00	126.59
Meghalaya			
40.	Mendhipattar (East Garo Hills)	50.00	
Mizoram			
41.	Luangmual (Aizawl)	300.00	160.44
Nagaland			
42.	Ganeshnagar (Kohima)	1500.00	320.25

1	2	3	4
Orissa			
43.	Chhatrapur (Ganjam)	50.00	90.84
44.	Kalinganagar-Duburi (Cuttack)	600.00	1350.00
45.	Jharsuguda (Jharsuguda)	200.00	100.00
46.	Kesinga (Kalahandi)	125.00	37.02
Pondicherry			
47.	Polagam-Karaikal (Karaikal)	400.00	685.00
Punjab			
48.	Bthainda (Bthainda)	1000.00	950.78
49.	Pathankot (Gurdaspur)	1000.00	500.00
Rajasthan			
50.	Abu-Road (Sirohi)	1000.00	2150.76
51.	Bhilwara (Bhilwara)	300.00	150.00
52.	Khara (Bikaner)	450.00	340.78
53.	Dholpur (Dholpur)	320.00	255.34
54.	Jhalawar (Jhalawar)	300.00	150.00
Tamil Nadu			
55.	Erode (Periyar)	1000.00	7931.72
56.	Oragadam (Kancheepuram)	800.00	242.65
57.	Tirunelveli-Gangai Kondan (Tirunelveli-Kattabomman)	930.00	1500.00
Tripura			
58.	Bodhjangnagar (West Tripura)	570.00	-
Uttar Pradesh			
59.	Bijauli (Jhansi)	593.00	285.00
60.	Jamaur (Shahjahanpur)	315.00	127.81
61.	Pakbara (Moradabad)	800.00	859.15
62.	Dibiapur (Auraiya)	150.00	75.00
63.	Khurja (Bulandshahr)	420.00	285.00
64.	Satharia (Jaunpur)	567.00	452.07
65.	Shajanwa (Gorakhpur)	1000.00	851.13
West Bengal			
65.	Bolpur (Birbhum)	100.00	100.00
67.	Jalpaiguri (Jalpaiguri)	100.00	100.00
68.	Malda (Malda)	300.00	274.25
	Total	37071.00	68682.50

Provisional Release to Shivrajpur-Padampur (Uttaranchal): Rs.50 lakh

Total Central Assistance released including Shivrajpur-Padampur (Uttaranchal): Rs.37071 lakh + Rs.50 lakh = Rs.37121 lakh

[Translation]

Cases Pending with MRTP Commission

*298. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered with the MRTP Commission during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the above said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Commission for speedy disposal of remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of cases registered with the MRTP Commission and disposed of during the last three years are as follows:

	1999	2000	2001
Cases at the beginning of the year	4515	4720	5066
Registered	901	847	436
Disposed of	696	501	2825
Pending	4720	5066	2677

(c) MRTP Commission is a national level quasi-judicial body; consideration of cases by it is a judicial process. The number of pending cases has been substantially reduced in 2001.

Production/Consumption/Export of Salt

*299. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) the details of production, consumption and export of salt during each of the last three years upto June 30, 2002;

(b) the details of facilities being provided by the Government to boost the production and export of salt;

(c) whether any financial assistance is also being given to State Governments for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details of assistance so far provided to each State during the above period;

(e) whether warehousing facility is available at the various ports for storing salt;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The details of production, consumption and export of salt for the last three years upto May 31, 2002 are given below:

(Figures in lakh M.T.)

Year	Production	Consumption		Export
		Edible	Industrial	
1999	144.53	49.44	60.64	8.29
2000	156.51	52.21	68.10	10.57
2001	142.84	50.04	64 92	16.13
2002 (upto May)	89.25	20.13	26.86	6.60

(b) Government is taking the following steps to boost the production of salt in the country.

(i) Site inspection is undertaken to judge the suitability of the land for salt manufacture and appropriate recommendations made for allotment of land by the State Governments for the purpose.

(ii) Technical guidance is provided for the construction of salt works on scientific lines.

(iii) Setting up of Salt Refineries in the salt producing areas is encouraged to meet the increasing demand of quality salt for edible, industrial and export purposes which help in boosting up the production of common salt.

(iv) Financial assistance in the form of ex-gratia and loan is provided to the salt works which suffer damages due to natural calamities like floods/ cyclones etc. to enable them to recommence their production. Financial assistance is also extended for undertaking development and labour welfare schemes in the salt works.

(v) Departmental salt land suitable for salt manufacture is leased out to private parties for salt manufacture.

(vi) The Government vide Notification No.GSR 639(E) dated 4.9.2001, has replaced consignment-wise permit system for removal of salt from salt factories with the Self Removal Procedure (SRP) which will minimize hassles and thereby help in the increase of salt production.

Also Government is taking following steps to promote export of salt:

(i) Salt exported is exempted from the payment of cess.

(ii) Office of the Salt Commissioner is the designated inspecting agency for issuing Export Worthy Certificate (EWC) for export of all types salt. EWC is issued free of charge.

(iii) Export of salt has been brought under Open General License with effect from August, 1987 and quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh M.T. on export of iodized salt has been lifted from July, 1992.

(iv) Star Trading Houses & Export Houses have been exempted from compulsory pre-shipment inspection of salt.

(v) Railways are according priority "B" for export of common and iodized salt by rail to neighbouring countries.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Office of the Salt Commissioner extends financial assistance for execution of development and labour welfare schemes sponsored by State Governments and Salt Producers. Details for the last three years are given below:

(Flg. in Rs. lakhs)

State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
Gujarat	98.97	191.52	55.62
Andhra Pradesh	6.29	6.25	-
Tamil Nadu	8.52	6.71	4.98
West Bengal	6.82	-	-
Orissa	3.92	0.45	1.78
Maharashtra	-	-	-
Karnataka	-	-	-
Rajasthan	11.29	6.22	8.12
Grand Total	135.81	211.15	70.50

(e) to (g) Separate warehousing facilities are not available at ports for storing salt. However, the common facilities available for other commodities can be made use by salt exporters. Salt Department lands located near the ports and not fit for salt manufacture are licensed to exporters for storing salt. Similarly, Port trust lands are also leased/licensed to exporters for storing salt. The Salt Works located within 25 Km. from the ports can store the salt within their Salt Works and load in the vessel on its arrival.

[English]

Decline in Coffee Exports

*300. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian coffee industry is facing worst ever crisis with international prices plummeting and exports declining;

(b) if so, whether India's coffee exports had fallen by 11 per cent during the first six months of the current calendar year;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide succour to coffee planters;

(d) whether any campaign has been launched for promotion of Coffee in the domestic market as well as in the international market to absorb the excess stocks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to low prices of coffee prevailing in the international market the coffee exports from India have declined during the first six months of the current calendar year as compared to the corresponding period.

(c) The Govt. of India through Coffee Board has been implementing several coffee developmental schemes under which various types of technical and financial assistance are provided to coffee planters. In addition, the Govt. of India has provided 5% interest relief to small coffee growers on crop loans taken by them from the financial institutions. Similarly, Indian coffee exporters were provided financial assistance for reducing their handling/transportation costs. Recently, all types of loans of coffee growers, outstanding as on 30.6.2002 and not classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have been consolidated into a single term loan viz. Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL), 2002 with repayment schedule ranging between 7-9 years including an initial repayment holiday of two years.

(d) and (e) The Coffee Board has already initiated several steps to promote coffee exports and also for increasing domestic consumption of coffee. The Board is implementing a medium term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key international markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next few years. Similarly, for increasing domestic consumption of coffee, the Coffee Board is taking various steps including the initiative to encourage procurement and marketing of coffee by the Indian Coffee Marketing Cooperative Ltd. (COMARK) in collaboration with leading co-operative societies viz. National Dairy Development Board and Gujarat Cooperative of Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) .

[Translation]

Assistance by World Bank for Roads and Highways

2845. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank is providing assistance to the State Governments for roads and highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States alongwith the names of programmes being implemented therein with the said assistance; and

(d) the extent to which improvement has been made in regard to highways and transport facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) World Bank has provided assistance for five State sector transport projects since 1997. Details of these projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

World Bank/International Development Association (IDA) assisted Roads & Highways Projects under implementation in various States

($ million)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Donor	Participating States	Date of Signing	Loan Amount	Programme implemented under the project	Cumulative Disbursements as on 30.06.02
1	Andhra Pradesh State Highway	World Bank	Andhra Pradesh	30.07.97	350.00	Widening & strengthening of 1412 Kms of State Highways as also maintenance & Institutional Development	218.750
2	Gujarat State Highway Project	World Bank	Gujarat	18.10.00	381.00	Widening & strengthening of 800-900 kms of high traffic volume state highways in Gujarat	49.442
3	Karnataka State Highway Imp. Project	World Bank	Karnataka	26.07.01	360.00	Upgrading and widening of about 1,000 km of priority state roads as also rehabilitating of about 1300 km of state roads in Karnataka	24.445
4	Kerala State Transport Project	World Bank	Kerala	06.05.02	255.00	Widening & strengthening of 600 km of state roads as also maintenance & Institutional strengthening	7.500
5	Mizoram State Road Project	IDA	Mizoram	06.05.02	60.00	Widening & strengthening of 169 kms of state roads as also maintenance & Institutional capacity improvement.	2.000

[English]

Demand and Supply of Beverages

2846. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian whisky, beer and wines are in great demand in the USA and Europe;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote these beverages globally;

(c) whether any orders have been received from the above countries for the supply of beverages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Indian spirit and beverages are getting popular in the USA and Europe. The Government through APEDA is providing financial assistance to the exporters under the scheme of Export Promotion and Market Development. Export statistics of Beer made from malt, wine and whisky to USA and Europe for the last two years is as under:

Year	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
2000-01 (April-March)	736.24
2001-02 (April-Feb.)	492.6.8

(Source: DGCI&S)

Plantation of Tea and Coffee

2847. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) whether soil, agro-climatic condition suitable for tea and coffee plantation in different regions of the country have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any area in Orissa has been found suitable;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken since then for plantation of coffee and tea in these areas and the achievements made so far; and

(e) the projected growth of tea and coffee production in different parts of the country including Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that regarding tea, over the last two decades several feasibility studies have been undertaken to assess the soil and agro climatic condition for determining the suitability of tea plantation in unexploited non-traditional areas of the country for tea plantation on a commercial scale. The identified areas have been declared as non-traditional areas for extending the benefit of financial assistance under Tea Board's Scheme. These areas include States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Garhwal and Kumaon hills in Uttaranchal, non-tea growing areas in the districts of Idukki and Wyanad in Kerala, Kodagu district in Karnataka, Kodaikanal and Anamalais in Tamil Nadu, North Cachar hills and Karbi Anglong Autonomous districts in Assam, southern district in Tripura, Mandi and Chamba districts in Himachal Pradesh and Kishanganj district of Bihar. Surveys were conducted by the Tea Board in the districts of Kalahandi,. Rayagada and Keonjhar to assess the suitability of the areas for tea cultivation in the State of Orissa. The identified areas were prima facie found suitable for tea cultivation subject to provision of assured artificial irrigation during the dry months at an economic cost for which Tea Board provides assistance under its Plan Schemes. So far 213 ha. of land is under tea cultivation in the Keonjhar District of Orissa.

Traditionally coffee has been commercially cultivated in the three southern states namely Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As agro climatic conditions such as elevation aspects, rainfall pattern, temperature range, shade, soil profile etc. are crucial for coffee cultivation, the regions viz. Western ghats and Eastern ghats were identified as ideal locations for commercial coffee cultivation in India. However, to a limited extent, certain Eastern ghat areas in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa as well as some hilly tracts in the seven North Eastern states were also found suitable for coffee cultivation according to the surveys carried out by the Coffee Board during 1970s and 1980s. The Coffee Board implemented a Special Area Programme in Orissa during the 9th Plan to bring in new area under coffee cultivation, consolidate existing holdings to improve productivity & for upgradation of quality etc. An estimated extent of 22,257 ha. spread over six districts of Orissa state namely Koraput, Rayagada, Kalhandi, Kandhamar, Keonjhar and Gajapathi were found suitable for cultivation of coffee. Currently coffee is cultivated in about 2000 ha. in the state of Orissa.

The projected tea and coffee production in the country including Orissa, by the end of 10th Five year Plan is 1044.00 million kgs. and 4,20,000 MT respectively as against 875 million kgs of production of tea and 3,00,600 MT production of coffee during the terminal year of the 9th Plan.

C&AG Observation on Printing of Accounts by Private Printers

2848. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its Report No.2 of 2000 (Civil) in para 5.2 has brought out the fact of giving No Objection Certificates to Ministries and Departments during 1993-98 for printing of accounts and reports due to which the printing work had to be passed on to private printers;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving NOC and lack of modernisation of the Government presses which are decades old;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and fix the accountability and responsibility of the people responsible for not modernisation of the presses and giving NOCs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir. No Objection Certificates (NOC) are issued, only in compelling circumstances after examining all the details of work and possibility of the same getting done through Government of India Presses.

However, on receipt of request from Ministry/ Department for grant of NOC, the proposal is properly scrutinized and NOC is issued in each case where necessary.

NOCs issued constitute only about 1% of the total jobs received for printing by the Directorate of Printing.

(b) to (d) The reasons for according NOC are as follows:

1. Non-availability of specific quality of paper demanded by indenting Department;

2. Non-availability of infrastructure required for special quality printing;

3. Short time provided by the indenting Department for jobs, and

4. Receipt of emergent work at times.

A consolidated proposal for modernisation/ restructuring of the Presses has been proposed. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

In view of the above, the issue regarding fixing responsibility/accountability connected with modernisation of the Presses, however, does not arise.

[Translation]

Duty on Ethanol

2849. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Chini Milon Ki Ethanol Uttapaden Yojana Ko Gehra Jhatka" published in Delhi edition of 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item refers to the proposal on reduction of surcharge by 75 paise per litre on ethanol doped petrol.

(c) The matter is under examination.

Gram Swarojgar Yojana

2850. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the public sector banks which are providing loans under Golden Jubilee Gram Swarojgar Yojana in Gujarat;

(b) the bank-wise loans provided in the State under the scheme, since its implementation;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any targets for banks for providing loan under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the target fixed for the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that, all the scheduled commercial banks, Regional Rural banks, District Central Cooperative Banks and Agriculture and Rural Development

Banks are providing loans under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) in all the States, including Gujarat, of the country.

(b) The bank-wise details of the loans provided in Gujarat under the SGSY Scheme, since its implementation is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) The State-wise credit mobilization targets are fixed by the Government of India and are communicated to banks by RBI. The State-wise targets are allocated among the commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) based on acceptable parameters like resources, number of branches, etc. The details of State-wise targets fixed under SGSY for the current year is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Bank-wise details of loans provided under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) in Gujarat since its implementation

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of Bank	Total Loan
1	2	3
1.	Bank of Baroda	2819.06
2.	Bank of India	618.06
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	24.73
4.	Central Bank of India	592.75
5.	Dena Bank	1653.88
6.	Indian Bank	26.80
7.	Indian Overseas Bank	59.57
8.	Syndicate Bank	63.66
9.	Union Bank of India	374.13
10.	UCO Bank	91.63
11.	State Bank of India	1564.03
12.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1215.80
13.	Punjab National Bank	34.24
14.	Other Commercial Banks	66.41
	Sub-Total	9204.75
15.	Regional Rural Banks (9)	2421.25
16.	Agri. Rural Dev. Bank	580.63
17.	District Central Co-op Bank	2964.67
18.	Other Co-operatives	139.79
19.	Other Institutions	424.32
	Sub-Total	6530.66
	Grand Total	15735.41

Statement-II

State-wise details of targets fixed under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana during the current year, 2002-2003

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Target Fixed
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	181.76
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8112.51
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	680.22
4.	Assam	9244.94
5.	Bihar	37040.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	6542.33
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	90.00
8.	Daman & Diu	206.30
9.	Goa	230.35
10.	Gujarat	4544.28
11.	Haryana	3537.27
12.	Himachal Pradesh	2244.90
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	3113.25
14.	Jharkhand	12898.49
15.	Karnataka	12521.30

1	2	3
16.	Kerala	3219.86
17.	Lakshadweep	170.42
18.	Madhya Pradesh	14377.03
19.	Maharashtra	79739.86
20.	Manipur	531.35
21.	Meghalaya	1254.92
22.	Mizoram	184.41
23.	Nagaland	642.83
24.	Orissa	11121.59
25.	Pondicherry	175.37
26.	Punjab	1539.37
27.	Rajasthan	11271.87
28.	Sikkim	237.08
29.	Tamil Nadu	7332.16
30.	Tripura	1462.07
31.	Uttar Pradesh	58500.15
32.	Uttaranchal	3436.29
33.	West Bengal	20000.00
	Total	254382.48

Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

2851. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government-have received any request from the Maharashtra Government to extend the cotton monopoly scheme from June, 2002 by another one year;

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

(c) the minimum support price fixed for B.T. Cotton for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) In 2001, the Government of Maharashtra had requested the Union Government to approve the extension of the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for a period of five years beyond June 2001, i.e. upto June, 2006. The Union Government has accepted the proposal of the Government of Maharashtra.

(c) Minimum Support Price for Bt Cotton has not been fixed for the current cotton year 2001-02 (October-September) as commercial cultivation of Bt Cotton in India has been permitted from the 2002-03 cotton year.

Study to Find out Export Prospects

2852. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the export prospects from various States particularly from Rajasthan;

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

(c) the incentives provided or being provided by the Union Government to promote export of various items/ commodities/goods especially from Rajasthan;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal in this regard from the Rajasthan Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Central Government interacts with the State Governments on a regular basis in order to evaluate potential of export and to boost export production and exports.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Commerce has implemented a new scheme called Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities (ASIDE) Scheme from 2001- 02, to assist States in the development of export infrastructure. In addition to this, exporters from States are eligible to access Market Development Assistance and Market Access Initiative Scheme for appropriate assistance. Rs. 6 crore has been sanctioned and released for Rajasthan under the ASIDE Scheme as first instalment of year 2002-03. As per this scheme the

projects in this regard have to be approved by the State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State.

[English]

Ready-made Garments Complex in Andhra Pradesh

2853. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to contribute to the proposed ready-made garments complex in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The Project Approval Committee, constituted under the guidelines of the "Apparel Park for Exports" scheme, has accorded in-principal approval to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh's Project Proposal for setting up an Apparel Park at Visakhapatnam. Under the scheme, Government of India assistance to the tune of 75% of the infrastructure development cost subject to a maximum of Rs.10 crores is admissible. In addition, 100% assistance upto a maximum of Rs.5 crores is available for setting up of an effluent treatment plant, creche(s), any multi purpose centre/hall for marketing/display etc. and assistance to the tune of 50% subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 crores is available for the cost of any training facility created in the park.

Destroying of Narcotics

2854. SHRI. GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) lights up Narcotics seized; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilizing some of them like Ganja for manufacture of medicinal drugs under the Government supervision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Seized narcotic drugs, other than opium, morphine, codeine and thebaine, are destroyed.

(b) Seized opium, morphine, codeine and thebaine are utilized for extraction of alkaloids for medicinal and scientific use. Ganja does not have any utility for manufacturing medicinal drugs.

Taxes on Domestic Air Travel

2855. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic air travel has become costlier than abroad due to irrational taxes;

(b) if so, whether there is a demand to reduce the taxes;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the taxes keeping in view the downslide progress of tourism sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A reference has been received from the Ministry of Tourism, standing that the high cost of air travel is a hurdle in the promotion of domestic tourism. They have also stated that the cost of domestic travel can be reduced by withdrawing the Inland Air Travel tax on domestic air tickets, treatment of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as "declared goods" under the Central Sales Tax Act and abolishing excise duty on ATF. The matter is being examined.

Short Levy of Excise Duty

2856. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Excise Commissionerates in the country have not been levying duty of excise correctly as per the notifications and have been causing loss of revenue to the State worth several hundred crores of rupees and but for the pointing out by the audit, the entire amount would have gone to the assessees either due to involvement of the officials with assessees or because of their negligence;

(b) if so, the number of cases of short levy of duty in the Commissionerates came to light during the last three years, commissionerate-wise and how much of money was involved therein which was later on recovered from the assessees; and

(c) the action taken against the assessees and officials concerned?

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

[Translation]

Hostels for Tribal Girls

2857. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned funds for construction of hostels for tribal girl students in Government Mankurbai Womens College, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount released to the State Government for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which construction of the said hostel is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned a Hostel for ST girls students in the Mankunwarbai Women College, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 44,81,875/- (Rupees forty four lakhs eighty one thousand eight hundred seventy five only) has been released to the State Government.

(c) The construction work is under taken by the concerned State Government. The time by which the construction of the said hostel will be completed has not been indicated by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Legislation for Silk Industry

2858. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to come up with uniform legislation for the silk industry to be enforced by all the States and to issue appropriate guidelines in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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 TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) No. Sir. No such proposal from the Govt. of Karnataka has been received.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Schemes for the Development of SC/ST

2859. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals regarding development schemes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes sent by the State Government of Bihar and Jharkhand; and

(b) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The information regarding development schemes for Scheduled Castes in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand is given in the enclosed statement-I.

The information with regard to development schemes for Scheduled Tribes in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No.	Details about proposals regarding Development Schemes for Scheduled Castes	Action taken/proposed to be taken
1	2	3
1.	Under the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupation, a proposal for Central Assistance for the financial year 2002-2003 has been received from the State Govt. of Jharkhand	The State Government of Jharkhand has been asked to confirm the expenditure during 2001-2002 so that committed liability for 2002-03 could be fixed.

1	2	3
2.	Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Implementation of the Protection of the Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Protection of Atrocities) Act, 1989, a proposal for release of Central Assistance for the financial year 2002-2003 from State Governments of Jharkhand and Bihar have been received.	The clarification regarding committed liability from the State Government of Jharkhand is awaited. Proposal from State Government of Bihar was received on 29.07.2002 and is under scrutiny.
3.	(i) Under the Scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Castes boys and girls, 2 proposals (1 each for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) have been received from the State of Bihar.	i) Funds could not be released to the Government of Bihar for want of certain documents like utilisation certificates, physical progress of the grants sanctioned previously.
	(ii) From Jharkhand State, 1 proposal in the year 2001-2002 has been received under this Scheme.	ii) An amount of Rs. 4.92 crores has been released during the year 2001-2002.
4.	(i) Under the Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for students belonging to weaker sections, 3 proposals (1 each for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002) have been received from the State of Bihar.	i) Funds could not be released to the Government of Bihar for want of certain documents like utilisation certificates, physical progress of the grants sanctioned previously.
	(ii) From Jharkhand State, 1 proposal in the year 2001-2002 has been received under this Scheme.	ii) An amount of Rs. 0.046 crores has been released during the year 2001-2002.
5.	(i) Under the Scheme of Book Banks for Scheduled Castes students, 2 proposals (1 each for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) have been received from the State of Bihar.	i) Funds could not be released to the Government of Bihar for want of certain documents like utilisation certificates, physical progress of the grants sanctioned previously.
	(ii) From Jharkhand State, 1 proposal in the year 2001-2002 has been received under this Scheme.	ii) The proposal could not be approved, as the State Government has not submitted the proposal in the prescribed proforma with the requisite documents.
6.	(i) Under the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST student. 2 proposals (1 each for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) have been received from the State of Bihar.	i) Funds could not be released to the Government of Bihar for want of certain documents like utilisation certificates, physical progress of the grants sanctioned previously.
	(ii) From Jharkhand State, 1 proposal in the year 2000-2001 has been received under this Scheme.	ii) An amount of Rs. 0.05 crores has been released during the year 2000-2001.
7.	(i) A total of 124 proposals have been received by NSFDC from Bihar for development of SC/ST.	i) 112 proposals have been sanctioned by NSFDC involving Rs. 43.32 crores, 11 proposals have been dropped due to non submission of details by the SCA and remaining one proposal is pending with NSFDC for want of clarification to be provided by the State Scheduled Castes Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd.

1	2	3
	(ii) After bifurcation of the State, the Government of Jharkhand had nominated Jharkhand Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Development Corporation as State Channelising Agency (SCA) for the development of Scheduled Castes in the State of Jharkhand. NSFDC has received 3 proposals from SCA	ii) NSFDC has sanctioned 2 proposals involving NSFDC term loan assistance of Rs. 2.97 crores, 1 proposal is pending due to non-submission of details by the SCA.
8.	(i) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSFKDC) has received 12 income generating proposals under various activities from Bihar State Scheduled Castes Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd. (BSCCDC), Patna. During the Financial year 1998-99 (5 schemes) and 2001-2002 (7 schemes) with the total project cost of Rs. 8.61 crores of which NSFKDC share was Rs. 6.95 crores.	i) All the project proposals were sanctioned by NSFKDC and requested the SCA to seek the financial assistance under the sanctioned schemes. In response to above sanction, Bihar State Scheduled Castes Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd. has only availed Rs. 0.67 crores so far during the financial year 1999-2000. NSFKDC has also sanctioned a loan component of Rs. 1.75 crores to Bihar State Scheduled Castes Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd. for setting up of 100 units of Sanitary Mart during the financial year 2000-01 but the loan component has not been availed by the SCA.
	(ii) NSFKDS has received 9 income generating project proposals under various activities from Jharkhand State Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd. (JSTCDC), Ranchi with the project cost of Rs. 2.90 crores of which NSFKDC share was amounting to Rs. 2.46 crores during the financial year 2001-2002.	ii) All the project proposals were sanctioned by NSKFDC and the loan under the schemes were released to Jharkhand State Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd.

Statement-II

Government of Bihar:

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of proposals received/ sanctioned	Amount released Rs.	Status
1	Article 275(1) of the Constitution	11/11	2,09,35,000	Rs. 209.35 lakhs was released as per the entitlement of the State for 2001-02 against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 408.743 lakhs. Balance is to be released during 2002-03.

Government of Jharkhand :

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of proposals received/ sanctioned	Amount released Rs.	Status
1	Article 275(1) of the Constitution	04/04	22,08,15,000	There is no proposal pending in this Ministry in this scheme.
2	Research & Training (Development of PTGs)	02/00	Nil	*

* (i) The Government of Jharkhand has unspent balance of Rs.2 crores released during the year 1998-99 and 2000-01

(ii) The Government of Jharkhand has been requested on 2.7.2001 and 1.8.2001 to furnish the following informations

(a) A Certificate indicating that proposed activities are not covered under any existing scheme.

(b) Information about implementation of the project sanctioned during 2000-2001 (Rs 100.00 lakhs was released). While sanctioning the project the Government of Jharkhand was requested to furnish a progress report on the utilization of funds and physical achievements made. The same is yet to be received.

(iii) The utilization certificate of the previous years releases and progress report on physical achievements are still awaited. The Finance Division of this Ministry has instructed that only after getting UCs in the prescribed proforma the file may be referred to the IFD.

Villages under HVDS

2860. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Handloom Village Development Scheme in Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the total number of employment opportunities created under the mentioned scheme;

(c) the number of schemes sanctioned by the Government on the basis of proposal received from the State Government; and

(d) the funds distributed to the State Government under these schemes during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) No villages have been covered under the Integrated Handloom Village Development (IHVD) Scheme during the last 3 years as the scheme stands discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.1997.

(b) One project was sanctioned in the year 1995-96 under the IHVD scheme to cover 100 beneficiaries in Village Pokhrikalan, district Palamu.

(c) and (d) Jharkhand State came into being on November, 15, 2000. So far, the State has not sent any viable proposal for assistance under any of the handloom sector schemes.

[English]

Income Tax Against Bank and FIs

2861. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised and foreign banks, financial institutions and non- banking finance companies owe a whooping sum as income tax dues to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Income Tax department does not maintain separate details in respect of foreign banks, financial institutions and non-banking finance companies.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Recovery of taxes is a continuous process involving various statutory procedures. Action taken by the Government to recover any dues would depend on the facts of each case.

Voluntary Retirement

2862. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise/post-wise number of officials of his Ministry/attached offices and Autonomous organisations who sought voluntary retirement during each of the last two years;

(b) the benefits given to such officials;

(c) the number of applications from officials pending for such retirement as on date;

(d) whether such retirements have in any way effected smooth functioning of his Ministry;

(e) if so, the extent thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to make arrangements to fill up all such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) As per Rule 48-A of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, a Government Servant who has completed 20 years' qualifying service may, by giving notice of not less than three months in writing to the appointing authority, seek voluntary retirement from service, subject to his/her notice being accepted by the concerned appointing authority. The normal retirement benefits, as applicable under the CCS (pension) Rules,1972, are applicable in this case.

The implementation of the above mentioned provisions relating to voluntary retirement is made by various administrative authorities/appointing authorities under various offices of the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs, which are scattered all over India and no centralised data is maintained.

Meeting with WTO on Privatisation of PSUs

2863. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team on behalf of Union Government has met in Geneva with the officials of World Trade Organisation recently and apprised them of the changes made in Trade and Commerce of India and also privatisation policy of the Union Government;

(b) whether in the said meeting, WTO officials have suggested that there should not be any control of Central Government on these PSUs, having failed and exhausted the wealth of the country;

(c) if so, whether these PSUs related to rail, transport, defence sectors; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome of the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The trade policies and practices of all the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Members are subject to periodic review by the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) which is composed of representatives of all the WTO Members. This is provided for under Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO. The frequency of review is determined on the basis of the share of world trade of the Members in a recent representative period. The first four trading entities so identified (presently Canada, European Union, Japan and USA) are subject to review every two years; the next 16 are reviewed every four years. Other Members are reviewed every six years; a longer period may be fixed for least-developed country Members. India's trade policy is reviewed after every four years. The third trade policy review of India took place in WTO on 19 and 21 June 2002 while the earlier one took place in 1998. The trade policy review meeting involved an appreciation of India's trade policies and practices under three broad headings, namely, economic policies; trade policy regime; and sectoral policies. The discussions during this review was primarily based on two reports-one prepared by the WTO Secretariat and the other by the Government of India. The Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation for this review meeting. The other members of the delegation were the concerned officers of the Trade Policy Division of the Department of Commerce, an officer from the office of the Director General of Foreign Trade, an officer from the Department of Economic Affairs and two officers from the Reserve Bank of India. The officers of the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva also constituted part of the delegation during the review meeting.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The WTO Secretariat Report, which was prepared by them for the Review consists of four chapters, which deals with economic environment; trade policy regime; framework and objectives; trade policies and practices by measure; and trade policies by selected sectors. Based on these four chapters, the Secretariat Report has an introductory section called "Summary Observations". Para 14 of the Summary Observations of the WTO Secretariat Report had a printing mistake concerning the disinvestment policy of the Government of India. This gave an erroneous impression that India would reduce its equity to 26%, or lower in strategic companies, including those involved in the arms and ammunition, defence, atomic energy and railway transport sectors. The WTO Secretariat has since corrected this mis-print. The correction reflects the factual position that India is willing to reduce its equity in non-strategic companies upto 26%, or lower in some cases. The Chapter III of the WTO Secretariat has a section on State-owned enterprises, which has given information on different aspects of public sector enterprises including the schemes for their revival and the Government's policy on disinvestment.

(d) The third trade policy review of India attracted a high level of participation and interest by the WTO Members. In her concluding remarks, the Chairperson of the WTO Trade Policy Review Body stated that this review meeting had led to a much better understanding of India's trade policies and summed up the proceedings as follows: "... The large number of advance questions, numerous interventions (some 30) and the high level of attendance indicate the important role that India plays at the WTO. India was commended for its reform process, including trade liberalisation, and simplification of the trade and investment regime. However, I think we all agree that India needs to do more if growth targets are to be met and a serious dent is to be made in the still high rate of poverty. In this regard, Members gave India their full support for its efforts to reform the economy. Many Members added that these efforts would be greatly

enhanced by steps on the part of India's trading partners to reduce, if not remove, their impediments to India's exports, especially in the context of new negotiations in line with the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). India has clearly stated its support for the WTO and the DDA but considers that if further progress is to be made, the onus remains on the developed countries to keep the promises made in Doha. This view was endorsed by many other Members, who look to India for leadership in these negotiations." India also replied to the various questions posed by the WTO Members during the trade policy review.

Small Saving Schemes

2864. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal tops the list under small saving schemes for the last ten years;

(b) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal had proposed the Union Government to share the surplus money from small saving schemes between the State Government and the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Eleventh Finance Commission did not favour the scheme suggested by the Government of West Bengal, which provided for giving 75% of the surplus generated from small savings collections after meeting the expenditure on account of repayment, payment of interest and management expenses as grants to the States.

[Translation]

V.R.S. Dues on N.T.C.

2865. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees who sought voluntary retirement scheme in NTC, unit-wise;

(b) whether the National Textile Corporation has been facing problems in raising required funds to settle its VRS dues;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the estimated amount needed for the purpose of VRS and amount raised by NTC till date; and

(e) the measures to be taken for raising remaining amount to complete the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Since 1.1.2002, 7,682 employees have been relieved under VRS (Unit-wise list is enclosed as statement-I.) Further, VRS applications received from 12,530 employees in 18 unviable mills are under process (Unit wise statement-II is enclosed.)

(b) to (e) An amount of Rs.1600 crores (approx.) will be needed for giving VRS to surplus workers in NTC. As per Draft Rehabilitation Schemes, this amount is to be raised from sale of surplus lands/assets. However, to start the process, Government permitted NTC to issue Bonds for Rs.500 crores on Govt. Guarantee. NTC has been able to raise Rs.333 crores (approx.) through NTC Bonds till date. Balance amount would be raised through loan/ sale of assets for which process has already begun.

Statement-I

List of Mills where VRS applications were accepted and payment made since 1.1.2002

S.No.	Mill	Location	Number of Employees taken VRS	Date of Closure	Amount paid (in Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Adoni cotton mills	Adoni, AP	109	06-May	326
2	Bangarsi textile mills	24, Parganas, WB	64	30-Apr.	235.6
3	Bengal fine-2	Nadia, WB	45	30-Apr.	160.27

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Central cotton	WB	216	30-Apr.	791.46
5	Edward mills	Beawar, Rajasthan	149	06-May	393.28
6	Gaya cotton, Bihar	Gaya, Bihar	147	30-Apr.	454.26
7	Jyoti weaving mills	Calcutta	92	30-Apr.	351.33
8	Kalyanmal mills	Indore, MP	1212	31-May	2992.51
9	Kohinoor no.2	Mumbai (MN)	83	08-May	395.23
10	Kohinoor no.3	Mumbai (MN)	16	01-May	66.56
11	M.S.K. mills	Gulbarga, Karnataka	740	17-Apr.	2231.39
12	Manindra B.T. mills	Murshidabad, WB	101	30-Apr.	366.41
13	Natraj Spg. Mills	Nirmal, AP	59	30-Apr.	194.4
14	Netha Spg. & wvg.	Secunderabad, AP	127	30-Apr.	237.6
15	Petlad text mills	Ahmedabad, Guj.	386	19-Apr.	1107.39
16	Rajkot textile	Rajkot, Guj.	306	19-Apr.	944.87
17	Shree Mahalakshmi	24 Parganas, WB	144	30-Apr.	556.91
18	Swadeshi textile	Indore, MP	591	31-May	1506.56
19	New Manekchowk	Ahmedabad, Guj.	809	31-July	2427
20	Viramgam text. Mills	Virambam, Guj.	762	31-July	2286
	Total		6158		18025
B. Mills of NTC (TNP) and NTC (HC) - not referred to BIFR					
21	Krishnaveni	Coimbatore TN	223	31-May	579
22	Om Parashkti	Coimbatore TN	297	31-May	856
23	Kaleeswarar A	Coimbatore TN	215		565
24	Somasundaram	Coimbatore TN	617		1669
25	Swadeshi mills	Pondicherry	172		465
	Total		1524		4134
	Grand Total		7,682		22159

Statement-II

Mills where VRS applications are under process/consideration

S.No.	Mill	NTC	VRS applications received
1	Ajam Jahi mills	APKKM	453
2	Mysore spg. & wvg. mills	APKKM	141
3	Ahmedabad Jupiter	Guj.	1044
4	Mahalaxmi text mills	Guj.	736
5	Rajnagar mill no.2	Guj.	663
6	Indu no.4	MN	0
7	Hira mills	MP	875
8	Indore Malwa mills	MP	1980
9	Bengal Nagpur cotton mills	MP	1201
10	Raebareli textile mills	UP	150
11	Shri Vikram mills	UP	388
12	Laxmirattan mills	UP	1127
13	Muir mills	UP	1071
14	Atherton mills	UP	770
15	Lord Krishna mills	UP	492
16	SWADESHI mills, Kanpur	UP	738
17	New Victoria mills	UP	657
18	Bijli cotton mills	UP	44
	Total		2,530

[English]

Nomadic Tribes

2866. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tribes are still living a nomadic life;

(b) if so, the names and the total population of such tribes, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to educate them and settle them permanently?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Asset Reconstruction Fund

2867. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has decided to set up an internal Asset Reconstruction Fund (ARF);

(b) if so, details thereof along with its terms of reference; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the Net Asset Values (NAV) of various schemes of UTI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGRAM GEETE): (a) and (b) UTI has intimated that it has decided to set up the Asset Reconstruction Fund to acquire the Non Performing Assets of the open-ended schemes of UTI in order to attempt the recovery of the amounts owed to various schemes of the Trust, in a more focused manner. The amount recovered would, after deduction of expenses incurred by the ARF for realization, be transferred to the Schemes from which the assets were originally transferred to the ARF.

(c) According to UTI, improvement of Net Asset Values is a function of the state of the market and the ability of fund management. The question of improvement in fund management is being addressed on a continuous basis by Unit Trust of India.

NTC Mills in Rajasthan

2868. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills functioning at present under the supervision of NTC in Rajasthan;

(b) the total amount of profit earned or loss incurred by these NTC units during the last three years; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by the Government to set up new NTC mills in Rajasthan during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Three Textile Mills are currently functioning in the state of Rajasthan under management of NTC (DPR) namely, Udaipur cotton Mills at Udaipur, Shree Bijay cotton Mills at Bijainagar and Shree Mahalakshmi Mills at Beawar.

(b) The losses incurred by these mills for the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the mill	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Prov.)
1	Mahalakshmi Mills	4.88	5.68	6.43
2	Shree Bijay cotton Mills	4.37	4.91	6.38
3	Udaipur cotton Mills	4.71	4.71	5.79

(c) There is no proposal to set up new NTC mills in Rajasthan.

NHRC Notice on Telaga Pamulu

2869. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has given a notice to the Government on the status or a community called 'Telaga Pamulu';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission had sought a report on the representation of Dr. P. Pulla Rao regarding the extension of Scheduled Tribe benefits to members of the Telega Pamula community of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) A report detailing therein the factual position on the issue has been furnished to the National Human Rights Commission.

Sale of Poison Laced Shirts

2870. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Nike accused of selling poison-laced shirts" appearing in the Times of India dated the January 8, 2000;

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

(c) whether any investigation is to be made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to save the interests as is being done in Western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The news item referred to in the question pertains to European Country and not India. In India, no such accusation has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the position explained above.

(e) If and when such an incident is reported in India, appropriate action as deemed fit would be taken.

World Bank Aided Projects in North Eastern States

2871. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the World Bank aided projects undertaken in North-Eastern States and Sikkim as on date;

(b) the funds provided by the World Bank as aid; and

(c) the project-wise details of the work done so far with the World Bank assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) The projects being undertaken in North-Eastern States and Sikkim with the assistance from the World Bank and International Development Association (IDA) and other related details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Ongoing World Bank/International Development Association (IDA) Aided Projects in North Eastern States and Sikkim

(US $ million)

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Donor	Participating States	Date of Agreement	Loan/ Credit amount	Cumulative Disbursement upto 30.6.2002
1.	National Leprosy Elimination Project-II	IDA	Nation-wide	19.7.01	30.00	4.28
2.	District Primary Education Project-I Project	IDA	Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu	22.12.94	260.30	187.74
3.	Assam Rural Infrastructure Agriculture Support Project	IDA	Assam	06.06.95	126.00	74.53
4.	District Primary Education Project-II Project	IDA	Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, UP, Orissa	18.04.96	395.20	321.17
5.	TB Control Project	IDA	Nation-wide	14.03.97	142.40	37.05
6.	Reproductive Child Health Services Project	IDA	Nation-wide	30.07.97	248.30	160.79
7.	Malaria Control Project	IDA	Nation-wide	30.07.97	164.80	49.31
8.	Second HIV/AIDS Control Project	IDA	Nation-wide	14.09.99	194.75	79.05
9.	Immunization Strengthening Project	IDA	Nation-wide	19.05.00	142.60	55.70
10.	Technical Education-III Project	IDA	Arunachal Pradesh, J&K, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	18.10.00	64.90	4.52
11.	Mizoram State Road Project	IDA	Mizoram	06.05.02	60.00	2.00

[Translation]

Loans to Textile Mills

2872. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan provided by the government to the textile mills during the last three years in view of the deplorable condition of textile mills in the country;

(b) the number of textile mills which have applied for loans for the financial year 2002-2003, State-wise;

(c) the number of textile mills which have been provided with loans so far; and

(d) the time by which the rest of the mills will be provided with loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (d) The Government does not provide loans to textile mills. The role of the Government in this regard is that of a facilitator. The Government through various schemes and policies create conducive environment for the growth of the textile industry.

The Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of the Textile and Jute Industries in the country, w.e.f April 01, 1999 for a period of five years. The Scheme provides for reimbursement of five percent interest charged by the financial institutions/banks for technology upgradation projects in conformity with the Scheme. Under the TUF Scheme from 1.4.1999 to 31.5.2002, a total of 1656 applications with a total project cost of Rs.14373.96 crore were received. Out of them, 1419 applications with the total loan amount of Rs.5226.59 crore have been sanctioned and Rs.3609.39 crore has been disbursed against 1136 applications.

The state wise progress of the TUFS as on 31st May, 2002 is given in the statement.

Statement

Progress of TUFS (State-wise/Nodal Agency-wise) as on 31.05.2002 (Provisional)

(Rs. in crore)

Sr.No.	State/UT	Nodal Agency & PLIs	Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed			
			No. of Applications	Project Cost	Amount of loan required	No. of Applications	Project Cost	Amount	No. of Applications	Project Cost	Amount Sanctioned	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	IDBI	33	586.29	324.58	26	408.45	201.90	21	351.89	178.23	153.91
		SIDBI	3	7.22	4.30	2	4.90	2.80	2	4.90	2.80	2.60
		IFCI (Jute)	2	22.00	13.82	1	16.37	6.00	1	16.37	6.00	2.86
		Sub Total	38	615.51	342.70	29	429.72	210.70	24	373.16	187.03	159.37
2.	Chandigarh	IDBI	2	21.28	9.37	2	21.28	9.37	1	6.36	2.07	1.90
		SIDBI	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sub-Total	2	21.28	9.37	2	21.28	9.37	1	6.36	2.07	1.90
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	IDBI	18	1000.41	570.52	13	713.41	245.03	12	645.41	225.03	215.00
		SIDBI	8	10.05	8.32	8	10.05	7.74	8	10.05	7.74	7.02
		Sub-Total	26	1010.46	578.84	21	723.46	252.77	20	655.46	232.77	222.02
4. .	Daman & Diu	IDBI	3	7.48	5.11	3	7.48	5.06	2	6.53	4.35	4.17
		SIDBI	5	11.28	8.59	5	11.28	8.29	5	11.28	8.29	3.20
		Sub-Total	8	18.76	13.70	8	18.76	13.35	7	17.81	12.64	7.37
5.	Delhi	IDBI	9	43.41	27.58	9	43.41	27.29	2	11.19	7.96	7.48
		SIDBI	19	26.77	16.75	18	23.97	14.11	17	22.94	13.43	10.73
		Sub-Total	28	70.18	44.33	27	67.38	41.40	19	34.13	21.39	18.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6.	Gujarat	IDBI	56	1248.29	663.87	40	817.44	440.71	35	773.29	406.1	351.29
		SIDBI	284	308.95	176.27	200	241.01	115.52	231	218.58	102.17	79.94
		Sub-Total	340	1557.24	840.14	300	1058.45	556.23	266	991.87	508.27	431.23
7.	Haryana	IDBI	20	209.99	92.30	15	135.09	53.63	12	131.48	52.47	49.62
		SIDBI	86	154.09.	77.65	78	117.07	52.96	51	96.95	42.59	20.99
		IFCI (Jute)	1	0.77	0.51	1	0.77	0.51	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sub-Total	107	364.85	170.46	94	252.93	107.10	63	228.43	95.06	70.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	IDBI	7	316.52	238.25	6	308.27	172.65	6	308.27	172.65	169.24
		SIDBI	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sub-Total	7	316.52	238.25	6	308.27	172.65	6	308.27	172.65	169.24
9.	Karnataka	IDBI	34	603.12	356.90	28	436.00	227.35	22	389.65	204.3	129.74
		SIDBI	33	24.21	15.63	31	22.88	14.18	25	18.18	11.26	9.60
		Sub-Total	67	627.33	372.53	59	458.88	241.53	47	407.83	215.56	139.34
10.	Kerala	IDBI	5	108.84	79.12	2	38.60	34.68	2	38.60	34.68	29.48
		SIDBI	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sub-Total	5	108.84	79.12	2	38.60	34.68	2	38.60	34.68	29.48
11.	Maharashtra	IDBI	57	1968.16	1090.78	39	1149.33	452.78	32	1082.93	410.20	342.87
		SIDBI	30	96.03	73.53	26	89.01	19.50	22	22.19	13.91	12.95
		IFCI (Jute)	1	1.73	1.04	1	1.73	1.04	1	1.73	1.04	0.64
		Sub-Total	88	2065.92	1165.35	66	1240.07	473.32	55	1106.85	425.15	356.46
12.	Madhya Pradesh	IDBI	11	370.24	240.52	11	370.24	135.24	10	312.61	128.24	120.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		SIDBI	1	3.15	1.50	1	3.15	1.50	1	3.15	1.50	1.45
		Sub-Total	12	373.39	242.02	12	373.39	136.74	11	315.76	129.74	122.15
13.	Punjab	IDBI	64	2007.83	1000.04	57	1796.78	823.68	44	1521.93	716.33	537.70
		SIDBI	149	195.87	110.14	135	164.19	90.43	92	92.98	55.39	43.58
		Sub-Total	213	2203.70	1110.18	192	1960.97	914.11	136	1614.91	771.72	581.28
14.	Rajasthan	IDBI	78	1251.10	690.85	60	860.71	378.83	46	800.24	347.63	286.68
		SIDBI	93	68.82	45.43	66	48.44	25.22	56	38.77	21.27	16.35
		Sub-Total	171	1319.92	736.28	126	909.15	404.05	102	839.01	368.90	303.03
15.	Tamil Nadu	IDBI	187	2345.97	1486.05	154	1928.23	1092.16	129	1611.88	962.66	709.70
		SIDBI	303	325.81	221.64	276	259.47	170.06	211	194.43	128.99	110.06
		Sub-Total	490	2671.78	1707.69	430	2187.70	1262.22	340	1806.31	1091.65	819.76
16.	Uttar Pradesh	IDBI	25	904.60	480.65	21	843.12	336.81	18	284.07	198.61	148.36
		SIDBI	7	18.24	10.12	5	15.66	7.10	3	3.88	2.26	0.87
		Sub-Total	32	922.84	490.77	26	858.78	343.91	21	287.95	200.87	149.23
17.	West Bengal	IDBI	8	72.06	45.68	6	59.96	39.18	5	36.92	25.58	21.15
		SIDBI	10	8.90	5.36	10	8.90	5.36	8	7.90	4.71	4.16
		IFCI (Jute)	4	24.48	13.26	3	11.34	6.94	3	11.34	6.94	3.34
		Sub-Total	22	105.44	64.30	19	80.20	51.48	18	56.16	37.23	28.65
	Total	IDBI	617	13065.59	7402.17	492	9937.80	4676.35	399	8313.25	4077.09	3278.99
		SIDBI	1031	1259.39	775.23	921	1019.98	534.77	732	746.18	416.31	323.5
		IFCI (Jute)	8	48.98	28.63	6	30.21	14.49	5	29.44	13.98	6.84
	Grand Total		1656	14373.96	8206.03	1419	10987.99	5225.61	1136	9088.87	4507.38	3609.33

(Note: (i) The state-wise data may not tally with aggregate data due to the rounding up of the figures

[English]

Shortfall in Excise Duty

2873. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortfall in the Central Excise duties realisation during the year 1996-97 to 2000-2001 between Rs. 1893 crore and Rs. 4637 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortfall; and

(c) the measures taken to tone up the commissionerates to realise full taxes as due from the assessees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The shortfall in the Central Excise duties realisation over budget estimate during the year 1996-97 to 2000-2001 ranged between Rs. 1875 crore and Rs. 4444 crore.

(b) Factors attributable to shortfall in revenue collection include sluggishness in industrial production in certain years in certain critical sectors of the economy and moderately low rate of inflation. The SSI excise duty exemption limit was also increased from Rs. 30 lakhs to 50 lakhs in 1998 and then to Rs. one crore in 2000.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures from time to time to improve tax realizations. These include rationalization of tariff structure, review and withdrawal of tax exemptions wherever necessary, simplification of tax collection procedures to improve tax compliance, etc.

NCCF

2874. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1462 dated March 8, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the management of the NCCF has since constituted any inquiry and taken any action in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The NCCF has informed that on the basis of the investigation report received from the Department regarding the supply of computers to the Additional Director General of Information & Technology (ADGIT), Army Headquarters, New Delhi, on higher rates; charge sheet was issued to the concerned official, who has denied the charges. As per the procedure laid down, an Inquiry Officer has been appointed by the NCCF. On receipt of the report of the Inquiry Officer and as per the rules of the NCCF, further action would be taken by the NCCF.

Funds to NGOs

2875. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently constituted an expert committee to advise in regard to provisions of funds to NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Committee will submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A six member Advisory Committee headed by Shri S. Satyam, IAS (Retd.) has been constituted on 21st June 2002 by this Ministry regarding issues relating to NGOs. The terms of reference of the committee are as under:

(i) To advise on framing of revised guidelines for assisting non-governmental organizations from the Ministry.

(ii) To suggest ways and means to expedite the process of release of grants.

(iii) To suggest more efficacious processes for inspection and monitoring of NGOs to review and improve procedures, formats for the monitoring mechanism and inspection system for the NGOs.

(iv) Any other steps required for a smoother NGO-Ministry interface.

(c) The committee will submit their report within six months from the date of notification.

Export to Latin American Countries

2876. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) the items exported to Latin American countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the total foreign exchange earned through export of various items to these countries during the above period;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase trade with the Latin American Countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is regularly organizing Buyers-sellers Meets, mounting trade/Government delegations to Latin America, inviting trade/ Government delegations/ journalists, organizing and encouraging participation in the fairs/exhibitions and other specialized events under Programme FOCUS:LAC to promote trade with Latin America.

Statement

Country-wise and year-wise items exported and foreign exchange earned during last three years

(US $ In Millions)

S.No.	Country	Year 1999-2000	Year 2000-01	Year 2001-02	Name of major items exported
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Argentina	62.61	97.52	64.58	Drugs/Pharma/Fine chemicals, RMG, Transport Equipment, Cotton/Syn. Yarn/Fabrics/made ups, Chemicals, Machinery, metals, rubber products, Dyes & intermediates, coal tar chemical and other products
2	Brazil	134.96	223.02	218.07	Drugs/Pharma/Fine chemicals, Machinery and equipment, Chemicals, Dyes & intermediates, coal tar chemicals, MM Yarn/ fabric/made-ups, metals, Plastic & Linoleum products, Cosmetic/ toiletries and other products.
3	Chile	68.59	108.13	83.05	RMG, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, Drug/pharma/fine chemicals, Iron ore, metals, RMG MM fibre, transport equipment, Rubber products, Machinery and instruments, leather goods and other products.
4	Colombia	33.35	48.95	53.40	Cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, Drug/pharma/fine chemicals, metals, cotton RMG, MM yarn/fabrics/ made-ups, transport equipment, Rubber products, Machinery and instruments and other products.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Panama	31.73	39.67	43.20	RMG Cotton, Metals, RMG MM Fibres, Cotton Yarn/ fabrics made ups, Cosmetic/toiletries, Drugs/pharma, Plastic/linoleum products, Dyes & intermediates, Rubber products, Gem & Jewellery, Transport equipment, RMG wool, Handicraft and others.
6	Peru	26.04	25.36	34.95	Transport equipment, Drugs/pharma/Fine chemicals, Rubber products, Iron and steel, cotton yarn/fabrics/ made ups, Machinery and equipment, metals, Man made yarn, fabrics, made ups, Ferro alloys and other products
7	Mexico	140.89	206.18	236.13	RMG cotton, transport equipment, drugs/pharma/fine chemicals, Chemicals, machinery and equipment, cotton yarn/fabrics/made ups, sesame seeds, metals, dyes and intermediates RMG MMF, iron and steel, spices, rubber products' finished leather, GSLGSLWR/ Ceramics/ Reftrs/cmnt and other products
8	Venezuela	23.34	41.95	55.43	Petroleum products, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, drugs/ pharma/fine chemicals, RMG MMF, Transport equipment, Iron & steel, Rubber products, cosmetic/ toiletries, Marine Products, man made yarn/fabrics/ made-ups, metals, chemicals 7 allied products and other products
9	Trinidad & Tobago	8.20	8.64	10.70	Drugs/pharma & fine chemicals, Metals, RMG cotton, Machinery & instruments, Cotton yarn/fabrics/made ups, Plastic and Linoleum products, Tobacco, cosmetic/toiletries, Iron and steel bar rods/bars, sports goods, spices, Cashew and other products
10	Other Latin American Countries	122.75	179.00	154.83	-
	Total export to Latin America	652.46	978.42	954.34 (Provisional)	-

Grants to NGOs for Old Age Persons

2877. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name and number of voluntary organizations in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka which are receiving assistance from the Union Government under the scheme for old age persons;

(b) the total grant released to each of these organisations during each of the last three years and upto June 30, 2002, State-wise;

(c) whether proper monitoring of the utilization of the funds by these organisations are being made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA

BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The names, number of voluntary organizations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the financial assistance provided to them by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons during the last three years and upto 30th June 2002, are given in statement enclosed.

The names, number of voluntary organizations in other States/UTs and the financial assistance provided to them by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the same scheme during the last three years are already available at Annexure-XXXIII, Annexure-XXXIX and Annexure-XXXII in the Annual Reports of this Ministry for the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) and (d) The voluntary organisations which receive grant in aid from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment are periodically inspected by the officers of the respective State Government/Union Territories or by the officers of the Ministry. On the basis of the inspection reports and only after obtaining the utilization certificates for the funds released to them, further funds are sanctioned.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise list of voluntary organisations of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka receiving grant in aid from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto 30th June, 2002)

Abbreviations

OAHs - Old Age Homes
DCCs - Day Care Centres
MMUs - Mobile Medicare Units

Sl. No.	District	I. Andhra Pradesh	Name of the Project	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) 1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Upto June, 2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Anantpur	Adarsh Mahila Mandali	MMU-1	1.806	0.77	0	
2	Anantpur	Rupa Education Society	OAH-1	1.205	2.65	1.28	
3	Anantpur	Christ Rural Development & Edu. Society	OAH-1	2.619	1.34	0	
4	Anantpur	Cultural Action in Rural Development	OAH-1	2.522	0	0	
5	Anantpur	Sree Venketeswara Convent Ed. Society	OAH-1	2.341	0	1.34	
6	Anantpur	Mercy Minority Educational Society	DCC-3	5.771	2.94	0	
7	Anantpur	Mother India.	OAH-1	2.152	1.37	0	
8	Anantpur	Nav Bharat Socio Economic Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.402	1.33	3.97	
9	Anantpur	People's Rural Education Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.472	0	2.47	
10	Anantpur	Socio-Economic Ed Dev. Society	OAH-1 & DDC-1	1.701	0	0	
11	Anantpur	Sri Rakesh Educational & Welfare Society	DCC-1	4.386	4.39	2.29	
12	Anantpur	Sangmeshwara Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.989	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	Anantpur	Society for Welfare & Awakening in Rural Environmental	DCC-2	0.664	3.59	1.96	3.92
14	Anantpur	Rural Poor Peoples Welfare Society	OAH-1	0.848	0	0	
15	Cuddapah	Chaitanya Ed. &Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1 & MUU-1	1.026	4.14	4.14	
16	Cuddapah	Community Development Society for Weaker section	DCC-1	0	0	0.48	
17	Cuddapah	Depressed Peoples Dev. Society	OAH-1	3.064	1.24	369	1.38
18	Cuddapah	Dr. Ambedkar Dalitha Varga Abh. Sangham	OAH-1	3.462	2.69	2.76	1.38
19	Cuddapah	Jagjeevan Balheenavarga Abh.Sangham	DCC-1	2.417	1.93	1.96	0.97
20	Cuddapah	Rayalseema SC, ST & BC Dev. Society	MMU-1	0	0	0.38	
21	Cuddapah	Srnivasa Ed. & Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1	3.063	1.24	1.24	2.75
22	Cuddapah	Sri Padamwathi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.734	2.76	2.76	1.38
23	Cuddapah	Sri Venkateswara Socio-Economic Dev. Society	OAH-1 & DCC-1	0.538	3.97	6.1	
24	Cuddapah	Sree Krishna Devaraya Yuvajana Sangam	OAH-1	0	0	1.29	
25	Cuddapah	Vijaya Socio-Economic Dev. Society	DCC-1	2.871	0.94	2.85	
26	Cuddapah	Khadisilk Gramodyoga Samiti	OAH.-1	0.853	2.27	2.37	1.32
27	Chittoor	Indira Mahila Mandali	MMU-1	0	3.33	3.34	1.17
28	Chittoor	Jyothi Youth Association	DCC-1	1.285	1.96	1.96	0.97
29	Chittoor	Mother India Community Dev. Association	OAH-2, DCC-1 & MMU-1	10.004	10.51	10.58	
30	Chittoor	Peda Prajala Seva Samithi	OAH-2	5.528	2.764	7.97	2.6
31	Chittoor	Peoples Action for Social Service	OAH-2 & MMU-1	7.876	7.88	7.88	
32	Chittoor	Peoples Orgn. for Welfare & Ed. Ratification	DCC-1	1.957	1.96	1.96	0.97
33	Chittoor	Praja Abyudaya Sewa Samithi	MMU-1	0.939	0	0	
34	Chittoor	Rashtriya seva Samithi	OAH-2 & DDC-9	14.646	27.59	22 34	
35	Chittoor	Sarvodaya Women Welfare Society	OAH-1 & DDC-1	4.397	4.39	4.72	
36	Chittoor	Sewa Bharathi	DCC-2	2.646	3.59	3.59	
37	Chittoor	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali	OAH-I, DDC-1 & MMU-1	7.5	6.44	7.39	1.32
38	Chittoor	Telugu Bharathi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.151	2.76	2.76	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
39	East Godavari	Association for the Care of Aged	OAH-1	1.314	1.05	2.02	
40	East Godavari	Help the Women	OAH-1 & DDC-1	4.722	4.72	4.71	
41	East Godavari	Pushkarmatha Convent Educational Committee	DCC-1	1.566	1.96	1.96	0.97
42	Eeast Godavari	Ravindra Educational Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.09	
43	East Godavari	Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Orphanage & Boarding Home	OAH-1	2.152	2.76	2.76	1.38
44	East Godavari	Sarda Education Society	OAH-1	0.989	2.59	1.38	
45	East Godavari	Suneeta Mahila Mandali	MMU-I	0	0.55	1.26	
46	Guntur	Indira Memorial Weaker Section Dev. Society	OAH-1	2.151	0	2.61	
47	Guntur	Indira Priyadarsini Girijana Backward Class Mahila Mandali	OAH-1			1.04	
48	Guntur	International Christian Crusade Service Association	DCC-1	0	0	0.48	
49	Guntur	Kothapeta Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.76	
50	Guntur	Narasarapet Taluk STs/Youth Club	OAH-1	2.15	2.64	2.76	1.38
51	Guntur	Naveen Adarsya Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.756	2.76	1.36	1.38
52	Guntur	Omkar Rural Development Society	OAH-1			0.86	
53	Guntur	Prakasam Nagar Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.748	0	3.86	
54	Guntur	SERD, SCs/STs and Christians Welfare Society	OAH-1	1.814	3.65	3.69	1.29
55	Guntur	Social Action Rural Rehabilitation Creative Amolearation and Relief	OAH-1	1.382	0	0	
56	Guntur	Soniya Gandhi Harijana Grijana Baiheena Vargamula Mahila Mandali	OAH-1, DCC-1	7.706	2.31	6.92	
57	Guntur	Sree Sarda Mahila Vignana Samithi	DCC-1	1.747	1.81	2.92	
58	Guntur	Udayasree Mahila Samajam	OAH-1	2.764	0	2.61	1.32
59	Guntur	Vellamma Weaker Sections Association	DCC-1	1.35	0	3.92	
60	Guntur	Kandrika Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0.738	2.59	2.76	
61	Guntur	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.09	
62	Hyderabad	Annapurna Manav Samksama Samithi	DCC-1	1.262	1.86	0.93	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
63	Hyderabad	Anuraag Secunderabad	MMU-1, NIS-1	1.796	1.82	1.02	
64	Hyderabad	Anuraag Human Services	OAH-1	2.496	2.62	1.38	1.38
65	Hyderabad	Dr. P.N. Hanumantha Rao Charitable Trust	OAH-1	2.712	2.76	2.76	
66	Hyderabad	Hempal Society	OAH-1	2.152	1.33	0	
67	Hyderabad	Mahila Dakshata Samithi	DCC-1 & MMU-1	3.232	3.63	1.84	
68	Hydebadad	Old Age Welfare Centre	OAH-1 & MMU-1	5.34	5.21	5.35	
69	Hyderabad	Sai Seva Sangha	OAH-1	2.224	1.11	3.02	
70	Hyderabad	Social Integration for Rural Improvement	OAH-1	0.332	3.14	2.49	
71	Hyderabad	Assicn. of Non-Governmental Orgn.	OAH-1	0.697	0	0	
72	Hyderabad	Jyothi Welfare Association	OAH-1	2.197	4.1	1.38	2.76
73	Karimnagar	Santosh Educational Society	OAH-1	0.823	0	4.51	
74	Khamman	Jaya Sree Mahila Sangham	DCC-1	1.96	1.96	196	
75	Krishna	A.P. Girijana Sevak Sangha	OAH-1 & DCC-1	4.597	4.72	4.72	2.36
76	Krishna		OAH-1	1.284	2.55	1.27	
77	Krishna	Country Women's Association of India, Vijayawada	OAH-1	2.278	2.28	0	
78	Krishna	Intograted D v. Agency	OAH-1 & MMU-1	1.69	4.01	4.22	0.72
79	Krishna	Mahila Sangham	OAH-1	0	1.72	0	
80	Krishna	Mother Theresa Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.858	1.84	1.96	
81	Krishna	Senior Citizens Forum	OAH-1	2.414	2.36	1.18	
82	Krishna	Vasavya Mahila Mandali	DCC-I	1.596	1.79	0.9	0.9
83	Krishna	Bapuji Integrated Rural Dev. Society	OAH-1	0.871	2.76	2.76	1.37
84	Krishna	Sri Triveni Educational Academy	DCC-1	0	2.15	1.96	
85	Kurnool	Asha Jyothi Edu. Society	OAH-1			1.33	
86	Kurnool	Nay Bharath Educational Society	OAH-1 & MMU-1	0.859	2.55	3.15	1.38
87	Kurnool	Partibha Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.24	
88	Kurnool	Priyadarshini Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	109	
89	Kurnool	Rural Tribal Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.03	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
90	Kurnool	Rural Upliftment of Health and Educational Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.34	
91	Mahaboobnagar	Bethel Educational Society	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.5	
92	Mahaboobnagar	Social Action for Social Development	OAH-1, DCC-1 & MMU-1	6.511	7.31	7.31	3.64
93	Mahaboobnagar	Navodaya Seva Sansthan	OAH-I	0.992	2.72	0	
94	Mababoobnagar	Gramabhyudaya Seva Sanasthan	OAH-1	0.757	2.22	1.08	
95	Mahaboobnagar	Swarajya Laxmi Orgn. for Women	OAH-1	0.833	2.17	2.6	1.38
96	Mahaboobnagar	Sandhya Rural Welfare Society	OAH-1	0.833	2.31	2.34	1.38
97	Mahaboobnagar	S.A.V. Gupta Educational Society	OAH-1	0.827	1.37	2.66	1.38
98	Mahaboobnagar	Rural Social Welfare Assocn.	OAH-1	0.833	1.36	2.66	1.32
99	Nalgonda	Society of Emmanual Evangalism for Rural Dev.	OAH-1	2.312	2.71	2.69	
100	Nalgonda	Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	2.35	3.93	
101	Nellore	Arya Dayananda Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.22	2.76	1.38
102	Nellore	Asthana-A-Chistia Mahila Mandali	OAH-1 & DCC-1	3.471	4.08	3.26	1.38
103	Nellore	Bharathi Mahila Voluntary Service Orgn.	OAH-1	3.025	1.25	4.02	
104	Nellore	Divine (India)	OAH-1	0	4.04	0	
105	Nellore	Haritha Mahila Mandali Society	OAH-1	0	0	1	
106	Nellore	Help the Need	DCC-1	1.35	1.96	0.98	
107	Nellore	Indiramma Mahila Mandali	MMU-1	0.888	1.4	1.05	
108	Nellore	Nehru Bharathi Educational Institution	OAH-1	2.151	2.57	2.55	
109	Nellore	Polymer's Educational Society	OAH-1 & DCC-1	2.945	4.56	4.72	1.38
110	Nellore	Sri Vighneswara Mahila Mandali	DCC-1 & MMU-1	1.378	2.89	3.47	
111	Nellore	Health Care & Social Welfare Society (Harijan Christian Social Welfare Society)	OAH-1	0.877	2.53	2.76	1.38
112	Nellore	Sarada Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.35	0	0	
113	Nellore	Laxmi Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	0.332	1.79	1.88	
114	Nellore	Sri Lakshmi Parvathi Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	0		0.5	
115	Prakasam	3 Men Academies	OAH-1 & DCC-1	1.741	4.15	1.38	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
116	Prakasam	Adarsha Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	4.06	1.38	
117	Prakasam	Arunodaya Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.627	1.96	0.98	
118	Prakasam	Chandravamsa Organisation for Rural Development	OAH-1	0	0	1.11	
119	Prakasam	Indira Priyadarsini Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.769	0.98	1.96	0.97
120	Prakasam	Kastajeevula Jateeya Seva Sangham	OAH-1	2.505	0	1.38	
121	Prakasam	Laxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.75	1.38	1.38
122	Prakasam	Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.152	2.76	1.38	1.38
123	Prakasam	Netaji Yuvak Kendra	OAH-1	0	0	1.11	
124	Prakasam	Prakasam Zilla Balaheena Vargala Colony Varala Seva Sangam	OAH-1 & DCC-1	4.722	4.72	2.36	2.36
125	Prakasam	Priyadarsini Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.769	1.85	0.92	0.92
126	Prakasam	Sabari Girijana Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	2.309	1.84	0.92	0.92
127	Prakasam	Samatha Mahila Vedika	OAH-1 & DCC-1	3.912	4.44	4.72	
128	Prakasam	Sri Kastijeevalaya Jateeya Seva Sangam	OAH-1	2.514	2.66	0	
129	Prakasam	Shri Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	4.078	2.66	1.38	
130	Prakasam	Valmiki Seva Sangham	OAH-1	3.662	1.38	2.73	
131	Prakasam	Vasavi Educational Society	OAH-1	2.188	2.76	1.38	1.38
132	Prakasam	Vutukuri Venkata Sabbamma Welfare Society	DCC-1	1.876	1.96	0.98	0.97
133	Ranga Reddy	Forum for Social Upliftment, Secunderabad	OAH-1	0	0	1.2	
134	Ranga Reddy	Golden Environmental Educational Technical Health & Agriculture Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.1	
135	Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad Zilla Mahila Mandaulka Samakya	OAH-1	2.044	0	0	
136	Ranga Reddy	St. Anthony's Educational Society	OAH-1	0	0	0.89	
137	Ranga Reddy	Venketeswara Social Service Assocn.	OAH-1 & DCC-1	1.957	1.96	3.01	0.97
138	Ranga Reddy	Urban & Rural Dev. Society	DCC-1	0.595	0	0	
139	Secunderabad	Uurban Integrated Dev. Society		0	0	2.34	
140	Vishakhapatnam	Kasturabai Gandhi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.152	1 08	0	
141	Vishakhapatnam	Priyadarsini Service Organisation	OAH-1	2.581	1.26	3 89	1.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
142	Vishakhapatnam	Sri Venkateswara Yuvajana Sangham	OAH-1	0.971	3.51	4.04	
143	Vizianagram	Prema Samajam	OAH-1	2.189	2.15	2.12	
144	Warangal	Kasturibai Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	2.55	5.53	
145	West Godavari	St. Mary Rehabilitation Centre for Orphans, Widows and lepers	OAH-1	2.68	2.76	2.76	1.38
146	Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Nellore & Visakhapatnam	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan	DCC-4	1.08	0	0	
Name of the District		Karnataka					
147	Bangalore	Ashaktha Poshaka Sabha	OAH-1	0	8.36	4.62	
148	Bangalore	Dr. Jachani Rashtriya Sevapantha	OAH-1	0.645	8.17	2.38	
149	Bangalore	Mattadahally Japajivanram Sarvodaya Sangha	OAH-1	3.033	2.55	1.27	
150	Bangalore	Sri Amhigara Chawdasah Ed. Society	OAH-2	0.877	0	5.48	1.38
151	Bangalore	Help Age India	MMU-1	1.368	1.67	0	
152	Bangalore	Sri Satha Shrunga Vidhya Samste	OAH-1	2.114	3.49	6.6	2.24
153	Bangalore	Eshwar Education & Welfare Society	OAH-1	0	0	2.55	
154	Bangalore	Mothers Care Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.32	
155	Bangalore	Nightingales Medical Trust	OAH-1	0	0	0.24	
156	Bangalore	Sri Swami Sarva Dharma Sharnalaya Trust	OAH-1	0	0	1.02	
157	Belgaum	Ramalingeshwar Gramabhiruddi Sangh	OAH-1	0.489	2.65	2.78	1.28
158	Belgaum	Shri Mallikarjun Jana Seva Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.06	
159	Bidar	Chywan Ayurvedic Edu. Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.3	
160	Bidar	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Cultural & Welfare Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.28	
161	Bidar	Sangram Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.648	2.44	1.22	1.22
162	Bidar	Nittur Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.669	2.76	2.76	1.38
	Bidar	Shivleela Womens' Welfare Association					1.71
163	Bellary	Praja Seva Samiti	OAH-1	1.185	0	0	
164	Bellary	Adarsa Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.787	1.34	2.14	1.23
165	Bijapur	Shri Sharana Jyothi Vidya Samsta	OAH-1	1.382	2.76	2.76	1.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
166	Chitradurga	Sri Sadguru Kabeerananda Swamy Vidya Peetha	OAH-1	0.633	2.09	2.28	
167	Chitradurga	Niranthara Jana Seva National Education Reh. And Rural Dev Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1.06	
168	Davangere	Adrash Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.11	
169	Davangere	Sri Maitri Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.76	
170	Davangere	Sri Shakti Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.76	
171	Gulbarga	Mahaboob Subhani Education Trust	OAH-1	0	0	1.31	
172	Gulbarga	Mahadevi Tai Mahila Vidya Vardhaka Sangha	OAH-1	2.044	2.76	1.38	2.76
173	Gulbarga	Sri Mallikarjun Vidhya Vardhak Sangh	OAH-1	0	0	1.11	
174	Gulbarga	Sri Sangameshwarn Ed. Society	OAH-1	0.83	2.76	1.38	1.38
175	Gulbarga	Hyderabad Karnataka Palitha Womens Educational Samiti, Gulbarga	OAH-1	0	0.88	0	
176	Gulbarga	Sharanara Nadu Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.8	2.53
177	Gulbarga	Sri Jagadguru Gurusiddeshwar Vidhya Vardhak & Sanskritika Sanstha	OAH-1	0	0	1.15	
178	Kolar	Sri Raman Maharishi Trust for Disabled Persons	OAH-1 & MMU-1	6.201	8.15	5.77	2.76
179	Kolar	Sri Swami Sarva Dharma Sharnalaya Trust	OAH-1	0.143	2.49	2.68	1.33
180	Kolar	Sri Vishnu Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.29	
181	Mandya	Poornima Vidya Sanstha Arakera	OAH-1	0.83	0.48	5.45	
182	Mandya	Jnana Sindhu Education and Cultural Society, Bangalore (Centre at Mandya Distt.)	OAH-1	0	0	1.49	
183	Tumkur	Rural Organisation Social and Education Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.1	
184	Tumkur	1. Sri Swamy Sarva Dharm Sharnalaya Trust	OAH-1	0.674	2.82	1.34	
185	Bidar & Belgaum	(12) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan	DCC-2	0.54	0	0	

District Rehabilitation Centre

2878. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed to extend support to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up District Rehabilitation Centres for the disabled and train CBR workers to carry such services in the remote areas;

(b) if so, whether all the districts have been selected for setting up of such centres; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Under the National Programme of Rehabilitation for persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) launched by Government of India, funds have been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of District Referral and Training Centres in the districts of Vijaya Nagaram and Krishna. Under this scheme, there is a provision to train two Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers in each Gram Panchayat. Besides, under a separate programme 3 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) have been set up to provide composite rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of the persons with disabilities by local capacity building and empowerment of the target groups.

(b) and (c) The NPRPD is a state sector scheme which was launched in 1999-2000 and covered 82 districts in the country of which 2 districts are located in Andhra Pradesh. During the 9th Plan period funds under this scheme were released by the Ministry but in the 10th Plan, the States will have to fund the programme through their own resources. The decision to cover more districts will, therefore, be with the States.

Increasing the number of DDRCs will depend on the availability of resources.

Irregularity in FCI

2879. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "FCI under cloud over irregularities of Rs.125 cr." appeared in *Lokmat* dated 29th May, 2002;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been conducted to probe into the matter and fix responsibility for lapses against the officers;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome of the inquiry; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. This pertains to nine transaction audit observations of Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) having an aggregate money value of Rs.124.81 Crore published in Chapter 7 of C&AG's Report No.3 of 2002 (Commercial).

(b) Preliminary investigation has been completed in 5 cases out of the 9, and the CAG has been apprised of the position. Preliminary investigation is in progress in remaining 4 cases. As per the procedure laid down for dealing with C&AG observations, the preliminary investigation results need to be reviewed by the C&AG before any further action is initiated.

(c) The final outcome of the process would emerge only after completion of preliminary investigation of all the 9 cases and review of the position by C&AG.

(d) Appropriate action against officials, if found responsible for any lapses on this account, will be taken, as warranted.

Export of Organic Foods

2880. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been exporting certified organic foods;

(b) if so, the quantum and value of such exports made during the last three years indicating the countries where these are exported and also indicate the sales within the country;

(c) whether the certification of these foods is also being done by APEDA through specialists, laboratories and institutions, both Government and non-Government, in the country;

(d) whether the Government are aware that a secret report from UK favours the nutritional value of organics as reported in the Alternatives to Pesticides in Tropical countries published by the Vigyan Prasar (DST) in 1999;

(e) whether the Government propose to undertake detailed studies in the matter as a support to APEDA's efforts for export promotion of organic foods which are being produced around the world today; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As export figures are not compiled differentiating the item as organic and non organic produce, details with regard to export as also sales within the country are not available.

(c) Certification of organic food products for exports is being carried out by certification agencies accredited by the accredited certifying agencies. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is one of the accredited certifying agencies.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been supporting the efforts of APEDA to have focused approach in promotion of export of organic agriculture/ horticulture products. Presently no study is being undertaken in this regard.

RBI Study on Industrial Sickness

2881. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India's study had pointed out that management failure is responsible for 65 per cent of the industrial sickness than labour which is only three per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any remedial measures to improve the industrial health on the basis of this report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that it has not conducted any study on industrial sickness in the recent past. However, on the basis of Annual Returns submitted by the scheduled commercial Banks, in respect of 3317 non-SSI (Sick/ Weak units) as at the end of March 2001 (latest), RBI noticed that 42.3% of the industrial sickness has been contributed by project management deficiencies in implementation, production, labour, marketing, financial and administrative factors out of which 3.4% was due to project management deficiencies in labour.

(c) and (d) RBI has issued detailed guidelines covering all areas of industrial rehabilitation viz. detection of industrial sickness at initial stage, identification of sick/ weak units, carrying out viability study of the units, extension of reliefs and concessions to viable units, co-ordination among banks and financial institutions and among banks themselves, extended period for repayment/ rescheduling of loans, conversion of debts into equity, single window concept of lending, interest rate concession and waiver of penal rate, liquidated damages.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Spinning Mills

2882. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sought approval from National Cooperative Development Corporation for modernisation of spinning mills in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance sought;

(c) whether National Cooperative Development Corporation has accorded its approval;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken for the modernisation of spinning mills in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) No, Sir.

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

(e) The Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of the Textile and Jute Industries including textile spinning mills in the country, w.e.f April 01, 1999 for a period of five years. The Scheme provides for reimbursement of five percent interest charged by the financial institutions/banks for technology upgradation projects in conformity with the Scheme. This Scheme is applicable to whole of India

including Bihar. However, no application has so far been received from Bihar.

[English]

Proper Indication on Product Labels

2883. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have made it mandatory for all food products to be suitably labelled indicating the contents of the packets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against these manufacturers who violate these laws;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any size of the letters so that they are prominently displayed on the packets or containers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, "net contents" of products in pre-packed items, including food articles, are required to be declared on the label of the package. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 require declaration of the names of ingredients of the products in the package, in the descending order of their composition by weight or volume, as the case may be.

(c) Penal action is taken against those who violate the provisions of the law.

(d) and (e) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules have specified that the size of letters used for declaring information on the label shall be proportionate to the size of package and its principal display panel and shall not be less than 1 mm.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Proposals for Grant

2884. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals from the Chhattisgarh Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for grant to the training and assistance centres for the poor people belonging to the tribal, backward classes and minority communities were lying pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Research & Training for "Protection of Tribal Culture, Research Training & Development" in the last quarter of the last financial year 2001-2002. Beside, this four different proposals have also been forwarded by the Government of Chhattisgarh to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the centrally sponsored Scheme of Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities during the current financial year 2002-2003 under which grants-in-aid are provided to Pre-Examination Training Centres.

(c) It is not possible to indicate a precise time frame within which a decision will be taken on these proposals.

[English]

Foodgrains Distribution Through PDS

2885. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) the quantity of foodgrains required for the APL and BPL families in the various States particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal under Public Distribution System during each of the last three years;

(b) the demand and allocation of foodgrains and

the actual quantity of offtake by various States during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the actual price of foodgrains and the price at which it was given to the BPL families for the said period; and

(d) the loss suffered by the FCI in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The foodgrains allotted to the States/UTs for distribution under TPDS are only for supplemental to open market availability and are managed out of the stocks in the central pool which form only 15-20% of the total quantity of foodgrains produced in the country and not meant for meeting the entire need of any State. With the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997, the allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs is made as per TPDS guidelines for families below poverty line (BPL) and families above poverty line (APL). The allocation for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is also made as per TPDS guidelines. From April, 2002 a quantity of 35 kg. per family per month is being allotted under TPDS for AAY, BPL and APL.

The Statements I-VI showing State-wise and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during the last three years are enclosed.

(c) The economic cost of foodgrains (rice and wheat) and the central issue prices (CIPs) for BPL category during the last three years are as under:

Economic Cost

(Rupees per quintal)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1999-2000	1074.80	887.51
2000-01	1180.47	858.26
2001-02	1204.35	871.30

BPL CIPs

(Rupees per Quintal)

Date		
From 1-4-1999	350	250
From 1-4-2000	590	450
From 25-7-2000	565	415

The CIPs of rice and wheat for BPL families have not been revised after 25.7.2000.

(d) FCI does not run on profit and loss basis. The difference between the FCI's economic cost of foodgrains and the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) is reimbursed by the Government of India as food subsidy.

Statement-I

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 1999 to March 2000 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes) (P)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake		
		BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	453.360	1847.040	2300.400	433.570	1874.350	2307.920
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.400	100.800	109.200	8.320	93.410	101.730
3	Assam	228.720	441.280	670.000	215.900	312.230	528.130
4	Bihar	412.320	95.040	507.360	234.350	2.220	236.570
5	Delhi	0.000	154.680	154.680	0.000	74.470	74.470

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Goa	3.120	72.840	75.960	8.480	37.650	46.130
7	Gujarat	94.500	198.000	292.500	96.920	72.130	169.050
8	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	146.760	146.760	0.000	64.800	64.800
10	Jammu and Kashmir	56.412	376.854	433.266	52.250	290.410	342.660
11	Karnataka	276.000	624.000	900.000	278.100	544.900	823.000
12	Kerala	184.200	1559.640	1743.840	182.000	1009.000	1191.000
13	Madhya Pradesh	288.000	124.200	412.200	270.420	48.521	318.941
14	Maharashtra	253.920	508.560	762.480	239.500	441.390	680.890
15	Manipur	20.600	104.400	125.000	21.070	21.300	42.370
16	Meghalaya	17.160	190.416	207.576	17.550	174.150	191.700
17	Mizoram	6.360	118.716	125.076	6.890	84.000	90.890
18	Nagaland	9.240	115.860	125.100	10.340	103.220	113.560
19	Orissa	824.715	345.140	1169.855	769.300	118.300	887.600
20	Punjab	8.160	3.360	11.520	0.220	0.050	0.270
21	Rajasthan	3.000	12.860	15.860	1.300	1.440	2.740
22	Sikkim	4.080	83.640	87.720	4.210	65.810	70.020
23	Tamil Nadu	549.480	1265.280	1814.760	535.390	1271.880	1807.270
24	Tripura	27.720	169.780	197.500	19.070	133.060	152.130
25	Uttar Pradesh	416.700	323.000	739.700	391.580	96.480	488.060
26	West Bengal	264.840	253.760	518.600	171.660	249.790	421.450
27	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (@)	1.800	28.200	30.000	0.000	16.680	16.680
28	Chandigarh	0.240	3.360	3.600	0.030	0.080	0.110
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.440	5.160	6.600	0.600	0.780	1.380
30	Daman and Diu	0.240	6.960	7.200	0.040	0.780	0.820
31	Lakshadweep (@)	0.240	6.060	6.300	0.000	5.000	5.000
32	Pondicherry	7.800	16.200	24.000	7.320	4.570	11.890
	Total	4422.767	9301.846	13724.613	3976.380	7212.851	11189.231

(P) = Provisional

Note: This includes offtake figures under decentralised scheme for W. Bengal and U.P

Statement-II

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 1999 to March, 2000 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes) (P)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake		
		BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	141.000	141.000	0.000	117.600	117.600
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.840	6.960	7.800	0.000	5.350	5.350
3	Assam	0.000	213.900	213.900	0.000	219.170	219.170
4	Bihar	618.480	242.560	861.040	641.930	17.080	659.010
5	Delhi	0.000	724.800	724.800	0.000	53.940	53.940
6	Goa	1.440	32.280	33.720	0.140	13.190	13.330
7	Gujarat	145.500	594.000	739.500	149.930	144.490	294.420
8	Haryana	87.960	68.640	156.600	80.320	3.830	84.150
9	Himachal Pradesh	51.120	91.320	142.440	24.150	30.710	54.860
10	Jammu and Kashmir	17.748	346.800	364.548	16.930	29.160	46.090
11	Karnataka	69.000	351.000	420.000	68.800	146.800	215.600
12	Kerala	0.000	452.640	452.640	0.000	237.000	237.000
13	Madhya Pradesh	352.080	151.800	503.880	267.010	49.110	316.120
14	Maharashtra	471.600	736.560	1208.160	432.110	644.420	1076.530
15	Manipur	0.000	23.220	23.220	0.000	0.120	0.120
16	Meghalaya	0.000	14.460	14.460	0.000	15.690	15.690
17	Mizoram	0.000	14.080	14.080	0.000	14.800	14.800
18	Nagaland	2.280	21.210	23.490	2.310	17.160	19.470
19	Orissa	50.000	370.000	420.000	49.900	116.500	166.400
20	Punjab	43.440	18.120	61.560	2.430	0.000	2.430
21	Rajasthan	257.400	375.820	633.220	191.760	51.680	243.440
22	Sikkim	0.000	2.090	2.090	0.000	1.420	1.420
23	Tamil Nadu	0.000	360.000	360.000	0.000	165.920	165.920
24	Tripura	0.000	17.160	17.160	0.000	7.640	7.640

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	Uttar Pradesh	780.600	748.840	1529.440	811.541	32.830	844.371
26	West Bengal	283.800	777.300	1061.100	278.510	456.730	735.240
27	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.840	8.160	9.000	0.180	4.570	4.750
28	Chandigarh	1.920	19.680	21.600	0.180	0.180	0.360
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.360	2.640	3.000	0.178	0.180	0.358
30	Daman & Diu	0.120	2.280	2.400	0.000	0.030	0.030
31	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.504	0.504	0.000	0.030	0.030
32	Pondicherry	0.000	9.000	9.000	0.000	2.110	2.110
	Total	3236.528	6938.824	10175.352	3018.309	2599.440	5617.749

(P) = Provisional

NOTE: This includes offtake figures under decentralised scheme of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement-III

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS (In '000 Tonnes) (P)

S.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1316.648	1847.040	15.570	3179.258	923.047	1002.912	1.333	1927.292
2	Arunachal Pradesh	18.384	70.320	0.000	88.704	15.828	13.958	0.000	29.786
3	Assam	457.428	331.280	0.000	788.708	374.143	5.768	0.000	379.911
4	Bihar	750.840	86.604	0.000	837.444	131.445	1.032	0.000	132.477
5	Chhattisgarh	99.228	20.004	7.185	126.417	76.400	0.060	11.744	88.204
6	Delhi	0.000	163.320	0.000	163.320	0.000	1.980	0.000	1.980
7	Goa	6.230	42.840	0.000	49.070	1.483	7.069	0.000	8.552
8	Gujarat	343.526	216.000	0.000	559.526	113.962	2.584	0.050	116.596
9	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.640	0.000	0.000	1.640
10	Himachal Pradesh	34.947	62.760	0.984	98.691	21.755	3.539	0.980	26.274
11	Jammu and Kashmir	112.800	150.120	0.000	262.920	64.649	4.096	0.000	68.745
12	Jharkhand	73.800	8.436	0.000	82.236	14.150	0 120	0.000	14.270

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	Karnataka	568.272	917.000	0.000	1485.272	527.845	420.613	0.000	948.458
14	Kerala	365.144	1375.440	5.955	1746.539	417.011	71.939	0.000	488.950
15	Madhya Pradesh	468.496	104.196	4.760	577.452	278.330	1.050	3.718	283.098
16	Maharashtra	521.504	268.560	0.000	790.064	341.107	33.283	0.000	374.390
17	Manipur	31.214	34.320	0.000	65.534	18.670	4.606	0.000	23.276
18	Meghalaya	34.354	190.416	0.000	224.770	30.106	1.058	0.000	31.164
19	Mizoram	13.940	81.720	0.000	95.660	13.938	27.122	0.000	41.060
20	Nagaland	18.480	103.560	0.000	122.040	17.944	0.271	0.000	18.215
21	Orissa	949.922	44.640	0.000	994.562	659.580	3.340	0.000	662.920
22	Punjab	16.800	3.360	0.000	20.160	0.364	0.070	0.000	0.434
23	Rajasthan	23.595	9.360	0.107	33.062	1.141	0.020	0.064	1.225
24	Sikkim	8.916	83.640	0.000	92.556	5.875	3.284	0.000	9.159
25	Tamil Nadu	1121.664	461.280	0.000	1582.944	1131.124	78.586	0.000	1209.710
26	Tripura	55.450	109.440	0.000	164.890	53.567	6.225	0.000	59.792
27	Uttar Pradesh	741.628	131.812	0.000	873.440	320.906	0.098	0.000	321.004
28	Uttaranchal	22.172	2.588	0.000	24.760	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	West Bengal	676.064	198.760	0.000	874.824	305.853	34.025	0.000	339.878
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.604	28.200	0.000	31.804	3.020	4.245	0.000	7.265
31	Chandigarh	0.480	2.040	0.000	2.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2.899	2.160	0.050	5.109	2.078	0.556	0.000	2.634
33	Daman & Diu	0.532	1.320	0.000	1.852	0.211	0.150	0.000	0.361
34	Lakshadweep	0.000	6.540	0.000	6.540	0.000	5.288	0.000	5.288
35	Pondicherry	17.088	21.480	0.000	38.568	7.510	2.394	0.000	9.904
	Total	8876.049	7180.556	34.611	16091.216	5874.682	1741.341	17.889	7633.912

(P) = Provisional

Note: This includes offtake figures under decentralised scheme of U.P. (up to March, 2001) and W. Bengal (up to September, 2000) for the year 2000-01.

Statement-IV

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes) (P)

S.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	96.000	0.000	96.000	0.000	3.295	0.000	3.295
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.840	6.360	0.000	8.200	0.278	0.466	0.000	0.744
3	Assam	0.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	0.000	0.396	0.000	0.396
4	Bihar	1126.260	129.908	0.000	1256.168	428.651	1.081	0.000	429.732
5	Chhattisgarh	28.428	13.700	0.000	42.128	2.555	0.000	0.083	2.638
6	Delhi	24.540	487.140	0.000	511.680	10.501	0.084	0.000	10.585
7	Goa	2.874	20.280	0.000	23.154	0.361	1.272	0.000	1.633
8	Gujarat	565.287	354.000	0.000	919.287	284.423	2.690	0.020	287.133
9	Haryana	175.918	8.640	0.000	184.558	47.763	0.000	0.000	47.763
10	Himachal Pradesh	67.369	38.400	0.984	106.753	24.700	2.727	0.905	28.332
11	Jammu & Kashmir	35.520	88.320	0.000	123.840	22.993	7.881	0.000	30.874
12	Jharkhand	110.700	12.652	0.000	123.352	72.526	0.067	0.000	72.593
13	Karnataka	142.068	221.000	0.000	363.068	135.560	63.926	0.000	199.486
14	Kerala	0.000	452.640	0.000	452.640	0.000	30.212	0.000	30.212
15	Madhya Pradesh	665.612	138.100	11.050	814.762	277.928	3.518	7.642	289.088
16	Maharashtra	968.580	496.560	0.000	1465.140	619.256	8.032	0.000	627.288
17	Manipur	0.000	20.520	0.000	20.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	Meghalaya	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.003	0.120	0.000	0.123
19	Mizoram	0.000	15.120	0.000	15.120	0.000	2.602	0.000	2.602
20	Nagaland	4.560	18.480	0.000	23.040	3.043	1.487	0.000	4.530
21	Orissa	102.300	0.000	0.000	102.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22	Punjab	89.436	18.120	0.000	107.556	10.756	1.515	0.000	12.271
23	Rajasthan	850.575	392.160	9.208	1251.943	321.592	1.457	8.055	331.104

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24	Sikkim	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.000	0.350	0.000	0.350
25	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.759	0.000	0.759
26	Tripura	0.000	15.360	0.000	15.360	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
27	Uttar Pradesh	1537.660	260.916	0.000	1798.576	887.713	1.557	0.000	889.270
28	Uttaranchal	11.840	5.124	0.000	16.964	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	West Bengal	577.496	777.400	0.000	1354.896	493.111	39.797	0.000	532.908
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.680	8.160	0.000	9.840	1.737	5.064	0.000	6.801
31	Chandigarh	3.838	11.640	0.000	15.478	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.725	0.600	0.020	1.345	0.364	0.120	0.000	0.484
33	Daman & Diu	0.268	0.480	0.000	0.748	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.014
34	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.504	0.000	0.504	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35	Pondicherry	0.000	6.240	0.000	6.240	0.000	0.827	0.000	0.827
	Total	7095.374	4251.324	21.262	11367.960	3645.828	181.302	16.705	3843.835

(P) = Provisional

Note: This includes offtake figures under decentralised scheme of M.P. (up to January, 2001), U.P. (up to March, 2001).

Statement-V

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes) (P)

S.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1470.960	1495.680	186.840	3153.480	964.197	564.141	191.522	1719.860
2	Arunachal Pradesh	24.459	70.320	1.134	95.913	25.007	21.065	0.740	46.812
3	Assam	515.058	311.280	28.152	854.490	429.825	45.296	28.515	503.636
4	Bihar	656.370	69.732	60.000	786.102	64.639	0.686	43.252	108.577
5	Chhattisgarh	305.748	60.012	86.220	451.980	148.292	0.210	77.884	226.386
6	Delhi	11.790	163.320	0.480	175.590	9.699	18.652	0.246	28.597
7	Goa	6.431	42.840	0.979	50.250	3.539	4.208	0.734	8.481

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	Gujarat	234.604	216.000	12.350	462.954	130.324	2.653	11.785	144.762
9	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	Himachal Pradesh	173.955	62.760	14.172	250.887	102.705	3.772	13.721	120.198
11	Jammu and Kashmir	115.247	150.120	19.323	284.690	120.544	129.449	4.072	254.065
12	Jharkhand	227.000	25.308	36.650	288.958	76.529	5.609	26.925	109.063
13	Karnataka	646.182	444.000	67.287	1157.469	639.186	380.709	64.640	1084.535
14	Kerala	374.958	1375.440	71.460	1821.858	371.494	21.005	61.507	454.006
15	Madhya Pradesh	289.756	64.188	57.120	411.064	121.551	0.791	51.922	174.264
16	Maharashtra	725.426	268.560	93.749	1087.735	426.556	1.509	82.663	510.728
17	Manipur	35.136	34.320	1.914	71.370	25.455	0.000	0.740	26.195
18	Meghalaya	44.240	114.360	3.515	162.115	43.278	4.511	2.812	50.601
19	Mizoram	16.461	81.720	3.156	101.337	16.168	18.931	3.156	38.255
20	Nagaland	24.185	103.560	2.280	130.025	24.185	3.143	2.280	29.608
21	Orissa	907.045	44.640	88.466	1040.151	488.185	11.584	87.277	587.046
22	Punjab	18.080	3.360	0.000	21.440	1.588	0.000	0.000	1.588
23	Rajasthan	6.282	9.360	1.284	16.926	0.338	0.159	0.484	0.981
24	Sikkim	11.205	35.640	1.176	48.021	11.371	5.972	1.146	18.489
25	Tamil Nadu	1350.423	461.280	35.475	1847.178	1040.753	0.000	24.760	1065.513
26	Tripura	62.718	109.440	7.917	180.075	61.115	15.363	6.786	83.264
27	Uttar Pradesh	736.649	126.636	82.111	945.396	253.688	0.942	84.006	338.636
28	Uttaranchal	70.962	7.764	8.028	86.754	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	West Bengal	831.438	128.760	54.960	1015.158	213.648	28.757	27.957	270.362
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.686	28.200	0.591	32.477	2.888	9.585	0.303	12.776
31	Chandigarh	0.350	2.040	0.318	2.708	0.055	0.000	0.318	0.373
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.009	2.160	0.600	5.769	2.475	0.745	0.570	3.790
33	Daman & Diu	0.639	1.320	0.120	2.079	0.056	0.219	0.085	0.360
34	Lakshadweep	0.044	6.560	0.040	6.644	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
35	Pondicherry	22.701	3.480	1.125	27.306	8.502	0.120	0.917	9.539
	Total	9923.197	6124.160	1028.992	17076.349	5827.835	1302.786	903.725	8034.346

Note: The allocation and offiake figures under BPL includes drought relief and flood relief

(P) = Provisional

Note: This includes offtake figures under decentralised scheme of U P (upto November, 2001) but excludes W Bengal.

Statement-VI

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2001 to March 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes) (P)

S.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	96.000	0.000	96.000	0.000	7.385	0.000	7.385
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.565	6.360	0.000	8.925	1.715	2.795	0.000	4.510
3	Assam	0.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	0.000	70.011	0.000	70.011
4	Bihar	1164.501	104.604	90.000	1359.105	313.475	0.325	65.300	379.100
5	Chhattisgarh	87.597	41.100	0.000	128.697	39.649	1.788	0.000	41.437
6	Delhi	102.375	413.520	1.920	517.815	77.062	7.645	0.949	85.656
7	Goa	3.420	20.280	0.000	23.700	0.000	1.350	0.000	1.350
8	Gujarat	634.936	354.000	49.400	1038.336	313.857	1.317	44.960	360.134
9	Haryana	182.541	8.640	27.346	218.527	71.349	0.000	22.655	94.004
10	Himachal Pradesh	74.280	38.400	9.444	122.124	31.021	5.485	9.371	45.877
11	Jammu and Kashmir	36.516	88.320	6.084	130.920	41.962	45.988	3.195	91.145
12	Jharkhand	340.491	37.956	54.980	433.427	152.531	0.861	35.867	189.259
13	Karnataka	161.542	111.000	16.823	289.365	159.683	69.951	16.156	245.790
14	Kerala	0.000	452.640	0.000	452.640	0.000	98.533	0.000	98.533
15	Madhya Pradesh	696.227	110.700	132.600	939.527	460.717	6.306	121.639	588.662
16	Maharashtra	1370.786	496.560	174.112	2041.458	736.350	1.802	151.707	889.859
17	Manipur	0.000	20.520	0.000	20.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	Meghalaya	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.000	6.334	0.000	6.334
19	Mizoram	0.000	12.120	0.000	12.120	0.000	8.887	0.000	8.887
20	Nagaland	5.937	18.480	0.558	24.975	5.937	12.314	0.558	18.809
21	Orissa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.468	0.000	0.000	0.468
22	Punjab	96.283	18.120	19.723	134.126	44.354	0.000	8.070	52.424
23	Rajasthan	909.987	392.160	110.496	1412.643	559.028	10.458	102.298	671.784
24	Sikkim	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.000	0.600	0.000	0.600

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
26	Tripura	0.000	15.360	0.000	15.360	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
27	Uttar Pradesh	1603.140	250.668	178.680	2032.488	895.511	7.805	162.420	1065.736
28	Uttaranchal	38.760	15.372	3.420	57.552	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	West Bengal	422.931	776.400	54.966	1254.297	309.607	159.547	28.952	498.106
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.764	8.160	0.231	10.155	1.547	2.534	0.128	4.209
31	Chandigarh	5.330	11.640	0.000	16.970	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.753	0.600	0.240	1.593	0.489	0.230	0.206	0.925
33	Daman & Diu	0.330	0.480	0.060	0.870	0.020	0.015	0.029	0.064
34	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35	Pondicherry	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.315	0.000	0.315
	Total	7942.992	4057.700	931.083	12931.775	4216.382	533.581	774.460	5524.423

Note: The allocation and offtake figures under BPL include drought relief and flood relief.

(P) = Provisional

Note: This includes offtake figures under decentralised scheme of M.P upto Jan, 02. and U.P. upto March, 2002

Production/Export of Tea

2886. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the total area, production, productivity, cost of production per hectare and rate of return of tea during each of the last three years upto March 31, 2002, State-wise;

(b) the average per Kg. Sale price of tea in the domestic as well as in the international market alongwith the per kg. cost of production;

(c) whether export of Indian tea has been declined or stagnant for the last few years as compared to that of other competitor countries;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard for the last five years and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Indian tea is being sold at lower prices than that of other countries;

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

(g) whether production of tea in some States such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala is declining year by year;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the specific steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government/Tea Board for promotion/production of tea including organic tea in the country and also to encourage tea production in other non-traditional States like Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disabled Persons

2887. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct an intensive survey to identify persons with disabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any direction has been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response received from the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) On the basis of a request made by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) is conducting a survey on Disability in its 58th round (July-December, 2002).

Duty Concessions by Pakistan

2888. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether Pakistan had granted duty concessions on over 600 items to India and other SAARC countries under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA);

(b) if so, the details of these items and duty concessions on each; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on these concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The SAARC member countries exchange tariff concessions with each other under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA). Pakistan also grants concessions to SAARC member countries, including India under SAPTA. These concessions are given the legal cover by issuance of related Customs Notification, which Pakistan had done earlier vide notification dated the 17th June, 2000. With the changes in the Harmonised Coding System in 2002, a number of H.S. Codes have either been deleted, merged or changed, necessitating re-vamping of the said Customs Notification. It is for this reason that a revised Customs Notification dated the 15th June, 2002 has been issued by the Government of Pakistan which covers the concessions already available to SAARC member countries, and there is no change in the rates of preferential duty concessions.

Customs Duty Evasion by Import/Export Houses

2889. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of export/import houses in the country have evaded customs duty to the tune of crores of rupees in connivance with the revenue officials in the last few years;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any steps to check such activities of the export/import houses; and

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

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

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

(c) and (d) All field formations of the Customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent evasion of customs duty by unscrupulous export/import houses in the country in connivance with the revenue officials.

Smuggling of Hashish

2890. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Delhi is becoming a big market and base for drugs smuggling;

(b) if so, the amount of Nepalese hashish seized during the last three years and in the last six months;

(c) the routes through which the hashish is smuggled into Delhi and other parts of the country; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to control the drug smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The seizure reports received from various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies do not indicate a significant increase in drug trafficking and sale of drugs in and through Delhi.

(b) The details of Nepalese hashish seized in Delhi, as reported by the various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, during 1999, 2000 and 2001 is 2.49 kg., 150.26 kg. and 4 kg. respectively. During the last six months, ending June 2002, there has been no seizure of Nepalese hashish.

(c) Hashish produced in Nepal is trafficked into India across the land borders in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from where it is further transported to centres such as Delhi and Mumbai.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps to put an effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up the enforcement efforts, training of the enforcement officers, close interaction between the agencies of the Centre and the State Governments, neutralizing drug syndicates by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of the police and security forces, fencing and flood lighting of the Indo-Pak border, vesting of powers in the Border Security Force and the Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs, notifying certain precursor chemicals, viz., Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine, etc., as 'Controlled Substances' under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, quarterly coordination meetings of the Narcotics Control Bureau with all Central and State Agencies concerned, holding of periodic bilateral meetings of the Indian and Pakistani Anti-Narcotics Agencies, etc.

Export of Foodgrains

2891. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

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

(a) whether the prices of the foodgrains exported are much lower than that of foodgrains available for Above Poverty Line families in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether foodgrains have been imported during each of the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and foodgrains-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Wheat and rice are being made available from the Central Pool for the purpose of export. WTO compatible expenses are also allowed to the exporters, which makes the net price payable by them lower than the APL price.

(c) No foodgrains had been imported on Government account during the last three years.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Duty Concessions to India by EU on Textiles

2892. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether Government have lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement panel against the European Union for refusing to extend to it the preferential treatment granted to textile exports from Pakistan under the generalised system of preferences scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the WTO dispute settlement body;

(d) whether any settlement has been reached in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): (a) to (e) The scheme of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union (EU) for the period 1st January 2002 to 31st December 2004 *inter-alia* provides for suspension by the EU of customs duties for all products which have not graduated, under special tariff arrangements to combat drug production and trafficking. Pakistan is one of the beneficiary countries under this special arrangement. As this may adversely affect India's exports to EU, India had taken up this issue with EU through bilateral consultations held in February 2002 and July 2002. During the consultations it was highlighted that India would stand to lose substantial trade, particularly in the textiles and clothing sector, on account of duty concessions given selectively to Pakistan. The EU was requested to rectify the adverse trade impact due to such concessions. The bilateral consultations did not however yield the desired results from India's point of view.

As the first step to resolve the above dispute with EU, under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO, it was decided to seek consultations with EU. The consultations were held with EU on 25th March 2002 during which certain details regarding anticipated adverse impact on our trade were conveyed to the EU. These consultations have, however, not led to positive results. While we are still open to remedial action from the EU side, further course of action would be taken in accordance with the WTO rules.

[English]

National Food Safety Code

2893. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have proposed to the Government that the various food laws regulating the activities of the food industry should be harmonised and put under one law;

(b) whether a group of ministers were set up to examine the said issue;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by them; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the implementation of their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted for preparing draft of an Integrated Food Law.

(c) The GOM, have not made any recommendations so far.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Wool Board

2894. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sheep rearers are being given any training for development of wool;

(b) if so, the number of sheep rearers imparted training in Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the performance of the Wool Board;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Wool Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The number of sheep rearers reported as trained in Rajasthan under the Integrated Sheep & Wool Development Project (ISWDP) and Human Resource Development Programme (HRD) of the Central Wool Development Board during the last three years is given below:

Year	ISWDP	HRD
1999-2000	1230	
2000-2001	7200	45
2001-2002	4260	19
Total	12690	64

(c) to (e) Performance of the Central Wool Development Board is reviewed and monitored periodically at the meetings of its Executive Committee chaired by Joint Secretary (Wool), Ministry of Textiles; at its General Body meetings chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles and at various other fora where the plan schemes of the

Ministry are reviewed and monitored. The Annual Report alongwith audited accounts of the Central Wool Development Board is also placed before the Parliament every year.

Steps taken to improve the effectiveness of the Board include assumption of the chairmanship of the Board by the Union Minister of Textiles, enhancement in the budget allocation for the Board from Rs.28 crore in the Ninth Plan period to Rs.40 crore for the 10th Plan period, frequent interaction between the Board officials and the State Government implementing agencies, etc.

[English]

Suvidha Scheme

2895. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to introduce a 'Suvidha' scheme for bulk filing of salary income tax returns; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued a notification S.O.No.661(E) dated 24th June, 2002 for notifying the Scheme called The Scheme for Bulk Filing of Returns by Salaried Employees, 2002. The salient features of the Scheme inter-alia provide for :

(i) an additional mode of furnishing of returns of income by salaried employees through their employer on computer-readable media using an authorized Bulk Return Preparation Software, made available by the Income-tax Department;

(ii) the returns of Income in Form No.2D or Form No.3 to be furnished together with the data on specified computer-readable media, called "bulk returns" by the due date;

(iii) the Bulk return to be processed on priority basis, but in the same manner as the other returns of income which are received in normal course;

(iv) the refund arising on these returns to be delivered either through the employer filing the return on the consent given by the employee or to be credited in the bank account of the employee through Electronic Clearing System of RBI;

(v) presently, the Scheme to be applicable to eligible employers and employees assessed to tax at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Baroda, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Thane.

Shortage of Coins in Gujarat

2896. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of one, two and five rupees coins in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate quantity of coins to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there were some interruptions in the smooth flow of remittances to currency chests and small coin depots in Gujarat during the first half of 2002 due to disturbed conditions prevailing in the state.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to overcome shortage of coins in Gujarat State. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allocated 605 million pieces (MPCs) of rupee coins of various denominations to Regional Office at Ahmedabad for the year 2002-2003. Whenever any complaint is received about shortage, immediate arrangement is made by RBI's Regional Office at Ahmedabad to send the remittance of coins to currency chests at the concerned places. In addition, the distribution of coins is also arranged through mobile vans/melas by the Regional Office at Ahmedabad.

[Translation]

Supply of Yarn

2897. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant increase

in the supply of yarn and in the handloom industry during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of yarn supplied against the demand made by the handloom industry in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the average price of yarn during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the data available with the Ministry of Textiles, the details of yarn delivered in the market for the use in the handloom industry during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Quantity of yarn delivered (in million kgs)
1999-2000	587
2000-2001	601
2001-2002	607

(d) As per the data available with the Ministry of Textiles, the average price of yarn used by the handloom sector is as under:

Period	Average Price per Kg. in Rs.
March 2000	87.32
March 2001	92.38
March 2002	84.25

[English]

Unit-64 Scheme

2898. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2097 on the March 15, 2002 regarding Unit-64 and state:

(a) whether the required information has since been collected;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in collecting the information; and

(c) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected and laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The assurance has since been fulfilled. A copy of the reply is attached as statement.

Statement

Ministry of Finance — Department of Economic Affairs

Q.No. Date & Name of M.P. (s)	Subject	Promise made	How fulfilled	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5
USQ No. 2097 Dated 15.03.2002 by Shri Naresh Puglia	UNIT-64: Asking: (a) whether the Unit Trust of India had declared and disbursed the dividend under Unit Scheme 1964 (US-64) for the year ending June 30, 2001; (b) if so, the details thereof; (c) whether a large number of small unit-holders had opted for re-investing the dividend in the scheme itself;	(a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	(a) and (b) Unit Trust of India (UTI) has intimated that it declared an income distribution @ 10% (Rs. 1 per unit) for the year ended 30-06-2001, and the same has been disbursed during the month of July, 2002. (c) For the year ending on June 30, 2001, 40% of small investors of US-64, who held 5000 units or less as on June 30, 2001, had opted for re-investment of dividends in the scheme itself.	Information from agency concerned was awaited.

1	2	3	4	5
	(d) if so, whether these unit holders have been issued units for the re-invested amount as per practice;		(d) The unitholders have been allotted units for the reinvested amount at the rate of Rs. 6.09 per unit which was the NAV of units prevailing on January 1, 2002.	
	(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and		(e) and (f) Does not arise.	
	(f) the time by which the unit holders are likely to be allotted units, for which they are entitled?			

[Translation]

Business in Regional Share Market

2899. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the declining trend of business in the regional share markets/small share markets;

(b) if so, the share market-wise details of total business transacted in the regional/small share markets in each month during the last year upto July, 2002;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to keep the regional/small share markets in existence; and

(d) the details of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that SEBI has noted that for the past few years, there has been a declining trend of business in regional and small stock exchanges. Some of the regional/small exchanges had very low or negligible or nil turnover.

(b) The share market wise details of total business transacted in regional/small share market stock in each month during last year upto June, 2002 is giving in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) SEBI has taken several steps to keep regional/small stock exchanges in existence. As one such step, the stock exchanges were allowed to form subsidiaries and become the member of larger exchanges. This facilitates them to increase their trading volumes by trading on larger exchange such as BSE/NSE. Seventeen stock exchanges have availed this route and set up their subsidiaries.

Statement

Turnover

(In Rs. crore)

Stock Exchanges	Calcutta	Delhi	Ahmedabad	UPSE	Bangalore	Ludhiana	Pune	OTCEI	Hyderabad	ICSE	Madras
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Apr'01	3501.84	1178.00	1043.98	1367.93	26.62	215.15	360.56	0.38	13.24	0.02	0 89
May'01	4554.63	1551.00	2160.29	1217.45	23.90	255.55	393.73	1.45	11.01	0.04	1.46
June'01	3021.89	1663.00	1617.96	1232.83	16.94	184.39	240.89	0.20	8.92	0.08	2 02
July'01	1624.81	484.00	203.72	320.24	1.15	78.20	10.22	0.77	1.45	0.44	0.73
Aug'01	1675.14	178.00	302.24	610.62	0.75	64.36	23.53	0.49	0.72	0.75	0 36
Sep'01	1894.03	165.00	424.20	834.07	0.33	41.04	13.93	0.18	0.30	4 34	1 43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Oct'01	1420.57	158.00	753.34	991.39	0.24	12.27	12.91	0.03	0.27	5.31	1.24
Nov'01	1942.22	87.00	890.89	1275.89	0.16	3.21	7.93	0.09	1.81	2.12	2.00
Dec'01	2395.79	149.00	161.10	1536.36	0.14	1.79	4.34	0.05	1.46	5.49	3.43
Jan'02	2452.91	121.00	2274.49	1863.58	0.03	0.65	3.18	0.06	0.52	3.71	2.07
Feb'02	1634.05	58.00	1611.67	13214.03	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.07	0.63	8.32	4.76
Mar'02	956.83	36.00	1050.66	772.92	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.93	24.75	3.75
Apr'02	945.17	5.43	1127.83	1400.07	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.0007	5.59	5.17	1.6
May'02	807.47	1.61	1305.56	1328.62	0.00	0.00	0.0034	0.005	1.7	7.32	2.44
June'02	601.85	0.8	1063.74	1272.77	0.00	0.00	N.A.	0.00	2.4	5.73	1.63

Stock Exchanges	Vadodara	Bhub-neshwar	Coimbatore	MP	Magadh	Jaipur	Mangalore	SKSE	Cochin	Gauhati
Apr'01	0.019	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.66	0.00
May'01	0.199	0.00	0.00	6.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.04	0.00
June'01	0.328	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.24	0.00
July'01	0.559	0.00	0.00	2.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.41	0.00
Aug'01	0.579	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
Sep'01	0.413	0.00	0.00	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Oct'01	0.691	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nov'01	0.625	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dec'01	1.011	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jan'02	1.660	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feb'02	2.205	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mar'02	1.833	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.001	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Apr'02	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.304	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
May'02	N.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
June'02	N.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.006	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Loans of FI Outstanding Against Government

2900. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans of various foreign financial institutions outstanding against the Government of India;

(b) the amount of interest the Government have to pay every year on the said loans; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the foreign debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The total amount of loan of various foreign financial institutions outstanding against the Government of India as on 31-3-2002, was as under:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

1.	International Development Association (IDA)	93880.30
2.	International Bank for Reconstruction and Dev. (IBRD)	28003.50
3.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	13804.37
4.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	1065.19
5.	European Economic Community-Special Action Credit (EEC-SAC)	178.93
6.	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	82.46

(b) The details of donor-wise amount of interest the Government of India have paid on the outstanding loans during 2001-02 and the projected interest for the next three financial years are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Government of India is following a prudent external debt management policy that focuses on concessional and less expensive debt from multilateral and bilateral sources, keeping the maturity structure of the total external debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt, prepayment of more expensive external debt the encouraging non-debt flows on capital account and exports and invisible on current account.

Statement

Interest Payments

(Rs.Crore)

Donor	Actual		Projected	
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
IBRD	1312.84	1160.19	1158.71	1082.75
IDA	671.90	708.89	743.46	756.03
ADB	812.22	898.55	920.15	887.97
IFAD	10.01	11.22	11.04	11.35
EEC (SAC)	1.07	1.03	1.01	1.00
OPEC	2.35	2.18	1.26	1.02
Total	2810.39	2782.06	2835.63	2740.12

[English]

Employees Opted VRS

2901. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government employees who opted out for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) announced by the Government in the recent past, so far;

(b) the target fixed in this regard and how far it has been achieved;

(c) whether the Government propose to make changes in the present VRS to make it more attractive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) So far only four permanent employees declared surplus have taken Special VRS introduced on 28.2.2002. As the Scheme is voluntary, no targets can be fixed in this regard.

(c) to (e) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs in its 87th Report on Demand for Grants for the year 2002-2003 has observed that the present VRS package has not attracted much attention of employees and as such the Special VRS needs to be made more attractive. No decision on observation of the Committee has yet been taken.

Aid from Asian Development Bank

2902. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States which received financial aid from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for economic and structural reforms;

(b) details of the amount received by each State; and

(c) the conditions of ADB for granting the financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

(b) Gujarat has received US $ 250 million and Madhya Pradesh has received US $ 175 million.

(c) Gujarat

The project stipulations relate to reduction in fiscal deficit, enabling environment for private sector participation, tax reforms and rationalization, divestment and restructuring of state-owned enterprises, reforms in power, port and road sector as agreed to by Government of Gujarat.

Madhya Pradesh

The project stipulations relate to public finance reform, public enterprise reform, corporate governance, enabling environment for private sector involvement, social development and institutional strengthening as agreed to by Government of Madhya Pradesh.

C&AG Observation on undue Financial Benefit to Processors

2903. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its Report No.11 of 2002 (Indirect Taxes - Central Excise and Service Tax) has brought out the glaring fact of showing undue financial benefits to the processors of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of the processors to whom undue favour have been shown;

(c) whether a Commission at Faridabad has been charged by the CBI for showing favour and causing loss to the Government; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the other people for showing favours to processors and causing financial loss to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Sir, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report No. 11 of 2002 has observed that there were certain lapses in the scheme for levy of duty on the basis of capacity of production on processed fabrics produced by independent textile processors. However the Ministry has not admitted the audit objection.

There is no instance of any Commissioner of Central Excise at Faridabad being charged by the CBI for showing favour to any processor and causing loss to the Government.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

2904. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of some more vocational rehabilitation centres for the handicapped is pending for approval from his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

International Credit Cards

2905. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines whereby the International Credit

Cards can be used for any purpose including the import of items permissible under Exim Policy;

(b) if so, whether Indian travellers can use International Credit Cards and then regularize their spending in foreign exchange abroad on arrival in India; and

(c) if so, the salient features of rules and guidelines issued by the RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular regarding use of International Credit Cards in foreign exchange transactions. International Credit Cards can be used on internet for any purpose for which exchange can be purchased from an authorized dealer in India or import of any other items permissible under EXIM policy.

(b) and (c) RBI has further reported that residents can use International Credit Card while abroad. RBI has clarified that the term "currency", inter-alia, includes Credit Cards, ATM Cards and Debit Cards etc. and all the rules, regulations made and directions issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act apply to Credit Cards, ATM Cards, Debit Cards etc. also. Accordingly, payments by the Credit Cards, ATM Cards, Debit Cards etc. being only different methods of payment, all the rules, regulations made and directions issued under the Act apply to Credit Cards, ATM Cards, Debit Cards etc. also.

Prospects of Textile Exports

2906. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of textile items have declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India's textile export has been affected due to military action in Afghanistan; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (c) The value of textile exports from the country during the last three years are given below:

Year	Value (in US$ Million)	% increase/ decrease over the previous year
1999-2000	10508.6	10.1%
2000-2001	12037.6	14.6%
2001-2002	10715.0	-11.0%

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

The declining trend in the textile exports during the year 2001-02 is mainly due to general slowdown in the economies of some of our major important trading partners like US which got accentuated due to Sept.11 attacks. It is also due to increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

(d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to increase textile exports. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of ready-made garment from the SSI sector.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/ programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements

of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

EXIM Study on Indian Silk

2907. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EXIM Bank has recently conducted a study on the Indian Silk industry suggesting large scale Silk production through participation of corporates/overseas investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Silk Export Promotion council has made any projections on growth of silk exports for the coming five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategy made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main strategies and recommendations made by EXIM Bank in its study report are summarized below:

In order to achieve large scale sericulture production (improved productivity and high quality) and to improve exports of silk goods as well as raw silk, India has to lay more emphasis on scientific ways of improving silk productivity and quality.

The efficiency in silk production can be achieved by planting high yielding mulberry varieties and rearing highly productive bivoltine hybrids.

Technological breakthrough has also to be achieved in the areas of silkworm rearing, reeling, silk throwing and dyeing stages of silk manufacture so as to achieve the production of high quality silk.

Large scale production would be possible by encouraging corporate and foreign investment in this industry. India could adopt the Chinese model for corporatizing Indian silk industry.

Adoption of eco-parameters as identified by many European countries would ensure safety and reliability of textiles.

Product diversification is another area through which higher export growth could be achieved.

As regards marketing, there is need for an international campaign for promotion of silk products. Exclusive brand promotion for Indian silk is very important for assurance of better quality silk to the international customers.

The recommendations have been duly noted. The X Plan strategy and plans of the sericulture sector are already along the lines recommended.

(c) and (d) Projection has been made by the Council for the next five years on the basis of the past performance and their assessment of likely growth @ 15% p.a.

(e) The Government is taking several steps to increase the export of silk products–

(i) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in International fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like TexStyles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

(ii) For Technological up-gradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable interest rate, under the Technological Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available inter-alia to the silk sector.

(iii) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

(iv) Input of specified machinery items of silk industry required for reeling, weaving, twisting, processing and printing has been allowed at concessional customs duty of 10%. The import of spare parts for maintenance of such machinery is also permitted at concessional customs duty of 10%.

(v) Value addition/input-output norms have been rationalized.

(vi) Govt. have initiated a production programme of high quality of bivoltine silk to if improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity & cost competitiveness. Programmes are being implemented to improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development, and diversify products with inputs for improvement of looms and designs such that they may expand the export share of the country.

Food Scams

2908. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "Now, Multi-crore rice diversion scam" appearing in the *Tribune* dated June 19, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry have been conducted into the said scam and the officials those found guilty booked; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) A Committee of three FCI officers has reported that documents relating to the release of stocks to the exporters were properly prepared. However, a case was registered by the police and one Assistant Manager was arrested who has also been placed under suspension.

Strengthening of BIS

2909. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen and modernize the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the details regarding the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the other steps considered keeping in view the safety of the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) plans to connect all its offices through the use of modern communication methods, computerize various activities of the Bureau and offer on line services to consumers.

(c) While formulating Indian Standards on various products, BIS ensures that the requirements relating to human safety are incorporated. Keeping in view public health and safety, a large number of products have been brought under the mandatory certification scheme of the BIS.

[Translation]

Foreign Loans for the Welfare Schemes

2910. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign loans received for welfare schemes in the country are not utilized properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received during the last three years in this regard; and

(d) the number of States which have not spent the funds received from the Union Government for the schemes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Finance has not received any complaint regarding loans received for welfare schemes not being utilized properly.

(d) External assistance received by Government of India is released to the States as Additional Central Assistance on a reimbursement basis. Further, foreign aid is largely project-tied and therefore, utilisation of the sanctioned aid for any project is spread over the project implementation period. As a result, there would be some unutilised amount at any point of time, reflecting the assistance in pipeline, which will be used as project implementation takes place.

Non-Government Hostels/Schools for Tribes

2911. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Non-Government tribal girls schools/Adivasi ashrms/hostels for tribals in Madhya Pradesh that are provided grant by the Union Government;

(b) whether the proposals for grant to the tribal girls schools/hostels/ Ashrams in Madhya Pradesh for the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are still pending with the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared and grants released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The names of the Non-Government organizations sanctioned grants for Educational Complexes, residential schools/non-residential schools and hostels to in Madhya Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The proposals seeking grants-in-aid, complete in all aspects as per guidelines of the scheme, received during 2001-02 have been either cleared or under consideration for sanction. Where the proposals received during 2001-02 lacked some documents, the Organizations/State Governments were requested to furnish the desired information. A few responses from Organizations/State Governments are awaited. The proposals received during 2002-03 are being processed for sanction. The main reasons for the delay are; non-receipt of complete proposals as per guidelines of the scheme, and delays on the part of State Governments in sending the Inspection Reports of the organizations.

Statement

Name of Non-Government Organisation sanctioned by the Educational Projects

Name of Organisation	Address	Project
1	2	3
Adarsh Shiksha Samiti	Village, Bakiya, The: Rampur Baghalan, District: Satna, M.P.	Educational Complex (2 Nos.)
Adarsh Siksha Samiti	Gram Hindoriya, Near Government Health Centre, District Damoh, Madhya Pradesh	Residential School
Adivasi Vikas Samiti	At/P.O. Babaliya, Tehsil: Niwas, District Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, Pin. 462004 (M.P.)	Non Residential School
Annapurna Shiksha Samiti	Semarkhapa (Achali), Teh. & District: Mandla-448661, Madhya Pradesh	Educational Complex
Aradhana Gramin Seva Samiti	Savatri Shiksha Niketan, Lalaram Bajpai, Ex-Home Minister Ki Bagai, Matan Mohalla-Niwari, Post - Niwari, District. Tikamgarh, M.P.	Educational Complex
Asha Deep Kalyan Samiti	HO: 86, Vinoba Ward, Sihora, Distt. Jabalpur, Pin: 483225, (M.P), BO: H.No. F-216 (New M.P.E.B. Colony Manthar), PO-Birsinghpur, New Dist-Umara, Old Dist - Shahdol (M.P.)	Educational Complex Non Residential School
Bandhewal Shiksha Samiti	92, Purana Nariyal Khera, Bhopal-462038. Madhya Pradesh Educational complex	Non Residential School

1	2	3
Bheel Seve Sangh	Village Amba, Block - Rama, District - Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh	Educational Complex
Chambal Vikas Sansthan	HIG-877, Housing Board Colony, Morena-476001 (M.P.)	Non Residential School
Chitranshi Shiksha Prasar Samiti	15, New Gayatri Nagar, Tansen Road, Gwalior-474002 (Madhya Pradesh), HO: 634 Jivaji Nagar, Thatipur, Gwalior	Non Residential School
Dr. Ambedkar Sarvodaya Vikash Parishad	10, Iqbal Colony, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal-462023, (M.P.)	Educational Complex
Gram Chetna Seva Samiti	Shop No. 43, TIT Complex, In Front of Hotel Radhika Palace, Morena-476001, M.P.	Non Residential School
Gramin Seva Kendra	At - Gram Savrajya Ashram, Mandinathu (Via Ranapur), District Jhabua (M.P.)	Educational Complex
Help Line Consultancy Society	A-13, Indira Nagar, Thatipur, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Non Residential School
Jagat Shiksha Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti	House of Shri J.P. Sharma, Kamla Ganj, Shivpuri, M.P.	Educational Complex
Kasturba Banbasi Kanya Ashram	Village: Niwali, District: Badwani (M.P.)	Educational Complex
Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust	Kasturbagram, Indore-452020, M.P.	Educaltonal Complex
Lovely Samaj Seva Evam Shiksha Prasar Samiti	K.L. Dubey Bihari Ward, Khurai Block, District Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	Non Residential School
Lt. Shree Jagannath Siksha Prasar Avam Samaj Kalyan Samiti	M.P.E.B. Colony, Malthona, District Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	Non Residential School
M.P. Adivasi Sevak Sangh	At/PO Jaisingh Nagar, District Sehdol (M.P.)	Educational Complex
M.P. Anusuchit Jati Janjati Pichhda Varg Kalyan Sangh	116-E, Muninagar, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh	Residential School
Madhya Pradesh Adivasi Sevak Sangh	Mathur Bhawan Behind Munnu, At-Amahia, Rewa, District: Sehdol-486001, M.P.	Educational Complex
Mahakaushal Mahila Shiksha Samiti	H.No. 3226, Tulsinagar, Behind St. Babriel School, Ranji Basti, Jabalpur-482005, M.P.	Educational Complex
Pandey Shiksha Samiti	At-Bamarache, PO - Devdaha, District Satna, M.P.	Educational Complex
Parnami Adivasi Shiksha Samiti	P.O. Sirsi Jagir, District Guna, Madhya Pradesh	Educational Complex
Pramod Adivasi Vikas Parishad	H.O. 1299, Chandrasekhar Ward, Ranjhi Basti, Jabalpur-482005, M.P.	Educational Complex

1	2	3
Prasad Ekata Samiti	At-Arjun Nagar, Village: Silvani, Raisen, M.P.	Educational Complex
Pt. Pyarelal Shiksha Samiti	Near Police Chowki, Lalla Rawat, Sadar Bazar, Sagar, (M.P.)	Non-Residential School
Pushpa Convent Education Society	79, Mahamai Bagh, Pushpa Nagar, Chouwraha, Bhopal-462010 (MP)	Educational Complex
Rajendra Ashram Trust	At/PO Kathiwada, District: Jhabua-457885, M.P.	Educational Complex
Rama Education And Welfare Society	92, Old Nariyal Kheda, Bhopal (M.P.)	Non-Residential School
Richa Samaj Seva Evam Shiksha Prasar Samiti	Genious Public School, Krishna Vihar, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Educational Complex
Rural Developpment Service Society	Pushpa Social Centre, Silwani PO, Pin: 464886, District-Raisen, (MP)	Non-Residential School Educational Complex
Saidhantik Shiksha Samiti	H.No. 11, Manegaon, Champanagar Post, Westland Tehsil Jabalpur, District Jabalpur, Pin: 482005, M.P.	Non Residential School
Savya Sanchi Centre for Urban and Rural Development	Amar Nikanj, Karondiya North. Sidhi (M.P.), Pin: 486661	Educational Complex
Sewa Bharati (Madhya Pradesh)	"Matruchhaya", Swami Ramtirth Nagar, Near Malda Mills, Hosangabad Road, Bhopal-462011 (Madhya Pradesh)	Hostel (3 Nos.)
Sh. Lal Bahadur Shiksha Prasar Samiti	Yadav Colony, Tehsil Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	Non Residential School
Shakti Swasthya Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti Gwalior	H.No. 37, Panchwati Colony, A.B. Road, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Educational Complex
Shivam Social Development Society	House of Shri Omprakash Shivhare, Behind District Judge Residence, Ganeshpura, Murena-476001, Madhya Pradesh	Educational Complex
Shri Lav Shiksha Prasar Samiti	Village: Searnu, Tehsil: Silvani, District: Raisen (MP)	Educational Complex
Shri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sevashram	Mai Ki Bagiya, Amarkantak, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh-484886	Educational Complex

[English]

Impact of Globalisation

2912. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an adverse impact of globalisation on industrial and agricultural development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far to resist this impact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The following table gives the average sectoral real growth rates in Gross Domestic Product (at factor cost) for the periods 1980-81 to 1991-92 and 1992-93 to 2001-02:

Average sectoral real growth rates (in per cent) at 1993-94 prices

Sectors	1980-81 to 1991-92	1992-93 to 2001-02
1. Agriculture & allied	3.9	3.4
2. Industry	6.3	6.0
3. Services	6.4	7.7

As can be seen from the above table, there had been marginal declines in average growth rates of agriculture & allied sectors and industry in the post-economic reforms period during 1992-93 to 2001-02. However, the services sector has grown at significantly higher rates during the post-reforms period. The decline in agricultural growth was attributable to irregular monsoons particularly during the later part of the 1990s. Overall industrial growth also declined due to relatively poor performance by industry in later part of the 1990s. This was attributable to various structural and cyclical factors like normal business and investment cycles, lack of domestic and external demand, high real interest rates, infrastructure constraints etc. The Indian economy was also affected by several external shocks (such as the East Asian crisis of 1997-98, oil price hike of 2000-01 and the recent global economic slowdown) and domestic disturbances (such as adverse security environment and natural disasters like the Orissa Cyclone and the Gujarat Earthquake).

(b) Government has taken several steps for promoting agricultural and industrial growth. These include: enhancing public outlay in agriculture, liberalisation of policies in trade, industry, infrastructure and financial sectors, rationalisation of the direct and indirect tax regimes, reduction of interest rates and other complementary macroeconomic policies for promoting sustainable economic growth.

Mal-Practices in FCI Godowns in Kerala

2913. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government mal-practices are going on in the FCI godowns in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conduct an inquiry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) No malpractices have been reported in the Food Corporation of India depots of Kerala. A reference has, however, been received recently from the State Government of Kerala to ensure adequate stocking of foodgrains in Kerala.

Welfare Schemes for the Handicapped of Orissa

2914. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped of different categories in Orissa and the schemes of the Union Government undertaken for their rehabilitation;

(b) the amount sanctioned to the Government of Orissa since April 1,1998 separately, scheme-wise and amount-wise;

(c) the number of handicapped people benefited and rehabilitated under this scheme year-wise;

(d) whether the State Government of Orissa has failed to utilize the sanctioned amount in full for the benefit of adequate number of handicapped persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In a survey conducted by Government of Orissa during the years 1993-1995, 62924 orthopaedically handicapped, 47473 visually impaired, 36305 hearing impaired and 11501 mentally challenged persons were identified. In the State of Orissa, the Government of India is supporting a number of programmes for manpower development in the rehabilitation field and training and rehabilitation services for the persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. The National Institute of

Rehabilitation Training and Research (NIRTAR) and a Regional Rehabilitation Centre for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities are located in the State. Besides, the Non-Governmental Organisations are assisted under the Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation also provides soft loans for self-employment ventures.

(b) to (d) The grant-in aid released to the Government of Orissa under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped during 1998-99 to 2001-2002 was Rs. 1.61 lakhs. 109 persons with disabilities got jobs during 1998 to 2001. The National Programme of Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) has been launched at the end of 1999-2000 as a State Sector Scheme and an amount of Rs. 379.40 lakhs has been released so far. The utilization of funds may take some time, as the implementation of the programme involves a number of steps and rehabilitation is a multi prolonged activity.

(e) A mechanism is already in existence in the persona of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the State to coordinate with departments of State Government for implementation of the programmes and to monitor the utilization of funds etc. Besides, the Ministry also monitors the progress in this regard to ensure full utilization of the amounts released to the State Government /Union Territories.

Sugar Development Fund

2915. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sugar Development Fund has failed to achieve its objectives for which it was formed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the amount of accumulated balance in the Sugar Development Fund as on date; and

(e) the details of loans including short term loans released from Sugar Development Fund during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Although the Sugar Development Fund Act has served its objective of providing for financing of activities for the development of sugar industry primarily through the mechanism of funding projects of modernisation/rehabilitation of plant and machinery & cane development, there are new emerging areas to apply the Sugar Development Fund for the development of sugar industry. Accordingly, the Sugar Development Act, 1982 has been amended w.e.f 21st June, 2002 providing for application of the Fund:

(i) for making loans to any sugar factory or any unit thereof for bagasse-based co-generation power projects with a view to improving their viability.

(ii) for making loans to any sugar factory or any unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol with a view to improving their viability.

(iii) for defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipments of sugar with a view to promoting its export.

(d) As on 31.03.2002, an amount of Rs.1345.44 crores was available in the Fund.

(e) A statement showing the details of loans for various purposes from Sugar Development Fund, head-wise, year-wise & state-wise during the last three years till date is enclosed.

Statement

States	Modernisation/ Rehabilitation	Cane Development	Short Term Loan
			(Rs. in lakhs)
	Amount Disbursed	Amount Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4
1999-2000			
Bihar	5546.79		
Uttar Pradesh	5124.428	96.975	513.60

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	952.93	463.59	307.22
Karnataka	2194.43	214.19	-
Gujarat	1522.00	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	662.950	60.345	141.17
Haryana	-	85.81	49.50
Tamil Nadu	-	238.89	265.00
Punjab	-	89.78	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	59.38	-
2000-2001			
Andhra Pradesh	687.95	192.534	-
Karnataka	394.43	111.32	-
Maharashtra	2128.898	101.79	-
Uttar Pradesh	2331.009	94.24	-
Bihar	1337.00	-	-
Tamil Nadu	494.40	-	49.95
Haryana	355.61	-	50.00
Punjab	-	172.26	
2001-2002			
Maharashtra	5836.482	400.595	-
Uttar Pradesh	2069.967	158.755	-
Andhra Pradesh	498.71	-	-
Bihar	969.09	-	-
Tamil Nadu	1269.79	135.37	-
Gujarat	831.264	-	-
Karnataka	470.00	-	-
Haryana	355.61	57.51	-
2002-2003			
Andhra Pradesh	1492.31	-	-
Maharashtra	1346.254	256.50	-
Tamil Nadu	775.39	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	485.624	-	-

Prices of Indian Rice in International Market

2916. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India in the field of rice export in the World;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve its position;

(c) whether 25 per cent of Indian rice is being traded in the international market at far cheaper rates than the Thailand rice;

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

(e) whether another 25% of Indian rice is being traded at half of the last year's price in contrast to sharp increase in the export prices of rice from other countries; and

(f) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) During the year 2001-02 India exported 1.53 million MT of non-basmati rice and 0.66 million MT of basmati rice. Thus it ranked fourth in the World exports after Thailand (6.5 million MT), Vietnam (3.5 million MT) and USA (2.6 million MT).

(Source: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi)

(b) Some of the steps taken to boost the export of rice include publicity campaign, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible cost on account of marketing and transport.

(c) to (f) It is not possible to indicate accurately the comparative rates at which Indian and other countries rice is being traded in the international market, the same being a function of various factors including international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

Jute Procurement Policy

2917. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have brought about any changes in the jute procurement policy in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to

give a fresh look into the existing jute procurement policy in order to benefit the jute growers;

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The present Minimum Support Policy of the Government is intended to benefit jute growers. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the nodal agency for implementing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Policy for the jute growers. Whenever, the prices of raw jute fall below MSP levels, JCI intervenes in the market through its own purchase centers numbering 171 and through cooperative societies in the jute growing states. There is no proposal at the moment, to change the current procurement policy.

[Translation]

Export of Handicraft

2918. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered units in the country which export handicraft items;

(b) the details of concessions and facilities being provided to exporters by the Government for encouraging the export of handicraft items;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch any new scheme for encouraging the handicraft items to create self-employment opportunities allover the country; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof up-to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) The number of registered units exporting handicrafts items including carpet registered with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) is 6692 and 2458 respectively.

(b) The concession and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters to promote the export of handicrafts items include: duty draw back on exports; eligibility of funds from Market Access Initiative scheme for developing website for virtual exhibition; entitlement to the benefit of export house status on achieving average export performance of Rs.5.00 crore during the preceding three licensing years; entitlement to duty free import of specified items upto 3% of FOB value of exports and assistance under MDA scheme to exporters for participation in fairs/exhibition abroad as well as for undertaking research. Besides, the EPCH and CEPC are provided financial assistance for organizing Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair and Carpet Fair at New Delhi twice a year. Assistance is also provided to both the councils for participation in fair/festivals abroad organization of seminar/workshops and for internal and external publicity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentives to Carpet Traders

2919. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped paying incentive money to carpet traders of Bhadohi - Mirzapur (U.P.);

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-start paying incentive money to carpet traders in view of their hardships;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any study regarding its impact on traders; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Loans to States by Multinational Institutions

2920. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts provided to the States by the Union Government through multinational institutions during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by each of the States on administrative works during the said period;

(c) whether the Government have requested the State Governments to curtail their administrative expenses; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) A statement showing State-wise disbursement of Multilateral Aid during last three years is enclosed.

(b) Amount spent by each of the States on administrative works is guided by the provisions made in the Budget of the States for the respective year.

(c) and (d) In view of the requests received from State Governments for assistance to overcome their cash imbalance problems, the Government of India have requested to the State Governments to initiate appropriate steps towards prudent fiscal management and address the issue of expenditure compression within the available resources. The Government of India have also constituted a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Finance Minister to assess the fiscal situation of the States. The Committee is to submit its report by the 30th September 2002.

Statement

State-wise disbursement of Multilateral Aid during last three years.

(Rs in Crore)

S.No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1025.83	1176.07	2402.07
2.	Assam	44.70	109.45	123.86
3.	Bihar	89.06	58.24	0.60
4.	Gujarat	215.80	870.86	420.03
5.	Haryana	212.61	292.01	304.49
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.79	11.88	10.97
7.	Karnataka	204.57	99.38	1364.90
8.	Kerala	25.24	39.75	29.01
9.	Manipur	0.30	0.28	0.00
10.	Maharashtra	119.63	169.09	154.63
11.	Madhya Pradesh	521.81	33.73	387.96
12.	Orissa	365.00	381.89	245.18
13.	Punjab	1.09	0.37	0.45
14.	Rajasthan	38.23	131.89	91.90
15.	Tamil Nadu	406.45	488.34	202.50
16.	Uttar Pradesh	292.88	1513.21	588.07
17.	Uttaranchal	0.00	22.22	19.21
18.	West Bengal	0.00	2.67	1.21

[English]

Promotion of Sericulture

2921. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Union Government for the promotion of sericulture in the State of Kerala during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government are verifying the performance of State Sericulture Boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Funds are released to States for development of sericulture, and not to districts. Amount released by Union Government for the promotion of Sericulture in the State of Kerala during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1999-2000	72.32
2000-2001	94.46
2001-2002	94.92

(b) and (c) The Govt. of India monitors the performance of the Central Silk Board, and through it the implementation, performance and impact of centrally assisted sericulture schemes.

Visit of Delegation to Switzerland to Attract FDI

2922. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered Indian delegation visited Switzerland to attract investments in bio-technology, IT and tourism;

(b) if so, whether the delegation was jointly-sponsored by his Ministry and FICCI; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the visit and potential investment proposals tied-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A high level official and business delegation led by the Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister visited Switzerland during June 2002 to participate in the 'Destination India' event jointly organised by the department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and FICCI to enhance awareness about the good investment climate in the country and potential for more foreign direct investment in various sectors of economy including bio-technology, IT and tourism. During the Event, discussions between Indian and Swiss businessmen also took place to explore the possibilities of collaborations in various fields. Such events serve a very useful purpose by apprising the investing community abroad about the policy changes and the opportunities opening up in various sectors for investment in this country, which are essential inputs in the decision-making process of foreign investors with regard to investing in India.

Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund

2923. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not fixed the wholesalers and retailers commission for levy sugar under Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (LSPEF) after 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the time by which a decision regarding commission for levy sugar is likely to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) On receipt of proposals from the State Governments, the Central Government fixes the margins for wholesalers and retailers for distribution of levy sugar in the Public Distribution System. The margins once fixed continue to be operative till the same are revised. The guidelines for fixation of margins were revised with effect from 1.4.1996 and since then the margins have been revised in the case of the following States for the period indicated against each:

Andhra Pradesh	1999-2000
Bihar	Feb.-March, 2000
Delhi	1996-97
Gujarat	1996-97
Goa	1996-97 (wholesaler only)
Haryana	1999-2000
Himachal Pradesh	1997-98
Karnataka	1996-97 (except transportation charges)
Kerala	1996-97 (in respect of wholesaler)
Orissa	Feb.-March, 2000
Punjab	1997-98
Rajasthan	1998-99
Tripura	1997-98
Uttar Pradesh	1996-97 (except transportation & handling charges)
West Bengal	December 1999 - March, 2000

The proposals were also received from the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tripura for revision of margins. On scrutiny of the proposals, certain clarifications and documents were asked for from the State Governments. The needful has been done by only one State, viz., Tripura, so far. The replies from the other State Governments are still awaited. Further action to fix the margins in respect of Tripura is being taken.

No proposal for the revision of margins has been received from any of the remaining State Governments.

Hurdles in Trade between India and Myanmar

2924. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the problems arising in the promotion of trade between India and Myanmar;

(b) if so, whether any talk has been held between both the countries to resolve those problems and to promote trade between both the countries; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the problems ranging from the current non-renewal of trading licenses for foreign trading companies, including Indian companies, restrictive barter trade policy of the Myanmar authorities through all border trading points since 1997, opening of second border trading point and the constraints of infrastructure and security environment relating to promotion of trade between India and Myanmar.

(b) and (c) Some of the above problems relating to the promotion of border trade between the two countries viz. infrastructure facilities at Moreh and Tamu, restrictions upon the movement of traders and their vehicles by the Government of Myanmar and the need for the immediate opening of Champai-Rhi as the second border trading point, etc. were discussed at the Eighth National Level Meeting between the Home Ministries of the two countries at New Delhi on 10-11 July 2002 in order to promote trade between the two countries.

Import Duty on Cotton and Silk

2925. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the import duty on cotton and China silk yarn to protect the domestic cotton silk industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (c) Union Government had received requests to increase duty on import of cotton. After taking into account the interests of all concerned and the prevailing difference between the domestic and international prices, Government hiked the customs duty on import of cotton from 5% to 10% with effect from 09.01.2002.

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have requested for increase in import duty on raw silk and other actions. Action has been initiated regarding investigation into anti dumping and the matter regarding increase in import duty is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Automatic Teller Machines in Uttar Pradesh

2926. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise where Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) facilities have been made available by the Nationalised Banks;

(b) whether nationalised banks propose to instal more automatic teller machines in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Bank-wise details of ATMs installed by nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh are given in the enclosed statement-I. The data base in Reserve Bank of India does not generate the District-wise information.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of proposed ATMs to be installed by the nationalised banks is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of ATMs Installed by Nationalised Banks in Uttar Pradesh

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of ATMs
1.	Allahabad Bank	12
2.	Andhra Bank	4
3.	Bank of Baroda	1
4.	Bank of India	0
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	1
6.	Canara Bank	1
7.	Central Bank of India	2
8.	Corporation Bank	4
9.	Dena Bank	1
10.	Indian Bank	1
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	5
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
13.	Punjab and Sind Bank	0
14.	Punjab National Bank	39
15.	Syndicate Bank	0
16.	UCO Bank	0
17.	Union Bank of India	0
18.	United Bank of India	0
19.	Vijaya Bank	0

Statement-II

Number of proposed ATMs of Nationalised Banks - State-wise and Bank-wise

State	Allahabad Bank	Andhra Bank	Bank of Baroda	Bank of India	Bank of Maharashtra	Canara Bank	Central Bank of India	Corporation Bank	Dena Bank	Indian Bank	Indian Overseas Bank	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Punjab and Sind Bank	Punjab National Bank	Syndicate Bank	UCO Bank	Union Bank of India	United Bank of India	Vijaya Bank
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	1	4	0	9	1	5	0	14		3	2	0	0	3	0	1	3	1	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	2	1	0	8	1	4	3	20		2	7	3	0	14	0	1	2	1	1
Goa	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	7		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	10		4	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		J	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

25 ATMs proposed to be installed. Locations yet not finalised.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	1	0	0	9	1	10	2	30		0	0	0	0	3	6	1	2	0	7
Kerala	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	4	0	0	15	7	5	2	24		3	4	6	0	10	0	0	9	1	0
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Punjab	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3		2	1	1	1	9	0	0	1	0	0
Rajasthan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1	1	0	9	1	10	1	17		15	8	[illegible]	0	6	0	1	6	1	1
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttaranchal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	9	0	0	3	0	0	2	3		0	2	1	0	34	0	1	0	0	1
West Bengal	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	7		2	1	0	0	6	0	1	2	1	0

[English]

Import of Rapeseed Oil

2927. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the countries ftom which the sunflower and rapeseed oil are being imported;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to import sunflower and rermed rapeseed oil on concessional duty;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the import target fixed by the Government in this regard for the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) Import of edible oils (other than copra/coconut oil) is under the Open General License. Government does not fix any target for import of edible oils. Such imports depend upon the demand supply position of edible oils in the country, international and domestic prices and the commercial judgement of the importers.

During the current oil year (November-October) till June, 2002, as per available information Crude sunflower oil bas been imported from Argentina while canola/ rapeseed oil has been imported from Canada.

There is a position for import of crude sunflower or sunflower oil upto an aggregate of 1.50 lakh M.Ts (Tariff Rate Quota) in 2002-2003 at a concessional customs duty of 50% (against the normal duty of 75%). Similarly, there is a provision for import of refined, rapeseed, colza or mustard oil upto an aggregate of 1.50 lakh M.Ts (Tariff Rate Quota) in 2002-2003 at a concessional customs duty of 45% plus Special Additional Duty of 4% (against the normal duty of 75% plus Special Additional Duty of 4%).

ED Inquiry against Ranbaxy

2928. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to News-item captioned "ED calls for books in Ranbaxy UK case" appearing in 'Economic Times' dated August 21, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the investigation has been completed; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Residential Schools for SC/ST and OBC

2929. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the assistance released by the Govt. to the Non Government Organizations for opening/establishing residential schools for the benefits of SC/ST/OBC children in terms of quantum of assistance per child, salaries of the teachers and non-teaching staff, construction of school, hostel and staff quarter meant for school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

IDBI Assistance to Entrepreneurs of States

2930. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by IDBI from the entrepreneurs during each of the last three years, State - wise;

(b) the number of applications approved and those rejected out of them State-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by IDBI to the entrepreneurs during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT

GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), State/Union Territory-wise number of applications received, number of applications approved and rejected and the amount of financial assistance provided during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I to III respectively.

Statement-I

State-wise Applications Received by IDBI

States	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	135	124	91
Assam	8	6	7
Bihar	8	4	8
Chhattisgarh	11	6	2
Goa	5	11	6
Gujarat	158	103	45
Haryana	47	41	21
Himachal Pradesh	20	7	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2	6	1
Jharkhand	6	3	4
Karnataka	75	70	45
Kerala	14	17	8
Madhya Pradesh	36	40	26
Maharashtra	311	369	263
Meghalaya	1	2	0
Orissa	24	14	10
Punjab	64	43	20
Rajasthan	81	63	32
Tamil Nadu	124	113	93
Chandigarh	4	2	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10	7	7
Delhi	34	46	23
Daman & Diu	7	3	3
Pondicherry	5	2	0
Uttar Pradesh	63	70	30
Uttaranchal	10	4	3
West Bengal	83	53	40

Statement-II

State-wise Applications Approved and Rejected by IDBI during 1999-00 to 2001-02 from the applications received during 1999-00, 2000-01 & 2001-02

States	Approved	Rejected
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	222	116
Assam	19	2
Bihar	12	8
Chhattisgarh	8	11
Goa	14	8
Gujarat	194	106
Haryana	75	34
Himachal Pradesh	18	12
Jammu & Kashmir	5	4
Jharkhand	9	4
Karnataka	112	74
Kerala	28	9
Madhya Pradesh	62	40
Maharashtra	682	254
Meghalaya	3	0
Orissa	32	15
Punjab	93	34

1	2	3
Rajasthan	136	39
Tamil Nadu	217	106
Chandigarh	5	3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	9
Delhi	77	26
Daman & Diu	8	5
Pondicherry	6	1
Uttar Pradesh	100	57
Uttaranchal	14	3
West Bengal	119	51

Statement-III

State-wise Assistance Sanctioned and Disbursed by IDBI

(Rs. crore)

Sr.No.	State	Sanctions			Disbursements		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	3450	2719	1874	1698	1476	701
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	43	25	111	30	33	34
4	Bihar	127	7	17	110	28	6
5	Chhattisgarh	208	103	8	5	26	11
6	Delhi	1923	4406	2834	1331	2688	1170
7	Goa	14	81	10	103	64	21
8	Gujarat	4154	3142	1131	2464	816	902
9	Haryana	557	790	272	388	612	240
10	Himachal Pradesh	333	69	17	327	74	87
11	Jammu & Kashmir	41	55	300	42	59	0
12	Jharkhand	114	13	3	208	34	6
13	Karnataka	1060	1107	877	956	1549	552
14	Kerala	178	205	216	118	173	105
15	Madhya Pradesh	924	233	275	660	357	312
16	Maharashtra	4261	5383	4948	3565	4216	4277

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	0	17	0	0	0	10
19	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	0
20	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Orissa	106	222	176	204	205	49
22	Punjab	1039	733	528	561	801	608
23	Rajasthan	778	756	499	681	637	295
24	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	1542	2308	586	1241	1204	556
26	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	756	821	514	781	614	211
28	Uttaranchal	62	45	25	43	49	32
29	West Bengal	903	1319	252	628	860	370
30	Union Territories	167	120	46	96	128	56
(i)	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
(ii)	Chandigarh	38	50	17	26	59	5
(iii)	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	68	18	29	35	31	31
(iv)	Daman & Diu	56	28	0	18	30	9
(v)	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
(vi)	Pondicherry	5	24	0	17	8	11

[English]

Outstanding Taxes

2931. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax, estate tax and other commercial taxes outstanding against Industrial/ Commercial Units/individuals more than Rs. 25 crores since three years;

(b) the extent of amount recovered during each of the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for not recovering the rest of the amounts from those?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The information will be collected and furnished. Estate duty and commercial taxes are State subjects. The Central Government does not maintain information in respect of outstanding amounts of State taxes.

(b) Same as in (a).

(c) Recovery of tax is a continuous process

involving various statutory procedures including appeal. Recovery cannot be effected for the entire amount of demand until the appeal process is complete.

Income Tax Raid on Modi Xerox

2932. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities and other agencies recently carried out raids at various premises of the Modi Xerox;

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

(c) the details of the items recovered/seized during the raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Income Tax authorities have carried out raids.

(b) Some incriminating documents and assets were seized.

(c) Cash of Rs. 109.5 lakhs, jewellery of Rs. 10.75 lakhs, shares of Rs. 33.44 lakhs and FDRs of Rs. 38.01 lakhs have been seized.

Director at NIRTAR

2933. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not approved any full fledged Director at NIRTAR, at Olatpur, Distt. Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in view of this the implementation of various social welfare projects and inspection report of the ongoing projects are not being done in time; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for appointing a full fledged Director at NIRTAR in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training & Research (NIRTAR) is undertaking all activities including providing rehabilitation services, manpower development and research etc. in accordance with the mandate of the Institute. The post of Director is presently vacant. Advertisement inviting applications has been released and responses to the same have been received in the Ministry.

Shifting of FIPB

2934. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to transfer the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) from the Ministry of Industry to the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a lot of functions of the FIPB are proposed to be shifted to the RBI under automatic licensing scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) Foreign Direct Investment up to 100% is permitted on automatic route in most sectors. Approval of FIPB is required only in a few sectors such as broadcasting, domestic Airlines, Integrated townships, defence industry, tea plantations, etc. Applications made to FIPB are considered on the basis of notified guidelines and normally disposed of within a time frame of six weeks from the date of receipt of the application.

Accounts of Regional Rural Banks

2935. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has decided

to undertaken a thorough scrutiny of the accounts of the Regional Rural Banks sponsored by it;

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

(c) to what extent the inspection of accounts of Regional Rural Banks have been checked by the State Bank of India so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that the scrutiny of the accounts of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is being done annually by statutory auditors at the end of the financial year. The investment portfolio of RRBs is also regularly reviewed in the quarterly structured meetings.

(c) As per report of SBI the following inspection and audit system has been put in place for RRBs by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), sponsor bank and Reserve Bank of India:

(i) Statutory Audit of accounts of RRB once in a yearly by external auditors;

(ii) Internal inspection and audit by the inspectors deputed by Sponsor Bank once in a year;

(iii) NABARD's Statutory Inspection of the RRBs under section 35 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 once in two/three years;

(iv) Periodical review at quarterly structured meeting with the Chairmen of RRBs by General Manager of the Circle.

[Translation]

Export of Asbestos

2936. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where maximum number of asbestos sheets /pipes are manufactured;

(b) whether these asbestos products are exported;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of foreign currency earned through such exports;

(d) whether according to the health experts, asbestos products manufacturing units causes lung diseases;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to close down these units;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to protect the interests of employees of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The names of places where maximum number of asbestos sheets/pipes are manufactured are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following are the value of Indian exports of asbestos sheets/pipes:

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Item	2000-01	2001-02 (Upto Feb. 2002)
1	Asbestos cement sheets (other than corrugated sheets)	238.53	270.25
2	Asbestos cement pipes	7.17	5.08

Source: DGCI&S

(d) to (g) There is no conclusive study conducted by Health experts to suggest that manufacturing of Asbestos products cause lung diseases and as such there is no proposal before the Government to close down these units.

Banks Loans to Industries/Companies

2937. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question Number 5759 dated May 2, 2002 and to state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) Information is still being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Establishment of Book Banks

2938. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of book banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for release of an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for the year 2002-03 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of a Book Bank for ST students.

(c) The proposal is under process. However, it is not possible to indicate a precise time frame within which the decision will be taken.

Production of Coffee

2939. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the area, production and productivity and average size of plantation holding of coffee with the States during the Ninth Plan period, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the average price of processed coffee seed and powder for instant coffee per kilogram and price per kilogram made available to coffee planters;

(c) the average cost of production of coffee per hectare and thus the rate of return for farmers during each year of the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

(d) whether there are any identified auction platforms of Coffee Board;

(e) if so, the details of facilities given to the coffee planters;

(f) the export of coffee with the names of destination countries, types of coffee, names of competitor countries and sales price in international market during the above period;

(g) the quantum of coffee imported during the above period year-wise; and

(h) the details of agreements or arrangements of concessional duty made with any country, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Minorities Finance Development Corporation

2940. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Finance Development to provide loans to persons of minority community who are below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government and Union Government are contributing to this corporation for welfare of minorities;

(d) if so, whether all the State Governments are paying to this fund;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the names of such State Governments who are not contributing towards it; and

(f) the number of persons benefited and the amount of loan given by NMDFC during the last three years under micro finance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provide concessional credit for income generation activities to the target beneficiaries from the minority communities living

below double the poverty line. It has two channels to reach the ultimate beneficiaries. One through the State Channelising Agencies nominated by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations and other through non-governmental organizations. The State Channelising Agencies operate the Term Loan Scheme which is for projects costing upto Rs.5 lac, of which 85 per cent is funded by NMDFC. They also operate the Margin Money Loan Scheme under which maximum loan provided is Rs. 1.25 lacs per unit. Under the Micro Credit scheme through non-governmental organizations, loan is provided for self employment activities, upto Rs 10000/- Interest Free Loan upto Rs. 2.15 lac is also given to NGOs for promotion & stabilization of 50 Self-Help Groups having about 1000 members.

(c) to (e) The State Governments are to contribute 26 per cent of the authorized share capital of NMDFC. Statement showing equity earmarked and contribution made by various State Governments/UT Administrations is enclosed. So far the Union Government have contributed a sum of Rs.235.26 crore in the equity of NMDFC.

(f) During the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, an amount of Rs. 52.41 lac, Rs.100.15 lac and Rs.477.67 lac was released covering 7,359, 11,418 and 24,529 beneficiaries respectively.

Statement

Contribution made by the States/UTs in the Equity of NMDFC

(in Rs./Lacs)

Name of the State/UT	Equity Earmarked	Equity Contributed	Pending Contribution	%age Contribution
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	7.92	0.00	7.92	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	631.03	500.04	130.00	79.24
Arunachal Pradesh *	18.75	0.00	18.75	0.00
Assam	632.20	0.00	632.20	0.00
Bihar	1204.45	500.04	704.41	41.52
Chandigarh	13.48	38.89	-25.41	288.50
Dadra and Nagar Haveli *	0.50	1.45	-0.95	290.00
Daman & Diu *	1.07	0.00	1.07	0.00
Delhi	126.69	50.00	126.69	0.00
Goa *	36.19	0.00	36.19	0.00
Gujarat	337.81	205.00	132.81	60.69
Haryana	152.68	25.00	127.68	16.37
Himachal Pradesh	18.42	18.42	0.00	100.00
Jammu and Kashmir	356.18	0.00	356.18	0.00
Karnataka	542.54	300.04	242.50	55.30
Kerala	1090.18	125.00	.965.18	11.47

1	2	3	4	5
Lakshadweep *	4.33	0.00	4.33	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	358.98	200.00	158.98	55.71
Maharashtra	1209.95	0.00	1209.95	0.00
Manipur	66.95	0.00	66.95	0.00
Meghalaya *	106.55	0.00	106.55	0.00
Mizoram	57.10	57.00	0.10	99.82
Nagaland	94.85	0.00	94.85	0.00
Orissa	111.58	38.23	73.35	34.26
Pondicherry	9.78	0.00	9.78	80.00
Punjab	1164.36	10.00	1154.36	0.86
Rajasthan	371.25	30.00	341.25	8.08
Sikkim *	11.24	0.00	11.24	0.00
Tamil Nadu	548.04	300.00	248.04	54.74
Tripura	32.67	5.00	27.67	15.30
Uttar Pradesh	2213.89	700.06	1513.83	31.62
West Bengal	1468.39	1065.00	503.39	72.53
Total	13000	4169.17	8830.83	32.00

* In operational States/UTs

Import of Plastic Goods from Nepal

2941. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of the plastic goods from Nepal has been continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the value of plastic goods imported 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 thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The value of plastic good imported from Nepal during the last three years, given below, shows an increasing trend in imports:

Year	Value of import in Indian rupees crores
1999-2000	32.53
2000-2001	40.82
2001-2002	64.43

(c) and (d) Representations have been received in Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Deptt. of Commerce, alleging that duty free imports of plastic goods from Nepal under the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade have

adversely affected the domestic industry. However, authentic information about the closure of some of the plastic processing units in India due to this factor is not available in the Ministry.

(e) The relevant provisions in the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade have been modified on 2nd March, 2002, to provide protection to the domestic industry, including the plastic industry in India. In the event of imports under the Treaty, in such a manner or in such quantities as to cause or threaten to cause injury to the domestic industry or a significant segment of it relating to the article, the importing country may request for consultations in the Joint Committee set up by the two Governments for this purpose with a view to taking appropriate measures. If the consultations in the Joint Committee fail to resolve the issue within a period of sixty days from the date of such request, then the requesting Government shall be free to take appropriate remedial measures.

West Bengal Share in Taxes

2942. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended for payment of 29 per cent to West Bengal Government against collection of taxes such as income tax;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government release a less amount of Rs.766 crore than the requisite amount during the last financial year;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government decided to give Rs.1000 crore less from the total taxes collected by the West Bengal Government·

(d) if so, whether the Union Government decided to release the tax in 12 apportionments which they have now changed to 16; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended that 29.5% of the net proceeds of Union Taxes and Duties be shared with all States.

(b) and (c) Releases to a State during any year of the award period are made according to the inter-se share recommended for it by the Eleventh Finance Commission. The releases to a State, therefore, are not based on the total taxes collected by a State, including the State of West Bengal.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Private Insurance Companies

2943. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private foreign companies in life insurance sector operating in India and since when;

(b) the amount of insurance business captured by these companies during the last year;

(c) whether this has affected the business of Life Insurance Corporation of India during the said year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the LIC to face the stiff competition from the foreign companies;

(e) whether LIC has increased its areas of operations in other countries also; and

(f) if so, the names of the countries and the premium income therefrom during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. On the other hand, various initiatives taken by LIC to retain existing customers and maximize the share of new business has resulted in record growth of 137.03% in 2001-02 following a growth of 64.98% in 2000-01.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. During last year, LIC has extended its operation to Nepal and has mobilized premium income of Nepal Rs. 2,67,83,279.

Statement

Names of the private insurance companies in life insurance business with date of registration are indicated below. These companies have earned premium income of Rs. 29661.69 lakhs upto March, 2002.

S.No.	Name of Company	Date of Registration with IRDA
1	HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	23.10.2000
2	Max New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	15.11.2000
3	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	24.11.2000
4	Om Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	10.01.2001
5	Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	03.1.2001
6	Tata AIG Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	12.02.2001
7	SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd	30.3.2001
8	ING Vysya Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	02.8.2001
9	Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	03.8.2001
10	Metlife India Insurance Co. Pvt. Ltd.	06.8.2001
11	AMP Sanmar Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	03.01.2002
12	Dabur - CGU Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	14.05.2002

Untouchability Prone Areas

2944. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether few States have identified untouchability prone-areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for slow pace of identification;

(c) whether all the States/Union Territories have set up Special Courts to enquire into the cases of untouchability; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have identified untouchability prone areas and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, has also taken up the work of identifying untouchability areas in the State. In Tamil Nadu since most of the cases are registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, atrocity prone villages have been identified in the State. In other States/UTs, the number of cases registered under the Act is negligible/nil.

(c) and (d) Twenty-two Special Mobile Courts have been set up in Andhra Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu, four exclusive special courts have been set up for trial of cases under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The State Government of Maharashtra has also taken steps to set up special courts. In Karnataka, all Judicial Magistrate First Class Courts at Taluk Head Quarters undertake trial of cases under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. In the State of Madhya Pradesh the cases registered under the Act are attended to by the District Court. In other States/UTs where the number of cases registered under the Act is negligible/nil, special courts have not been set up for trial of cases under the Act.

[Translation]

Export Targets

2945. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any export targets for the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary action being taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Export target of a growth rate of 12 per cent in dollar terms, has been fixed for the financial year 2002-03. Based on the Medium Term Export Strategy announced by the Deptt. of Commerce and the action plans prepared by the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards, specific product and market related strategies are implemented. In the Exim Policy for 2002-07 a number of measures have been announced to promote exports which include additional features for Special Economic Zones, a scheme to reimburse certain admissible expenses for export of certain agricultural products, development of clusters to help small scale exports, additional support for electronic hardware exports, further reduction in transaction costs, etc.

[English]

Green Fund

2946. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to start "Green Fund" on the lines of European countries so that investors are assured that their contribution would be used for Eco-friendly and non-violent projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) The feasibility of establishing; a National Environment Fund is being examined by the Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Filing of Documents by the Companies

2947. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of domestic companies have failed to file documents with the registrar of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cumbersome and difficult forms are one of the reasons for companies to not comply with such requirements of the Registrar of Companies; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to make the forms and other formalities simple so that they can be fulfilled by companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of companies which failed to file their balance sheets and annual returns for the year 2000-2001 is 2,42,738 and 2,46,776 respectively.

(c) and (d) All companies are required to file documents with the Registrar of Companies as per requirements of the Companies Act, 1956. This is known at the time of registration to those who constitute a corporation. Efforts at streamlining formalities is a continuous process.

Tax-Payers in North Eastern States

2948. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tax payers in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the following financial years 1990-91, 2000-2001 and current period; and

(b) the percentage increase in each of the above year over the preceding financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b)

Financial Year	No. of assessees in the North Eastern States including Sikkim	Percentage increase over the preceding Financial Year
1990-1991	2.18 lakhs	58.40%
2000-2001	5.82 lakhs	19.51%
2001-2002	7.24 lakhs	24.4%

Monitoring of Loan Advanced by Banks/FIs

2949. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions do not have any monitoring system to ensure that the loans advanced to the borrowers are used for the very purpose for which it is granted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure proper monitoring of public money advanced as loans by banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) do have system of post-disbursement monitoring and supervision by which they try to ensure end use of funds by way of periodical visits to business sites, verification of purchase documents of machinery and other fixed assets, periodical verification of current assets by inspection and requirement to submit periodical stock statements by the borrowers. In addition, internal inspection by banks and FIs and Annual Financial Inspection by Reserve Bank of India also monitors this aspect.

[Translation]

Seizure of Heroin

2950. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "12 crore ki heroin aur 68 lakh nakad baramad" as appeared in the Lok Mat published from Nagpur (Maharashtra) dated the June 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts reported in the news-item; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government against the erring persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Air Intelligence Unit of the Commissionerate of Customs (Sahar), Mumbai, effected seizures of Indian currency amounting to Rs.68.39 lakh and 11.742 kg. of heroin in the night of 26th/27th June, 2002 in two separate cases. Two persons of Indian origin, holding Malaysian passports, were arrested in respect of the seizure of currency and one person holding a Guinean passport was arrested in respect of seizure of heroin.

(c) The persons arrested in respect of the seizure of currency are liable to be prosecuted under the Customs Act, 1962 and the person arrested in respect of the seizure of heroin is liable to be prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, on completion of investigation in the respective cases.

[English]

Strengthening of Rural Credit System

2951. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has formulated a programme for strengthening rural credit system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NABARD has examined the report submitted by Prof. V.S. Vyas, Committee on Rural Credit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) National bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has taken several initiatives such as introduction of Development Action Plan/Memorandum of Understanding (DAP-MoU), introduction of prudential norms, providing assistance to the banks towards business development, assistance from the Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) for setting up Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Cells (TMECs) and business development cells (BDCs), Human resources Development through conduct of organizational development initiatives, institution of best performance award to motivate better performance of cooperative banks, cooperators' awareness programme, recovery-linked refinance etc. for strengthening Rural Credit System.

(c) to (e) Prof. V.S. Vyas Committee on Rural Credit

was set up by NABARD and the Committee submitted its report in July, 2001. The Committee has made wide ranging recommendations relating to revitalization of Co-operative credit Institutions, Human Resource Development of rural credit institutions like rural branches of commercial banks, regional rural banks and co-operatives and in the field of planning, supervision and coordination of rural credit delivery. NABARD is coordinating its implementation and has taken steps in this regard to open more offices of District Development Managers, widening of scope of Co-operative Development Fund and making direct contribution in institution development like promoting Agriculture Insurance Corporation, etc.

Sexual Abuse of Children in Orphanage

2952. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent reports regarding sexual abuse of children in an orphanage in village Poonjeri near Mahabalipuram, Chennai;

(b) if so, whether such reports have also been received about orphanages of other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A case of alleged sexual abuse of inmates Little Home, an Orphanage in Mahabalipuram, Chennai, was reported to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Action has been taken to restore the children to their parents and where such is not possible, to transfer them to the Juvenile Homes. The orphanage is not functioning now.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of Tamil Nadu have instructed the concerned State Government Department and Police to be vigilant against recurrence of such incidents in other orphanages.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Water Management

2953. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received financial assistance from the World Bank in the field of water management sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount provided to Maharashtra and Rajasthan out of the above assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	Loan Amount (US$ million)	Date of Signing	Date of Closing	Utilisation as on 30.6.02 (US$ million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	254.90	22.09.95	31.03.03	158.065
2.	Hydrology Project (Nine participating States including Maharashtra)	122.40	22.09.95	31.03.03	75.099*

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	290.90	05.01.96	30.09.02	168.571
4.	Third Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project	325.00	03.06.97	31.01.03	141.592
5.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	149.20	08.03.02	31.10.07	5.00
6.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	140.00	15.03.02	31.03.08	5.00
7.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	98.90	04.06.02	31.01.09	0.000
8.	Kerala Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation Project	65.50	04.01.01	31.12.06	3.523
9.	2nd Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	151.60	08.03.02	31.12.07	4.000
10.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation Project	52.40	22.07.96	31.05.03	30.400
11.	2nd Chennai Water Supply Project	80.50	20.11.95	31.03.04	67.707
12.	Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project	149.783	28.12.95	31.12.02	101.128

Includes Rs. 23.75 crores (US $ 5.00 million approximately) released to Maharashtra during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

English]

(Rs. Crores)

Trade between India and Sri Lanka

2954. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports and exports between India and Sri Lanka is taking better shape;

(b) if so, the details of imports and exports made during each of the last three years; and

(c) the further steps being taken to improve the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Figures of India's trade with Sri Lanka for the last three years are given below:

Year	Exports to Sri Lanka	Imports from Sri Lanka
1999-2000	2163.05	191.67
2000-2001	2896.39	211.72
2001-2002	3000.98	321.50

(c) A Free Trade Agreement was signed between India and Sri Lanka on December 28, 1998. Under this Agreement both countries are committed to the elimination of tariffs in a phased manner. The Agreement came into force in March 2000 and its working was reviewed recently. Other steps-taken to improve the trade between the two countries include participation in trade fairs and exchange of trade delegations etc. India has also been participating in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Trade Fairs regularly.

India has signed a Credit Agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka on January 9, 2001 giving Sri Lankan Government a credit facility of US $ 100 million to be disbursed in three years for importing from India goods of Indian manufacture and services which include consumer durables, consultancy services and food items etc.

Availability of Staff at Patent Office

2955. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore has become an attractive place for firms to file their patents from all over the world; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of sufficient and well qualified staff at the Patent Office along with full consultations facilities with New Delhi so that country may not be taken for ride?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) In the year 2000-2001, out of 8503 patent applications filed with the Indian Patent Office, only 112 applications were reportedly filed from Karnataka. In the previous five years also the applications for patents filed from Karnataka were less than 2% of total filings, with the Indian Patent Office.

(b) Government has taken up comprehensive modernization of all its Patent offices located at Kolkata (Head Office), Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi. Additional staff having adequate technical qualifications has already been sanctioned to cater to the increasing workload in Patent Offices. Further comprehensive computerization of operations in the patent offices has also been undertaken in order to link up all the offices electronically, thereby enabling them to exchange information/data. A Manual of Patent Practice and Procedure has also been issued and put up on the website to ensure uniformity and transparency in the procedure for grant of patents.

[Translation]

Old Age Homes in Bihar

2956. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Old Age Homes functioning in Bihar, District-wise;

(b) the facilities available and the number of old age persons benefited from these Homes during the last one year;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide some more facilities to these Homes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is one Old Age Home being run by Mahila Mukti Wahini in Patna District, receiving financial assistance, from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The facilities available in the old age home are doctors with medicines for health care; nutrition and hygiene; recreation facilities like books, magazines, newspapers and outings etc. The number of old age persons benefited from the Old Age Home is 25.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Problems of Opium Growers

2957. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the opium growers of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have demanded to raise the rates of opium, extension of farming areas and making the provision of relief in case of natural calamities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir. Several such suggestions and demands have been made from time to time by opium cultivators and others.

(b) All such suggestions and demands are kept in view while drafting the Opium Policy which is formulated every year in September-October.

[English]

Funds for EPCs/EPZs

2958. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for the Export Promotion Councils and Export Processing Zones/Special Economic Zones in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the total allocation made in the last three years, year-wise and category-wise and the purpose for which the amount was spent;

(c) whether the Government have earmarked any allocation for the setting up of Special Economic Zone in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Allocation of funds made to Export Promotion Councils and Export Processing Zone located in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. cores)

Name of the Organisations	Purpose	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Council for Leather Exports, Chennai	Export promotion activities under Marketing Development Assistance scheme.	2.54	3.92	5.78
Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai	Export Promotion Activities	0.33	0.45	0.34
Council for Leather Exports, Chennai	Market Access Initiative Scheme - Enhancement of Footwear/Leather and Leather products exports to USA/Japan	-	-	2.52
Madras Export Processing Zone, Chennai	Purchase of Modules, Construction of compound wall etc.	4.00	4.00	3.49

No Funds have been allocated for Special Economic Zone.

(c) and (d) No financial assistance by the Centre for setting up of Special Economic zone is envisaged under the Scheme.

Bank Overdraft of FCI

2959. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank overdraft of Food Corporation of India has been increasing year-by-year;

(b) if so, the details for the last three years;

(c) the main reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to lessen it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) FCI operates under sanctioned cash credit limit for procurement of foodgrains and other operations. The details of the bank overdraft (Cash Credit Limit) of the FCI during the last three years are as under:

As on March, 2000	Rs.17,796.66 Crore
As on March, 2001	Rs.22,246.23 Crore (Provisional)
As on March, 2002	Rs.27,142.83 Crore (Provisional)

The main reasons for the increase in the bank overdraft of the FCI are as under:

(i) Increase in the Minimum Support Prices of foodgrains without corresponding increase in the Central Issue Prices.

(ii) Higher levels of procurement of foodgrains.

(iii) Decrease in off-take/sale under PDS.

(iv) Higher level of buffer stocks.

(v) Reduction in Central Issue Prices.

(vi) Delay in getting the outstanding amounts on account of various welfare schemes (to be collected from other Ministries) settled and recovered.

(d) The Government has taken the following measures:

(i) Disposal of 'C' and 'D' category/old stocks through tenders.

(ii) Sale of surplus stocks for export purposes.

(iii) Expediting the release of outstanding amounts from other Ministries.

(iv) Prompt release of monthly subsidy so as to reduce the bank overdraft.

[Translation]

Grants for Development Centres in Chhattisgarh

2960. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Chhattisgarh Government seeking assistance of Rs. 332 lakh for setting up of development centres in Durg district is lying pending with the Union Government for the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in taking the decision on that proposal;

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(e) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (e) For Borai Growth Centre at Durg in Chhattisgarh, out of total central assistance of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs Rs.793.00 lakhs had already been released till 31.3.2000 to the undivided State of Madhya Pradesh. The Scheme was transferred by Planning Commission to States hence no budget provision was made in Budget Estimates 2002-2003. The Scheme has now been restored back to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion for the current financial year. The release of balance Rs.207.00 lakhs can be considered after receipt of funds by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

[English]

FDI in Print Units of SEZs

2961. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to invite the FDIs in the Print Units of Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has decided to open the Print Media Sector for Foreign Direct Investment to the following extent:

(i) FDI up to 26% with prior Government approval for newspapers and magazines dealing with news and current affairs subject to, inter-alia, 3/4th of Directors on the Board and all the key executives and editorial staff being resident Indians.

(ii) FDI up to 74% with prior Government approval for publishing foreign technical, scientific and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals, including Indian editions.

No separate dispensation has been made for Foreign Direct Investment in Print units of Special Economic Zones.

World Bank Aid for Projects

2962. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that major support to irrigation and flood management programme in the devastating areas of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal cannot be taken care of without the assistance of the World Bank; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Water being a state subject, irrigation and flood management projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments according to their own priorities and availability of plan allocation. Government of India also provides financial support for certain categories of projects. To bridge the resource gap, Government of India facilitates the State Government in tying up external assistance including that from the World Bank, on the request of State Governments.

The working group on flood control programme for xth Plan (2002-2007) has recommended that the State Governments should work out the requirement of funds for attending to all the important flood management works during the next 15 to 20 years for river basins which are prone to floods on the basis of Master Plans prepared by them. After that measures to raise the additional resources required for taking up important flood management works from internal and external resources could be considered.

Reimbursement for MSP

2963. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Minimum Support Prices Scheme, the Government are required to procure through its nodal agencies entire quantity of jute/textile produce at guaranteed price announced by the Government;

(b) whether the Government are also committed to reimburse entire loss incurred by nodal agencies in MSP operations;

(c) if so, the details of year-wise budgetary provision, procurement, losses incurred and losses reimbursed on MSP operations in jute undertaken by the JCI during 1999-2000 till date;

(d) whether entire loss incurred by the JCI has been reimbursed as per policy;

(e) if no, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether losses incurred by other agencies like CCI, FCI and NAFED are also reimbursed by the Government;

(g) if so, the details therefor; and

(h) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) The Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of different varieties and grades of jute/mesta for each jute season. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) acts as the Nodal Agency to undertake MSP Operation for jute/mesta. JCI intervenes in the market, whenever the prices of raw jute/mesta fall below the MSP levels. JCI is required to buy the quantity of raw jute/mesta offered by the growers at Minimum Support rate, without any quantitative restrictions. Similarly for raw cotton, MSP is announced by the Government. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been designated as the nodal agency for purchase of cotton without any quantitative restrictions in all cotton growing states, except in Maharashtra where the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971 is in operation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of year-wise budgetary provisions, procurement, losses incurred and losses reimbursed on MSP operations from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for Jute Corporation of India (JCI) given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The losses claimed by JCI have not been accepted by the government. JCI has been asked to submit full details of the losses incurred.

(f) to (h)Yes, Sir. The details in case of CCI, FCI and NAFED are as under:

(i) In case of CCI in the year 1999-2000 (Oct- Sept.), CCI did not incur any losses on account of MSP operations. In 2000-2001 (Oct-Sept.), as the prices remained above MSP, no purchase under MSP operations was undertaken by CCI. During the current year 2001-2002 (Oct- Sept), CCI has reported a loss of about Rs. 100 crores on account of MSP operations, out of which Rs. 25 crores has been reimbursed till date to the Corporation.

(ii) In case of FCI, the Government reimburses difference between the economic cost of foodgrains and the Central Issue Price (CIP) in the form of consumer subsidy. In addition, the buffer carrying cost of foodgrains are also reimbursed to the FCI. Both the consumer subsidy and the buffer subsidy together constitute the food subsidy. The government released Rs. 8.85 thousand crores in the year 1999-2000, Rs. 11.46 thousand crores in the year 2000-2001 and Rs.

16.72 thousand crores in the year 2001-2002 as food subsidy to FCI.

(iii) In case of NAFED the Government is committed to reimburse entire losses, if any, incurred by NAFED in purchase of oil seeds and pulses in MSP operations. During the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 the Government released Rs. 25.00 crores, Rs. 340.55 crores and 298.48 crores respectively for Price Support Scheme operations on 'on account basis.' The details of the exact amount of losses has not yet been submitted by NAFED to Government of India.

Statement

Year-wise Details of Budgetary Provision, Procurement and Losses Incurred on MSP Operations by Jute Corporation of India (JCI) in last 3 years.

Year	Budgetary provision (Rs. in crores)	Procurement under MSP in lakh bales of 180 kgs.	Procurement losses reported by JCI in MSP operations (Rs. in crores)	Fund provided by GOI as loan (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	16.00	0.18	55.46*	16.00
2000-2001	35.00	4.54	52.39*	35.00
2001-2002	35.00	2.45	65.00* (Provisional)	35.00

* These figures have not been accepted by Government. JCI has been directed to submit detailed break up of losses/justification for these losses

Decline of Export Oriented Textile Units

2964. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export oriented units in the textile sector have posted high negative growth;

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

(c) the steps, proposed to be taken by the Government to assist these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The details of production of spun yarns and fabric from export oriented units in cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) during the last four years and current year April, 2002 are given below:

Period	Production of spun Yarn (Mn. Kg.)	Production of fabric (Mn. sqm.)
1	2	3
1998-1999	299	85
1999-2000	349	111
2000-2001	366	117
2001-2002 (P)	333	122
2002-2003 (April)	30	10
2001-2002 (April)	28	11

The production of spun yarn & fabric by 100% EOU's has shown compounded annual growth rate (CARG) of 3.7% and 12.8% respectively during the last four years. The production of spun yarn and fabric has however, declined by about 7.14% and 9.09% during April, 2002 due to recessionary trend in the domestic and international market.

(c) The Government has taken various steps from time to time to increase exports and thus improve the functioning of textile units including export-oriented units. Some of the important measures are:

(i) Decentralisation of power for grant of approval for setting up of 100% EOU with few exceptions.

(ii) Provisions regarding sub-contracting in respect of EOU/EPZ/SEZ units as given in Exim Policy have recently been modified and the requirements prescribed in the Exim Policy such as job-worker being a Central Excise Registrant, compulsory carrying out firs processing in the unit before sending the goods for job work, and forwarding the sample to the Range Officer have been withdrawn.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.99 to facilitate the modernization and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted.

(iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(v) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focused steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(vi) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route is allowed in the textile sector.

Market Access for Professionals

2965. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the developed countries have laid down a plethora of regulations to prevent better market access for the developing countries in movement of natural persons;

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

(c) whether the Government have submitted any proposal in the ongoing negotiations on services at WTO seeking easier market access for professionals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether FICCI also helped in preparation of the proposal;

(f) if so, the extent to which the suggestions of FICCI have been accepted and incorporated in the proposal;

(g) the response of other developing countries in the matter of said proposal; and

(h) the reaction of WTO and other developed countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The supply of services through Movement of Natural Persons i.e., Mode 4 is of primary interest to developing countries. Under this mode of supply, the commitments taken are largely linked to commercial presence i.e., Mode 3 and, therefore, are of limited use to the developing countries. Further the commitments are primarily horizontal and these are subjected to a number of limitations and administrative hurdles. The limitations existing in these commitments include restrictions on the entry and stay of service providers, limits on duration of stay, quantitative limits on visas, economic needs test (ENT), lack of recognition of qualifications and payment of social security taxes.

(c) to (f) India has submitted a proposal on "Liberalisation of Movement of Professionals under General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)" during the ongoing Services negotiations at the WTO. In preparation of the proposal, consultations have been held with stake holders and industry associations, including FICCI. The proposal identifies the barriers faced in the movement of professionals for delivery of services and suggests strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation in this area and to improve trade in services through Mode 4. The strategies suggested include delinking of commitments from Mode 3 by inclusion of a category of independent professionals in the horizontal commitments, establishment of multilateral norms to reduce the scope for discriminatory practices in use of ENT; exemption from Social security contributions; transparent and objective administration of visa regimes and separation of temporary service providers from permanent labour flows by introducing separate visa procedures; establishment of multilateral norms to facilitate Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) among member countries, and exemption from social security contributions for developing country professionals. The proposal also seeks specific sectoral commitments on Mode 4 from developed countries.

(g) and (h) During discussions at the Special Sessions of the CTS, WTO member countries appreciated the importance of the issues raised in India's proposal to developing countries and expressed interest in them. Developing countries were particularly interested in liberalisation of this mode of supply and wanted more sector specific commitments from developed countries. Though the developed countries were supportive of the importance of greater procedural transparency and improved access to information on laws and regulations by the service suppliers and were inclined to work on definitions of various categories of personnel, they were not favourably inclined towards the proposals for separate visa procedures and exemption from social security payments and the development of multilateral norms on MRAs.

Study for Rubber Plantation

2966. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sent delegation to South East Asia to study Rubber Plantation, Processing Unit and model Technically Specified Rubber (TSR) processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the visit of said delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A 12-member delegation, comprising mostly processors of Technically Specified Rubber (TSR), was sent by the Govt. of India to Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore in July 2002 with the objective of giving them exposure to the modern techniques of TSR processing applied in the major rubber exporting countries.

(c) During the visit, the team visited some rubber plantations and a few TSR factories in Indonesia and Thailand and also TSR quality control laboratories in Singapore besides having interaction with some leading manufacturers of machinery for TSR production. The visit has provided an exposure to TSR processors of India on the latest developments in crop collection, processing techniques, testing and quality control and also packaging systems for producing Technically Specified Block rubber. The team also had direct interaction with the processors on various aspects of production, quality, consistency etc. The visit will help the processors to improve the quality of TSR produced in India to meet international standards.

[Translation]

Uniform Foodgrain Procurement Policy

2967. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any uniform foodgrains procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) The present policy of Minimum Support Prices and procurement of Fair Average Quality standard of foodgrains is being implemented with the help of the State Governments uniformly in all States which have potential for procurement.

Ban on Import of Marble

2968. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of the Government in regard to the import of marble in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that domestic marble traders and workers have been affected adversely due to the import of marble into the country;

(c) if so, whether there is a demand of marble industry to impose complete ban on import of marble;

(d) if so, whether the Government have considered the demand seriously and propose to impose complete ban on import of marble; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): (a) to (e) Import restrictions are being removed since the early 1990s as part of economic liberalization programme of the government and also in terms of our international obligations. At present, all the items on which import restrictions were maintained on account of balance of payment reasons are freely importable. Accordingly, finished marble blocks/tiles, as covered under chapter 68 of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import items, 2002-2007, are freely importable and do not require any licence from DGFT. However, India is maintaining import restrictions on rough and crude marble. Accordingly, import of crude or roughly trimmed marble, as covered under chapter 25 of the ITC (HS), which was earlier allowed against surrender of SIL from 1.4.1999 to 31.03.2001 though with a value cap of US $ 300 per MT and above for rough marble Blocks and US $ 450 and above for slabs; has been restricted for imports from 1.4.2001 i.e. import can be allowed only against a license to be issued by the DGFT. In view of this restriction, the import of crude or roughly trimmed marble as covered under Chapter 25 of the ITC (HS) has declined from 61987 MT in 2000-2001 to 41967 MT in 2001-2002. A complete ban on import is neither possible nor desirable.

[English]

Bank Fraud

2969. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs.72 crore bank fraud" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 13, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against cheaters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had extended various credit limits/facilities aggregating to Rs.68.10 crores as on March 1997 to Kothari Group of Companies which became irregular. It is alleged that the Group had submitted forged and fabricated power of attorneys to the bank for the purpose of creation of equitable mortgage and also inflated projections of sales/profits. The Bank has filed a case in the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Guwahati against the companies for an aggregate amount of Rs.93.92 crores. Bank has also lodged a complaint with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) who had registered a case and arrested the main accused Shri Motilal Kothari. He was later released on bail by the Hon'ble High Court, Guwahati. Bank has also taken departmental action against its officials connected with sanction, conduct and follow up of the advances in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission and imposed appropriate penalties against them.

Trade with SAARC Countries

2970. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the trade made among the SAARC countries after its meeting in Kathmandu;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the impact of Indo-Pak tension on trade among SAARC countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the trade made during the last six months with the SAARC countries, country-wise; and

(e) the extent to which it is less than the pre-tension period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) While data of trade between India and the SAARC member countries is compiled by the government organization, there is no such arrangement for compiling data relating to trade among other SAARC member countries like Sri Lanka-Bangladesh, Bangladesh-Nepal etc. The meeting of the SAARC focal points was held at Kathmandu on October, 21-22, 2001. Data of India's trade with SAARC member countries from October, 2001 onwards upto March, 2002 (latest available) is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Deptt. of Commerce are not aware of any impact of "Indo-Pakistan tension" on trade among SAARC countries.

(d) and (e) Data of India's trade with SAARC member countries during the period January, 2002-March, 2002 (latest available), alongwith data for the corresponding period last year, is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Imports into India from SAARC Member Countries

Value in Rupees Lakhs

Month	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Nepal	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Oct'01	3188	Nil	16364	7	4188	2333
Nov'01	3270	Nil	18039	Nil	6175	1193
Dec'01	2375	2333	15276	7	1925	909
Jan'02	2605	1185	15605	Nil	1213	2679
Feb'02	2264	1080	17280	10	1120	5804
Mar'02	1588	1345	4420	63	1331	3997

Export from India to SAARC Member Countries

Value in Rupees Lakhs

Month	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Nepal	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Oct'01	36640	Nil	9443	1245	3982	24502
Nov'01	38934	Nil	7368	630	2607	18757
Dec'01	24143	Nil	8260	1161	2648	39750
Jan'02	24848	841	7123	830	3503	27833
Feb'02	27248	Nil	8290	771	6408	23180
Mar'02	22353 (P)	3 (P)	10714 (P)	1492 (P)	5320 (P)	34899 (P)

Statement-II

Imports into India from SAARC Member Countries

Value in Rupees Lakhs

Month	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Nepal	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Jan'01	3338	1327	11174	Nil	1454	3581
Feb'01	110	945	12343	Nil	2974	1112
Mar'01	2699	1029	12332	2	1335	1614

Exports from India to SAARC Member Countries

Value in Rupees Lakhs

Month	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Nepal	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Jan'01	47926	Nil	3717	996	6735	24042
Feb'01	3575	1	3985	708	7344	22099
Mar'01	41399	19	6096	445	10177	27985

Imports into India from SAARC Member Countries

Value in Rupees Lakhs

Month	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Nepal	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Jan'02	2605	1185	15605	Nil	1213	2679
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Jan'02	24848	841	7123	830	3503	27833
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NPA of State Bank of India

2971. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) has written off an amount of Rs.2436 crore from identified Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) during the year ended March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of NPAs written off by the SBI during the year ending March 1999, 2000 and 2001;

(d) the reasons for writing off such a huge amount;

(e) the total amount of NPAs of the SBI as on April 1, 2002; and

(f) the amount recovered by the SBI from NPAs during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) The amount of non-performing assets written off by State Bank of India during the years ending March 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 are as under:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Year ending March	Amount written off
1999	414
2000	414
2001	984
2002	2492

(d) The reasons for write-off of loan by SBI were, inter-alia, to clean up the balance sheet and write-off accounts where full provision has already been made and to derive eligible tax benefits. However, recovery efforts in these accounts continue despite the write offs.

(e) The total amount of NPA as on 1st April, 2002 is Rs. 15,485.85 crores.

(f) The amount recovered by the SBI from NPAs during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount recovered
1999-00	1154
2000-01	1631
2001-02	1352

[Translation]

Hostels for Backward Classes

2972. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of students are deprived of better educational opportunities belonging to socially and educationally backward classes because of lack of hostel facilities;

(b) if so, the number of hostels sanctioned during the last three years and the number out of them have been constructed so far;

(c) the reasons for not constructing all the hostels; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to construct the hostels sanctioned so far immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Adequate hostel facilities are not available in the country to provide accommodation to all OBC students.

(b) A total number of 149 hostels have been sanctioned under the Scheme of Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls during last three years out of which 47 have already been constructed.

(c) The construction of hostels is carried out by the State governments. Out of the 102 incomplete hostels, 57 were sanctioned towards the end of 2001-02. These are to be constructed within 2 years. In case of remaining 45 hostels the delay in some cases is due to delay in release of matching share by the State Government or change of location of the proposed hostels or other administrative problems of the State Government.

(d) State Government have been requested to submit quarterly progress report on construction of hostels and to complete the construction of hostels within two years from the date of release of funds.

[English]

Recovery of Bank Loan

2973. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No 1369 dated March 8, 2002 about the recovery of the bank loans and state:

(a) whether the desired information in this regard has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(d) the time when this information is likely to be tabled on the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information in this regard has since been collected and forwarded to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 25th July, 2002 for fulfilment of the assurance. A copy of the statement submitted to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for fulfilment of the said assurance is enclosed.

Statement

Ministry of Finance Depa 'ment of Economic Affairs (Banking Division)

Date of Fulfilment:

Q.No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	When and how fulfilled	Reasons for Delay
USQ No. 1369 for 8-3-2002 by Shri Ramji Lal Suman Dr Sushil Kumar Indora Shri Shivaji Vithalrao Kamble Shri Shivaji Mane Shri Bir Singh Mahato	Recovery of Bank Loans Asking (a) whether the Government have indicated action against the big industrial houses who have taken loans from banks and non-banking financial institutions and have not refunded the same within the stipulated time; (b) if so, the total amount outstanding against these houses by the end of December, 2001; (c) the names of the business houses against whom actions have been initiated by each public sector bank, the court and tribunals for realisation of these loans; and (d) the amount of loan realised/proposed to be realised through the said actions?	(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.	(a) Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) take appropriate actions including the legal action against the defaulting borrowers including big industrial houses. As legal cases in the civil courts were taking long time, Government has set up Debt Recovery Tribunals for speedy disposal of cases relating to defaulting borrowers. Twenty nine Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and 5 Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) have been set up across the country to effect speedy recovery of dues of banks/FIs (b) The amount outstanding against 20 top borrowers of banks/FIs against whom suits have been filed is Rs. 4492.49 crore as on 31.3.2001. (c) In accordance with the practice and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information in respect of the constituents cannot be divulged. (d) Till March 2002, DRTs have disposed off a total of 23,393 cases and helped recovering an amount Rs. 4736.51 crore. Further, to enable banks and FIs to enforce securities effectively without going through the time consuming process in courts. Government has already promulgated an ordinance in June, 2002. The ordinance also provides for setting up Asset Reconstruction Companies and Securitisation of Assets.	The information was awaited from RBI.

[Translation]

Remittance of Profit by Foreign Investors

2974. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the restrictions imposed on remittance of the profits earned on foreign capital investment by the investors from their respective countries; and

(b) the foreign investment including the investment made by the non-resident Indian in the country till date, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Remittance of profit on foreign investment is a current account transaction effected by authorised dealers and is covered by the Rules framed by Government of India. There are no restrictions on such remittances.

(b) Foreign Direct Investment as on 30th June, 2002 is as follows:

(i)	Under Automatic Route of RBI	Rs. 11,687.68 crores

(ii) Under SIA/FIPB Route - Rs. 58,165.09 crores

Total Rs. 69,852.77 crores

Statement of Foreign Direct Investment from top ten investing countries is attached.

Port Folio Investment as on 30th June, 2002 is given below:

(i) FIIs net investment under PIS - Rs. 56,618.67 crores

(ii) NRI/OCB investment under PIS - Rs. 407.78 crores

Country-wise details in respect of FIIs/NRI/OCBs are not maintained by RBI.

Statement

Foreign Direct Investment from top ten investing countries

(in Rs. Crore)

1.	Mauritius	26,977.16
2.	USA	12,372.78
3.	Japan	4,835.03
4.	Germany	3,556.49
5.	Netherlands	3,116.90
6.	U.K.	3,823.17
7.	South Korea	2,278.07
8.	France	1,879.78
9.	Italy	1,642.84
10.	Singapore	1,511.94

[English]

Special Component Plan

2975. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released by the Union Government under the SCA and SCP to the States/UTs do not reach the implementing agencies in time and no mechanism has been evolved to ensure that the funds reach the implementing agencies in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the funds reach the implementing agencies without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Under the central scheme of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) 100% grant-in-aid is released to the States/UTs as an additive to their Special Component Plan. Periodic review meetings are held with State Governments/UT Administrations to review the utilization of funds. When any instance of delay in the receipt of funds by the implementation agencies, comes to the notice of the Government, the matter is taken up with the State Governments.

Seized Narcotics Lying in Godowns

2976. SHRI. SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of seized narcotic drugs lying in the godowns of the Narcotics Control Bureau across the country, drug-wise alongwith the time since when it is lying;

(b) whether the concerned Act provide for pre-trial disposal of seized drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in getting mandatory court approval for early disposal of seized drugs; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of entire quantity of seized drugs lying in godowns at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of the total quantity of narcotics drugs lying in the godowns of the Narcotics Control Bureau are given in the statement enclosed. These drugs were seized during various operations over a period of time and some of these seized drugs are lying in the godowns since 1987.

(b) Section 52A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 provides for pre-trial disposal of narcotic drugs.

(c) and (d) After completion of the on-going review by the Narcotics Control Bureau of all the drugs lying in its godowns, pre-trial disposal of the drugs can be undertaken with the permission of the Courts concerned.

Statement

Details of Total Quantity of Narcotic Drugs lying in the Godowns of the Narcotics Control Bureau [NCB]

(in Kgs.)

Zonal Unit of NCB	Opium	Morphine	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Cocaine	Methaqualone
Delhi	22.476	2.900+18 ampules	526.030	0	452.384	0.208	605.410
Mumbai	5.000	0	151.000	2517.500	301.180	0.750	2202.610
Chennai	18.750	0	308.111	1570.367	0	0	11.300
Ahmedabad	0	0	0	0	599.953	0	0
Chandigarh	23.090	0	8.000	0	97.005	0.003	0
Varanasi	10.576	0.300+24 ampules	11.003	249.075	22.006	0	0
Jodhpur	81.154	0	212.302	0	27.258	0	4.910
Jammu	0	0	15.000	0	9.600	0	0
Kolkata	37.270	0	103.478	7598.628	38.014	0	110152 Tabs+0.2 kg.
Total	198.316	3.200+ 42 ampules	1334.924	11935.57	1547.396	0.961	2824.43+ 110152 Tabs

Violation of Companies Act by RPL

2977. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has detected that Reliance Petroleum Ltd. (RPL) violated the Companies Act, 1956 by not circulating information about its dealings in shares of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and RPL in the balance-sheet;

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

(c) whether RPL had diverted public money about Rs. 1000 crores for speculative activities;

(d) if so, whether the Government have ordered a full-fledged inspection of RPL and other group companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) Inspection of books of accounts and other records of M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd., M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. and their four sister concerns have been ordered under Section

209A of the Companies Act, 1956. The inspection reports have since been received. A public interest litigation (Writ Petition No. 1549 of 2001) has also been filed in the High Court of Delhi. The matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

N.I.F.T. Centres

2978. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and location-wise details of the National Institute of Fashion Technology centres in the country as on date;

(b) the details about the locations where centres of NIFT have been set up during the last three years;

(c) the year-wise details of the amount spent for smooth functioning and maintenance of these centres during the said period;

(d) whether any proposal for setting up of NIFT centre is pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) As on date the National Institute of Fashion Technology has seven centres as indicated below:

Delhi	-	New Delhi
Karnataka	-	Bangalore
West Bengal	-	Kolkata
Tamil Nadu	-	Chennai
Gujarat	-	Gandhinagar
Andhra Pradesh	-	Hyderabad
Maharashtra	-	Mumbai

(b) During the last three years, NIFT has not opened any new Centre.

(c) Expenditure incurred on the seven Centres during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Details	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Infrastructure such as classroom equipment, computer hardware and software, furniture & fixtures and other assets.	104.99	218.61	541.55
Buildings	865.03	1471.34	1572.27
Total	970.02	1689.95	2113.82

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Steps for Development of Sea Food Industry

2979. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to initiate measures which are in tune with the recommendations of the IIM, Kolkata as modified by MPEDA and Department of Commerce to revive and develop the sea food industry of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted for implementation alongwith the road map, if any, formulated to implement the observations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering to create a Revolving Fund to encourage the new entrants/ industries and also finance the diversification and value addition projects/plans of the existing units of the sea food industry to meet the international competition; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government are contemplating to create the said fund and by when the corpus for the fund would be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The Government have examined the recommendations of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata to formulate a Plan on restructuring the financing pattern of the seafood processing and export industry and its infrastructure requirements. The study inter-alia recommended the creation of a Reconstruction Fund to meet these objectives.

The Government have examined the suggestion for the creation of the Reconstruction fund for the Seafood Industry. However, it has not been found possible to accept the proposal.

Corruption Cases

2980. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of rampant corruption by officials specially those dealing with grant to NGOs in the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to eradicate corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Any instance of corruption by officials dealing with grants to NGOs, coming to the notice of the Government is dealt with in accordance with existing laws, rules. The release and monitoring of grants to NGOs has been streamlined to obviate delay.

Irregularity in PDS

2981. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether significant portion of the subsidized foodgrains, kerosene oil and sugar etc. has not reached the beneficiaries as has been brought out by the C&AG in its Report No.3 of 2000 (Civil) in para 1.8;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made into the causes and mode of diversion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes Sir. The Comptroller and Auditor General in its Report No.3 of 2000 (Civil) in para 1.8, has observed that a significant portion of the subsidized foodgrains and other essential commodities did not reach the beneficiaries due to their diversion in the open market. No firm estimates, however, existed regarding the magnitude of diversion.

(b) and (c) Irregularities pointed out in the CAG Report have been forwarded to the State Governments/ UT Administrations to look into the points pertaining to them and take necessary remedial action. The State Governments/UTs have submitted the action taken report which have been sent to the CAG.

New Uses of Spices

2982. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board is supporting innovative research for discovery of new uses of spices;

(b) if so, the institutes which are being tied up with the Spices Board;

(c) whether the Spices Board has asked these institutes to enquire into the medicinal value of the spices available in India;

(d) if so the spices which have been identified for research into their medicinal value; and

(e) the details of this new programme of the Spices Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Spices Board has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with Research Institutes for supporting specific research projects leading to new uses of spices like medicinal, nutritional, pharmaceutical and nutraceutical values of spices. The institutes are Nagarjuna Research Foundation, Thodupuzha, Kerala; International Institute of Ayurveda, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu; Central Institute of Medicinal and, Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, UP; National Institute for Nutrition, Hyderabad; Kerala Ayurveda Pharmacy Limited, Alwaye, Kerala; M/s Sami Laboratory, Bangalore, Karnataka. The major spices identified for the research into their medicinal values are - ginger, garlic, ajowain, cinnamon, fenugreek, turmeric and pepper. A revolving fund is set up for grant of interest free loan for promoting research on product development jointly by UNDP and Spices Board.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Crises

2983. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether Indian sugar mills are facing serious problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify these problems;

(d) whether overseas sugar mills are also facing similar problems as faced by Indian sugar mills;

(e) if so, whether a study has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the main features of study conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Due to high level of sugar production during the last three sugar seasons and the current crushing season, the sugar mills have accumulated huge stocks. This has resulted in higher carrying cost. Further, the sugar prices in the open market have also declined as compared to last year, which has adversely affected the viability of the sugar mills.

The following measures have been taken by the Central Government in order to improve the viability of the sugar mills.

(i) The levy obligation of the sugar factories was reduced to 30% from 40% with effect from 1.1.2000 and subsequently to 15% w.e.f. 01.02.2001. This has further been reduced to 10% w.e.f. 01.03.2002. This will enable the sugar factories to sell more sugar under free sale quota in the open market and thereby obtain better realization.

(ii) Export of sugar has been allowed without any restrictions on quantitative ceiling.

(iii) In order to boost export of sugar, the following steps have also been taken by the Government:

  (a) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

  (b) DEPB @ 4% F.O.B. value of export of sugar has been allowed.

  (c) Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 has been amended so as to utilize inter-alia for defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipments of sugar.

(d) and (e) Central Government has not conducted any study in regard to the problems being faced by the overseas sugar mills.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Expansion of Trade with China and South East Countries

2984. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for expansion of trade with China and South East countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified for this purpose; and

(d) the specific steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to expand India's trade with China and South East Countries. The various sectors of Indian export interest to these countries include agricultural products, minerals and ores, textiles, leather & leather goods, gems and jewellery, electronic goods, engineering goods, computer software, etc. The steps being taken, on a continuing basis, for increasing Indian exports include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, exchange of information/delegations, meetings of Working Group on Trade, Joint Trade Committees, at Government level, meetings between respective Chambers of Commerce & Industry under the aegis of Joint Business Councils etc.

Closing Down of FCI Godowns

2985. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has decided to close down many of its godowns in the country;

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

(c) whether the closure of FCI godowns would affect the Public Distribution System in the respective areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received any representation with regard to closure of FCI godowns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction for the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, due to certain labour problems a few FCI godowns in Bihar, Jharkhand & Uttaranchal are currently not functioning. This has not affected the supplies of foodgrains to the Public Distribution System in these States.

(d) and (e) No such representation has been received.

[Translation]

Industrial Development

2986. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the industrial development in the country during the last three years;

(b) the share of the Indian and the multi-national companies in industrial production, separately; and

(c) the sectors in which the Indian companies have registered maximum growth rate during the post liberalisation years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The industrial development is measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which at present follows sector-wise, use-based & two digit level classification. No classification separating Indian & the multi-national companies is followed for the purpose of estimating IIP. The details of growth in industrial production during the last three years is given below:

Year	Growth Rate (%)
1999-00	6.7
2000-01	5.0
2001-02	2.8
2002-03 (Apr-May)	3.8

[English]

Lifting of Ban on Shahtoosh

2987. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether shahtoosh is highly protected animal by India, China and Nepal and trade of shahtoosh is banned since 1979;

(b) whether there is proposal to lift the ban of shahtoosh weaving; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Shahtoosh is superfine wool obtained from the underbelly fur of Tibetan Antelope commonly known as Chiru. The Chiru is listed in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and trade in shahtoosh is prohibited in India.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to lift the ban on trading in shahtoosh.

[Translation]

Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

2988. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced "Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana";

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned by the Government for this scheme during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons benefited by DDHPY scheme so far;

(d) whether some States have delayed the implementation of the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has launched "Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana" for the handloom sector from the year 2000-01.

(b) The funds sanctioned by the Government for this scheme during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in lakh)

S.No.	Year	Amount Allocated for the Scheme	Amount Sanctioned/ Released to State Governments for their projects under the scheme	
			Sanctioned	Released
1.	2000-01	4300.00	2465.54	1695.84
2.	2001-02	7930.00	9177.22	5935.00
3.	2002-03 (till date)	8200.00	2151.43	1925.49
	Total	20430.00	13794.19	9556.33

(c) The number of beneficiaries covered in the projects so far sanctioned is 81,157.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The States/Union Territories which have not implemented the scheme so far are:

(i) Bihar

(ii) Haryana

(iii) Jharkhand

(iv) Maharashtra

(v) Orissa

(vi) Punjab

(vii) Rajasthan

(viii) Mizoram

(ix) Sikkim

(x) Goa

(xi) Dadar Nagar Haveli

(xii) Pondicherry

[English]

Bank Loans to Poor and Dalits

2989. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dalits and the poor people find it impossible to get any loan sanctioned for their needs;

(b) if so, the steps the government propose to take to simplify the procedure for sanctioning the loan to SC/ST and Dalits;

(c) whether a number of complaints have been received in this respect;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they do not generate information

in the manner asked for. However, there is reservation for SC/ST under all Government sponsored schemes as shown in statement-I enclosed. RBI has taken several steps and issued guidelines to banks for simplification of procedures and forms for sanctioning loans to SCs/STs and dalits as detailed in statement-II enclosed.

(c) to (e) RBI has no specific data on bank-wise and State-wise number of complaints received from SC/STs and dalits. However, on receipt of a complaint, RBI forwards it to its concerned Regional Office in whose jurisdiction the particular bank branch against whom complaint has been received is located. The Regional Office examines the complaint and takes necessary action in the matter.

Statement-I

The details of relaxations including subsidy & quota extended to SC/ST borrowers in the various Govt. sponsored programmes

Scheme	Reservation for SC/ST	Subsidy	Margin	Security
SGSY (No loan limit)	50%	50% of the project cost with a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- Groups 50% of the project cost maximum of Rs. 1.25 lakhs	No margin money upto Rs. 50,000/- in individual cases & group loan upto Rs. 5 lakhs	For individual loans upto Rs. 50,000/- and group loans upto Rs. 5 lakhs, the assets created out of bank loan would be hypothecated to the bank as primary security. In cases where moveable assets are not created mortgage of land/third party guarantee may be obtained at the discretion of the bank. For individual loan above Rs. 50,000/- and group loan above 5 lakhs, suitable margin money/collateral may be obtained.
SJSRY (Project cost ceiling Rs. 50,000/-)	To the extent of their proportion in the population.	15% of the project cost with a maximum of Rs. 7,500/- For Groups 50% of the project cost maximum of Rs. 1.25 lakhs	5% of the project cost	The loan would not require any collateral security. Only assets created would be hypothecated/mortgaged/pledged to the bank.
PMRY (Project cost celing Rs. 1 lakh for business sector & Rs. 2 lakh for other sectors)	22.5% Age limit relaxation by 10 years for SC/ST (i.e. 18 to 45 years)	15% of the project cost with a maximum of Rs. 7,500/- (Rs. 15,000/- in North East States)	5% to 16.25% of the project cost so as to make subsidy & margin money together equal to 20% of the project cost.	No collateral/third party guarantee for projects upto Rs. 1 lakh. In case of partnership firm no collateral for project cost upto Rs. 1 lakh per person. The total loan to partnership firm not to exceed Rs. 5 lakhs. In case of industry no collateral security for loans with project cost upto Rs. 2 lakhs.
SLRS (Project cost ceiling Rs. 50,000/-)	Mainly Scavengers and dependants	50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-	Borrower can avail margin assistance at 15% of the project cost at 4% from State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation for assistance upto Rs. 6,500	No collateral security. Only hypothecation of assets created out of the loan.
DRI (Loan limit Rs. 6,500/-)	40%	No subsidy. Reduced rate of interest. (Interest subsidy scheme.)	Nil	No collateral security. Only hypothecation of assets created out of the loan.

Statement-II

Guidelines issued to banks by Reserve Bank of India in connection with flow of Credit to SCs/STs

1. The members of SC/STs form part of the weaker sections under priority sector. Banks have to raise the proportion of their advances to priority sector to 40% and the advances to weaker sections should reach a level of 10% of total bank credit.

2. 40% of the DRI advances should be extended to SCs/STs.

3. Under SGSY not less than 50 percent of the families assisted should belong to SC/STs.

4. Under PMRY reservation of 22.5% has been provided for SCs/STs.

5. Under SJSRY advances should be extended to SCs/STs to the extent of their strength in the local population.

6. Loans upto Rs.5000/- are granted by banks to members of SC/STs for construction of houses at a concessional rate of interest at 4% p.a. under DRI Scheme provided they satisfy the income criteria of DRI scheme.

7. In order to ensure that loans proposal from SC/ST applications are not rejected without valid reasons, banks have been advised that in the case of such proposals rejections should be at a level higher than that of branch manager.

8. Banks have been advised not to insist on deposits from SC/STs while considering loan applications from them under government sponsored poverty alleviation schemes/self employment programmes.

9. Bank staff may help poor borrowers in filling up the forms and completing other formalities so that they are able to get credit facility without delay.

10. Banks should participate in the specific programmes drawn up by the State agencies for the upliftment of SCs/STs.

11. Bank staff may contact illiterate borrowers and explain to them the salient features of the schemes as also the advantages that will accrue.

12. Credit planning should take into account needs of SCs/STs. Special efforts should be made to evolve suitable bankable schemes for these communities.

13. Periodical review has to be made by the Head Offices of banks of the credit extended to SCs/STs on the basis of returns and other data received from the branches.

14. Banks have been advised to set up a special cell at the Head Offices for monitoring the flow of credit to SC/ST beneficiaries.

15. Convenor banks (of SLBCs) have been advised to invite the representative of National Commission for SCs/STs to attend SLBC meeting.

16. Banks submit quarterly returns on priority sector advances which also indicate separately data relating to advances granted to SC/ST borrowers.

Funds for Irrigation and Water Supply Projects

2990. SHRI JAYABEN B. THAKKER:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds required for irrigation and water supply projects are often large;

(b) if so, whether the infrastructure finance is governed by the Reserve Bank of India and current exposure limit of Bank/Financial Institutions to a single borrower is 25 per cent of its capital fund and 50 per cent to group of borrowers;

(c) if so, whether the Gujarat Government represented in May, 2001 to Union Government for upward revision upto 40 per cent of exposure norms for irrigation and water supply projects;

(d) if so, whether the decision for upward revision has been taken by the Union Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the credit exposure limit for commercial banks in case of financing infrastructure project is 25% and 50% of its capital funds for individual and group borrowers respectively.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government of Gujarat had requested the Union Government for upward revision of exposure limit for irrigation and water projects to 40% of capital funds for a single borrower. The proposal was examined by RBI and it was decided to retain the existing exposure norms. However, commercial banks could approach RBI for exceeding the exposure limits and the proposal would be examined by RBI on a specific request on a case-by-case basis purely on the merits of each case.

Gujarat Forestry Development Project

2991. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a whether Gujarat Forestry Development Project has been submitted to Japan Bank for International co-operation to enable the Gujarat State to get the benefits of the projects from the year 2003-2004; and

(b) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

T.U.F.S.

2992. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some textile units have so far availed of the benefits of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the names of the companies benefited from T.U.F.S.; and

(c) the amount received by each company from this fund during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme from 1.4.1999 to 31.5.2002, a total of 1656 applications with a total project cost of Rs.14374 crores were received. Out of them, 1419 applications with the total loan amount of Rs.5227 crores have been sanctioned and Rs.3609 crores has been disbursed against 1136 applications.

(b) and (c) The details of the companies thus benefited and the amount each company got is being collected from the nodal agencies and their co-opted agencies.

Funds to Tackle Menace of Naxalites

2993. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have submitted proposal to the Union Government to sanction fund to tackle the menace of naxalites;

(b) if so, the proposals received from different naxalite affected States; and

(c) the fund sanctioned to each of those States for that purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Integrated action plans, encompassing development as well as security aspects in the affected areas, have been received from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. In order to meet the security related requirement of the States severely affected by left wing extremism, a scheme has been implemented for reimbursement of 50% of the expenditure incurred by them in combating left wing extremist activities. So far, an amount of Rs. 96.71 crores has been reimbursed to the concerned States.

NABARD Loan

2994. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has sanctioned loan for creation of rural infrastructure in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of loan sanctioned to each State; and

(c) the names of the projects to be undertaken through this loan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) National Bank for

Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has sanctioned an amount of Rs.31,153.94 lakhs as loan to nine States on 13 July, 2002 under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-VIII. The State-wise details of the loan sanctioned and the projects undertaken there against are indicated below:

S.No.	Name of the State	Projects Undertaken	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Roads & Bridges, Rural Water Supply	2315.84
2.	Gujarat	Rural Drinking Water Supply	15869.31
3.	Karnataka	Roads & Bridges, Irrigation	3942.71
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bridges	1162.84
5.	Meghalaya	Rural Roads	383.53
6.	Nagaland	Irrigation	473.42
7.	Punjab	Rural Water Supply	2184.69
8.	Tamil Nadu	PHC (Upgradation), Roads & Bridges	2649.85
9.	West Bengal	Primary Schools, Roads & Bridges	2171.75
	Total		31153.94

Scrutiny of Balance Sheets

2995. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DCA may start random scrutiny of balance sheets" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 28, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government are framing guidelines to ensure that the Internal Auditors are appointed only for a period of three years with any corporate house: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Department already carries out technical scrutiny of Balance Sheets, at random.

(c) and (d) The Companies Amendment Bill, 1997 contains a proposal whereby a Company will be required to change its auditor after a period of five years.

DSQ Softwares

2996. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs was conducting a probe into the activities of DSQ Softwares;

(b) if so, whether the investigation have since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. An inspection under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 has been conducted.

(b) The inspection report has been received.

(c) and (d) The Department of Company Affairs has ordered necessary prosecutions for violation of various offences under the Companies Act, 1956. For delay in depositing PF dues and ESI dues, the matter has been referred to PF/ESI authorities for their further action.

Contribution of FDI in Indian Economy

2997. SHRI C.N. SINGH

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FDI in India in the last two decades has resulted in the downfall of domestic investment;

(b) if so, whether there is no clear sign to its contribution to Indian economic growth; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the domestic investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The share of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Gross Domestic Investment in India increased from 0.12 per cent in 1990-91 to 2.13 per cent in 2000-01; at which rate no downfall of domestic investment can occur. FDI has contributed to economic growth by supplementing domestic investment, providing technology upgradation, adding to improvement of managerial and technical skills and a widening of the marketing network.

(c) Government has taken several steps to improve the domestic and foreign investment in the country, which amongst others, include liberalisation of policies in trade, industry, infrastructure, financial sectors, rationalization and reduction of both direct and indirect taxes, reduction of interest rates, tax holidays for investment in infrastructure and backward areas, combined with sound-macro economic policies so as to stimulate economic growth with stability in prices and exchange rates.

Foreign Company Status

2998. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign companies which reduced their foreign shareholding in the wake of the FERA are now going back to majority stake or even hundred per cent foreign company status;

(b) if so, whether it will not have a debilitating effect on the Indian small investors as also on the stock market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the extant policy, FDI up to 100% is permitted in most sectors. Proposals involving enhancement of foreign shareholding by way of acquisition/buy-back of existing shares from resident shareholders are considered by FIPB on the basis of extant policy, including sectoral policy in respect of FDI caps, minimum capitalisation requirements, etc. Approvals in cases involving acquisition/buy-back of shares through public offer are subject to SEBI pricing norms and SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeover) Regulations, 1997.

(b) and (c) Delisting of securities from the stock exchanges could ultimately result in a decrease in volume and market capitalisation. In so far as small investors are concerned, buy back of securities/substantial acquisition of shares provides an exit option to small investors in conformity with SEBI Regulations. As regards delisting by MNCs from stock exchanges, SEBI has constituted a Committee to relook at the norms for delisting.

Fast Track 560 Scheme

2999. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing the fast track 560 scheme to make it easy for companies to get themselves stuck of the list of registered companies;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending during first half year of 2002 under this scheme; and

(c) the steps, the Government propose to take to make it easy for companies to avail of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government had introduced "The Fast Track Section 560 Scheme" which was in force from 28.9.2000 to 31.1.2001 providing for easy exit route by getting the names of companies struck off from the Register of Companies. The Scheme was extended upto 31.3.2001 for the State of Gujarat only on account of the earthquake. The Fast Track Section 560 Scheme is not in force at present.

Inside Trading

3000. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of inside trading which came to the notice of SEBI since its inception upto 30th June, 2002;

(b) the number of cases in which the SEBI has initiated prosecution as on 30th June, 2002;

(c) the details of cases which are still pending with the SEBI;

(d) the reason for pendancy of these cases; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to initiate prosecution in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that 33 (Thirty Three only) cases of alleged insider trading have come to the notice of SEBI.

(b) SEBI has initiated prosecution in two cases and is considering possibility of prosecution in another case.

(c) to (e) Out of 33 cases of alleged insider trading which were taken up for investigation, investigations have been closed in 21 cases as the allegations could not be substantiated or pursued for want of sufficient evidence. Remaining 12 cases are under various stages of investigation.

[Translation]

Tax Deduction at Source

3001. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax deducted at source in advance in Bihar by the income tax authorities during the year 2001-2002;

(b) the amount given to the Bihar Government out of the total income tax proceeds; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the objectives of TDS in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Separate statistics of direct taxes collection for the state of Bihar are not maintained/ available. The amount of Tax Deducted at Source in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand together was Rs.. 300.17 crores in Financial Year 2001-2002.

(b) The amount given to the Bihar Government out of the total net income tax proceeds was Rs. 1142.06 crores in Financial Year 2001-2002.

(c) TDS provisions are implemented all over the country as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 including the State of Bihar.

[English]

Seizure of Gold and Silver

3002. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the seizures of smuggled gold and silver by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the custom authorities at the major air terminals and ports in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the break-up of the above seizures, State-wise, air terminals and port-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to set up an expert team to nab the smugglers who are operating beyond the vicinity of airports and ports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of the seizures of smuggled gold and silver by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the custom authorities at the major air terminals and ports in the country during each of the last three years, state-wise, air terminals & port-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, all field formations of the Customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert & vigilant to nab the smugglers who are operating beyond the vicinity of airports and ports.

Statement

Details of Seizures of Smuggled Gold & Silver by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Customs Authorities during last 3 years, State-wise, Air Terminals & Port-wise

State/U.T	Name of the Port / Airport	1999-2000				2000-2001				2001-2002			
		Gold Seizures		Silver Seizures		Gold Seizures		Silver Seizures		Gold Seizures		Silver Seizures	
		Qty. (In Kgs.)	Seizure Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Qty. (In Kgs.)	Seizure Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Qty. (In Kgs.)	Seizure Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Qty. (In Kgs.)	Seizure Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Qty. (In Kgs.)	Seizure Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Qty. (In Kgs.)	Seizure Value (Rs. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam Port	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15.00	65.55	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Hyderabad Airport	9.78	42.00	2.00	0.16	3.34	18.48	Nil	Nil	16.00	65.00	Nil	Nil
	Hyderabad Air Cargo Complex	59.48	262.90	Nil	Nil	46 68	214.82	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	IGI Airport, New Delhi	42.88	204.56	2.00	0.15	22.95	141.55	Nil	Nil	10.31	45.99	Nil	Nil
Goa	Dabolim Airport	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.21	4.90	Nil	Nil	0.33	1.53	Nil	Nil
Gujarat	Ahmedabad Airport	8.50	34.00	Nil	Nil	11.50	46.00	Nil	Nil	6.40	28.00	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	Bangalore Airport	3.83	15.39	Nil	Nil	6.88	33.68	Nil	Nil	5.53	22.94	Nil	Nil
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram Airport	119.88	504.94	Nil	Nil	30.65	80.70	Nil	Nil	9.90	39.25	Nil	Nil
	Nedumbassery Airport	11.66	440.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.70	18.80	Nil	Nil
	Karipur Airport	21.40	807.00	Nil	Nil	12.37	46.65	Nil	Nil	12.14	56.44	Nil	Nil
	Calicut Airport	2.68	11.76	Nil	Nil	7.58	34.19	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maharashtra	Bankot Port	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1685	126.00
	CSI Airport, Mumbai	149.38	640.42	Nil	Nil	153.64	654.42	Nil	Nil	112.36	474.52	2.47	0.17
	Mumbai Port	112.39	442.67	Nil	Nil	2.92	12.75	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	Chennai Port	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	104.85	466.89	Nil	Nil
	Chennai Airport	83.25	372.06	Nil	Nil	71.21	316.89	Nil	Nil	186.24	837.59	Nil	Nil
	Trichy Airport	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.20	1.30	Nil	Nil	0.28	0.84	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Airport	0.54	2.23	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.05	0.23	Nil	Nil
West Bengal	NSCBI Airport, Kolkata	11.53	51.41	63.5	4.4	24.41	110.81	Nil	Nil	21.6	104.20	Nil	Nil

[Translation]

Computer in Textile Industry

3003. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scope for using latest computer technology in the handloom textile industry of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a particular computer system has been developed for the said industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the designers are likely to get the facility of testing with the assistance of computers and can also get instant outcome from them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preparation of a graph by designers takes a long time, whereas the same work can be done with computer in a very short time. Computer Aided Design System enables the weavers to quickly preview weaves and colour combinations and enables easy retrieval of designs and specifications. Similarly, computerised Colour Matching Systems allow designers and handloom manufacturers to maintain uniformity and accuracy in colour reproduction on fabrics.

(c) and (d) A Computer Aided Design System has been developed for the design development work in the Textile industry. Various companies have developed softwares and launched them in the market.

(e) and (f) The Government has provided 18 of the total 24 Weavers' Service Centres with Computer Aided Design Systems. The Weavers' Service Centres are able to create exclusive and complex designs with the help of the Computer Aided Design System and also generate graph designs for the use of the weaver community. Provision is also available under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, an ongoing Central scheme in the handloom sector, for assistance to State level handloom organisations and primary co-operative societies for purchase of Computer Aided Design Systems, for use in upgrading their technology and facilitating product diversification.

[English]

Accelerating Foodgrain Exports

3004. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's plan to undertake counter trade and provide commodity loans for accelerating export of foodgrain has been successful;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of difficulties faced or being faced by the Government in implementing the scheme; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the scheme operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) The Government has recently decided to enter into counter-trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case to case basis. It is not possible to assess its success so soon.

Asset Reconstruction Companies

3005. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bank Officers Federation has expressed its serious objection on the establishment of the Asset Reconstruction Company to check NPAs in the banking sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their objections; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Government has not received any objection from Bank Officers Federation on the establishment of the Asset Reconstruction Company.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Circular Issued by CBDT

3006. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to file a special leave petition against Hon'ble Delhi High Court's decision quashing the circular issued by CBDT to exempt Mauritius based FIIs from paying tax on capital gains;

(b) if so, the reasons thereto;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to realise the tax from FIIs from retrospective date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government is yet to take a decision in the matter.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Smuggling of Goods

3007. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large scale goods are being smuggled into India from Bangladesh and Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details of goods seized during the last one year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check this smuggling?

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

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

(c) The concerned field formations of the Customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to check smuggling of goods into India from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Allocation to BPL Families

3008. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have revamped the Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the people living below the poverty line are not getting any special benefit from it;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to channelise the system to provide adequate benefits to the lowest strata of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to streamline the PDS and with a view to enhance the food security at the household level, the Government of India launched the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with its focus on the poor in June, 1997. The allocation of foodgrains which was initially 10 Kg. per family per month was doubled to 20 Kg. w.e.f. 1.4.2000 and raised to 25 Kg. per family per month from July, 2001. Presently, 35 Kg. per family per month is being allotted to the BPL families w.e.f. 1.4.2002. The central issue prices for BPL families which was fixed at Rs.4.15 per Kg. for wheat and Rs.5.65 per Kg. for rice have remained unchanged for the last two years.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Does not arise.

(e) The Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) which was launched by the Prime Minister on 25 December, 2000, so as to serve 'the poorest of poor' one crore families is under implementation in all the States/UTs. Under the scheme 35 Kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs.2 per Kg. for wheat and Rs.3 per Kg. for rice is being supplied to all the Antyodaya families.

[English]

Realisation of Foreign Proceed

3009. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Department has unearthed a scam in which exporters have not brought back foreign exchange earned on their sales abroad and claimed drawback benefits;

(b) if so, the *modus* operandi of the racket;

(c) whether in the absence of entry of foreign exchange, the Government have given benefits to the exporters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such rackets in future?

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

Smuggling from Pakistan

3010. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling from Pakistan has come down after banning of Samjhauta Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of incidents took place during the last six months; and

(d) the other steps taken to prevent the smuggling from Pakistan?

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

(b) Details of cases of smuggling from Pakistan detected during the last & current year (upto June, 2002) are as follows:

Year	No. of cases	Value of smuggled goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-2001	66	469.54
2001-2002	32	283.24
2002-2003 (upto June, 2002)	4	13.03

(c) 7 incidents of smuggling from Pakistan have been detected during the last six months, i.e., from January to June, 2002.

(d) All concerned field formations of the Customs department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to check smuggling from Pakistan.

Building of Community Apartments by LIC Housing Finance

3011. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC Housing Finance has floated a subsidiary company Care Homes to build community apartments for senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether locations in various parts of the country for building these community flats, have since been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the terms and conditions for the lease of apartments to senior citizens have since been finalised; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The LIC Housing Finance Ltd. has informed that it has floated a fully owned subsidiary company LICHFL Care Homes Limited to build community apartments for senior citizens. As on date it is a 100% subsidiary company of LIC Housing Finance Limited, registered on 11th September, 2001.

(c) and (d) The LIC Housing Finance Limited has informed that to begin with, the company is planning to build such community apartments in Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi. However, specific locations are yet to be identified.

(e) and (f) The Company has informed that the terms and conditions of lease for the proposed departments are yet to be finalised.

Impediments to India's Exports

3012. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether India came in for high praise by the WTO for its reforms process and trade liberalisation with an annual growth of 6%;

(b) whether WTO also called upon developed and other countries for removal of impediments to India's exports, especially agricultural exports;

(c) if so, the specific impediments came to adverse notice of WTO and the response of developed countries thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to have such impediments removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): The third trade policy review of India conducted on 19 and 21 June 2002 attracted a high level of participation and interest by the WTO Members. In her concluding remarks, the Chairperson of the WTO Trade Policy Review Body stated that this review meeting had led to a much better understanding of India's trade policies and summed up the proceedings as follows: "... The large number of advance questions, numerous interventions (some 30) and the high level of attendance indicate the important role that India plays at the WTO. India was commended for its reform process, including trade liberalisation, and simplification of the trade and investment regime. However, I think we all agree that India needs to do more if growth targets are to be met and a serious dent is to be made in the still high rate of poverty. In this regard, Members gave India their full support for its efforts to reform the economy. Many Members added that these efforts would be greatly enhanced by steps on the part of India's trading partners to reduce, if not remove, their impediments to India's exports, especially in the: context of new negotiations in line with the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). India has clearly stated its support for the WTO and the DDA but considers that if further progress is to be made, the onus remains on the developed countries to keep the promises made in Doha. This view was endorsed by many other Members, who look to India for leadership in these negotiations."

(c) and (d) The trade policy review of India was primarily based upon two Reports: one prepared by the WTO Secretariat and the other prepared by the Government of India. Both these Reports have a section on impediments to India's exports, including agricultural exports, on account of non-tariff measures maintained mainly for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)/Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and tariff rate quota reasons. The purpose of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) in the WTO is to contribute to improved adherence by all Members to rules, disciplines, and commitments made under the Multilateral Trade Agreements and is not intended to serve as a basis for the enforcement of specific obligations under the Agreements or for dispute settlement procedures. Such issues are being pursued in relevant WTO bodies and in other appropriate fora.

Shareholding Pattern of Jet Airways

3013. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had ordered an inquiry into the ownership and shareholding of the Jet Airways in May last;

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

(c) whether the Government have received the inquiry report;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the further action taken or likely to be taken by the Government on the basis of inquiry report?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The inspection of books of accounts and other records of M/s. Jet Airways (India) Pvt. Ltd. has been conducted under Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956. From the inspection report, it is revealed that director Shri Naresh Goyal holds 0.02% of the equity capital, and Tail Winds Ltd. is holding the balance 99.98% of the equity capital. All the preference shares are held by International Finance Corporation, Washington. It is reported that the Tail Wind Ltd. is a company registered in Isle of Man, a British Dominion.

[Translation]

Irregularity in Super Bazar

3014. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of many items sold through Super Bazar are more than the normal market prices;

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

(c) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring Super Bazar prices at par with normal market prices;

(d) the number of complaints so far received by Super Bazar with regard to sale of items at higher prices; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Super Bazar in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Super Bazar has reported that no complaint has been received during the past one year. Therefore, no action is required in this regard.

[English]

Medicines and Organic Pesticides from Tobacco

3015. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether life saving medicines and organic pesticides can be extracted from tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for patenting such products and for commercially production of such items;

(d) whether further research are being taken on extracts of tobacco being discouraged for chewing and smoking world over; and

(e) if so, the institutes engaged for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), which is responsible for conducting research into tobacco and its by-products, is engaged in research work on the pharmaceutical and industrial applications of tobacco and its extracts. This research includes that on the applications of nicotine sulphate and solaneso!, both of which have potential in the pharmaceutical as well as the organic pesticide industries. The Tobacco Board is working out the modalities for setting up a pilot plant to test the benchmark technology developed by the CTRI before commercial production is considered. The commercial viability of these products will be gauged before any applications are made for grant of patents.

UTI Stake in ITC

3016. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SAROKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has proposed to disinvest its stake in tobacco giant ITC to liquidate its portfolio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the International Tobacco Giant BAT has evinced interest in bidding for the UTIs stake;

(d) whether ITC is forcing upon the UTI some unviable options to outsmart the BAT bid; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT

GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Investment/dis-investment decisions are made by UTI on basis of its own commercial judgement. UTI has intimated that details of specific moves cannot be disclosed in advance since this can adversely affected investors interest.

(c) UTI has intimated that it is not aware of any such information.

(d) According to UTI, ITC or anyone else cannot force unviable options on UTI.

(e) UTI is not required to seek approval of Government for its investment/dis-investment decisions.

MPEDA's Plan to Encourage Marine Products

3017. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has any plans to encourage Indian Marine Products Industry to focus on value added exports;

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by MPEDA to encourage Indian marine foods exporters to change over to such exports;

(c) whether any financial subsidies are being given; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the exporters based on the East Coast have received such encouragement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) In order to encourage marine products industry to focus on value-added exports and to change over to such exports, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; participation by MPEDA in international fairs, conducting overseas market surveys; etc.

For production of value-added products financial assistance is extended at the rate of 25% of the cost of machinery and equipment subject to maximum of Rs. 15 lakh per unit. During the year 2001-02, the financial assistance amounting to Rs. 57.25 lakh was given to the seafood processors in East Coast region.

Measures for Revival of Economy

3018. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether global economic recovery led by the US is the primary reason for optimism in terms of exports;

(b) if so, whether the survey conducted by the CII shows that there has been improvement in domestic and export market demand for most sectors; and

(c) if so, the extent in which the economy has improved during the first half of 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) While the expectation of a gradual global recovery, led by the US, forms the basis for an optimistic export growth outlook, it also takes into account the performance of the external sector during the last financial year as well as an assessment of the trends during the current year within the existing scenario and policy framework.

(b) The latest business outlook survey conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) reveals optimistic outlook over the next six months with expectations of a pick up in both domestic as well as export market demand. A sectoral analysis of responses reveal that the sense of optimism cut across all sectors. The survey also indicates that with expectations of an improvement in general business prospects, the respondents are planning to hike production, undertake more investments and add to the workforces.

(c) As per the latest information available for the current financial year, exports (in Dollar terms) have increased by 10.5 per cent during April-May 2002 as against a decline of 2.1 per cent during April-May 2001. Industrial production, infrastructure performance and non food credit offtake from commercial banks have also shown noticeable improvements in the current financial year. Overall industrial growth improved from 2.1 per cent in April-May 2001 to 3.8 per cent in April-May 2002. Six core and infrastructure industries (electricity generation, coal, steel, crude oil, refinery throughput and cement)

have grown by 5.8 per cent in April-June 2002 compared to 1.0 per cent in April-June 2001. Non food credit offtake is also estimated to have grown by 10.4 per cent in the current year so far (March 22-June 28, 2002) compared with a decline by 0.5 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

[Translation]

World Bank and ADB loan to Rajasthan

3019. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the project-wise details of the loans being provided to Rajasthan by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank during the last three years;

(b) the terms and conditions of the loans;

(c) the names of the countries which have offered to provide loans to Rajasthan and the names of the projects of Rajasthan for which such efforts have been made;

(d) whether the Government have accepted those offers;

(e) whether Japan has restarted giving loan/grant for Aravali Development Project and Forest Development Project which was stopped earlier;

(f) if so, the details of the likely benefits thereof; and

(g) if not, the adverse consequences thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The information is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The terms and conditions are given in the Statement-III enclosed.

(c) and (d) The projects being undertaken in Rajasthan with loan from various countries are given in the Statement-II.

(e) These projects were closed as per their scheduled completion dates. The first phase of Aravalli Hill Afforestation Project has been completed on 31.3.2000. The Rajasthan Forestry Development project has also been completed on 12.4.2002.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement-I

(Figures in Millions)

S.No.	Name of the project	Agreement date	Source	Currency	Loan Amt.	Disbursement during 1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Agricultural Development (Raj.)	17.12.92	IDA	SDR	67.58	6.25	5.17	(Closed)
2.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiative	12.5.00	IDA	SDR	75.00	-	2.88	0.65
3.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring	27.2.01	IBRD	USD	180.00	-	18.40	2.60
4.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring	15.3.02	IDA	SDR	110.00	-		4.00
5.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development	1.12.99	ADB	SDR	250.00	0.00	0.30	0.98

Statement-II

(Figures in Millions)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Source	Currency	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Water Supply & Sanitation–Feasibility Study for City of Jaipur	France	FF	5.30
2.	Study of Evaluation of Losses and Leakage in Water Distribution System in Jaipur	France	FF	13.69

1	2	3	4	5
3	Artificial Ground Water Recharge and Waste Water Reuse for Jaipur	France	FF	4.98
4.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply	Germany	DM	40.00
5.	Minor Irrigation, Rajasthan Ph. II	Germany	DM	30.00

Statement-III

General Terms and Conditions of External Loans to Government of India

Sl No.	Source	Currency	Type of Loan (Conc./Mixed)	Grace Period (Years)	Period of Repayment after Grace period (Year)	Current Rate of Interest (in %)	Commitment Charges on undisbursed loan amount (in %)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Multilateral								
1.	I.B.R.D.	US Dollar	Semi concessional	5	15	Variable*	0.75	* (I) Interest-Variable every 6 months **(a) Currency Pooled Loans (VLR-1989)** Interest rate is determined based on the cost of qualified borrowings plus a spread. The lending rate applicable for the period from 01.01.2002 to 30.06.2002 is as under: Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued prior to 31.07.1998 — 5.03% p.a. (includes a spread of 50 basis points.) Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued after 31.07.1998 — 5.28% p.a. (includes a spread of 75 basis points.) **(b) US $ Floating Rate Single Currency Loans** Interst rate is determined based on 6 months LIBOR plus a variable spread. The rate applicable for interest payment date beginning 15.05.2002 to 14.11 2002 is as follows: Loans for which invitation for negotiations was issued prior to 31.07.1998 — 2.22% p.a. (with a spread of 19 basis points). Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued on or after 31.07.1998 — 2.47% p.a. (with a spread of 44 basis points). **(iv) Interest Waiver for Prompt Payment** - As notified by Bank, the waiver applicable for 2001 is as under: Loans for which invitation to negotiation was issued prior to 31.07.98 — 0.15% Loans for which invitation to negotiation was issued after 31.07.98 — 0.25% **(II) Commitment Charges** payable on the undisbursed loan amount at 0.75% Bank have been notifying waiver of 0.50% since July, 91.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								(iii) Front End Fee - 1% (one time payment) of the loan amount is payable in respect of loans negotiated after 1.7.1998.
2.	I.D.A.	S.D.R.	Concessional	10	25	0.75	0.50	(i) In respect of credit finalised till July 1988, the repayment period was 50 years including a grace period of 10 years. IDA credits presently enjoy a grace period of 10 years with a repayment period of 25 years. (ii) Commitment charge is payable at 0.50% on the undisbursed credits. This is being fully waived by Bank since 1989-90. (iii) 0.75% shown under Interest Column is termed as Service Charge.
3.	I.F.D.A	S.D.R.	Concessional	10	40	0.75		The payment of 0.75% shown under Interest Column is termed as Service Charge.
4.	A.D.B.	US Dollar	Semi Concessional	3 to 5	20	Variable*	0.75	* **Interest** - Variable every six months. The interest rate is determined based on average cost of preceding six months of the respective pools of outstanding borrowings established to fund such loans. The lending rate for the period 1-6-2002 to 31-12-2002 is 6.34% on single currency US$ loans and 3.91% in respect of multi-currency loans. **Commitment Charge** - 0.75% on undisbursed loan amounts. However, the undisbursed amount is reckoned on a graded basis in respect of project loans. For programme loans it is on the entire loan amount.

[English]

Infrastructure Equity Fund

3020. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up an Infrastructure Equity Fund with a corpus of Rs. 1,000/- crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the financial institutions, State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation had agreed to provide funds for infrastructure projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2002-2003 has announced for setting up of an Infrastructure Equity Fund of Rs. 1000 crores. The contributions to the Fund to be managed by Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. (IDFC) would be initially made by the public sector insurance companies, financial institutions (FIs) and some banks. IDFC has prepared a concept paper which is being discussed with banks/FIs including State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation. The details of the scheme are yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

Disposal of Complaints by DCA

3021. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Company Act, 1956 does not provide any time limit for the disposal of complaints as a result of which it takes several years for disposal of complaints;

(b) the number of cases which are pending for the last three years, till date; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fix time limit for disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no specific time limit prescribed in the Companies Act, 1956, for the disposal of complaints. However, all efforts are made to dispose of the complaints expeditiously. During the last three years (1999, 2000 and 2001) and up to 26.07.2002, a total of 38,277 complaints were received, out of which 16, 869 complaints were disposed of and 21,408 complaints are under process. If companies do not dispose of the complaints within a reasonable time, penal action for violation of the concerned provisions of the Act can be initiated against them.

Agreement with China for Tea Trade

3022. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between the Indian Tea Association (ITA) and China Tea Association Net (CTCN) for giving new dimension to bilateral trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recognising the common objective to promote tea world-wide and with the belief that consumption of tea is healthy and-beneficial, Indian Tea Association (ITA) with the support of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) signed an agreement with a China Tea Corporation namely **www.teanet.com.cn** on 16.7.2001 in Beijing, China during the visit of ICC business delegation. The said agreement was in force for one year with effect from the date of signing and would be reviewed periodically on mutual convenience. The agreement aims at exploring avenues for joint promotion and marketing of Indian and Chinese tea globally, assist each other in marketing tea world wide, setting up of joint committee comprising of three members each from both the organizations to examine the modalities for joint operation and coordination and taking any other measures required to promote friendly economic cooperation between India and China particularly with respect to the tea sector.

[English]

Schemes for Cultivators other than Coffee

3023. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to formulate any specific programmes/ schemes for cultivators of various agricultural products like coconut, arecanut, tobacco, tea, cotton, pepper etc. on the lines of coffee growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal presently under consideration.

Managerial Remuneration by DCA

3024. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has a long list of 800 applications pending for the managerial remuneration;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are finalizing the guidelines for managerial remuneration;

(d) the time by when these guidelines are expected to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The guidelines on the subject already exist. These are revised from time to time, as and when required.

[Translation]

Transfer of Training Centre

3025. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Industry Training Centre situated in Nemach, Madhya Pradesh is being transferred or closed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, one of the two departmentally run training centres at Nemach, Madhya Pradesh, imparting training on Hand Block Printing, has been closed down with effect from 15.03.2002 as part of the endeavour to rightsize and make services more effective.

[English]

Guidelines for Issue of Initial Public Offer

3026. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has proposal to issue fresh guidelines for the issue of Initial Public Offer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which new guidelines will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that SEBI's Primary Market Advisory Committee has constituted a sub-group to examine the issue of entry norms for initial public offering. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, SEBI will consider amending its guidelines in this regard.

Collection of Service Charges by Tobacco Board

3027. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board collects huge amounts to additional service charges and penalties for growing excess and unauthorized tobacco;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposals from the tobacco growers to create Growers Welfare Fund with the amount collected on the excess and unauthorised tobacco;

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government on the proposals; and

(d) the time by which the fund is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Tobacco Board collects additional service charges and extra fees on the sale of excess and unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco, as notified by Government from time to time.

(b) A proposal was received from the Tobacco Board for setting up a Growers' Welfare Fund to finance schemes for the benefit of the tobacco growers in the areas of cultivation, crop management, assistance in the event of losses etc.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken on this proposal as these activities are already being undertaken by the Tobacco Board, which runs various extension and development schemes for the benefit of the growers using its own outlay. The funds generated through the levy of additional service charges on the excess and unauthorised production of tobacco also form part this outlay.

Promotion of Silk Export

3028. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silk Export Promotion Council (SEPC) has made any recommendations to increase the demand of Indian silk in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have initiated steps to implement the suggestion of ISEPC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (e) Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) is entrusted with the responsibility for export promotion activities in respect of Silk goods for the country, and has the autonomy to implement its own suggestions in this regard, subject to guidelines and the policies of Govt. of India.

Filing of Papers by Companies

3029. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued a directive that foreign companies have to pay heavy fines for not filing statutory papers like balance sheets in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of foreign companies have avoided filing of balance sheets;

(d) if so, the number of foreign companies have sought condonation of delays in filing of statutory papers in Delhi area in 2001-2002; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of such directives by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department has standardised the additional fees chargeable for condonation of delay in filing the statutory documents by foreign companies as under:

Period of delay		Rates of additional fee
(i)	Upto one month	One time of normal filing fee.
(ii)	More than one month and upto three months	Two times of normal filing fee.
(iii)	More than three months and upto six months	Four times of normal filing fee.
(iv)	More than six month and upto one year	Six times of normal filing fee.
(v)	More than one year and upto two years	Eight times of normal filing fee.
(vi)	More than two years	Nine times of normal filing fee.

(c) to (e) During the financial year 2001-2002, the Central Government had received applications from more than 100 foreign companies seeking condonation of delay. Default notice have been issued to 69 foreign companies by Registrar of Companies, Delhi. The Department has requested the Reserve Bank of India to inform the Registrar of Companies, Delhi as and when approval of opening of offices/liaison offices by foreign companies is issued by it.

Meeting of World Bank

3030. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of donor countries of the World Bank was held recently in London to finalize the concessionary lending programme for the fiscal year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, whether India is likely to get about $ 4 billion as its share for the fiscal year 2003-2004 out of $ 23 billion total allocation to all countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which this amount is higher than the previous fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The final meeting of International Development Association (IDA) Deputies for the 13th Replenishment was held in London on 1st July 2002; The 13th Replenishment for IDA lending upon approval would be for three financial years beginning on July 1, 2002 and ending on June 30, 2005.

(b) and (c) Replenishment is expected to be approximately SDR 18.00 billion (US$ 23.76 billion approx. at current rate of exchange) out of which India is expected to receive approximately SDR 2.00 billion (US$ 2.64 billion approx. at current rate of exchange) over the three year period depending upon approval of projects.

(d) India's allocation under IDA-13 is likely to be higher by about 100 million SDR (US$ 132 million at current rate of exchange) in comparison to original IDA-12 allocation (SDR 1.9 billion or US$ 2.508 billion at current rate of exchange).

Revamping of Tea Auction System

3031. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to revamp the tea auction system to bluster the tea prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government/Tea Board had commissioned M/s A.F. Ferguson & Co. to undertake a study on the primary marketing of tea in the country which included review of the present auction system, role of auctions in primary marketing of tea, marketing of green tea/tea by small tea growers/bought leaf factories and scope for introduction of electronic bidding process. The final report of the consultant submitted in July 2002 has made recommendations regarding changes in auction system and rules including lot size, divisibility of lots, sampling, prompt date, re-opening of bids, introduction of ex-estate sales, proxy bidding, catalogue closing time, marketing of green tea leaf by small growers and made tea by bought leaf factories etc.

Reforms in the auction system are expected to lead to removal of market imperfections and establishment of an efficient price discovery mechanism.

Amount Spent by Banks on Litigation

3032. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by each public sector bank on services for litigation for recovery of non-performing assets during last three years; and

(b) the recent policy initiatives taken for better results in recovery of bad debts/ outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Information is still being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Inflation Rate

3033. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to continue twin policy of keeping inflation rate in check and maintaining a soft interest rate regime; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) It is the Government's continued endeavour to ensure that the inflation rate remains moderately low. The supply side management of essential commodities is one of the important factors that the Government operates to moderate the overall inflationary expectations in the economy. The Reserve Bank of India has been following the policy of imparting flexibility to the interest rate structure, with a preference for softening to the extent the evolving situation warrants.

Projects under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme

3034. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the names of projects launched under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and first three months of the current year;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the performance of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

(d) the funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government under each project during the above period;

(e) whether some State Governments including Maharashtra and Karnataka have requested to carryout amendments in cost etc. of these projects; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) A total of 140 projects have been launched under Critical Infrastructure Balance (CIB) Scheme in different states of the country during the 9th Five Year Plan. The projects have been assessed on the basis of the financial expenditure on the project. No proposal has been received from Maharashtra and Karnataka to carry out amendments in the cost etc. of these projects. The details of the projects launched under this scheme in Maharashtra and Karnataka and the funds sanctioned, released by the Department of Commerce under each project is given below:

(Amount in Crores)

Sl.No.	Project	State/Agency	Year of Sanction	Total Cost of the Project	Amount Sanctioned from CIB Scheme	Amount Released
1	Construction of road connecting EPIP at Hoodi	Karnataka	97-98	9.5	4.75	4.75
2	Road connecting EPIP Hoodi	Karnataka	99-2000	8	4	4
3	Road development Bamasundra	Karnataka	2000-01	10	5	5
4	Improvement of approach road to Bidade Industrial area, Near Bangalore	Karnataka	2001-02	1.147	0.5735	0.240839
5	Setting up of regional trade centre Pune	Maharashtra	99-2000	0.1033	0.05165	0.05165
6	Regional export facilitation centre at Nasik/ Aurangabad	Maharashtra	2000-01	0.2066	0.1033	0.1033
7	Rail Overbridge Navade Jn.	Maharashtra	2000-01		4.74	1.05405
8	Construction of ROB across uran-panvel railway line adjacent to special economic zone/commercial area at Dronagiri in Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	2001-02	15	5	0.5
9	Computerization of SEEPZ	Maharashtra	99-2000	0.1642	0.1642	0.1642
10	Video Conferencing	Maharashtra	2001-02	0.065	0.065	0.065
11	Addl. Hardware for Computerization at SEEPZ	Maharashtra SEEPZ	2001-02	0.5891	0.5891	0.5891

Interest on Small Savings and PF

3035. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee constituted to review the system of administered interest rates and other related issues has since been submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations contained in the said report;

(c) whether the Government has since examined the recommendations made by the Expert Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee on administered interest rates and other related issues, set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.V. Reddy, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India, submitted its report on 5.10.2001. The main recommendations of the Committee were as under:

(i) Interest rates on small savings schemes be benchmarked to average secondary market yields on Government securities.

(ii) Transfer of the entire net collections to the States from 1.4.2002 instead of 80% to States and 20% to the Centre as at that time.

(iii) Withdrawal of all tax concessions on short and medium term financial savings (maturity not more than 6 years). With regard to long term savings,

tax concessions at the time of accrual may be provided @ 20% on investment upto Rs. 60,000.

The Report of the Committee is available at the official website of the Ministry of Finance **(www.finmin.nic.in)**

(c) and (d) Main recommendations of the said Committee viz: benchmarking interest rates on small savings schemes to the yield on Government securities of like maturity in the secondary market, transfer of entire net proceeds of small savings to States, etc. have been accepted and acted upon w.e.f. March 1, 2002 and April 1, 2002 respectively.

The Committee's other recommendations on various issues will provide an input to Government's approach on the subject.

Group Superannuation Schemes of LIC

3036. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India have reduced the rate of returns on group superannuation schemes;

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

(c) whether the LIC had assured to the investors a guaranteed minimum return of eight per cent per annum on the pension funds;

(d) whether the employees subscribing to the above scheme are to be put to great financial loss as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to protect their interest particularly when they were assured a minimum returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the rates of interest to be credited on the Group Superannuation Schemes funds for the year 2001-2002 ranges from 9.25% for a fund size of less than Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs to 10.5% for a fund size of Rupees One Hundred Crore and above. This range of interest rate for the previous year was from 10.75% to 12%.

The LIC has also reduced the annuity/pension rates in cases where pension/annuity commences on or after 1st April, 2002. The reduction of annuity rate is due to the lower yield on the investment on such annuity funds for the year 2001-2002 and the anticipated yield on such funds in the future years by LIC. Annuities once decided are payable at the same rate life long.

(c) The LIC had guaranteed 8% return under Group Superannuation Scheme Funds for a period of 5 years for Schemes which commenced on or before 31st March, 2002. However, interest allowed by LIC on such funds for the year 2001-2002 are mentioned in part (b) above.

For new schemes commencing from 1.4.2002, the guaranteed rates for such Superannuation funds has been reduced to 6%. However, actual interest that LIC will be allowing on such Funds for the year 2002-2003 will be known by the close of the year.

However, annuity rates are not guaranteed.

(d) and (e) Annuities to pensioners started on or before 31.3.2002 have not been reduced. Existing pensioners will continue to receive the same amount of pension as is being received by them. The annuity payment commences on the employee leaving the services of the organization, when the accumulation to the credit of the member is used for purchase of annuity. The quantum of annuity depends on the annuity rates prevalent on the date of purchase. Once the annuity payment commences, the quantum of annuity payable to the individual is guaranteed life long.

In case the Employer targets or if the Rules of the Schemes spells out a specific amount of pension, LIC quotes rate of contribution to the Fund. The contribution rates under such Group Superannuation Schemes are subject to revision at periodical intervals. Still the quantum of annuity depends on the annuity rates prevalent at the time of purchase. In case the Employer has committed for a specific amount of pension, the employer/trust may make the shortfall in the required National Cash Option at the time of exit of the employee/subscriber.

[Translation]

Action Against Companies for Excise Evasion

3037. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies located in various States including Maharashtra against which departmental and legal action are being taken for evasion of excise and custom duties amounting of more than Rs.100 crore, State-wise;

(b) the names of the companies against whom such cases are pending with Tribunals and Courts for more than last three years and the latest status of the cases as on date; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy recovery of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of companies located in various states including Maharashtra against which departmental and legal action are being taken as on date for evasion of excise and customs duties amounting more than Rs. 100 crores are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) There are 3 such cases of Central Excise duty evasion which are more than 3 years old pending with the Supreme Court for hearing in August 2002 against ITC Ltd. situated in the state of Bihar, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh involving an amount of Rs. 112.09 crores, Rs. 297.03 crores and Rs. 159.22 crores respectively.

(c) All out efforts are being made by jurisdictional officers to realise the dues by taking persuasive action in the first instance and if these are not yielding results, coercive and certificate action is also being resorted to, if there is no embargo/stay from appellate forums/courts. Special measures are also being taken to get the stays vacated by filing urgent hearing petitions in Supreme Courts, High Courts and Appellate Tribunal or for deciding the cases on priority basis. CBEC and senior supervisory officers in the field are monitoring the cases involving substantial revenue.

Statement

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	State	Name of the company	Duty evasion excise/customs	Amt. involved
1	2	3	4	5
1	Assam	Numalligarh Refinary Ltd.	excise	113.07
		North Eastern Tobacco Co. Ltd.	-do-	121.63
2	Bihar	ITC Ltd.	-do-	112.09
3	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai Steel Plant	-do-	137.13
4	Gujarat	ONGC	-do-	334.00
5		IOCL	-do-	332.93
6		GAIL	-do-	155.00
7		Ooto Klin Plants, Kftz, Gandhidham	Customs	211.23
8	Haryana	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	excise	200.35
9		Maruti Udyog Ltd.	-do-	195.70
10	Jharkhand	TELCO	-do-	154.44
11	Karnataka	ITC Ltd.	-do-	143.22

1	2	3	4	5
12		ITC Ltd.	-do-	279.03
13		Kochi Refineries Ltd.	-do-	196.16
14	Maharashtra	Fiat India Ltd.	-do-	367.04
15		CEAT Ltd.	-do-	102.00
16	Maharashtra/Delhi	Joint Venture Consortium comprising M/s. Enron Oil & Gas India Ltd. (now known as M/s British Gas Exploration & production India Ltd.), Mumbai & M/s. ONGC, New Delhi & M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd., Mumbai	customs	581.22
17		Dhabol Power Co., Dabhol	-do-	246.00
18	Orissa	SAIL	excise	175.83
19	Punjab	Nestle India Ltd.	-do-	104.39
20	Uttar Pradesh	ITC Ltd.	-do-	159.22
21		GAIL	-do-	108.72
22	West Bengal	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	customs	440.71

[English]

Analysts for Stock Market

3038. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered steps to register analysts operating in the stock and shares sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many newspapers and experts have suggested some regulations for analysts;

(d) if so, whether the Government have examined the *locus standi* of analysts in the New York Stock Exchange and other well established stock exchanges;

(e) if so, the findings thereof on the legal position and responsibilities of analysts; and

(f) the steps proposed to bring analysts within some kind of regulation to enhance investor protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the issue of registering stock market analysts is under examination by SEBI.

(c) to (e) SEBI has intimated that no specific proposal has been received by it for regulation of analysts.

(f) Model Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading for various entities set out in the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992, covers analysts also. The code of conduct provides that:

(i) Analysts, if any, employed by any organisation/ firm for preparing a research report shall disclose their share holding/interest in the company to the compliance officer of that firm/organisation.

(ii) Analysts preparing research reports of listed company shall not trade in securities of that company for 30 days from the date of preparation of such reports.

The SEBI (Investment advice by Intermediaries) Regulations, 2001 also provide that:

(a) An intermediary or any of his employees shall not render, directly or indirectly, any investment advice about any security in the publicly accessible media, whether real-time or non real-time, unless a disclosure of his interest including long or short position in the said security has been made, while rendering such advice.

(b) In case, an employee of the intermediary is rendering such advice, he shall also disclose the interest of his dependent family members and the employer including their long or short position in the said security, while rendering such advice.

Asian Development Bank Loan

3039. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has asked Asian Development Bank to make a quantum jump in its lending for developmental and infrastructure projects to make a real dent on poverty in the developing countries;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that present small gross assistance from the bank is too meagre to make any tangible change on poverty eradication; and

(c) if so, the extent to which Asian Development Bank has considered the views of the Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) While delivering the Statement in his capacity as Governor for India in the Board of Governors of ADB at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Shanghai in May 2002, Finance Minister observed the following:

"We need to look beyond the current lending levels at which we are operating, and prepare for a quantum leap. Can we hope to make any real dent in poverty when the gross assistance is so small?

(c) As far as India is concerned, the ADB Programming Mission which visited India in May 2002 has developed a pipeline of Projects for calendar years 2003 to 2005. The pipeline includes 28 loans in different sectors in the country, such as road, power, railways, etc. for a total loan amount of about $ 6 billion. This is in line with the strategy of achieving poverty reduction through growth.

[Translation]

Trade Agreement with Kenya

3040. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Kenya have signed a trade agreement under which both the countries have accorded the status of "Most Favoured Nations" tc each other; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, India and Kenya have entered into a Trade Agreement on 24th February, 1981.

The Trade Agreement envisages that the juridical and natural persons of the Republic of India and the persons and trading enterprises of the Republic of Kenya shall enjoy the most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of personal protection and protection of property when carrying out commercial activities in the territory of the other Contracting Party. The said persons shall also have the right of access to the courts, tribunals and administrative authorities of the other Contracting Party in connection with the enjoyment of the aforesaid treatment to the same extent as foreigners enjoy similar rights under the laws and regulations of such other Contracting Party.

[English]

Bhagwati Panel Report

3041. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhagwati Panel on take over of companies has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Panel; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to implement the recommendations of the Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Committee on Substantial Acquisitions of Shares and Takeovers, reconvened by the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) P.N. Bhagwati, submitted its report to SEBI on 8th May 2002. This was placed on the SEBI website on 9th May 2002 and the public was given three weeks to send their comments.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee include, inter alia, disclosures at every stage when the acquirer crosses the limit of 5%, 10% and 14%; for acquirers holding 15% and above, purchases or sales at every 2% level should be disclosed; any acquisition by acquirers holding 75% and above should be in a transparent manner through open offers for acquiring minimum 20% shares; the average market price for the purpose of the Regulations may be calculated on the basis of 26 weeks or 2 weeks average, whichever is higher, preceding the date of public announcement.

(c) SEBI has intimated that amendments to the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares & Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 are to be notified shortly.

Coffee Retention Plan

3042. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government have approved Coffee Retention Plan in principle;

(b) if so, whether Coffee Board has finalised the modalities of implementation of the plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) India's participation in the Coffee Retention Plan as conceived by the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) was approved in principle by the Govt. of India. However, keeping in view the limited success achieved under this Plan, in improving the world coffee prices, Govt. of India decided not to participate in the same. The said Plan was given up by the ACPC itself in September, 2001 owing to the failure of major coffee producing countries to implement the same arising out of various financial and administrative difficulties.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Budget Provision for Tobacco

3043. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the budget provision made for extension programme for tobacco during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka during the above period; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of funds provided for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The budget provisions made for extension programmes undertaken by the Tobacco Board over the past three years is as follows:

Year	Budget Provision (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Total
1999-2000	54.00	36.00	90.00
2000-2001	8.73	51.96	60.69
2001-2002	68.00	53.50	121.50

Source: Tobacco Board

(b) The amount spent on these programmes State-wise over the same period is as follows:

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Total
1999-2000	29.10	29.70	58.80
2000-2001	10.17	2.83	13.00
2001-2002	29.00	10.76	39.76

Source: Tobacco Board

(c) The reasons for partial utilisation of funds lie in the non-eligibility of a large number of growers due to failure to fulfil the conditions laid down by the Tobacco Board and the decision taken to not register any growers or fix any crop size for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001.

Separate Bank for DRDA

3044. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a bank exclusively to finance activities of the District Rural Development Agencies all over the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DRDAs have not been able to ground a number of schemes due to lack of support from banks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to take the cooperation of banks to implement rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that banks have been active participants in all Government Sponsored Credit Linked Schemes. RBI closely monitors the performance of banks and has advised them to achieve the targets set under the various Government Sponsored Poverty Alleviation Programmes. RBI has also instructed the banks for greater coordination of work between bankers and Government functionaries and to minimize the gap between receipt of loan applications, their sanction and disbursement. It has also been reiterated that the applications under various schemes should be sanctioned within the prescribed time limit. Further, under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) banks have been advised to participate in the block and district level meetings regularly. Lead banks have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the banks in their lead districts to ensure their participation and to exchange/share relevant information with Government functionaries. Banks have also been advised to organize district-wise intensive one day sensitization camps/workshops for their branch officers.

Inflation Rate

3045. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation hits record low of 3.61 per cent in financial year 2001-02;

(b) if so the detail in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase inflation rate in financial year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The annual average inflation rate based on the Wholesale Price Index for 2001-02 was 3.61% - the previous low of 3.3% having bee recorded in 1999-2000. The average inflation rate for the three major subgroups was 3.7% for primary products, 9.1% for the fuel group and 1.8% for the manufactured products for 2001-02.

(c) Government keeps a constant watch on the inflation rate and endeavours to ensure through effective supply management of essential commodities that undue price rise in these does not hurt the poor.

Price Rise in Vanaspati

3046. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prices of vanaspati has gone very high during the past six months;

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

(c) whether the Government have assessed the demand of vanaspati for the year 2002-03;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the gap between the demand and supply of vanaspati; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the demand of vanaspati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per available information the prices of vanaspati have increased from Rs. 515 per 15 litre pack as on 30.1.2002 to Rs.625 per 15 litre pack as on 30.7.2002, thus representing an increase of 21.36%. The main reasons of increase in vanaspati prices are as follows:

(i) Increase in the international prices of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) from which vanaspati is produced. The average international price of CPO in January 2002 was US$ 312 per MT f.o.b. which has increased to US$ 370 per MT f.o.b. in July 2002, thus representing an increase of 18.6%.

(ii) Increase in the tariff value of CPO on which the customs duty is levied. The Tariff value of CPO was US$ 314 per MT as on 5.1.2002 which has now been increased to US$ 392 PMT with effect from 13.6.2002.

(iii) Increase in the prices of indigenous oils used in the production of vanaspati. Mostly rice bran oil is used for production of vanaspati. The price of rice bran oil which was Rs.2450 per quintal as on 30.1.2002 has increased to Rs.3150 per quintal as on 30.7.2002, thus representing an increase of 28.57%.

(c) to (e) The demand for vanaspati has not been separately assessed. However, based on previous years' availability of vanaspati from domestic sources as well as from imports, the demand for vanaspati is likely to be of the order of 16 lakh MTs during 2002-03. The domestic production of vanaspati during 2002-03 is estimated at 15 lakh MTs. As per the India-Nepal Trade Treaty revised w.e.f. 6.3.2002, the duty free import of vanaspati from Nepal has been fixed at 1 lakh MTs per annum.

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

(i) Vegetable oil industry including vanaspati industry has been delicensed w.e.f. 25.7.1991, thereby creating opportunities for creation of new capacities/expansion of existing capacities.

(ii) Import of edible oils has been allowed in OGL to facilitate raw material availability to the vanaspati units.

(iii) Under Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, 1 1akh MT of vanaspati can be imported free of custom duty.

Foreign Audit Firms

3047. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been considering to allow foreign audit firms to practice in the country;

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

(c) whether the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has considered a working group to review proposals for amendments submitted to the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the working group is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, no person shall be entitled to carry out statutory audit work unless he is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and has obtained from the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India a certificate of practice.

(c) and (d) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) constituted in March, 2002, a Working Group to suggest amendments to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Regulations framed thereunder. The group submitted its report on 29th June, 2002 to ICAI.

Outstanding Dues Against Banks/PSUs

3049. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of arrears is outstanding with the Public Sector Banks and PSUs in favour of various States particularly Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments facing a serious financial crunch due to non-payment of such dues;

(c) if so, whether some State Governments requested the Union Government to take effective initiative to clear the outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) Information is still being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Investors Education and Awareness Programme

3049. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has a proposal to start Investors Education and Awareness Programme;

(b) if so, the details about the programme alongwith the budget, implementation schedule, etc.;

(c) whether SEBI has regained the services of any institution or university to start education the investing public; and

(d) if so, the details of such steps initiated by SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the details are being worked out.

Import of Edible Oil

3050. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

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

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent on the said import;

(c) the reasons for large scale import of edible oil during the above said period;

(d) whether this large scale import has adversely affected the domestic oil seed producers particularly of Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of oil seed growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per latest available information, the quantity & value of edible oil imported during the first month of the current financial year, i.e. April, 2002 is as under:

Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
252666	45115.77

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade

(c) There is a gap between demand and indigenous supply of edible oils. The Government, with a view to ensure availability of edible oils in the domestic market, has allowed import of edible oils except coconut oil under Open General License (OGL). In April, 2001 the import of edible oils was of 3,57,399 MTs. Compared to that the import in April, 2002 is lower.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Trade Agreement with Russia

3051. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have entered into an agreement for boosting bilateral trade in agriculture products besides tea and tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the items imported and exported between the two countries in 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Russian Federation which was signed on May 4, 1992 provides the basic framework for Indo-Russian trade and economic cooperation since the disintegration of former USSR. During the Eighth Session of Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held at New Delhi in February, 2002 a Protocol was signed. This Protocol reflects the discussions held on various issues of bilateral interest for promoting trade between the two countries including measures required to be taken for promoting export of tea, tobacco, wheat, etc. to Russia.

(c) The main items of export to Russia during the year 2000-2001 are RMG Cotton including accessories, Tea, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine chemicals, coffee, RMG Wool, Cotton Yarn, Fabrics, made ups, tobacco etc.

The main items of import from Russia during the year 2000-2001 are Fertilizers, Iron & Steel, Non-ferrous metals, Newsprint, Synthetic and Reclaimed Rubber, Primary Steel etc.

[English]

Fraud in Central Bank of India

3052. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether between May and June 2002, CBI has registered a case of bungling of Rs. 36 lakhs in Paharganj, New Delhi branch of Central Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of persons against whom action is being taken; and

(d) the steps being taken for recovery of the money and punish the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against one Manager and one Assistant Manager of Central Bank of India, Paharganj Branch, New Delhi for defrauding the bank to the extent of Rs.36 lakhs in connivance with M/s. Rupin Exports and M/s. Shivam Imports & Exports.

(b) to (d) Between 10.01.2002 and 05.02.2002 the Manager in the absence of Sr. Branch Manager issued three letters to the Parliament Street Branch of Central Bank of India advising to remit US$ 58,378.40 to Hong Kong on behalf of M/s. Rupin Exports and M/s. Shivam Imports & Exports falsely certifying that sufficient funds have been kept reserved in their OD/CD accounts. Later he unauthorisedly sanctioned Cash Credit limits to M/s. Rupin Exports and adjusted the above mentioned remittance amount. The sanction done was unauthorized and fraudulent. The bank has suspended the Manager and the Assistant Manager and has initiated departmental action against them. The bank has also taken steps for recovery of the outstanding amount by issue of recall notice to the borrowers.

Inputs to Tobacco Farmers

3053. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of inputs provided to the tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka under the extension programme; and

(b) the number of farmers covered under the said programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board arranges the supply of inputs like seed, fertilizers, briquettes, coal, sprinklers, fumigants, pesticides etc. to the Flue Cured Virginia tobacco farmers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra as part of its normal activity. All growers who are duly registered with the Board for each crop season are covered under this activity.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 330(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 2002.

(ii) The Companies (Fees on Applications) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 365(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2002.

(iii) The Companies (Appointment and Qualifications of Secretary) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 419(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5902/2002]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 376(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2002 making certain alterations in Schedule VI to the Companies Act, 1956 Under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5903/2002]

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding modification of the Award given by the Board of Arbitration (BOA) - (under CA reference No.13 of 1992) under the Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for the Central Government Employees (JCM).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5904/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy the Patent (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.495 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 2002 under section 160 of the Patents Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5905/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy the Notification No G.S.R. 324(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2002 regarding change in the location of Delhi Debts Recovery Tribunal No.1 and Delhi Debts Recovery Tribunal No.2, issued under section 3 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5906/2002]

(2) A copy of the Baggage (Transit to Customs Stations) Amendment Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 481(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5907/2002]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:

(i) The Punjab National Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, published in Notification No. HRDD/IR/BS-25(P) in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2002.

(ii) The Indian Overseas Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, published in Notification No.PAD/PEN/001/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2002.

(iii) The Punjab and Sind Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, published in Notification No. PSB/PEN/AMEND/1/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2002.

(iv) The Canara Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, published in Notification No. IRS: 228A:7795: NAK in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.

(v) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, published in Notification No. 3940 in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2002.

(vi) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, published in Notification

No. 3939 in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5908/2002]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959:

(i) Notification No. SBD. No. 5/2002 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2002 containing amendments to Regulation No. 38 of the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/ Patiala/ Saurashtra and Travancore Officers' Service Regulations, 1979.

(ii) Notification No. SBD. No. 6/2002 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2002 containing amendments to Regulation No. 25 of the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/ Saurashtra and Travancore Officers' Service Regulations, 1979.

(iii) Notification No. SBD. No. 7/2002 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2002 containing amendments to State Bank of Hyderabad Employees' Pension Fund Rules, 1943.

(5) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. EXIM/Pension/2002 in the Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5909/2002]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 54 A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987:

(i) The Housing Finance Institutions Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Finance and Administrative Power) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 335 (E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(ii) The Housing Finance Institute Recovery Officers' (Qualification and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 336 (E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(iii) The Housing Finance Institutions Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of the Officers and Employees) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 337 (E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(iv) The Housing Finance Institutions Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 338(E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(v) The Housing Finance Institutions Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of the Presiding Officers) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 339 (E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(vi) The Housing Finance Institutions Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Procedure for Appointment as Presiding Officer of the Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 340 (E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(vii) The Housing Finance Institutions (Procedure for Recovery of Dues) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 341 (E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002.

(7) A copy of the National Housing Bank (Recovery of Dues of the Approved Institutions) General Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 342 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2002 under sub-section (5) of section 55 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

(8) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 497 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2002 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. 215 dated the 8th May, 2002 issued under National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5910/2002]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938:

(i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No.IRDA/Reg./03/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2002.

(ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Preparation of Financial Statements and Auditors' Report of Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No.IRDA/Reg./03/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5911/2002]

(10) A copy of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Protection of Policyholders' Interests) Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No.IRDA/Reg./4/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2002 under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5912/2002]

(11) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Mumbai, for the year ended the 31st March, 2002, along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5913/2002]

12) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2002, together with Auditor's Report thereon:

(i) Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5914/2002]

(ii) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5915/2002]

(iii) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5916/2002]

(iv) Royalaseema Grameena Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5917/2002]

(v) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5918/2002]

(vi) Tungabhadra Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5919/2002]

(vii) Junagadh Amreli Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5920/2002]

(viii) Kolar Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5921/2002]

(ix) Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5922/2002]

(x) Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5923/2002]

(xi) Prathma Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5924/2002]

(xii) Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5925/2002]

(xiii) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5926/2002]

(xiv) Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5927/2002]

(xv) Yavatmal Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5928/2002]

(xvi) Kashi Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5929/2002]

(xvii) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5930/2002]

(xviii) Rushikullya Gramya Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5931/2002]

(xix) Nalanda Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5932/2002]

(xx) Gomti Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5933/2002]

(xxi) Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5934/2002]

(xxii) North Malabar Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5935/2002]

(xxiii) Kapurthala-Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5936/2002]

(xxiv) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5937/2002]

(xxv) Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5938/2002]

(xxvi) Subansiri Gaonlia Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5939/2002]

(xxvii) Malaprabha Grameena Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5940/2002]

(xxviii) Ambala-Kurukshetra Gramin Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5941/2002]

(xxix) Siri Saraswathi Gramneea Bank

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5942/2002]

(xxx) Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5943/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy the Export of Live Fish (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.478 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5944/2002]

(2) A copy of the Notification No.S.O.628(E) (Hindi and English versions) Published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2002 seeking to rescind certain notifications mentioned therein, issued under section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5945/2002]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5946/2002]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5947/2002]

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 5th August, 2002 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

2. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002 and consideration and passing of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002.

3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:

   (a) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2002.

   (b) The Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Repeal Bill, 2002

   (c) The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2001

   (d) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002

   (e) The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002.

   (f) The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002.

4. Consideration and agreeing to the Amendments made by the Rajya Sabha in the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1999 as passed by the Lok Sabha.

5. Discussion and voting on:

   (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2002-03

   (b) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1999-2000

6. Consideration and adoption of recommendations of Railway Convention Committee (RCC) (1999) contained in their 5th Report on Rate of Dividend for 2002-03 and other ancillary matters.

7. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by the Rajya Sabha:

   (a) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002

   (b) The Petroleum (Berar Extension) Repeal Bill, 2002

8. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of the Award of Board of Arbitration in CA Reference No. 11/92 for upward revision of pay scale from Rs. 1200-2040 to 1400-2600 (Pre-revised) in the Stenographers Grade 'D' in CSSS.

9. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of the Award of Board of Arbitration in CA Reference No. 02/91 for grant of special pay to Private Secretaries (merged grades 'A' and 'B' of CSSS).

10. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval to the rejection of the Award of Board of Arbitration in CA Reference No. 6 of 1981 relating to revision of rates of overtime allowance as required under the JCM Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on a very important subject. The problem of flood is very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Zero Hour has not yet started. Submissions from the hon. Members are being taken up according to the procedure.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Discussion to find out a permanent solution to the problem of devastating floods due to heavy rains and due to overflowing of rivers originating from Nepal causing heavy loss to life and property and damaging all the major roads and bridges of the 14 districts of Northern Bihar, every year.

2. Special discussion to lower the retirement age of government employees from 60 years to 58 years in view of the increasing unemployment in the country.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Need to run a weekly train from Patna to Ajmer for the benefit of thousands of pilgrims who visit the dargah of Ajmer Khwaja Saheb and also those who go to Pushkar because they have to change so many trains as there is no train linking Bihar with Rajasthan directly.

2. Need to provide a direct train between Secundrabad to Hyderabad via Surat-Ahmadabad-Marwar junction as the capital of Andhra Pradesh-Hyderabad is linked with Ajmer through metre gauge having Kachigura-Ajmer Meenakshi train service but after laying of broad gauge line from Purna onward some years back, the passengers are facing a lot of difficulties in changing trains.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Constantly growing population is the root cause of many of the problems being faced by the country now. If effective measures are not taken to control the population growth, the situation may take a serious turn. Therefore there is a need for discussion on this subject.

2. Several irrigation Projects are lying incomplete in the country. There are many hurdles in the way of completing those projects. There is a wastage of money when these projects are not completed within the stipulated time and the country is also not benefited at all. Therefore there is a need for a discussion to launch a time bound programme in order to complete those projects.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Crop Insurance Scheme has been introduced for the benefit of the farmers. The last date for paying the amount of Premium by the farmers was 31.6.2002. Most of the farmers could not pay the Premium amount for want of information and failure of Monsoon. Therefore, the central Govt. is requested to kindly extend the time limit for paying the amount of premium by the farmers.

2. All the farmers of the drought affected areas should be provided credit cards at lower rate of interest under the credit card scheme so that they may sow the rabi crop and may earn their livelihood.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (JALGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need to provide stoppage for the Goa Express at Jalgaon Station in Maharashtra.

2. The need to set up food processing industries in Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency of Maharhashtra.

[English]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(1) Regularisation of pre-1961 excess area of land in occupation of individual mainly belonging to local Borns Community and others and finalisation of survey and settlement of Port Blair Town.

(2) Allotment of alternative land to the members of local borns (pre-1942) community in lieu of land acquired from them without any compensation or alternative land.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to fund out alternative measures keeping in view the overstressed transport system of Delhi. A railway halt can be provided at Nand Nagri which is a resettlement colony under my Parliamentary Constituency of East Delhi and which is largely inhabited by the poor people so that these people may be able to travel towards Uttar Pradesh and may be able to go to other parts of Delhi to attend their work.

2. Several colonies of Trans-Yamuna area like Yamuna Vihar, Bhajan Pura, Ganwari, Shastri Park, Kailash Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Shakarpur and Mayur Vihar are situated on the east bank of the river Yamuna which are severely affected by the pollution in the Yamuna river. If the Govt. of India and the Department of Environment of Delhi Govt. plant at least 20 lakh saplings along the Yamuna river bank, then it would be very beneficial for health of the people and they can even stroll there in morning and evening also.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

India is an agricultural country and people of this country are largely religious. Indian breed of cow progeny is the very basis of our religion and agriculture. The National Commission for protection of cow progeny was set up on 2nd August 2001 at the behest of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Commission has submitted its report to the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Agriculture and has recommended that cow-slaughter should be completely banned in view of its religious, cultural and economic importance. Therefore, it is requested that the recommendations of the above Commission should be accepted by the Govt. in view of the larger interest of the Public.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) The need for formulation of a National Policy for the resettlement of the poor people living in Jhuggi-Jhompris.

(ii) Midway review of the implementation of the project under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Maharani Laxmibai was born in Varanasi. This is a historical fact that she sacrificed her life while fighting against the Britishers. It is necessary to construct a monument in Assi, the birthplace of Maharani to Commemorate the sacrifices of Laxmibai.

2. I would like to draw the attention of the Govt. of India to the fact that by virtue of being a cultural city - Varanasi has been the birth place of several maestros in the field of music. Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismilla Khan and Padam Vibhusan Pt. Kishan Maharaj are among them. This tabla maestro should be given Bharat Ratna which will not be a glory for Kashi, but a glory for the entire music lovers. This may be considered.

12.13 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fortieth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I beg to present the Fortieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you know that business of the House is going on as per rules.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there is a Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, the issue of the Petrol Pump is more important now. That has to be taken up. Kindly take it up first....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. Since a number of hon. Members are requesting to take up 'Zero Hour' first, I take up the Calling Attention afterwards. I am going to the 'Zero Hour' first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have a submission to make. Today, we did cooperate with the Chair in the morning on your assurance. Immediately after Question Hour, the Petrol Pump matter is to be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)* So, the Petrol pump matter should be answered first. ...*(Interruptions)* What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are dying in Bihar due to floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have just said that first I shall allow Shri G.M. Banatwalla to speak and call you after him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Calling Attention can be taken up later, You may first take up the issue of Shri Banatwalla; then, the Petrol Pump issue and then the Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I have said. Please cooperate with me. Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you can take up the Calling Attention on Monday also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have no objection if you take up the Calling Attention on Monday. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. I am working for you. Yesterday I assured Shri Banatwalla in the House, his question figured during the last four-five meetings.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Please let me make my point. If you do not listen to me how I shall be able to run the House smoothly. First of all, Shri Banatwalla will raise his point and rest of the Members will make their points thereafter. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Shri Banatwalla's issue first. After Shri Banatwalla finishes his submission, as I have already announced, I will permit Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to raise his issue. Thereafter, the third issue will be about floods in Bihar and then other issues will follow. Shri Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is shocking and highly objectionable that the Government has taken a stand against the rights and legitimate interests of educational institutions of the minorities. This is a shocking reversal of the policy stand taken by the Government so far. The Supreme Court is hearing several petitions. It is accepted that educational institutions cannot survive without grants, but the Government has taken a stand in the Supreme Court that educational institutions run by the minorities, which receive grants, cannot give reservations, weightage in marks or any preference to the students of the minorities in admission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take just one minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you later on.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Sir, this matter is pending with the Supreme Court. Then how can he raise it here in the House like this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one. This matter was raised earlier also and yesterday I had said that I would not allow to raise the matter pending with the court. I will allow the Members to speak on this matter only if they keep this thing in mind. I know that this matter is pending with the court.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, there cannot be any restriction that takes away the sum and substance of the fundamental right granted by article 30 of the Constitution, which is in absolute terms. The Minister of Human Resource Development even went to the extent of telephoning the Solicitor-General and instructed him to rebut the arguments of the Attorney-General in the Supreme Court. This is the situation.

This is all very shocking and it is an attempt to destroy all the educational institutions run by the minorities. I would urge upon the Government to protect the rights of educational institutions run by the minorities and to revise the stand that is taken in the Supreme Court against the legitimate interests of the minority educational institutions. It is an accepted fact that no educational institution can survive without grants and so they cannot be asked to surrender their fundamental rights. Therefore, the Government has to revise its policy. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is being heard in the Supreme Court now. This cannot be discussed here in Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is pending in the Supreme Court, but the Government is interfering in it. That is the point being raised here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, what are the merits and non-merits of the case, they can discuss it outside, but Parliament should not discuss what is going on in the Supreme Court at present. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Can a subjudiced matter be discussed here in the House? This matter cannot be discussed as it is pending with the Supreme Court. Despite the fact that this matter is being heard by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is being raised here. ...*(Interruptions)* We have so many other problems for discussion. A number of people have died of meningitis in our area. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The issue raised by Shri Banatwalla is in the court and everybody knows it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, I am giving a ruling. Please take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I have not gone into the merits of the case. I have only requested the Government to correct its stand. That is all.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: But this is going into the merit of the case. The stand taken by the Government, whether it is right or wrong, this is merit of the case. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, it is a question of constitutional rights. We are not going into the merits of the case. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, you have already spoken. Why are you standing now?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, when you asked for permission to raise this issue, I had said that the court matter should not be affected in any way.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can only make a request to the Prime Minister to look into this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, what do you want to say?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): I have been asked by the hon. Speaker to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to mention here that we are not going into the merits of the case. That is the prerogative of the Court. ...*(Interruptions)* The Court matter has to be decided by the hon. Court. As such, the Court is concluding its arguments today. Therefore, it is not a question of what is happening in the Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am only referring to the stand taken by the Government in this case. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has deviated from the stand taken in this matter earlier. In 1997, the Attorney-General took a stand recognising the Fundamental Rights of the Minorities. ...*(Interruptions)* If it is not discussed in this House, where should we go? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Sir, please listen to my submission about Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, people are dying of meningitis all over the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I have given notice on this issue at 7.00 a.m. today. I may be given an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak after discussion on the current topic is over. All of you have to make your points. If you do not cooperate with me I will assume that the points you have to make are not important

and you don't want to raise them. It is my duty to run the House as per rules. You know that flood is also one of the topics to which I have accorded priority.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Is the topic of flood on priority in your list?

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I will give you a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have never said no. I want to take up your topic for discussion.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Bihar is hit by floods. There are cases of starvation deaths. Drinking water is not available to the people. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is a very important subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singhji, as I had told you yesterday and I am telling today also that it is a very important subject and I intend to take up this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to take up this subject on priority basis.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, this is injustice.

MR. SPEAKER: You will not be subjected to injustice. I will definitely allow you to raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsiji, please wait for a moment. I want to give two minutes to him to speak on flood situation.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, during the Question Hour, you, on your own, assured me that after Shri Banatwalla, I would raise the issue and hear the response. You have asked the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to be present here. *...(Interruptions)* I would abide by your observation.

I fully share the feelings of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav also. Flood is a very critical issue. We should certainly take it up. But I would like to explain this to you. *...(Interruptions)*

If a running commentary goes on, then, we cannot cooperate. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): What is this? *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): The issue of flood is more important. I have given notice of adjournment motion on this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of flood is more important. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of flood must be taken up first. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As I have said that I will allow this to be raised after discussion on the point at hand is over. Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please take the issue of floods first otherwise there will be uproar in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me now try to bring an order in the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I will allow only those members to speak who have given notice on flood situation and take up the issue of Shri Dasmunsi later on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am prepared to cooperate with the House even forgoing my claim. *...(Interruptions)* My submission to you is that only the matter of floods should be taken up. If you allow only Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I will sit down. I will take up my issue later on. *...(Interruptions)*

If my issue is taken up by any other Member, then, I would stand up on my legs as you have given me the floor to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav speaks, I would cooperate. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have only three notices. Everybody would speak for two or three minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. You gave me the floor. You gave a commitment during the Question Hour that after Shri Banatwalla, you would call me and the Government would reply.

Now, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has been raising this issue. If you allow Shri Yadav to speak on floods, I am prepared to forgo my claim. After Shri Yadav, you please allow me. If you say that everybody would speak, then, I would not cooperate. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: In Andhra Pradesh due to drought. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of adjournment motion. *...(Interruptions)* I will make my point within a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Suman ji, please sit down. There is a question before me and I am trying to find out a solution to that question. I have made a commitment during the Question Hour to take up for discussion the matter raised by Shri Dasmunsiji. Please listen to me. Therefore it was the sense of the House that there should be the Question Hour after discussion on this is over. That is why I had assured him that the matter raised by him would be taken up after the discussion on the matter raised by Shri Banatwalla is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree that the matter relating to floods is very important. It is the question of lives of people and that is why keeping in view the importance of the matter, Shri Dasmunsi has agreed to forgo his claim and let Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav speak on flood situation. As it is an important matter that is why we are taking up this and I am allowing discussion on it. Only Shri Yadav ji will speak on this topic. I will take up other notices only after he finishes his submission. I cannot take up all the matters at a time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me check as to how many notices I have got.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The matter relating to floods is very important.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, they are doing drama here. *...(Interruptions)* Nothing doing. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Minister will have to reply. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

About the conduct of the Petroleum Minister. *...(Interruptions)* What are they doing? *...(Interruptions)* They are looting the nation. After this scam they are shamelessly sitting there. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasadji, I will call you later on. I have given commitment to him first. I will call the Members

[English]

Who have given notice on flood situation to speak. Then, I will go according to the rules. Everybody should sit down. I am going to permit only those Members who have given notices on the issue of petroleum also and nobody else will be allowed to speak on that issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, today morning. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, one Shri K. Raghav Reddy died while he was on duty for the nation at Rajouri. It has been two days since his dead body has not reached his native place. His relatives are waiting for the body to arrive. I have told the hon. Minister of State for Defence too, but no action has been taken so far. I would, therefore, request you to direct the Government to send the body to his native place where his relatives are waiting for it. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

yesterday also I had submitted that the farmers have committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh due to recovery of loans. It is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* The government is not at all serious on this issue. Loans are being recovered. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a serious matter. In Vijaywada district of Andhra Pradesh nine farmers have committed suicide. The Government should pay attention to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is taking all care to see what necessary steps should be taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are on one issue. Let it be disposed of first.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of adjournment motion. It should be taken up first. The manner in which the business of the House is being conducted is not acceptable to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As per rule when I am on my legs you should sit down. If you care for rules this much you should sit down and listen to me first.

I have received your notice of adjournment motion. I do not want to go beyond rules. As per rule I have converted the notice of adjournment motion.

[English]

I have converted it into 'Zero Hour' notice. According to the rules, I am permitted to do it. After his issue is over, I will permit that too.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice six days back. Don't we have the right to speak here in the House? The situation of floods in Bihar is really grave. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received four notices regarding floods. They figure at number four, seventeenth, twenty three and eighteenth in the list. First of all Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav will speak on floods and after him Shrimati Renu Kumari of Samata Party will make her speech, Shri Prabhunath Singhji will speak at number three and at number four Shri Ram Prasad Singhji will speak. I have received four notices which are within the rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit only those members who have given notices. I cannot permit all. Now Shri Dasmunsi to make his speech. Thereafter I will allow those members to speak who have given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning when we raised the issue. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, in spite of your repeated attempts to give the floor to me, they are obstructing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you can go ahead with your submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this morning when we raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given my name to you, and my name is also there in the list. I also want to speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will check it out whether you have given notices to speak on floods or not. Please sit down. I will permit only those members to speak who have given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hundreds people have died of meningitis in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not being permitted to speak on this issue here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is my duty to run the House. You please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be given an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawaleji, please sit down.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning everyone in the capital and in the country was taken into surprise after having. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Ruling Party Members are repeatedly defying your request. Many hon. Cabinet Ministers are here. They are responsible Ministers. We appreciate their performance. But, please ask them to see that the House functions without interruption from the Ruling Party Members.

Sir, *Sadhu* Ji, for the last half an hour, is shouting. What sort of *Sadhu* Ji he is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Ruling Party Members are all shouting and interrupting me. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.39 hrs.

RE: ALLOTMENT OF LPG DEALERSHIP AND PETROL PUMPS

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice on the issue of floods. I, too, wish to speak. Lakhs of people are suffering due to devastating floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning, I raised the banner line of the newspaper, The Indian Express, in which the distinguished Minister, Shri Arun Shourie revealed so many scams and disclosures while he was a journalist. ...*(Interruptions)* It is his favourite newspaper. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, what is going on? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, please take some action against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we are always ready to co-operate with you. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Prime Minister, respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee time and again made one thing clear both inside and outside the House that there would be good governance of the Government and also full transparency free from all kinds of corruption. The NDA airline began its journey with this note. Whatever we may tell the House about various scams and other things, they may take them in their own spirit. But today's revelation has come through The Indian Express.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (HINGOLI): Shri Satish Sharma has done it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Even if Shri Satish Sharma has done it, I shall speak.

[English]

Sir, the news has been disclosed as part-A. Part-B is coming this evening and Part-C will be coming tomorrow. Each one is ready.

There was a discretionary quota for petrol pump allocation in the Tenth Lok Sabha. While we were on that side, Members from the Opposition raised this question that such discretionary quota should be totally abolished. The issue of discretionary quota, which was used by several Ministers including from our Government, went even before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, though appreciated the method of distribution, made it clear that though it was distributed to a number of *bona* fide people, such discretionary powers should not be used. This Government came and said that they abolished the system and that now this should be processed through the Oil Selection Board. The Chairman of the Oil Selection Board was a hand-picked retired judge. It is not by any interview or anything. He was hand-picked person of the Government. The members of the Board used to confabulate.

The first part reveals that there is no one from Kargil martyr's family. There is no one from freedom fighter's family. There is no one who is a handicapped social worker. There is no one who is a destitute woman, but there is a list of Party functionaries and close associates of the Ruling Party. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not making any personal allegation against any individual of the Government. I am not doing so. I am coming to the question of accountability.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Shri Arun Shourie, it is an invisible Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Though the Minister of Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik, assured many times in the House that no personal preference, no kind of

distribution is issued on personal preference and that all are objectively done, it has been revealed today. I do not want to take the time of the House to read out the first part of so many names of kith and kin.

One was allotted to Shri Chandrakant Diwate, his father is an MLA of BJP from Lakhandur. Then it is allotted to Vishnu Sawara, Abhijit Phadnavis, Sarala Kambale, Vijaya Dhote, Pratap Adsad, Anjali Karad, Sunil Gudhe. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is present here in the House and he will give the reply. I would request you all to listen to the reply to be given by the hon'ble Minister. I can very well understand your feelings.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What you people are doing?

[English]

Let me make it clear to everybody.

The hon. Minister of State is present here. It has been agreed that if the hon. Minister Shri Ram Naik is not here, the Minister of State would respond. If we go back on whatever we have agreed, it would really not be desirable. He is reading the names, which he has got. The hon. Minister can stand up and refute that these names are not the correct names. He has every right to do it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot mention names like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When did you become the Minister? Please hold on.

[English]

Let the Minister reply.

I would like to be brief because this is 'Zero Hour'. We must go according to the practice in the 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state with full responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am not yielding.

I would like to make it clear on behalf of our party that in the distribution of favours if any Member from our party is involved, he should be dealt with very firmly. ...*(Interruptions)* I challenge it with authority on behalf of my party. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. Why are you allowing him? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the petrol pumps allotted to MPs and MLAs should be cancelled. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Sir, the hon. Member is levelling allegations against MLAs and MPs of the country. It should not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me first know whether you are saying that these MLAs are corrupt. Have you said that these MLAs are corrupt? Have you made any allegation that these MLAs are corrupt?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No. I have not made any allegation against any MLA or MP of the country. I would like to make it very clear here. ...*(Interruptions)*

I respect my colleague Shri Kirit Somaiya. If he has the moral authority to accuse the newspaper that published the names of MLAs, MPs and others, he can bring a privilege motion against that newspaper. We will support him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir all the petrol pumps given to political leaders, their kith and kin and M.Ps and MLAs should be cancelled ...*(Interruptions)* None has got from my constituency.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, he is challenging the jurisdiction and doubting the intentions of the High Court Judge. How can he challenge that?. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to make the following submissions. My first submission to the hon. Minister is that at the immediate opportunity available to him, he may lay on the Table - maybe, today

or on Monday - the full list of petrol pump beneficiaries during the tenure of the NDA Government.

The second thing is the composition of the Oil Selection Boards and the method in which Chairmen were selected.

The third thing is the entire matter should be. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if this is the way. ...*(Interruptions)* They are exposing themselves and their interests. What can I do?. ...*(Interruptions)* They are so obsessed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the petrol pumps allotted to various leaders and their kith and kin should be cancelled. ...*(Interruptions)* This should be done from both sides and all the petrol pumps should be cancelled. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. All of you, please sit down.

[Translation]

There is a need to have a decision on discipline in the House as I believe if the Chair permits a Member to raise an issue then, the concerned Member should be allowed to speak as long as he or she does not level personal allegations.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, how long will he speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As far as time is concerned, you are absolutely right. I have already told the hon. Member that he should restrict because this is a debate, which has been raised in the' Zero Hour'. 'Zero Hour' means he can mention the point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But if he is not disturbed, then he will complete as quickly as possible. So, my request to all the hon. Members is that let him quickly complete his subject because thereafter we can go to another subject. Therefore, I told him that there is no need of reading all the names because that will take the time of the House; otherwise he can make his point. I am not asking him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Before it, thousands of people have got petrol pumps, their allotment should also be cancelled. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, please allow me to speak for half-a-minute.

Today, everybody knew that this matter would be raised in the House. If Shri Ram Naik has been present in the House, he could have replied instead of all the hon. Members standing up, and then we would have been happy. But instead of that, he kept himself away. Now, so many hon. Members are disturbing and not allowing even a sentence to be completed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please now let him continue for a few minutes. He will complete in a few minutes' time. Then, we will go to another subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I promise you that I will not take long time.

Sir, I make a few submissions through you to the hon. Minister. My first submission is, please at the opportune moment, in the next week, when he feels it convenient to lay on the Table of the House the names of all the allottees during the tenure of. ...*(Interruptions)* What do we do? What shall I do? He should lay the names of all the allottees on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is only demanding a list to be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

What is wrong in that, why are you disturbing him. Please don't do it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): There should be a C.B.I. probe into the cases of allotment of petrol pumps to Ministers, MPs, MLAs and their kith and kin. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't try to assume the role of the Chair, please let me do my job.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, my second submission to the Government is to refer the entire matter to the CBI for immediate investigation, seeking all the documents and minutes of the Oil Selection Boards and till such outcome comes, cancel all the allotments, come what may. ...*(Interruptions)* Keep in abeyance. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, my third submission through you is, property and assets evaluation by a competent income-tax authority of those retired judges who were Chairmen and the Members of the Board should be made right from the day when they assumed office. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, my fourth submission is that till such time the outcome is not available to the House and full report of the CBI is not processed, the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik, should not hold the office to suppress and oppress. ...*(Interruptions)* He should step down and the Government must respond quickly in this matter.

Sir, I would like to make it absolutely clear without questioning the *bona fide* of any MPs or MLAs – I respect them, as they are my colleagues – if any one is found in this matter to have been the beneficiary, either from that side or this side, the law of the land should apply equally. It does not matter. Therefore, I submit the Government to respond. If the Government's response is positive, then we will be happy, if it is not, then we will decide our course of action. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Please give me half-a-minute, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): There should be a probe into the corruption in the allotment of petrol pumps. This point has been left out by Shri Dasmunsi. He also leaves out the real issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices on this particular subject from several Members. If I permit them all the only difficulty before me is that the Minister may not get time to reply because we are finishing the 'Zero Hour' at 1 o'clock and before that I have to take up the issue of Bihar. Therefore, since Shri Dasmunsi has spoken from his party and he has made all the important demands, I permit you to speak only for two minutes. You can make the demand and thereafter Shri Malhotra will speak for two minutes and then the Minister will reply so that we can go to the next item.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had stated that you would allow only those Members who have given the notices.

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise reply from the Minister will not come, that is why I am saying.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Therefore, I am requesting that only those should be called who have given the notices. Has shri Malhotra given any notice?

MR. SPEAKER: He has not given any notice but I shall call him for put forth his party's views.

[English]

We have to work with the co-operation of all. Otherwise, I shall ask the Minister to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Minister shall reply as he belongs to his party only. ...*(Interruptions)* This ruling was given by you only therefore I am trying to remind you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What you have stated is true. I will have to allow each and everyone.

[English]

including these 7-8 Members and Shri Malhotra.

[Translation]

Otherwise I would not allow anyone and I would request the Minister to speak on it.

[English]

because the House must know what the Government's stand is.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my request is that leaders of all parties should be allowed to speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: For that I can allow a separate discussion on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you, you take your seat please.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: My request is that one Member from each party should be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, tne importance of this issue is because there is a Supreme Court judgement. I was in the House when there were serious allegations against one of the Congress Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We have not been allowed to speak. In between, he is being allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given him the permission.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You are not allowing me to make a submission but he is making a submission on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he is not speaking on the same issue. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I understand, you are not speaking on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: One thing is being repeatedly said that only those will be allowed to speak who have given notices and he is being allowed to speak without giving any notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the law of the land is very well-known. Of all persons, Shri Arun Shourie dissented with the Supreme Court judgement. Are the Treasury Benches not feeling concerned? I was feeling concerned when you took up the issue with great cudgels against some of them here, against the Congress Party in Government. The same issue is now recoiling on you. Therefore, you should have felt that the Government would come and say something which will solve this issue, instead of all the hon. Members rising and interrupting the Members here. There are certain issues which should cut across party lines. You may have made some mistakes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Have you permitted him to speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he starts speaking whenever he wishes so. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please take your seat.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, he becomes the Speaker always.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not the Speaker, I am only making a request. They have suffered. Therefore, you had opposed that. Now what is your response to this? This is what I want to know.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had stated that after Shri Dasmunsi ji, you would allow me to speak on the issue of floods in Bihar. Shri Dasmunsiji has expressed his views. Now I should be allowed to speak on the issue of floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to conclude this debate now.

[Translation]

I would like to concluded it. I have given two minutes time to Shri Rupchand Pal ji and thereafter, the Minister would reply.

13.00 hrs.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD): Sir, hundreds of people have been swept away in floods in Bihar. This is a very grave issue. You had stated that you would allow me to raise the issue of floods after Shri Dasmunsi ji had spoken. I would request you to kindly allow me to raise the issue of floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, you have allowed me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to conclude this debate.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, if he is allowed to speak then one Member of each of the political parties will have to be allowed to speak and thus no time will be left for me to raise the issue of devastating floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. I do remember that I had stated that I would allow you to raise the issue of floods after Shri Dasmunsi had spoken. Shri Priya ranjan Dasmunsi has not concluded yet. Shri Rupchand Pal would speak for two minutes and thereafter hon'ble Minister shall reply. You please sit down

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Sir, please get the debate initiated on the issue of floods. Otherwise, these people would keep saying the same thing time and again. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not from that Party. Therefore, I have given him two minutes to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Rupchand Pal, you may speak for one minute.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, let them sit down first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please start speaking. Otherwise I will have to call the hon. Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is one more scam in the series of scams that have come up since this Government came into office. This is in relation to allotment of LPG dealership and petrol pumps. It is a great fraud committed on the nation. As you know, earlier there had been observations by the Supreme Court Judge that they were misusing the public funds. ...*(Interruptions)* I fully agree with the demand made by my esteemed colleague that there should be a CBI inquiry in this and until the completion of the inquiry, the hon. Minister of Petroleum should stay away from his responsibility, and the full list of the beneficiaries should be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, petrol pumps have been sold out after taking huge bribes. Hon'ble Member is trying to conceal the facts about that. I would like to express them that they have sold out the petrol pumps at a price of Rs. 25 lakhs each. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the hon. Minister has to say on this important issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the hon. Minister replies, I submit that I made a submission in the Question Hour which should be replied. I want to know whether he contradicts what has been published in the newspaper or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this way, one Member from each party shall speak. Would you allow one Member from each party to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing all parties to speak.

[English]

I want to know what he wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Now, the hon. Minister will reply. Please sit down.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request all the Members in the House to listen to me. Perhaps I speak less, therefore, I would not be able to speak at a higher pitch. Truth is always bitter. The issues raised here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, peace will prevail in the House only after Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is ousted from the House and perhaps then only Minister's views will be heard. He is creating a lot of noise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I would like to make it very clear that in 12th and 13th Lok Sabha discretionary quota was not at all used. This should be understood categorically. The discretionary quota was used for one purpose only. We decided to allot 500 petrol pumps to the Kargil martyrs and as per that decision these petrol pumps are being given to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. Let us listen to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Members must be remembering that after 10th Lok Sabha, such allotment of petrol pumps was stopped.

I would not like to comment on the irregularities noticed after the direction from the hon'ble Court. According to it, the allotment process should be restarted. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to make it clear here that the hon'ble court had not discontinued the discretionary quota. We never used that quota. When the Court formulated the procedure then, we had only asked that the procedure should be foolproof as advertisements were being issued since 1994-95. Those who had applied in 1994-95, were interviewed in 2001-2002. You can very well understand as to who might have applied in 1994-95. You might also be knowing as to who got the retail outlets before that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I challenge the reply given by the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: First you listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* You can speak after me. I am also entitled to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Minister complete his reply. If you do not agree with him..

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want that he should present a list of the allotments made on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: If I have at all uttered a wrong word, I am ready to apologise for that. But listen to me first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is giving the reply and I think that all of us should listen to him because it will form the basis for a background. Why don't you let the background come to the fore. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I remember the difficulties faced due to non-holding of interviews after the applications invited in 1994-95. You might recollect that it had put a question mark on the integrity of the Members of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): What is he saying? He has to reply to the issue of new allotments. He is telling about old allotments. He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not get satisfied by the answer he gives, then you can raise questions through any other means. But first listen to what he says. I do not appreciate disturbing him like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: A question mark was put on the integrity of the members of Parliament regarding the LPG connections. Even these connections used to be black-marketed. ...*(Interruptions)* we streamlined the procedure and today we are proud to say that two and a half crores gas connections have been provided during the last two years and there is no waiting list for the LPG today. How this became possible? ...*(Interruptions)* We formulated a procedure in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court. 59 Boards under that procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to know whether you can place the list of allotments on the Table of the House or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: So that this process is completed soon. The advertisements were published for about eight thousand places all over the country during the last five years. 59 Boards were set up. ...*(Interruptions)* The procedure was formulated as per the directions of the court and the retired judges were appointed Chairmen. There was a provision of 50 per cent reservation and we started the allotment as per the rule. Four thousand retail outlets of LPG and SKLDO dealership have been allotted so far. We have set up an anti Adulteration Cell and wherever we get a complaint we inquire into it through this cell. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you complete the reply, whatever be the disturbance. Go ahead. Do not stop speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: We cannot say anything on the basis of what has been published in the newspaper today. Let me tell you one more thing that nothing has been mentioned in the norms that the worker of the Congress, the BJP or the Communist party cannot apply for the allotment. And there is no such clause also as to who should be allotted or who should not be allotted. The Committee headed by the Judge as per the procedure suggested by the Court had made all the allotments. The Hon. Members have objected to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are not hearing that speech. ...*(Interruptions)* He is not responding to the questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The complaints which the Hon. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have made, we have no objection to them. The entire things are dealt with by the judge and the Ministry has nothing to do with that. There is a laid down procedure for making allotments. And when the invoice is issued, the income tax department inquires into it. If there is any irregularity in the matter to which you have drawn our attention, all that is published in the newspaper; is not entirely correct, you all know that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How far that is correct? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: He is not replying to the allegations made here. He is misleading. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The matter towards which you have drawn our attention, if there are any irregularities, we will certainly look into them and whosoever is found guilty, we will punish him, howsoever high position he may be holding. ...*(Interruptions)* I think that perhaps the judges have not given any weightage to any body's relations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav to speak now. He wants to raise the issue concerning floods in Bihar and I must take it up. I am sorry that I cannot give you permission to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We cannot allow the Minister to get away like this. He has to reply, and he cannot say like this. He should reply to our questions.

. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please go ahead and speak. It is a very important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister cannot get away with that type of a reply. My question was whether the allotments made were right or wrong. He has first replied to that. My second question was whether he is prepared to give all these papers to the CBI for an impartial inquiry. He did not reply to that. My question was. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, four questions were asked and he did not reply even to one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Minister gave the reply what he deemed right. If you are not satisfied then you can raise it through any other means at any time.

Secondly, the Speaker cannot ask a Minister to give this or that reply. You have listened what the Minister replied.

[English]

Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Can't we ever raise the issue related to the farmers or the flood? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We cannot allow the Minister to get away like this. I charge this Government with foul play in the distribution of petrol pumps. The Minister has misled the House. Let the Minister prove that all these allottees, all these 95 applicants, are genuine allottees. It is a fraud on the nation.

MR. SPEAKER : It is an important issue concerning the floods in Bihar and where the people are dying. If that is not permitted to be raised in the House, that is bad. Let that issue be taken up now, even though 'Zero Hour' is over. Please sit down. Otherwise, a wrong message will go to the country that we do not allow a discussion on an important issue. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, you can speak. I have permitted him and I will allow him to speak, irrespective of whatever is happening here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: He is a senior member but he is conducting himself against the rule. *...(Interruptions)* He is not concerned about the problem faced by Bihar. He is indulging in anti-people activity and conducting himself against the rule.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA): He is anti-farmer and anti-poor.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You please sit down, you are not the Speaker. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please speak on the issue of floods in Bihar. This is very important.

[English]

It is my duty to do justice. The issue of floods in Bihar is also a very important one. I gave you permission, you have all spoken, and the Minister has replied to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Devendraji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Minister suppressed the information, misled the House, connived with the corrupt in the distribution of petrol pumps, in protest, we are walking out. We shall come back and raise the same issue. We shall not spare the Government on this issue.

13.13 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.

13.14 hrs.

RE: DROUGHT AND FLOOD SITUATION IN THE STATES OF BIHAR AND ASSAM

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you towards the situation arising out of the devastating floods in Bihar. The entire House had resolved to combat terrorism in the last session. Today, the North Bihar is facing the fury of violent flood waters of the rivers originating from across the Nepal border. There is SOS like situation in the 17 districts of North Bihar. Madhubani and Jhanjharpur districts are completely destroyed. The rail lines are also damaged. The approach road NH 104, 105 and 57 have also got damaged. The entire road network is also disrupted. *...(Interruptions)* Why do you disturb? Be it Madhubani district or Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Saharsa, Supaul, Araria, Purnea, Gopalganj, Darbhanga, Kishanganj, Samastipur, Khagaria, Siwan, the SOS like situation is prevailing in all the 17 districts as per the information received from all over Bihar. I have visited the flood affected areas during the last six days and the scene which I witnessed there, is very difficult for me to narrate it in words. 100 people have been reported dead so far. The hon. Minister who is sitting here is from

Araria district but Kishanganj is his Parliamentary constituency. The hon. Member of Araria district Shri Sukdeo Paswan ji is sitting here, 20 children have drowned there yesterday. It's a very tragic incident. People are in distress there. The flood situation is still grim. The relief work which is being undertaken there is inadequate as a helicopter cannot drop more than 20 quintals of foodgrains in a trip. Only 5-7 hundred flood affected people get relief materials in all the trips undertaken in a entire day. The situation has become so serious that even the air-routes and water-ways have also been disrupted due to cyclone and flood.

The floods caused this year by the rivers originating in Nepal-be it the Kosi, the Bagmati, the Kamala Balan, the Bhutahi Balan, the Adhbara Samuh or the Gandak have broken the record of floods that came in 1987. Six lakh cusecs of water has been released from the water catchment area in Nepal this time. Such a huge quantity of water had never been released by Nepal before this. This is the main cause of devastation caused by floods in Northern Bihar today. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless there, people are taking shelter on embankments and other high places even on trees where no foodgrains and water are available. Wherever waters have receded, epidemic is spreading and making the situation all the worse. I would like to say that the situation there calls for an SOS. In such a situation I would like to urge the Government to at least take it seriously and do something for the flood affected people on an urgent basis. Recently, loans upto Rs.50 thousand were waived when the drought occurred. The flood affected people, the farmers, the poor, the marginal and small farmers, the agricultural labourers who have taken agricultural loans should also be taken care of and their loans should also be waived and relief work should be carried on a war footing and food and drinking water should be provided to the people taking shelter at high places by pressing Army column boats into service. Medicines are also not available. 25 lakh people are affected in the Madhubani district only who are living under the open sky. Four crore people in the whole Bihar are badly affected by floods and are under the open sky. They don't even have plastic sheets to cover themselves. So I request the Central Government to provide a special economic package immediately and also provide at least food and water to the poor and flood affected people by providing army boats.

I want to make this request because a discussion on such an important subject is going on today. I think the Government should be instructed through you that keeping in view the importance of the matter and the seriousness of flood situation the Home Minister should make a statement in the House and announce loan waiver and other reliefs for the families of the persons who have died in the floods. Their condition has become utterly hellish and their lives have come to a standstill. Their lives and property are still not out of danger. The floods will continue with all its devastation for the next one and half month. In the meantime the transporters have resorted to strike in Bihar. As a result all the roads have been blocked. Onions have become costlier and potatoes are out of stock in the market, because the markets have been cut off by flood waters. The Government should do something for a permanent solution to the problem posed by the rivers flowing in from Nepal. Like we have been facing terrorism for 20 years, similarly the people of Bihar have been facing the problem of floods year after year. Therefore, high level multipurpose dams need to be constructed on the rivers. For this purpose the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of External Affairs and other related departments should have co-ordination and then make a coordinated action plan to find, a permanent solution to this recurring problem otherwise the floods will continue to result in lakhs of casualties every year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we won't let the four crore people, affected by the floods and facing starvation, starve to death. If the Central Government and the State Government fail to make some arrangements immediately on a war footing, we will make a call to those people to loot the Government godowns. Even if we have to go to jail for this, we are ready for that. But we won't let the poor, the flood affected people die. The Government godowns, wherever they are and whether belonging to the FCI or the State Food Corporation, will not remain under lock for long because the flood affected people cannot have patience any longer.

Therefore, we give the Government three days' time to enable the Home Minister to make the position clear in the House on Monday or Tuesday. If it is not done we will be compelled to take direct action. Our houses have been inundated. People are drowning. There are no arrangements for food, medicine or drinking water for them, even boats are not there to carry them from one place to another. Through you I would like to urge the Central Government to immediately carry out relief operations on a war footing in view of the devastation caused by the unprecedented floods.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar received the first blow when Jharkhand was created out of it. No industry remained in Bihar. The

second blow is from nature that such a devastating flood has come after 1987. As my colleague Devendra Prasad ji has just said that 17 districts of Bihar namely, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Khagaria, Siwan, Gopalganj, Araria and so on, all are affected by floods. We cannot estimate as to how many houses will devastated, how much damage to live and property was caused. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless. It is all, the more saddening to note that our women have to defecate in the water. We always discuss floods. Crores of rupees are spent, rehabilitation policies are formulated, but they do not prove successful. Every year, millions and billions of rupees are misappropriated with the connivance of the leaders, the bureaucrats and the contractors, but no permanent solution emerges. I would like to request through you to warn both the Bihar Government and the Central Government and also the Administration of Bihar to immediately provide food, medicines and boats there. There should be no dithering in this. If people there are not provided essential items, we will have to face the consequences. The nature has created havoc in Bihar and another havoc has been created by the Government there by imposing tax on transportation as a result of which the transporters have resorted to strike. This has upset the lives of people in Bihar making the situation all the more critical. I have also written to the Prime Minister. Every year there is devastation in Bihar by floods and the aforesaid rivers of Nepal are the cause thereof. So I would urge you to kindly ask the hon. Prime Minister to constitute a Central Committee and talk to the Government of Nepal. The people of Bihar are now not in a position to bear any longer the loss of life and property and losing their kith and kin, caused every year by floods. If relief is not provided to us, talks are not held with the Government of Nepal, we want to say through you that we will pull down the Government. We request you to kindly convey this message to the Government so that relief could be provided in Bihar soon. I want to say that there are other districts of Bihar namely Aurangabad, Gaya, Jehanabad, where people are faced with drought. I request you to get those districts declared as draught affected or flood affected and provide relief to the people there. Relief should be provided to the farmers there and the Government should immediately waive the loans of the people affected by the floods and drought. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (JALESAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notices on every working day from 15 July till date. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name comes after Renu Kumari. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, for the last five days I have been giving notice to raise my issue during 'Zero Hour'. But I have not yet been given a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The name of Ram Prasad Singh is in the list.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (ARRAH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak, please.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Bihar today is very alarming. Floods and droughts are regular problems of Bihar. We discuss this problem every year but we could not find any permanent solution to this problem. One the one hand the rivers originating in Nepal flood the North Bihar, on the other, 14 districts of the Central Bihar which we now may call South Bihar, including Taimur, Buxar, Bhojpur Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad, Chhapra, Bhagalpur, Vaishali and Nalanda etc. are among the 16 districts affected by drought. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to my request. This is a question of both floods and drought. I had given a notice yesterday also. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.29 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Sumanji, you please sit down. I am speaking with the permission of the Chair. Sumanji, why do you interrupt me. ...*(Interruptions)* You people, please don't do this. Let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Twenty districts are affected by drought. On the one hand the houses of farmers have been washed off by floods. The devastating floods have caused heavy damage to the lives and property of thousands of people. The Minister of Agriculture had especially called a meeting to discuss the flood and drought. Bihar was not even invited to that meeting. Why this step-motherly treatment to Bihar? This step motherly treatment is being meted out to Bihar for several years now. ...*(Interruptions)* Bihar has the resources but even then it is said that Bihar is starving. The reason is not that the Bihar Government is at fault, rather it is that the Central Government have always been neglecting

this State. Whenever, package is demanded for Bihar, the Central Government state that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, my name comes first on the list. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I go by the list I have here.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Sir the Centre Government does not provide any funds. The landless labourers are dying there. That is why I want to say that funds be given to Bihar for farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, my name appears first in the list. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I go by the list that I have here, Now, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Step motherly treatment is done with Bihar. We are not going to sit silently over this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Prasad Singh, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except what Shri Nawal Kishore Rai says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? I have called Shri Nawal Kishore Rai to speak. Let him speak now.

* Not Recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not cooperating, I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want a chance to speak, please remain calm. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House for lunch.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Sir, when issue is raised in context of Bihar, no body is ready to listen. There is save our souls like condition in 17 districts of Bihar. Due to this havoc after 20 years and for the first time after 1987 that the condition in 17 districts of Satna in North Bihar is extremely bad. Around 4 crore people have taken refuge on the dam. Flood and drought situation was discussed in the House last week and the Union Government had stated that a helicopter has been provided to the State Government. Sir, I come from Sitamarhi. The helicopter has definitely hovered over Sitamarhi, Mujaffarpur and Gopalganj etc. but food was not dropped. The State Government has not made any preparations in advance. Every year preventive measures are taken before flood and preparations are made on Panchayat, block and district level and the arrangements for foodgrains are made in anticipation. But this time not even an ounce has been distributed in any of the districts of Bihar. Thousands of people are dying. According to the official report 120 people have died there. 14 people have been drowned in Sitamarhi district. I visited my constituency on 27th and saw in a village that the Government had made no arrangements there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Sir, I am about to conclude, but in view of the destruction that has taken place in Satna district, the Union Government should take steps. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, your mike is off and nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

* Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no use of your speaking now. Nothing is going on record. Your time is over and I have called Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called the other hon. Member. Your mike is switched off. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is 'Zero Hour'. You must follow the regulation. You have exceeded your time. I have given you enough time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai's mike may be switched off.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Parliament, the highest body of the country. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you will not sit now, I will expunge all your speech. Do not defy the Chair.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai's speech, made during 'Zero Hour', may be expunged. Since you have not followed the Chair's direction, I have expunged your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is very bad.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I asked you to resume your seat, you did not listen to me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA): How can you expunge the speeches of the Members belonging to small parties. How can this go on? *...(Interruptions)* People *...(Interruptions)* have drowned and ruined by flood. *...(Interruptions)* Some people continue to speak for hours together and some people are not allowed to even speak, how can this go on?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to kindly continue his speech in the proceedings. *...(Interruptions)***

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): He is right, he should be heard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What for all of you are rushing towards the Well of the House? You can speak from your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been asking you to resume your seat. You have not followed the direction of the Chair. I will have to take action against you. I cannot go on begging you to sit down. The Chair cannot go on begging you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: One must follow the direction of the Chair. You are not following the direction of the Chair. The Chair then has to take only this sort of action.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly restore whatever you have expunged.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It has been restored.

SHRI DEVENRA PRASAD YADAV: It has not been restored, it has been expunged. You have not heard properly. *..(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: One must follow the direction of the Chair. You are not following the direction of the Chair. The Chair then has to take this sort of action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are obstructing the House. You are disturbing the House. I will then have to name you. I will take action against you.

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* Not Recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are obstructing the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will see and restore whatever is possible.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I will not restore your speech. You must follow the direction of the Chair. Unless you apologise, I will not restore your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: This is not a debating body only for a few people. *...(Interruptions)* what for should I apologise?

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Let him conclude. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will you be doing injustice with us on the question of flood?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will have to name you. I will have to take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, I have to name you. If you speak again, I will go according to the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody to control him or I have to control him? I think there is nobody to control him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important issue is being deliberated upon and it seems that efforts are being made to hush up this issue. When Shri Dasmunsi touched this topic, you see that none of the hon'ble Members from the Congress party is present and similar is the situation in the treasury benches. When Bihar is facing drought and flood crisis, the House has not taken this matter seriously. I had requested Shri Dasmunsi to be present while we were discussing this issue but despite that he left the House. This way the issue has been ignored.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, although Shri D.P. Yadav has raised many questions but I will take a very little time to make my submissions. 17 out of 34 districts of Bihar are hit by flood and the remaining 17 are in the grip of drought. The devastation caused by flood in the districts of Bihar is inexplicable. Although the Minister of Defence Shri George Fernandes has visited the flood hit area by helicopter. He has to discuss this issue with the officers and the army in Gopalganj. He will review the situation. But I would like to say that merely taking stock of the situation or review is not going to help the affected people. Immediate relief should be provided for it and arrangements are being made for it. The wheat products are not there. Since there are no arrangements to prepare these things any way therefore, the State and the Union Governments should make collective efforts to airdrop packets of processed wheat products, sattu and gur etc., at places where people have taken refuge.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Saran embankment is broken at five different places. I am not blaming the State Government but I would definitely state that at one place there is no embankment for three kilometers whereas funds from the State Government have already been released. I would urge upon the Government through you that stringent action should be taken against the erring officers for not constructing the broken embankment despite release of funds. Devapura embankment has been broken but the Government has not given any funds for that. The local M.P. Shri Raghunath Jha and MLA have given Rs. 35 lakhs from their private funds. The embankment was constructed but has broken now. My constituency is flood affected and the people are in trouble. Cattlestock is suffering more since it is not getting fodder and hence starving. It is not possible to count the number of drowned children and likewise it is difficult to give the figure of the dying cattlestock. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that due to the transporters strike, which is going on in the State these days in movement of relief material is difficult from one place to another. Therefore, directions should be given to the State Government to get this strike called-off in all possible manner. The strike by the transporters is not unreasonable on their part since there has been 11 times increase in the tax from Rs.

6400 to Rs. 66,000. The State Government should review its decision.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Finance Minister while giving reply had stated that the Reserve Bank has announced a loan cover to the tune of Rs. 50 thousand for drought hit areas. Through you, I would urge upon the Government not to treat the issue of drought and flood differently. The people there are badly affected by drought also. Therefore, I would like that the way they have announced relief for drought hit areas similarly the Government should give directions to the Reserve Bank to announce Rs. 50 thousand cover for the flood hit areas also and the Union Government should immediately provide all the reliefs. I would request that the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is present here and probably he would like to say something on this serious issue. I would like him to give his reply regarding measures to be taken by the Union Government to provide relief to the flood victims. He should apprise the House in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would take only two minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, let them express their opinion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have given notice on alleged harassment of media persons. This has nothing to do with t

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have given notice for Adjournment Motion which has been converted into a notice for 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to call one by one. Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I will call you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: They want the Minister to reply after their submissions.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to call only one by one. When he is speaking, what can I do?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, what is happening here? Everyday we are giving notice but not getting a chance to speak. We are also Members of the House. On one issue, let 15 Members speak. We have no objection. But we must also get a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, all of our colleagues from Bihar mentioned about the flood situation there. The Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My name was called. How is it that you are speaking.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I shall take only one minute.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon. members belonging to Bihar including Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai and Shri Prabhunath Singh are present here and all are very much concerned about the situation in Bihar. Actually, the situation in Bihar is not only serious but more than that. Flood as well as drought spell destruction in the State. No agreement has been reached between India and Nepal and for that reason a permanent solution could not be found. So, the perennial floods cause havoc there. But destruction this year has surpassed all previous records. Communication with Sitamarhi, Saharsa and Darbhanga has been severed, Railway lines have been broken. Communication and transportation activities have come to a halt which is causing problems in the supply of foodgrains. But the main issue is that the Central Government did not give a single penny to Bihar out of NCCF last year and this year too, no funds have been provided. People make mention of floods and drought. But what I feel is that this is a matter of agony for all MPs from Bihar. The people are distressed there. One hundred and twenty people have died. Innumerable cattle have perished. The entire crop has been destroyed. The entire

crop has been destroyed, houses of the poor have been washed away. Besides drought has caused irreparable loss on all counts. But not a single penny came from the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission. Our demand is that the Government of India should release funds to the State Government to enable them to provide relief to the people. Shrimati Kanti Singh has given notice on this very issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The notice for Adjournment Motion has been converted into 'Zero Hour' notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also tabled a notice for an adjournment motion on this subject. Please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter under discussion is of very serious nature. Hon'ble members from Bihar mentioned about the serious situation caused by flood in 17 districts of the State. I do not want to take much time of the House. I want to state only this much that 17 districts of Bihar are affected by floods and the remaining districts are reeling under severe drought. Hence, the Government of India should send a central team there immediately to take stock of the situation and army should be deployed to undertake rescue operation there without any delay and people should be evacuated to safer places. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notice for an adjournment motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will get a chance. Time is wasted because of interruptions.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, floods have caused severe destruction in Bihar and I associate myself with what all the hon. Members have just said here on the subject. District of my parliamentary constituency namely, Saharsa and Supoul are also bearing the brunt of destruction caused by devastating floods. No relief measures have been undertaken there and my constituency has been cut off from all sides. Similarly communication links with other districts of north Bihar have also been severed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not your topic. We are discussing about Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: On earlier occasions also, the issue of floods was discussed in the House Hon. Minister of Home Affairs had assured to send a team for survey but neither that assurance has been fulfilled nor any special package was provided. Foodgrains are rotting in FCI godowns and the people are starving. Therefore, our request to Government of India is to make available these foodgrains to the flood victims. Boats should be provided in the affected areas. Medicines should be supplied to arrest the out break of epidemic there. If proper arrangements are not made, the horrible consequences of the flood would follow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Nagina Mishra, the hon. Member is speaking. You are interrupting. You are a senior Member. Do not interrupt him.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Members have drawn attention towards this fact earlier also that dams should be in order for their use for irrigation purposes but the hon. Minister for irrigation failed to provide maintenance to any of the dams. Therefore, the Government should send a team and take immediate action to resolve the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Minister is ready for response. You can continue afterwards. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the hon. Members want to speak. Then, there should be a discussion. This is only 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have asked Shrimati Kanti Singh to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the one hand north Bihar is experiencing the flood inflicted catastrophe, there are twenty districts of southern and Central Bihar which are reeling under drought situation. Our area, Jahanabad used to be called 'rice bowl' where several canals have been laid. Canals originating from Ban Sagar or Rihand dams in Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh and flowing through our State have dried up due to non arrival of rains. Water is not available in the requisite quantum. Under such circumstances, the farmers are in distress. To add to that the poor wage earners who used to earn their livelihood by working as farm labourers have been rendered unemployed. *...(Interruptions)* I am talking about both floods and drought situation. That is why I have drawn your attention to the fact that towards the NHEC sponsored project worth Rs. 1111 crore has been sent by the State to Union Government for construction of Reservoir on river Sone at Kadvam in Bihar. Uttar Pradesh Government are creating hurdles in the construction of this reservoir. Jharkhand and Bihar Government have agreed to it. This year also, they have not yet released their share of water from Ban Sagar and Rihand. Water is not being released in Sone Canal despite demand in that regard from farmers of eight district of the State, namely Rohtas, Bhojpur, Kaimur, Buxar, Aurangabad, Gaya, Jahanabad and Patna and in the absence of water only 20-30 percent sowing could be done and that too failed to germinate. Sone canal system caters to the irrigation needs of about 10 lakh acres of land covering 11052 miles in eight districts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I seldom get a chance to speak. Today, you have obliged me. Please allow me to at least conclude my submission. Around ten lakh acres of land is irrigated through the water from Sone Canal system. For this purpose, major canals have been laid in these districts covering an area of 209 miles. An area of 149 miles consists of branch canals and an area of 1235 miles is covered by distributaries. I request the Central Government to remove the obstacles being created by Uttar Pradesh in the construction of Kadvan reservoir and to accord sanction to the proposal. Non construction of Kadvan reservoir may pose danger to the very existence of Sone canals and drought situation and consequent food scarcity may give a free hand to the extremists which may lead to blood shed. I, therefore urge the Government of India to waive off the loans to the farmers and start DPAP programme there so that farmers may get relief. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Paswan, please sit down for a minute. Shrimati Kanti Singh has given notice on the need for construction of Kaswan reservoir on the Sone river in Bihar. But she was speaking about everything else. What can we do?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my notice covered both canals and flood situation. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge the hon. Minister through you to come out with a reply on Bihar issue on behalf of the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Bihar issue be over. Then, the hon. Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking me about it. About 50 notice are there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, now the facts are clear. Let the hon. Minister reply to it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I called Shri Paswan, you are obstructing it. What is this House doing? How can we run the House? The Chair is really irritated. You should allow the hon. Member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (ARARIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood and drought situation in Bihar. There are 34 districts in the State out of which 17 are affected

by floods and the remaining 17 are affected by drought. The floods in north Bihar have destroyed the rural roads, PWD constructed roads, national highways and hospital and have rendered crores of people homeless. They are not getting food. Hundreds of people have been swept away in the floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No hon. Member is co-operating with the Chair. Every hon. Member is rising to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Yesterday, i.e. on 1st August 11 children were killed as they drowned in floodwaters in my Parliamentary constituency Araria. Earlier, several persons had met the same fate in Raniganj division. Out of ten blocks in Araria and Supoul districts, Narpatganj, Bhargama, Kursacata, Chhatapur and Triveniganj are cut off from district headquarters due to devastating floods. Crores of people there are in distress and need immediate help. There are no boats you them. Medicines are not available. There is neither fodder nor medicines for lakhs of cattle and they are facing the damage of being perished. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: They should associate with the issue. Why are they making speeches? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot teach them. They should know about it. I cannot tell them the way they should speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Sir, the supply of wheat being supplied in those blocks to flood victims is inadequate and when we enquired from Block Development Officer, he replied that 200 quintals of wheat was being supplied in a block. This quantity is not adequate. Kerosene is in short supply. I demand from the hon. Minister to ensure supply of kerosene, medicines and other essential commodities in flood affected areas immediately. I also urge through you that plastic sheets be provided to the people cover their bodies. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukdeo Paswan, it is over. You have completed. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramjj Lal Suman, you have already spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Sir, the dependants of the flood victims which have been swept away or otherwise killed in the floods should be provided compensation of Rs. One lakh each. The blocks which are cut off from headquarter should be connected again without any delay. The railway lines which have been damaged, such as the Narpatganj Saharsa line which has been damaged between Katihar and Jogbani should be repaired urgently and train services should be restored there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Paswan, I think you have completed it. You have taken so much time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member Smt. Ranee Narah will only go on record and nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister will reply after the hon. Members complete their submissions.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I say is whether it is Assam or Bihar, it is flood.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Paswan, it is over. You have completed it.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Sir you have allowed me to express my views. I thank you for the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

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* Not Recorded.

14.00 hrs.

[English]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is anxious to get answer from the Minister. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shrimati Ranee Narah. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH (LAKHIMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the overall situation of flood in Assam is very grave. The Brahamputra, Subansiri and Buralet rivers are still flowing at the level of the danger mark. Thirteen districts out of twenty three have been affected by flood there. *...(Interruptions)* Dhemoji district, Lakhimpur district Dhakuwakhana sub division and Majuli sub division of my parliamentary constituency are the worst hit areas. Seven embankments in my parliamentary constituency have been reduced to give way. *...(Interruptions)* Amongst them are the Karensapari, Aarensapari embankments in district Dhemaji, Tekilifuta embankment in Ykuakhana sub-division in Lakhimpur district and Lakhimpur and Dhemoji districts remain submerged for five months in a year. The entire crop of the farmers have been completely damaged in both these districts. Out of total number of 25590 in Assam, as many as 4993 villages have been affected by flood. *...(Interruptions)* Likewise out of a total population of 2 crore 66 lakh in Assam, as many as 45 lakh 63 thousand people have been affected. Ten lakh people in toto have been affected in Janai sub division of Dhemoji district, Nowaicha area, Dhakuwakhana sub division and Majuli sub division of district Lakhimpur of my parliamentary constituency. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will answer. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Due to your shouting I am constrained to restore Shri Nawal Kishore Rai's speech on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are all dictating the Chair. What can I do? Please resume your seat. The Minister is not going to run away. He is going to be present here and he will answer. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Assam 500 villages are affected due to floods. It is a very serious matter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The lung power should not prevail here. Whoever has got a better lung power, he can raise his voice, but that should not happen here. I would appeal to you to remain calm and allow everybody to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohammad Anwarul Haque, you can also associate yourself with others on this matter. It will be recorded.

[Translation]

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE (SHEOHAR): Mr. Chairman Sir, I also associate myself with their views. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I have not concluded my speech. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Mr. Chairman Sir, the Summergen Railway Bridge and wooden bridge 400 A/1 on the National Highway No.52 in Dhemoji district have been completely damaged and one wooden bridge on Dhakuwakhana Machkhao road has been swept away ill the flood and likewise 15 P.W.D. roads has been completely broken. National Highways No. 31, 37 and 52 have been badly damaged. I want to submit that Dhemoji and Lakhimpur districts and Mojuli sub division be declared as flood affected districts. Apart from it I demand that the

Union Government should provide to the Assam Government a sum of rupees two crores for providing financial assistance to the farmers and for rehabilitation of flood affected families.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Hon. Chairman, Sir, on the issue of flood whatever concern our friends from Bihar have expressed, the entire House is with them. ...*(Interruptions)* The major issue of concern is that the Government says that they have got foodgrains reserve of more than 6000 crore, they have got foreign exchange reserve of 700 crore dollars, they have got the calamity relief fund and calamity assistance fund with them. On the whole the Government have been assuring this house time and again that there is no dearth of sources and dollars with the Government to deal with flood and drought. Bihar is in the grip of flood and recently Ranee ji has apprised us of the situation in Assam. The entire House is with Bihar where on the one hand there is flood while on the other hand, there is drought.

Yesterday, there was a new-item in the Hindustan newspaper that nine farmers of Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide due to forced recovery of loan. Kharif crop of the farmers has been damaged and they are leading miserable life and are on the verge of starvation and despite that recovery of loan by the Government is still continuing. As such, the farmers were forced to commit suicide.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already discussed the drought conditions in detail. You also associate with it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should pay attention to the natural calamity. ...*(Interruptions)* The outcome of what the Government is doing should come out. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those two Members are pressing. They have also given the notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government should clear their stand on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (JALESAR): Thank you Sir, through you I want to raise a very important issue in the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: After hon. Minister's reply, I would give you a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: During 'Zero Hour', it seems whosoever has got more lung power, he would be able to get a chance.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: It is not fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know, it is unfair. All the hon. Members are not able to get a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I am here, it would not prevail.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: You cannot win by doing so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Hon. Chairman, Sir, all the Members of Parliament present in the House have expressed their concern about the flood and drought situation. We can understand and assess the situation of drought through newspapers and the anxiety and pain expressed by Shri Nawal Kishore Rai ji can be realized. We had also discussed this situation but whatever

has been said here, either it is to be conveyed to the Finance Minister or the hon. Minister of Home Affairs or Minister of Water Resources. We will apprise them of your feelings and we will speak to them to take all the necessary steps whatever are required to be taken because now Prabhunath Singh ji has said that the Minister of Defence has gone to conduct a survey. We will apprise them of the feelings of all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: You will go on doing this and the people will die. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: It is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)* What for we people are here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot talk to the Minister directly.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? You can talk only through the Chair. This is not the way.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must direct the hon'ble Minister. The issue of flood is a very serious matter. He should come and make a statement in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I will apprise him of your feelings but I cannot say him to make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Bihar is being neglected, as such we boycott the House.

14.11 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We also boycott the House.

14.11¼ hrs.

At this stage Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (JALESAR): Sir, Agra has been the capital of India during the Mughal Era. Even today from the point of view of tourism, the world famous Taj Mahal, Lal Quila, Dayalbagh, Aitma-ud-daullah and Akbar's tomb are worth seeing monuments there. The Buland Darwaza of Fatehpur Sikri and the shrine of Sheikh Moinu-din Chisti are also in Agra district itself. The neighbouring Mathura district is a very important religious place. Hence we can say that Agra is the tourism capital of India. Any tourist or politician of the world, whosoever comes to India certainly visits Agra. Therefore, every train coming from and going towards South India or Mumbai should have a stoppage at Agra and every train on Delhi-Howrah route should be stopped at Tundla junction since the tourists and passengers on that route get down at Tundla and go over to Agra. Tundla is 22 kms away on railway route or by road from Agra and had been its Tehsil in the past. ...*(Interruptions)* Similarly, there is an airport in Agra for travelling by air, there is only one flight available to and from Delhi, Agra, Khajuraho, Banaras for the last 35 years. Tourism should be given an impetus by making an international airport in Agra and it should be connected with Mumbai, Kolkatta, Jaipur, Chennai, Bangalore cities etc. through domestic flights. ...*(Interruptions)*

In addition to tourism, Agra ranks first in leather, shoes, sweetmeat (petha), marble industries and foundries. The businessmen of Agra visit the whole country and the traders from other parts of the country come to Agra. After the creation of Uttaranchal State, Agra is the Centre of Western U.P. Dehradun based office of the Chief General Manager of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. of Western UP circle which now forms part of Uttaranchal should be opened up in Agra and a Regional Passport Office should also be opened there. The industry in Agra has completely ruined down for reasons of Taj trapezium. Since the city is facing financial crunch, a bench of High Court should be set up here, so that the poor people can get fair and easy justice.

This is my request to the Central Government that all the issues raised by me are concerned with the Central Government. Therefore, the trains should have a stoppage at Agra, Tundla, Mathura. DRM Office and a Regional Passport Office should be set up in Agra and office of the Chief General Manager, Telecommunications Western UP

circle should be opened up and all the measures should be taken to give impetus to the tourism industry in Agra.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You asked for a chance to speak and you wanted to associate yourself with the views and now you are compelling the hon. Minister to answer this way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear anything. What do you want?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discrimination here. I do not see any discrimination here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, you are selecting Members. What is this? *...(Interruptions)* For fifteen days I have been giving notice to speak. ... *(Interruptions)* You can check that up. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri George, I called your name. You have given a big topic of minorities. How can you raise it in 'Zero Hour'. It is a big topic.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: It is an urgent issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member should understand, how far the Government can respond.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, a case is in progress in the Supreme Court regarding rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. The learned Attorney-General of India, Shri Soli Sorabjee appeared before the Supreme Court and he has said, the right conferred on the minorities under the Constitution is not a concession but an entitlement considering the vulnerable position in which they may be placed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a matter before the 11-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court, how can you deliberate it here now?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, two advocates of the Government took two different positions before the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, we want to know the position of the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Attorney-General further said, "the right of the minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice under article 30 of our Constitution is absolute and cannot be tinkered with by anybody."

Sir, the hon. HRD Minister of the country directed the Solicitor-General, Shri Salve to rebut these arguments of Attorney General in the Supreme Court. Sir, the hon. Law Minister is here. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to know the position of the government. Sir, this is an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know. But this is a big matter and cannot be argued and decided in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is before the Supreme Court, it cannot be decided in the 'Zero Hour'.

The Minister cannot respond to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the minorities of this country are very much concerned about it. What is the Government's stand with regard to the rights of the minorities under article 30 of the Constitution of India? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: That is what we want to know. We are not saying anything else. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hannan Mollah, do you want to speak now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Francis George, please do not obstruct him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, what is the position of the Government on this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot elaborate things during Zero Hour You cannot get an elaborate explanation from the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the Law Minister is here. He should explain. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I said that it is not a small matter. It is a big Constitutional matter before the Constitutional Bench.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, is this House not entitled to hear the Government's view? We want to know the Government's view on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: One CPI(M) Member is obstructing another CPI(M) Member from speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last several months, continuous attack on the Press and media is taking place all over the country. Sir, you know that Mr. Iftikar Gilani one journalist from Delhi, Bureau Chief of *Kashmir Times* was arrested on the charge that he possessed a secret document regarding Armed Force deployment in Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am hearing you. I am giving you a lot of concessions. Please do not interrupt him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, he was arrested on the charge of possessing a secret document. What was he possessing? Six years before, one document was published and he downloaded it from the Internet. It was now found in 2002.

How can it be a secret document? But under the Official Secret Act, he was, arrested. Now, when it has not been proved, he has been charged under the Pornography Act. In that way, they are harassing the journalist, browbeating the journalist and suppressing the journalist. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, there are so many things. Sir, the Press Council of India, day before yesterday, opined that this document cannot be considered as secret and does not violate the Official Secret Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Prof. A.K. Premajam.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH . Sir, they are harassing the journalists from *The Outlook*. They are harassing the journalists from the *Tehelka*. The journalists of all other magazines are being harassed because during the Gujarat riot, the incidents were properly reported by the media. ...*(Interruptions)* They are punishing the Press. They are harassing the *Tehelka* journalists. They are harassing *The Outlook* journalists. ...*(Interruptions)* They are attacking on electronic media also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, if you want to speak now, you speak. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Suresh Jadhav.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I must be give a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, when I called your name, you did not respond. That is why, I have called Shri Suresh Jadhav. Please sit down. After some time, you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the attack on the Press should be stopped. The journalist, Shri Gilani should be released. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Suresh Jadhav.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are ten sugar mills in Maharashtra

* Not Recorded.

which belong to the Congress and National Congress Party. The quota that these sugar mills used to get from the Centre in the name of export was sold by these mills in local mandis. Therefore, there has even been the loss of loan taken by these mills, which is approximately Rs. 20 crore. These mills have misused the loan taken from the local, State Cooperative banks, NABARD and IDBI. Instead of giving impetus to the country's export they sold their export quota in the local mandis. Through you, I would appeal to the Government to probe in this matter and fix the responsibility and liability on the erring persons and suspend the Directors in the Board of Directors with immediate effect.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I thank you very much for this opportunity. I want to bring before the House, through you, Sir, a very, very important matter of Constitutional nature.

Freedom of Press, as you are aware, involves right to information and it is one of the cornerstones of our Constitution. Press is known as the fourth estate. Of late, as already mentioned by my comrade in this House, harassment, attack and violence on the journalists who are working in print media and also in the electronic media are on the increase. Recently everybody knows that the correspondent of *Time*, Mr. Alex Perry and also his colleague had been deprived of their accreditation cards just because they wrote an article on the hon. Prime Minister of India. There is this kind of attack on the freedom of the Press.

Naturally, through this, the freedom of the people to know, their right to information, is being attacked by this Government. It is none other than the Government which is the perpetrator of this action.

In Kerala, the Central Industrial Security Force, which has been deployed in the Nedumbassery International Airport, has attacked the Press people. There was no provocation at all. Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Government to see that this is stopped forthwith.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman Sir, I had also given a notice in connection with the issue raised by Shri Hannan Mollah ji and Prof. Premajamji. I would also like to state that media, journalism is the fourth pillar of Lok Sabha. Suppressive action is being taken against them like emergency, it is being suppressed and eliminated. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You also associate with this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: A journalist of 'Tehlka was implicated in a case and put into jail. ...*(Interruptions)* A Financer, Shanker Sharma was also put into the prison. A journalist was implicated in a fraudulent case and put in prison even in Gujarat. Democracy is being strangulated and media is being suppressed by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is this? You asked for half a minute only.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA): Sir, the All India Association of Foreign Return Doctors is in *dharna* in front of the office of the Medical Council of India, Delhi from 17th July, 2002. They were on fast unto death till 30th July, 2002. Two doctors have been admitted to the hospital. Their demands are:

(1) Exemption of screening test for the Indian students passing out from Russian Medical Institute recognised by M.C.I.

(2) Exemption of one year medical internship imposed by M.C.I.

(3) Permanent registration instead of provisional registration.

(4) Compensation for additional internship in the form of stipend money.

I urge upon the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to talk with the doctors and the M.C.I. and settle the problems faced by the doctors.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Chairman Sir, Lok Sabha Secretariat has reprinted the official report of the Indian Constituent Assembly's debate

* Not Recorded

in 1994. You know that Baba Ambedkarji was the Chairman of the drafting Committee on Constitution of India. The entire report of the Indian Constituent Assembly has been given in this book and the Secretariat has printed it in ten parts. It is quite unfortunate that the first page of the book contains the name of Chairman Dr. Rajendrra Prasad, Vice Chairman M.T. Mukherji.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is your notice?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Alongwith them, the names of the legal advisors Shri P.M. Raoji, MDA Aiyengerji, Joint Secretary S.N. Mukherji, Deputy Secretary Kushal and Marhsall Harvansh Rai ji appear in it but Baba Ambedkar ji's name does not appear on the front page whereas he played a very vital role in the making of Constitution and was also the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Shri Ramdas Athawale, this matter falls within the jurisdiction of the hon. Speaker. This book is not published by the Government; it is published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. This matter will have to be taken up with the hon. Speaker. If you want, I can also come with you to the hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This notice is disallowed.

Now, the House will take up the Calling Attention.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I want to raise an issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, you may allow Shri Adhir Chowdhary before taking up Calling Attention but before that I want to make a request.

The hon. Law Minister is here for introduction of two Bills. He has called a meeting of leaders of all parties at three o' clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, do you want that to be taken up now? All right. I will allow Shri Adhir Chowdhary after that.

14.26 hrs.

SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) SECOND AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill furtner to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

14.26½ hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill

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* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 2.8.2002.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President

14.27 hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDERS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries; imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries; imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal."

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT): Sir, I have given a notice. I have to place on record certain objections to this Bill at the introduction stage. I may be allowed to give my views.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, let him raise his objections. The hon. Minister will reply to them.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: I rise to place on record serious objections to the introduction of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002 in its present form. I emphasise the words, 'in its present form'.

My first objection is that the proposed Bill does not include the five communities of Assam, Koch Rajbanshi, Tai-Ahom, Tea Tribes, Chutias and Moran-Mottok, which were recommended by the Committee of Parliament constituted in 1996 by the then hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha, to be enlisted as Scheduled Tribes. The Committee laid its report on the 14th August, 1997. During these five long years, the Government did not take care to examine the report and failed to come to Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. I have given a notice.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me also speak.

During the introduction of a Bill, the hon. Member can speak only about the legislative competence. He cannot talk on the merits of the Bill at this stage. He has a right to speak but he can speak when the Bill comes up for consideration. I supported him to raise his objections but he cannot take advantage of the rule of opposing the introduction and start discussing the merits of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your objection is noted. When the Bill is taken up for consideration, you can speak in detail.

Now, the question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries; imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II- Section 2, dated 2.8.2002.

BENGAL): Sir, the spectre of polio syndrome is again looming large in my district. As you know, elimination of the last vestiges of polio is our national mission. However, it has got a severe jolt in Murshidabad, where six blocks in my district are witnessing a re-emergence of polio.

The World Health Organisation officials have admitted it. One organisation also opined that the discarded and expired polio doses are being administered to those children. This disease has already affected six children in Solatoli and Naskarpur villages. Bangladesh, the neighbouring country, has already expressed its concern over the re-emergence of the polio.

May I request the Government to send a fact-finding mission in West Bengal so that the responsibility and liability can be fixed on those erring officials are the erring department?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Chairman Sir, a rope way has been put to facilitate the tourists and pilgrims going to the tourist spots and pilgrim places located on steep heights like Shri Mansa Devi Temple in Haridwar. It facilitates, allures and lessen the fatigue of aged persons, women and children and makes the place a centre of attraction resulting in increasing number of tourists.

Jaipur is one of the major centres of attraction and provision of rope way is essential in Nahargarh, Jaigarh Fort, Mata Shila Devi's temple in Amer, Ganeshgarh a pilgrim place, second major pilgrim place Galta and Motidugri.

May I request the Government to provide financial assistance to put a ropeway on all these important religious places.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government that Rajasthan's share of water should be restored. According to an agreement reached between Rajasthan and Punjab in the year 1981, Rajasthan's share of 0.6 million cuses water should immediately be released to Rajasthan. That agreement is not being complied with, whereas Indira Gandhi canal and its subsidiary canal have already been laid. At the moment, Rajasthan is reeling under the severe impacts of famine. In such a situation, water should immediately be released to Rajasthan from Punjab. This is our earnest request to the Government.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman Sir, I support him.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hannan Mollah, you said discrimination.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): No, it was earlier, you discriminated in 'Zero Hour'. It is my right now about calling attention. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the Speaker's prerogative to pick and choose. You cannot question him. During Question hour I was raising my hand for ten minutes. I was not able to catch the eye of the Speaker. The Speaker has got the prerogative and discretionary power to allow or disallow.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I am sorry.

14.32 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Problems being faced by the jute growers in the country

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I call the attention of Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The problems being faced by the jute growers in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in reply to the Calling Attention Motion given by the hon. Members of the House, I seek your permission to make the following statement.

Sir, jute is mainly grown in the State of West Bengal, Orissa, Tripura, Assam, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya in approximately 10.70 lakh hectares of land (2002-03). Compared to the production last year, the production of raw jute this year is expected to be higher by about ten per cent and of the order of 115 lakh bales. The Government of India has announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 850 per quintal for TD-5

variety Ex-Assam for the jute year 2002-03. Last year the Minimum Support Price for the same variety was Rs. 810 per quintal. This represents an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal this year. Prices for all other grades of raw jute have been announced separately by the Jute Commissioner.

14.33 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *In the Chair*)

Sir, the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the nodal agency for purchase of raw jute under Minimum Support Price Scheme. Jute Corporation of India operates 171 centres in the jute growing areas and has also tied up MSP operations with co-operative societies of the State Governments concerned. The Government of India and Jute Corporation of India have also requested the Governments of jute growing states for involvement of maximum number of co-operative societies to act as agents for procurement of raw jute and Mesta under MSP operations.

Sir, Jute Corporation of India has been provided adequate financial support through a Government guarantee of Rs. 33 crore towards margin money thereby enabling them to avail of a credit of Rs. 100 crore. In addition, budgetary support has also been provided.

Sir, the jute crop has started arriving in the markets. The Jute Corporation of India has reported that they have already purchased 40,000 bales of raw jute from various jute growing areas. Most of this procurement has been done through its own purchase centres. As per reports received so far, the ruling price of raw jute in the market has generally remained above the MSP. The Government of India has not received any reports of any distress sale of raw jute so far.

I would like to assure this House that the Government of India has taken all possible steps to ensure that the jute farmers are not forced to sell their produce below the Minimum Support price. I am sure that with the co-operation of the various State Governments, we shall be able to ensure Minimum Support Price to jute growers.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the hon. Minister has given a general reply. As you know, Sir, jute is the main commercial product in the eastern region and some other parts of the country, such as, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. About 40 lakhs farmers are engaged in its cultivation. During the last several years, with the new methods of cultivation, the production of jute has increased. Lakhs of people live on jute cultivation and allied activities. Side by side, there are about 73 jute mills in our country in which 2,50,000 workers are engaged, a large number of them from Bihar also, as you know. Out of these, 59 are in West Bengal. The annual production of jute goods is about 16 lakh metric tonnes. Out of that, 12 lakh metric tonnes is used for jute packaging of foodgrains and sugar and the rest four lakhs is exported or used for other purposes. In early 80s, the production of jute and *mesta* was between 70 to 80 lakh bales, but now it has increased. This year we have seen that 115 lakh bales have been produced. So, with this increased production, the Government should come forward to help the farmers, ensure remunerative price and purchase the raw jute. Due to the increased production this year, the market price has been reduced by about Rs.100 per quintal in that region, specially in West Bengal.

JCI is the agency which was constituted to purchase raw jute and was provided fund from the Central Government. Earlier they had more than 200 centres but now you know that the Government has reduced the number of centres. Almost 30 to 35 centres have been closed. Because of that, only in towns and city areas, there are centres, and the centres in the distant rural areas have been closed. This is creating problems for the peasants and the farmers to sell their produce. Now the Minister has said that they are giving some guarantee for the margin money, but with that, the JCI is not in full operation in the market. They are purchasing a very small quantity. They have said that direct purchase has been stopped and they have appointed agents. BENFED is one of the agents in West Bengal and they have no money. If the JCI gives them some advance, then only they can purchase. Without advance, how can the small co-operatives purchase lakhs of bales of raw jute? Only the West Bengal Government has given some money but this is not a very huge amount. With that small amount, the BENFED also is not in a position to purchase huge quantity of jute and bring it to the JCI.

This is another problem. Over the years, the Government has systematically crippled and destroyed the JCI. Now the Jute Corporation of India has become a smaller organisation and now they have no Funds and they cannot directly enter into the market. This has created a problem for the jute growers and for the farmers to get remunerative price. This is one of the major problems. I demand that the Government should give adequate funds to the Jute Corporation of India so that it can directly enter into the market and purchase raw jute substantially. All the centres which have been closed should be re-opened so that people can go and sell their raw jute and ensure the remunerative price for the jute growers.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

As you know, jute growers and the jute industry are related. Because of the above the jute industry is facing very serious problems. I would also like to raise certain questions here and I hope that the hon. Minister will be kind enough to reply to these points. The jute industry is now facing a serious problem because it has a sinking market. As you know, in 1987 the Government has enacted a law whereby 100 per cent of the packaging material for foodgrains and sugar are to be of jute products and only jute should be used tor packaging these materials. It is because jute is environmental-friendly and it is cost effective and lakhs of people are engaged in this in all the regions of our country.

But now the Government is gradually diluting that order and slowly the foodgrains and sugar are being packed in synthetic bags. Because of this jute, has lost the market and, therefore, jute industry is facing serious crisis. The synthetic lobby is very strong. They have long hands in the Ministry and in the country and they have very closer links with Delhi. Jute is grown far away in the Eastern region and the synthetic lobby is encircling the capital. They have long hands and they are influencing the Ministry and the officials and they are pressurising. Gradually the Government is diluting the Jute Packaging Act. This is a serious problem.

I would like to submit that there was a study or survey conducted in this regard by MARKFED who conducted the survey in Punjab as to what is better for packaging the foodgrains - jute or synthetic - and which is better. This survey report shows that the HDPE bags are not suitable for packaging foodgrains. This is what they have opined. The FCI depots in Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu also conducted evaluation studies and there it was proved that the jute bags are better because it has passed all the tests and it was found that it is effective, its performance is better and it is also cost effective. The Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur has also made a comprehensive study and they also said that from the point of view of packaging jute is better than poly bag.

But, Sir, this synthetic lobby is so powerful that they are trying to capture the jute market and if the jute market is sinking, then lakhs of jute growers and thousands of jute mill workers would be in troubles.

Therefore, I demand for the restoration of the 100 per cent packaging of foodgrains and sugar by jute products only. Secondly, we demand that you should stop large scale import of jute bags from Bangladesh under the liberalised tariff regime. We are currently importing from Bangladesh and our raw jute market is sinking. This is another problem.

Thirdly, I demand that this compulsory usage of jute for packaging should be extended to other edible commodities like potatoes, spices and other pulses so that the jute market grows and our jute industry survives and in that way we can protect this industry and help lakhs of people who are dependent on jute.

I hope, the Government will take it seriously. The Government has always shown a discriminatory attitude towards the Eastern Region. Jute is produced in that region and the jute growers are facing a severe problem. The jute workers in the Eastern Region are facing the same problems. We cannot draw the attention of the Centre here because it is not sympathetic to these jute growers and workers. It is because of this that the jute industry is in serious trouble.

I demand the Government should take a fair view, and jute should be made an important part of our economy. When you export jute goods, it helps our country in earning foreign exchange. Therefore, the Government should take a correct, balanced and fair view so that our jute growers get a fair price for the raw jute. The jute workers can survive when the problems being faced by the jute mills are solved. This is my demand.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Every day, here in this House, we are discussing the deteriorating situation of the farming sector. There is no gainsaying that a gloomy scenario is prevailing over the agricultural sector in India. As far as jute is concerned, West Bengal is very much synonymous with jute. The Minister in his Statement has assured us that JCI is purchasing jute and there is no distress sale of jute so far. I think, the Minister is taking up the issue in a very casual manner. He has not been properly reported upon as to what is the ground reality insofar as jute is concerned.

In West Bengal, harvesting of jute and fibre extraction have already started, and the farmers are in desperate need to early remunerative prices. Here, in his Statement, the Minister has said: "The Government of India has announced a Minimum Support Price of Rs. 850 per quintal for TD-5 variety Ex-Assam for the jute year 2002-2003." May I enlighten the Ministry that in Bengal, a jute farmer has to bear the expenditure of more than Rs. 1,000 for producing one quintal of jute? Here, you are fixing Rs. 850

per quintal, but inclusive of all agricultural inputs, one farmer has to pay more than Rs. 1,000 for producing one quintal of jute. Now, the middlemen appear in the scene, and the market price of jute in Bengal is now Rs. 790 for TD-5 variety.

In my District Murshidabad, I am very much acquainted with the jute growers. Murshidabad is the largest jute-producing District in West Bengal.

Sir, this year jute production in the State of West Bengal is estimated to be around 88 lakh bales. In my district Murshidabad alone jute production, this year, is estimated to be 28 lakh quintals. The Jute Corporation of India is purchasing from the 15 DPC and they have fixed the quota of their purchase at 250 quintals per day from Monday to Friday. An individual grower is not allowed to sell more than 15 quintals of jute. This kind of a restriction has been put on the farmers by JCI. But the total production of jute, as estimated, is 28 lakh quintals in my district of Murshidabad. How would then the farmers sell their jute to the JCI if they purchase only 250 quintals of jute everyday? That is the problem.

Sir, my first demand to the Government is that the Minimum Support Price of jute must be enhanced to at least Rs. 1200 per Quintal and no restriction should be imposed on purchasing any amount of jute. So far as my knowledge goes, the JCI till now has procured 7735 bales of jute in West Bengal. But if you compare the volume of jute produced to the amount of jute that is procured, then you would see that the procurement is very modicum and under the circumstances the farmers would be compelled to sell their produce for a song.

Sir, the entire jute industry in the State of West Bengal is in shambles today. Out of 59 jute mills, 33 have already been referred to the BIFR. No modernisation and technological upgradation have so far been undertaken in any of the jute mills in the State. The 'fly by night' operators are siphoning off crores of rupees. The Jute mill owners are even depriving the workers of their money that was deposited in their Provident Fund accounts. They are looting the money.

Sir, the paddy farmers in the State of West Bengal have already been compelled to sell their produce for a song because the West Bengal Government had not been able to provide for a Minimum Support Price for the produce of the paddy farmers. The Government had fixed a price of Rs. 530 per quintal. The second onslaught on the jute-growing farmers is the next thing to happen because jute is also not being sold at the desired price.

Sir, therefore, I would like to request the Government to evolve a Plan of Action relating to the jute-growing farmers in Bengal in general and for the jute-growing framers of Murshidabad in particular. The Minimum Support Price for jute should be raised to Rs. 1200/- per Quintal.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY (HOWRAH): Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Hannan Mollah on this issue. But while associating with his views, I would also like to make a few points.

Sir, the JCI is the Government procuring agency for jute. NJMC is also a Government organisation. But NJMC owes a sum of Rs. 50 crore to the JCI. If NJMC pays all its dues to the JCI, then JCI would not have to ask for money from the Government for procuring jute in much more quantities from the market. What is the thinking of the Government on this?

Secondly, the NJMC mills have gone sick mainly because of bad management. Is the Government attempting to revive those mills? Is the Government thinking of punishing the officers responsible for the mills running into losses of crores of rupees? Jute is an eco-friendly material. In spite of serious attempts by the Government to curtail the market for jute, there is enough market for jute products in the national and international markets.

NJMC mills are going sick because the officers posted in those mills are siphoning off Government money for their own benefit as a result of which the mills are running into losses. I want to know from the Government whether there is any scheme of the Government, whether there is any formulation of the Government to get hold of the officers and give specific responsibilities to them saying, "You are appointed as the Manager of this mill. Your duty is to revive the unit and increase its production and make it a profitable one." The inefficiency of NJMC management is one of the major reasons why jute growers in the country are suffering. If NJMC mills can be revived, much more jute will be consumed by the Government mills themselves.

The biggest jute mill in the world is located in my Constituency, that is, the National unit of NJMC. From my long experience with the mill, I have seen that the corporate management of the units is primarily responsible for the present sickness of the mills. Has the Government drawn up any programme in this regard? There is no

[Shri Swadesh Chakraborty]

necessity of having one management for JCI, one management for NJMC, one for corporate sector, for plant sector, for middle management sector, etc. There is no necessity to maintain these many levels. In the mills run by private management, there is only one General Manager for running a similar mill. There are 18 officers now in place of one General Manager, all of who are enjoying Government perks, bungalows, cars, telephones for themselves, for wives, etc., etc.

What is the situation of the mills? Workers in NJMC mills in my Constituency, that is National, have got their last salary on 13th of April. Thirteenth of April was the last date on which payment was made to the workers. Since then nobody has got his dues. They are at the mercy of the Government and the management. I want that NJMC mills are revived. There is enough market for jute. Jute is an eco-friendly material. The Government must come with a strong formulation to make jute much more popular in our country so that eco-hazardous materials do not take over the market.

I want to know from the Minister as to what is the exact plan of Government to revive the NJMC mills and to make the payment of salaries regularly. What is more, the workers who are getting retired from service are not getting their ESI and PF dues. Government is siphoning off even the Provident Fund money of the workers. We say that the private mill owners are siphoning off funds of employees and workers. But this is a concrete case in the NJMC itself that Provident Fund amounting to about Rs.25 crore has not been paid to workers who retired from the service.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, the retirement dues are not being paid to the workers by this Government.

So, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government in this regard and request that all the NJMC mills should be revived in their full capacity with efficient management. The workers should get their salaries and other allowances regularly. Also, the dues of provident fund which now amount to more than Rs. 100 crore should be paid to them immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (MACHHLISHAHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we also want to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Please give us two minutes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask only one question.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said that no bags with a hundred kilos capacity should be manufactured but a hundred kilos capacity bags are still being manufactured. Earlier people used to take ghee, drink milk, you also belong to the same family and you know that people used to be sturdy and lift not only a bag with a hundred kilos capacity but even of two hundred kilos capacity. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to know a very important thing from the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* My question is as to why bags of hundred kilos capacity are being manufactured. Jute bags are also used for carrying sugar and food grains, Jute batching oil is used in the jute bags which is injurious to our health.

I, therefore request the hon. Minister to look into this matter in the public interest. These bags are being supplied to farmers. There is also a research centre in Pratapgarh. I want to know as to why the jute growers of West Bengal only are being benefited. Lots of jute is being produced in Uttar Pradesh. Jute growers make ropes from it there, it is also used in cots. Jute bags are costly and injurious for those who consume sugar and foodgrains, contained in them. As I have already said that carrying or storing sugar and foodgrains in them is injurious to our health. Several people come on the verge of losing their lives by consuming sugar and foodgrains stored or carried in these bags. The International Labour Organisation has already passed an order that a bag of a hundred kilos capacity should not be manufactured. Then why a jute bag of fifty kilos capacity is not being manufactured.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, before the hon. Minister replies, I have only one question.

What is the present policy of the Government of India to strengthen the Jute Corporation of India's network in terms of their purchasing power? What is the final approach of the Government on the NJMC, biggest of the national jute mills, both in terms of clearance of the backlog wages and future viability? Thank you.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I am very thankful to all the Members who have participated in the discussion on the Calling Attention given by Shri Hannan Mollah and other hon. Members.

Sir, I have already assured this august House that the Government will definitely protect the interests of our jute growers. Not only that, the Government will also protect the jute industry.

Several issues have been raised by the hon. Members. Firstly, I would try to reply to the questions raised by the hon. Member, Shri Hannan Mollah. So far as the MSP of raw jute is concerned, till now, the Government has not received any complaint from any institution of West Bengal or other jute growing areas.

Apart from this, my Ministry has also written letters to the Chief Secretaries of West Bengal and other States concerned. We have mentioned in our letter that suppose there is some complaint, immediately they may inform the Monitoring Cell of JCI or the Government of India. Till now, not a single complaint has been received from West Bengal.

I want to make the position of the Government of India clear, so far as MSP is concerned, which was raised by Shri Adhir Chowdhary. I have with me, the list of market price, which is the latest one. So far as TD-5 variety is concerned, the MSP is Rs.850 and the ruling price in the market is Rs.860.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: No. It is Rs.790.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: You are not collect. You have mentioned that the prevailing rate in the market is Rs.790. So far as MSP of TD-5 variety in Assam and Meghalaya is concerned, it is Rs.850 and the prevailing price in the market is Rs.860. ...*(Interruptions)* Please bear with me. The MSP of North Bengal category is Rs.875-Rs.888 and the prevailing rate in the market is Rs.920-Rs.960.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR): It is totally false.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is correct. Whatever information you have is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)* I have with me, the list of the market price.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I beg to differ with you. You may again send your officers to collect the correct information.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, please first listen to the answer of the hon. Minister. Don't be too much impatient.

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as South Bengal category is concerned, the MSP is Rs.900-Rs.913 and the prevailing price is Rs.910-Rs.920. This is the price at which it is available.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: It is nothing but an exaggeration. Please listen to us.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: My friend also demanded that we increase the MSP to Rs.1200 per quintal. We all know that MSP is being fixed on the basis of the recommendation of CACP, which is an independent body, under the Ministry of Agriculture. Just now, the Government of India has increased Rs.40, that is, from Rs. 810 to Rs.850 per quintal. The Government assesses the situation and tries to increase MSP.

Another issue has been raised by Shri Hannan Mollah, which was about the import of jute from Bangladesh. The Government is taking some very harsh steps to check the import of jute from Bangladesh. My friend will be pleased to know that import of jute bags from Bangladesh has been very small and it is only 1084 metric tonnes during April-May 2002. This is the position. We are aware of it and we do not want to import raw jute from Bangladesh because we have ample quantity of raw jute. So, we are interested to check the import from Bangladesh.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: But you are importing jute products. You have imported 50,000 metric tonnes of jute products which is creating a problem in the jute market.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Whatever it is, we try to check the import from Bangladesh.

The Government is purchasing raw jute from nearly 1.71 purchase centres. In addition, there are 72 cooperative centres either of West Bengal or of other States. The Government is purchasing raw jute from them. Whenever we feel the requirement, we open new temporary centres. We always try to open such centres to purchase raw jute from the jute growers and there is no complaint in this regard.

Another issue was raised by Shri Swadesh Chakraborty.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Please give reply to my question also.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I will answer your question later on. Your question is about 100 kg. bags. Chakraborty ji was talking about mismanagement in the NJMC. The entire issue relating to the NJMC is before the BIFR at present. And when this case is finally decided, then we

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

will take action on that. As for the 100 k.g. jute bags, we will try to redress the complaint in this regard. The Government think that a step should be taken in this regard.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I thank you very much as you have given grants to the jute growers in West Bengal. I want to know whether you propose to give similar grants to the jute growers in Uttar Pradesh since jute is also grown in my area i.e. Pratapgarh.

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government has taken some good steps to take care of the jute industry and to enhance export of jute products. The Government has announced some schemes in this regard. I would like to mention them here in the House.

With the approval of Government, JMDC announced a modernisation scheme for the jute industry wherein a 15 per cent capital subsidy is proposed to be provided for investment in machinery for the modernisation and technology upgradation of jute mills.

Our jute industry is suffering much because of very-very old machinery and old technology. So, the Government has taken steps to modernise our jute industry and jute mills.

Secondly, the Government has announced DEPB rates for the first time for export of jute products. DEPB rates of yarn and geo-textiles - 2 per cent hessian cloth, sacking cloth and sacking and hessian bags - 6 per cent.

To promote jute diversified products, the Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme targeted at the small and medium level industries wanting to take up jute diversification programme is proposed to be converted from interest free loan scheme to a direct subsidy scheme.

The Government of India does not levy any excise duty on jute products. Not only that, there is a budgetary support of Rs.35 crore provided in the Budget for the JCI.

Sir, I would request the hon. Members, who are very interested in the jute industry, to impress upon the West Bengal Government to remove one per cent agricultural fee as also the other two per cent purchase tax which is levied there. Not only that, there is nearly four per cent, sales tax on jute goods. That should also be removed. Sir, our intention is to protect jute industry and jute growers.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: An individual grower cannot sell his produce more than 15 quintals of white jute and 12 quintals of *Mesta* jute. Why are you imposing a restriction?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I will look into the matter. I assure the hon. Members and the august House that the Government is very keenly interested to protect our jute industry and jute growers, particularly the poor jute growers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already told about modernisation as there is a modernisation scheme.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Hon. Minister, what about the modernisation of the NJMC.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: As far as the NJMC is concerned, the case is with the BIFR and we will take action as per the decision of the BIFR.

15.16 hrs.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL-CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No.12. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria would continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have adopted second generation reforms and the reforms were introduced after 1990. 21 crores of population of the country is associated with the Co-operative system. Today, challenges have been posed by the 'GATT' or the 'WTO'. 21 crore people of the country are associated with 5,04,000 cooperative societies in the country discharging its various functions. And these amendments have been brought in to tackle these challenges and we hope that the National Cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill would strengthen our cooperative sector. We have several cooperative institutions in our country. They are not new. First cooperative Act was enacted in our country in 1904. And the other was enacted in 1912 and in 1919 the Government of India Act was enacted and then Act of 1935 was enacted wherein this subject was put under section 32 by placing it in the Provincial List. And then Multi-unit Cooperative Societies Act, 1942 was enacted

and more and more amendments were brought in. This was the reason that the membership of the cooperatives which was 1 crore 55 lakhs in 1950 and 1951 has gone up now to 21 crore. Similarly, the number of cooperative societies in the country was 1,81,000 in the beginning and today it has gone up to more than 5,04,000. Today there is no sector in the country which is not covered by cooperative system.

There are 27,126 consumer societies in the country. There are 8,794 primary marketing societies, 453 are central societies and 29 are at State level. The number of sugar cooperative societies is 263, 137 are spinning societies, 6198 are transport cooperative societies and the number of the Dairy Cooperative Societies stood at 87,755. Even women have also make much headway in this sector and there are 8,006 women cooperative societies. The number of Housing Societies at State level is 25 and the number of primary housing societies is 90,000. The number of cooperative societies in the farming sector is 7,199. 7322 societies are in the irrigation sector. There are 19,980 industrial weavers' societies. 13,055 societies are in the fisheries sector. Their number in the poultry sector is 13,055, it is 28,958 in the labour sector and 3,394 in the forest labour sector. Take any sector, you can see that the cooperative system has become an important part of it. Revolutionary works are being undertaken in this sector. At the same time some loopholes have also crept in. I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards plugging these loopholes. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies has been given wide ranging powers, such as, he can cripple any society and can nominate a persen to the Board of Directors.

This system is being crippled due to political interference in the cooperative movement. And we hope that the amendments which have been brought in now would apoliticalise the cooperative system. And it would get rid of political interference. Persons of various countries took part in the meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance at Manchester in 1995 and the Manchester declaration was issued wherein some points were adopted. And there is a need to issue the above declaration in India also. The following has been said in its vision, Mission and Definition.

[English]

"A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise."

[Translation]

There is a need to create awareness about it. That's why the following has been mentioned in the cooperative values.

[English]

"Co-operatives are based on the values of self help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility."

[Translation]

We will now see to it that this movement forges ahead through these amendments.

Sir, I want to say one more thing. 14 million people have got employment in this country through the Cooperative system. But, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Through these amendments we want to take care of those who are dalits and backwards, whose upliftment was the motto of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyayji and who are living miserable lives until the sorrows of such people are not addressed to, we will not be putting the system to its full advantage.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to introduce merit-based reservation in the cooperative system. I am not talking about relaxation in qualification but those who become entitled to it should be given its benefit. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have been raising the grievances of the scheduled castes and backward people here in the House. Therefore, I may be given some more time to speak. I had a lot to speak, but I have to obey the order of the party. Therefore, I would like to give my thanks to the Hon. Minister and request that this bill may be passed urgently.

15.27 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (MACHILIPATNAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. The National Co-operative Development Corporation Act was passed in 1962 and amended in 1973 and 1974. The present Amendment Bill was proposed in the year 1995. The cooperative movement has a vital role to play in the economic growth of our country. Each State has cooperative legislations in regard to several types of cooperative societies.

[Shri A. Brahmanaiah]

The main objective of this Act is to extend a helping hand to the State cooperatives functioning in the different sectors of the society, which are facing financial crisis. This amendment has been proposed to fulfil the major demands of the cooperative sector, that is direct lending to the cooperatives by the National Cooperative Development Corporation without Government guarantee.

Sir, I want only five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, I will take only five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, within five minutes I am going to conclude. Besides this, the Act also provides for the inclusion of livestock, fisheries, industrial goods, agro-forestry, sericulture and allied activities to get financial assistance by the NCDC.

According to the another provision of the Act, now the Corporation extends a helping hand to the sick cooperative mills towards re-capitalisation. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, a new component of re-capitalisation of the sick mills was included. It provides for table loan, investment loan, rescheduling of loan, reduction in the rate of interest, penal interest and other penalties, additional margin money and working capital.

In view of the WTO Agreement, so many spinning mills in our country, especially in Andhra Pradesh, have been closed down because of the competition arising out of globalisation. It is a fact that Agro-Cooperative Banks, Cooperative Marketing Committees, Cooperative Warehouses and many other cooperative organisations have helped the agricultural sector a lot.

The aim of the amendment of this Bill is to authorise the Corporation to accept grants, donations from any agency in India or outside the country and to empower the Corporation to waive, in suitable cases, conditions with regard to guarantee by the State Government and the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brahmanaiah, please hear me. It is 3.30 p.m. now. We have to take up the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, I am going to complete it in two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving you time. But please hear me. I have to take the sense of the House. The point is you are now speaking. Your speech will be completed. Then, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will speak. Thereafter, the hon. Minister will reply. We will take up the Private Members' Business after passing the Bill. I think the House agree to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brahmanaiah, please continue your speech.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Lastly, I want to make only two or three suggestions. In order to achieve the goal of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, the existing Cooperatives should be put on a sound track. That is, they should be made financially strong.

The second one is that excessive bureaucratic control and necessary administrative interference should be reduced in the Cooperative Sector.

Thirdly, the Government assistance has to be increased to the Cooperative Societies.

Lastly, the Central Government should take necessary steps to allow the Cooperative Institutions to function on democratic principles in the State.

I hope that this amendment will be implemented in the right direction and a new era will be started in the Cooperative Sector. I support this Bill and I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill has been pending for a long time and much awaited. Two-three minor things have been mentioned in this Bill. The first being that earlier there was a provision to provide loan after obtaining guarantee from the State Government. Now after making this amendment, that guarantee will not be required. If the State Government is no longer responsible, then what would be the fate of those weak cooperative corporations? Shri Rattan Lal Kataria has said that number of those weak cooperatives is more than five lakh. Loans would be provided only to the developed and sound cooperatives. Let the Government assure as to how they will deal with the weak cooperatives. If this strict condition is put before

the State Government, then only the sound cooperatives would be benefited. What provisions would be made for lakhs of members of the weak cooperatives and how they will be benefited by obtaining loan?

We have heard that the Government has given permission to National Cooperative. Where is that policy. That policy should be brought and shown to the House. Let the House know as to what policy has been formulated so that the cooperative sector may function democratically and could be self reliant and this sector could be helped by the Government for strengthening the Cooperative movement and to provide facilities to backward downtrodden and other kinds of people. Cooperative movement is required to be strengthened especially after the W.T.O. agreement so that it could face the ill effects, if any, of W.T.O.

You charge 13.25 percent rate of interest from the National Cooperative Development Corporation and 10.5 percent from the bank, then who would take the loan at such a higher rate of interest. As such you should reduce the rate of interest otherwise people will prefer to obtain loan from R.I.G.F. rather from N.C.D.C. So to what extent would you reduce the rate of interest from the existing 13.25 percent so that the Cooperatives, particularly weaker Cooperatives, could take advantage thereof.

The other point is that when State Governments used to stood as guarantor, then the state Governments had to give share capital to them. But now State Government will not stand as guarantor. The Government has enacted a legislation that State Government would not stand as guarantor, the State Governments do not come in the picture. What provisions the Union Government have made so that the cooperatives may continue to get the share capital. Under the Integrated cooperative Development Programme the proposal of Bhojpur, Chhapra and Sewan districts of Bihar is already pending with them. The I.C.D.P i.e. the Integrated Cooperative Development Programme is being run by the Government. The proposal of three districts is already with them and now provisions have been made for five districts. And now how the eight districts have to be extensively covered, it should be dealt with expeditiously.

My last point is that what provisions should be made by the N.C.D.C. for the rural fourth Centres in Bihar. Let the honourable Minister reply to all these four points – the first one of reducing the rate of interest...The second one being that the State Governments now do not come in between – the share capital be given to the cooperatives and provisions should be made for the weaker cooperatives otherwise only the developed states and developed cooperatives would be able to take the benefit of loan from it and other Cooperatives will not get the benefit. As such provisions should be made so that weaker Cooperatives could also avail all the benefits. The other point is the proposal for three districts. The proposal is already with the Government, eight districts have now to be covered. The Minister may please state what action Government propose to take on all these points.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank Shri Raghuvansh Babu ji. In the very beginning I had said that we will consider and accept your suggestions. So far as the question of rate of interest is concerned, we are charging interest varying from 12.25 per cent to 13 per cent on behalf of N.C.D.C. What you have just referred to as 13 per cent, we have reduced that to 12 per cent. Whatever you have suggested, we have accepted that we take from the bank and we charge only from 1.25 per cent to 1.50 per cent as service charges from N.C.D.C. When we release money from our end, that money goes to the State Cooperative Federation, District Cooperative Bank, Sehkari PACS. And as regards cooperative banks and institutions of the State Governments, they collect their service charge and whatever amount accrues, if you kindly cooperate with the State Governments and arrange to reduce that amount to some extent, then that amount can very easily be passed on to the Sehkari PACS.

You have raised the question of I.C.D.P. On that point I have to state that we are implementing programmes under I.C.D.P. on behalf of N.C.D.C. throughout the country.

We approach the PACS on behalf of I.C.D.P. in each state and we provide money to them wherever their systems are operational. We provide around 3.25 lakh rupees to the PACS in Bihar and this money is given for construction of godowns, for construction of offices and for setting up of bank counters and from their side the D.M. of the State Government act as chairman of our I.C.D.P. All the officers are taken from the Department of Cooperatives of the State Government. We send money from here and the officers of the State Government implement the programmes there. I would request honourable Raghuvansh ji to jointly work with the Bihar Government and so far whatever Programmes under I.C.D.P in respect of Bihar have been submitted which includes the districts of Sitamarhi, Madhubani and some other districts which I do not remember. We have cleared

[Shri Hukumdeo Naryan Yadav]

all the proposals. In those districts we have to complete Programmes under I.C.D.P. within five years out of which almost three years have elapsed but we have so far not been able to achieve 50 percent target even because land is not at all available. So the land should be available somewhere to construct a Godown of 225 metric ton capacity and should also be available in the block headquarters which is not available there at the moment due to which we are facing difficulties. On behalf of I.C.D.P. we want that PACS should be strengthened in the country. Only that Primary Agriculture society can be said to be a real society meant for the farmers which could arrange good fertilizers at cheaper rates for the farmers and the Agro business and Agro Centres that we will set up for testing of soil and for testing of fertilizers and water. The Government of India is implementing programmes in this regard and we want that Agriculture graduates should also join the cooperative sector and the programmes should be implemented extensively so that the farmers could be benefited.

Honourable Kataria ji had raised a question that Scheduled Castes Cooperative society has given 13 crore 16 lakh 67 thousand rupees to the persons serving under that society through N.C.D.C. till the year 2000-2001. We have given Rs. 68 crore 84 lakh in their area. We have invited representatives of 26 Cooperative Societies from the lower sectors throughout the country and honoured them by presenting award worth rupees fifty thousand. This is what we have done on 21st June for the first time in the cooperative movement and in the history of N.C.D.C. and the representatives have been invited from the cooperative societies being run by Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes and by women or the workers. With this a new hope has arisen that we should give more and more encouragement to and boost the cooperative societies working at the lower levels in the country as well as the societies which are run by the weaker sections, farmers, women or workers. So far, we have given loans worth Rs. 6582 crore on behalf of the N.C.D.C. for various sectors and we are working in this direction. You have told that State Governments are weak. Earlier we used to provide loans to the Cooperative society on the basis of surety obtained from the State Government or the Union Government. In that process a lot of difficulties were being faced. We used to release money from our end and the State Governments used to divert those funds. The funds were not reaching to the destination and as such we were facing difficulties in releasing the funds. As such a lot of money had remained undisbursed. We have now streamlined the procedure. If the PACs in the villages are competent and maintain proper records, then on the basis of their turnover, efficiency and trade balance and report submitted by the Auditor we will assess whether the lower level society is self operational, then we will provide loan to that society directly and help that society to progress further and in that way societies run by weaker sections will be benefited more and more.

As regards the multi state Cooperative societies about which Shri Katariaji had raised a question, we have made a lot of provisions about such societies and one of the provisions being that powers of the Registrar be curtailed. We have stipulated three four months period that registration should be made within that period otherwise registration would be made automatically. We want lesser control of the officers, we want democratisation of the cooperative societies, the control of cooperative societies should be in the hands of the public, the public should run the cooperative societies. There should be least interference by the political parties and administration and the public should come forward and only then we will be able to go ahead.

Lastly, I would submit that a task force is already in position. Minister and officers of Department of cooperatives of several States are members of that task force. We have held a lot of deliberations in that regard but we want a uniform pattern of cooperative societies at the National level so that we may not face any difficulty to do any work.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want that there should be coordination amongst the Cooperative societies set up by the central and State Governments. For that reason we had called the meeting but Raghuvansh Babu ji, you know very well that so long as the State Governments do not agree, we cannot impose upon them and as such we are doing a lot of hard work for the same. We want that there should be uniformity in the structure and other things of the Cooperative societies in all the States. But we are observing that different criteria and different Acts have been followed in the formation of cooperative societies by various states. We wish that the old Act should be amended and efforts should be made to give more teeth to the Cooperative societies and the Government should have least interference and there should be uniform Act for the Cooperative societies in all the States of the country and there should be least political and administrative interference. We are making efforts in this direction. The cooperation societies cannot function properly due to the political and administrative interference. We are making efforts to stop the political and administrative interference and to activate the societies

and to make them dynamic. So long as the State Governments do not cooperate in the matter, we will not be able to do anything.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is what I broadly wanted to say. It was pending. It is going to give birth to a new movement. The cooperative societies at the lower level and those run by weaker sections should not remain dependent on the Union Government and the State Government. This is what I want to tell to the members of this House and to the people of the country through this House that we are engaged in the cooperative movement. I call upon the people that they should not worry. We are ready to serve you. If you have the efficiency, you have the skill and the capacity, if the balance is o.k. and the trade management is alright, then you should come to us. If you do not get money from anywhere, then you should contact N.C.D.C. we are ready to provide capital to you for food processing business and for whatever work you like to do, be it domestic industry, cottage industry, handicrafts, handloom, Dairy industry, Pisciculture or any other sector. We need your Cooperation as well as Cooperation of the State Governments. We are with you. We are ready to work with you. As such, I think that this Bill should be passed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Co-operative Development Corporation Act, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda - Not present.

The question is:

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda - Not present.

The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.49 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[Translation]

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA (GWALIOR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 1st August 2002."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills

and Resolutions presented to the House on the 1st August 2002."

The motion was adopted.

15.50 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of paragraph 3)

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

CROP INSURANCE BILL*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I introduce the Bill.

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 2.8.2002

15.52 hrs.

ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION BILL - CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up further consideration of the Motion moved by Dr. V. Saroja.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I thank the Chair and all the Members of this august House for allowing me to continue with the further consideration and passing of the Bill.

The Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome Prevention Bill is to provide for the prevention and control of the spread of Human Immuno Deficiency Virus infection and to provide for specialized medical treatment and social support to and rehabilitation of persons suffering from Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Human Immuno Deficiency Virus causes AIDS which knows no bounds. No one is immune to this disease. No community and no country can escape from this disease. Both the sexes of all ages are vulnerable to this dreaded disease. The incubation period is 8-10 years. In India, the first case was reported during 1985. Till today there is no definite curable treatment available. There is no preventive vaccine available for AIDS. Is it not our duty, concerted effort or our responsibility to find ways and means to put an end to this menace which is affecting the socio-economic development of our society?

It is not the task of the Government alone; it is not the task of the NGOs alone. It is the professional, the media, the country, the community, the family and individual who have to play their role to contain this disease.

Much has been talked not only here in this House or in this country but in the international forum also but what is the achievement of India in this field? I am sorry to note the observation made in the international conference that India has the second largest HIV/AIDS population in the world. We have many other achievements to our credit but we also have a responsibility. There are people like me, who are professionals, sitting in this Parliament. I worked in the Government of Tamil Nadu for 20 years. I have been associating myself not only with the control of the spread of this disease but also with the diagnosis of this disease, which poses a great problem for the medical community.

My Bill focuses specifically on controlling the potential spread of this infection, mode of infection and its treatment. It is necessary to take effective measures to prevent the spread of this disease by detecting the persons infected, preventing transmission by them to others and providing counselling, health education, social support and rehabilitation.

The hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare is here. May I ask him whether is it not possible to attain our goal with a well-funded politically-supported comprehensive programme tc save our four million people who are infected with AIDS? Is it not a fact that US-AID has allocated US $ 91.5 million for the next five years to contain this disease in India? I would request the hon. Minister to come out with a comprehensive programme. How are we going to utilise this fund? How are we going to monitor the funding mechanism? What would be the result? Would there be any critical evaluation and monitoring at any given point of time? Is it not a fact that after attaining Independence, we have controlled many communicable and non-communicable diseases like leprosy? Recently, in a single day, under the Pulse Polio Programme, twelve million to thirteen million children were covered in the whole of India. Is it not a fact that we have controlled leprosy? Everything is possible within a limited time, with the manpower that is available with us, with our eminent medical scientists. Science and technology has improved manifold in India. We are second to none in manpower. So, why are we not able to contain this disease? I would request the hon. Minister, in his reply, to come out with his proposals for a concerted effort. Every district, every community and every panchayat should have a monitoring system.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, through this august House, I appeal to the hundred million population of this great nation one thing. They should contribute their efforts, their suggestions, their commitments and their responsibilities to take care of these four million population which are affected with HIV/AIDS. My special appeal to the medicos and para-medical staff of this country is that they should play their role to contain this disease with the goal that by 2005, there should be no fresh cases reported in the country.

Sir, with these few words, I request the hon. Members to give their valuable suggestions and recommendations.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Madam Saroja for broaching a very significant issue. I could explain it as the challenge of the century.

Finance is my professional subject and AIDS and HIV are my social commitments. When Shrimati Saroja ji was speaking, I was trying to recollect the news headings appeared in different newspapers or the discussions that take place on this issue. A news item appeared in a newspaper under the caption, "HIV Badhit Balkana Sara Pravesh Nakarala" published from Hyderabad which is known as cyber city. India is still called a developing country. We deem out culture, society and civilization refined. In this country, four children who have been detected as H.I.V. positive were expelled from the school.

We undertook a campaign in Mumbai. We organised a poster competition in schools and colleges in which very imaginative and sensitive posters and concepts emerged. There was a poster which was given the first award. In the poster, an arrow has been shown indicating towards a pregnant woman where under there was a caption," what is my fault." Both woman and the yet to be born child have been detected as HIV positive. This poster was like any other posters but its caption was very moving "That woman asks as to what her fault is". That child is also asking as to what his fault is. There is no certainty as to which year or month or on which date the child will be born but the date or time period of his death is certain. The child who has been detected as HIV positive will live for 2-4 years. therefore, he is asking as to what his fault is.

Several other concepts also emerged in the poster campaign. There was a poster,

[English]

"only entry, no exit, "It is one way street."

[Translation]

You could have been HIV positive but you could never become HIV negative in whole life.

[English]

"Once trapped, there is no way out. Avoid AIDS". Third poster was." Do not get tempted. It leads to AIDS."

[Translation]

There was a poster with the Marathi caption "Shatinachi Maja Ayushachi Saja." That means, Sexual pleasure for a moment but punishment forever for you and your family.

[English]

You may be knowing that 86 per cent HIV cases in India in most of the States are due to sex. Yes, there are

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

some parts of the country, may be North-East States or may be some parts of South Mumbai.

[Translation]

The AIDS is caused due to reuse of Syringe for drug injection. More or less 20 per cent cases occur due to other reasons. After assuming the post of minister, the first public function attended by the hon'ble Minister was a conference on HIV positive in Barcelona. An Indian delegation was sitting in a room there. Some HIV positive patients were also there.

[English]

We want medicine, we want drug.

[Translation]

We want to live. They included four women also. A woman among them asked with agony whether the Government and the society would not give them the right to live and whether they would not get the medicines.

[English]

Yes, we do not have the resources. With limited resources, we have to manage the country and the society.

[Translation]

But what answer we could give to that woman. I got involved in the debate that turned out to be a little heated one. I asked her as to why the society should bear the sins committed by her. One officer was also present there. He said that he held good opinion about me. I replied in affirmation.

[English]

Do you know, my sister, who was a nurse in a Government hospital, died at the age of 27, and she died due to HIV/AIDS?

[Translation]

He stated that his sister had not married. She got infected while treating the patients in the hospital. He asked me saying Kirit Bhai the society must understand their agony because they are suffering due to the society. Neither I nor Shrimati Soraja Devi nor Health Minister supports those who are taking a moral high ground on this issue. The flaw is their in the social system which has been continuing for last five thousand years.

[English]

We cannot ignore it also, Sir. One of my friends who is an expert in HIV/AIDS, Dr. Subhash Hiara, once mentioned to me that five years ago when we conducted a study, AIDS in India was first generation. By and large, only males were affected.

[Translation]

But he told that they conducted a NATO sponsored study in the year 2000-2001.

[English]

Now we have entered into the second phase.

[Translation]

Till Yesterday, only males were affected. Today, they have given it to their women who in turn have given it to their children.

[English]

This is a hard fact. I was also ignorant of this particular fact.

[Translation]

Will the society not ponder over it? I could tell such innumerable stories. When our N.G.O. had organised a 6 months sport festive in Mumbai, the then Governor of Maharashtra Shri P.C. Alexender had stated that he would certainly attend the function.

[English]

He said "You are doing wonderful job. You must devote this festival to HIV/AIDS. You must use this platform to create awareness."

[Translation]

One lakh people were supposed to take part in that festival.

[English]

At that time I was not convinced.

[Translation]

In the year 1998-99, I attended the marriage of the son of a woman chief of the J.J. Colony and belonging to our party and after a little over a year I came to know that

boy had died. When I went to their home, I was introduced to the bride. She was hardly 21-22 years old. She had a month old baby and when I enquired that the boy had died of H.I.V./AIDS.

[English]

I was not able to think.

[Translation]

What will happen to the baby. That boy must have passed on the HIV to his wife as well as to his newly born baby and the fate of the baby is unknown and uncertain now.

I also heard the second case. Like wise, out of our activists approached me and said that laboratory people were stating wrong things. When I enquired as to what the matter was then, he said that my wife is said to be HIV positive. He again said that the laboratory people are stating a wrong thing. I asked him to get her checked in some other lab.

For next six months, he did not turn up again? When the second laboratory report came, the lady was found HIV positive.

[English]

Yes, the lady was having HIV-AIDS.

[Translation]

Though, that family hails from Bihar where she must have been home bound and must have also not stepped out of her home Six month before, she died. Who transmitted H.I.V. to her? Today, there are around 40 lakh HIV positive people in the country. This issue is debated upon. Several politician, bureaucrats, medical professionals and media persons, colleagues do talk on this issue. When people suffer from some curable diseases, then the treatment is available. But when a person suffer from AIDS then the whole family is wiped out. The figures of Mumbai in this regard would certainly startle you.

[English]

Mumbai is the financial capital of India. What is the status of Mumbai today?

[Translation]

Mumbai is fast heading to become the AIDS capital of India.

[English]

The total number of cases of deaths in Mumbai during three years of 1988, 1989 and 1990, on an average, were 75,000 per year. The number of those who were in the age group of 15 to 45 years and who died were, on an average was 17,000.

[Translation]

Share with me figure of last three years.

[English]

In the three years of 1998, 1999 and 2000 the total number of deaths were 85,000, 82,000 and 87,000 respectively and the figures of those in the age group of 15 to 45 years for the same period are 27,000, 26,500 and 27,400 respectively.

[Translation]

The total number of cases of deaths were 75000 per year and this figure rose to 87,700 with an increase of 12500 including 10500 cases of young deaths.

[English]

What does it mean?

[Translation]

This is the situation in Mumbai and crores of people must be dying in the country.

[English]

Young death is about 18.5 lakhs.

[Translation]

Health facilities are available in Mumbai. Here, the number of youths is more because they come here for jobs.

[English]

What is the situation, what are the facts, figures and statistics?

[Translation]

One out of three cases of deaths in Mumbai is of a youth.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

Is it not alarming and is it not challenging? This is a challenge to the Century.

[Translation]

I am presenting the figures. One third cases of deaths are that of youths. This situation must have its reflection on the country's economy. You must ponder over such a situation. The health Minister of Andhra Pradesh has given the figures relating to his State. He told that as many as 16 lakh HIV positive children are born in the State every year. HIV+ mothers give birth to these children.

[English]

They have found 2.02 per cent of them to be HIV positive, which means, 32,000 people are HIV positive. Which means 32,000 people are HIV positive.

[Translation]

One third of these 32000 children can be innocent. If the mother is HIV positive then the father will certainly be HIV positive. That means, in coming five to ten years, both mother and father are to die and the child will become the orphan. That also means, 32000 orphan children are taking births in Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

Mumbai is not different. You go to Mumbai, you go to Sholapur, you go to Pune and you go to Sangli. I was shocked that one of the best-managed blood banks not only in Maharashtra, but also in India. I had gone to Pune and Sholapur a few days back. It was shocking.

[Translation]

I can give you the figures of these places which are starling. Blood is also collected in various camps. Social welfare centres, Rotary club etc. collect the blood where only healthy persons go to donate blood. I would like to submit the details of blood collection for the year 1998-1999.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya, you have avery good knowledge and a very good experience on this subject. However, there is a limitation of time, which you may kindly keep in mind.

[Translation]

You please keep in mind the time limit. You are delivering a good speech. I am not stopping you, but please keep in mind the time factor.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, is there any time limit for private Members Bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two hours allotted for this Bill.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: No Bill gets completed in two hours period. I have also tried to know the details about it and there is no time limit prescribed as such.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I also know the time allotted is two hours only. I have not stopped you. But please keep the time factor in mind. Six Members from BJP and four Members from the Congress Party are there to speak. There are other Members as well. From B.J.P side, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Shri Anadi Sahu are to speak.

[English]

I am only requesting you to keep the time limit in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, no time limit is followed during Private Member's Business. The total blood collection in Sholapur Blood bank is 6550 bottles and there in....

[English]

HIV detection bottles are 193. It is three per cent. This is considered to be a health blood bank.

[Translation]

In case, the blood bank is located in a particular locality then the HIV positive bottles could be three-four percent. What I want to say is that the issue is real. We will have to think as to how to get rid of this disease.

[English]

May not be now and here.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please suggest as to how it would be removed.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon'ble Raghuvansh Babu ji, there are still politicians, MLAs, MPs, Ministers, Senior IASs, Executives who deny to accept the reality.

[English]

This is a fact. What is needed is the political determination. We have to go from denial to determination.

[Translation]

I stated facts because even today we are not aware of HIV, AIDS. How many politicians, MLAs, Municipal Councillors are there who speak on AIDS in a national convention or deliberate upon it in Working Committees.

[English]

What is needed is the determination. Let us talk about AIDS.

[Translation]

We deliberate upon cold, polio, typhoid and Kala Azar but do not discuss AIDS. Even family members do not talk with candour amongst themselves.

[English]

Let us talk about AIDS. Let us accept the fact. This is a challenge to India. India is after Africa.

[Translation]

If we do not awaken now, after ten years we shall not have time.

[English]

The first thing that is required is political activism.

[Translation]

I urge upon even the Minister to convene a meeting of the government officials.

[English]

The first thing is that we all have to come together. Let us fight HIV positive. Let us not leave men to fight with AIDS.

[Translation]

But what is happening today is completely contrary.

[English]

We started fighting with men, women and children who are suffering from AIDS. Let us fight against AIDS itself. What is needed is positive thinking.

[Translation]

What is needed is political commitment. We should go in our areas and talk about it with people. The President of Africa deliberates upon this topic during his campaign because 60 per cent urban folks are HIV positive there. Entire generation has been wiped-out. That is why political commitment is required.

[English]

Then comes social commitment and religious involvement.

[Translation]

Today, we should try to keep morality and reality apart, we will have to tell our people that

[English]

Prevention is the only way. There is no cure available. Let us tell people that they should behave themselves and they should be careful.

[Translation]

Simultaneously we also have to think.

[English]

Is it a Stigma or is it because of ignorance?

[Translation]

It is a fact that private doctors do not admit HIV positive patients in their hospitals.

[English]

We would have to create an atmosphere whereby the medical professionals also get involved into it.

[Translation]

Today, Thailand has successfully controlled AIDS. The religious preachers got involved there. We should approach our religious preachers, sages and saints for their benevolent intervention. There was a good Executive Officer in Jammu Kashmir who urged upon a Muslim priest to intervene in the issue on AIDS. This way he involved the Muslims priest. I would say that we did an experiment and NACO cooperated with us. There is a religious festival called Acharya Ekadashi celebrated pompously in Pandharpur, Maharashtra wherein the State Chief Minister initiates the pooja. We went there for

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

propaganda and to inform the people correctly with the objective of creating awareness among them regarding AIDS.

[English]

First I was thinking that there will be reaction.

[Translation]

I had taken leave from here and thought people would question me what I was doing.

[English]

It was not like that.

[Translation]

People were sticking pamphlets, listening to cassettes and wanted to talk about it, they were becoming aware. They want to understand.

[English]

It may be ignorance.

[Translation]

They should be encouraged. I requested the Minister of Health and NACO that next year Mahakumbh fair was taking place in Nasik. 75 lakh devotees will participate therein.

[English]

I am prepared to take the responsibility.

[Translation]

We will put a health camp in this regard. We will make propaganda of HIV there because the people are anguished. We tried but no insurance company is prepared to come forward. We convinced them as to what was the fault of the children of HIV positive parents but Life Insurance Company is not prepared to cover them under mediclaim policy, the society is not ready to lend a helping hand. Then I tried and was successful in convincing National Insurance Company for doing medical health policy of 100 children.

[English]

These are the things.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of my colleagues said that people tally horoscopes in fixing the matches for boys and girls, cannot we match even their blood groups before fixing marriage.

[English]

Can we not think ..... if it is an arranged marriage.....

[Translation]

We can match blood groups, check them. It can be found out if the boy has not gone astray some where in the past.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya, You have taken half an hour.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman Sir, I will conclude in five minutes. Can't we generate a ray of hope in the life of a despaired youth? Through you I would like to tell that several pharmaceutical companies of the country like Cipla, Arvindo etc. are charging Rs. 55 thousand for one month dose abroad. Its cost was Rs. five and a half thousand one and a half years back in the country. I urged upon the Minister of Finance and he slashed down 16 percent excise duty and the drug's cost came to two and a half thousand. Can't we request the State Governments to waive 8 or 12 percent sales tax and 4 to 8 per cent octroi duty. We spend one to two thousand rupees every month if we are suffering from blood pressure. If we succeed in arranging the medicine for AIDS for Rs. one thousand on them then 5 to 8 years life span can be increased.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to 1947 consensus the life span of an individual was 39 years which has gone up to 63.4 years as per 2001 consensus. We should try to carry it upwards. It may not happen that AIDS may push us back. I would like to make another submission in the end. Which should include treatment of mother to child et al.

Lastly, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that it is time we evaluate the achievements of NACO system and the State AIDS society created by us in the last five years and whether our experiment has been a success or some improvements are likely to be made. If there are any lapses they should be removed.

If there is a will there is away. Thailand and Western

countries have shown it. Ministry of Health has declared a policy paper that it would make the country polio free by the year 2005.

[English]

If there is a will, there is away.

[Translation]

Our Government has fixed the target of no new infection till the year 2007. We have to fulfil this dream. We will have to go ahead, prepare an environment wherein everybody should pledge - let us jointly make efforts to make India free from AIDS.

16.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Tenth Schedule)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Banatwalla, when I called your name, you were not present in the House. As you are present now, I am allowing you.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Thank you, 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 G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.32½ hrs.

PREVENTION OF DERELICTION OF DUTY BY PUBLIC FUNCTIONARY OR PUBLIC SERVANT (IN COMMUNAL RIOTS, OF CRIME OF GENOCIDE AND OF CONTEMPTUOUS IMPUTATIONS) BILL*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of, and for dealing with, dereliction of duty by public functionary or public servant in communal riots, of the crime of genocide and of contemptuous imputations and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of, and for dealing with, dereliction of duty by public functionary or public servant in communal riots, of the crime of genocide and of contemptuous imputations and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.33 hrs.

ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION BILL - CONTD.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I must congratulate Dr. V. Saroja for introducing this Bill. The content of this Bill is most relevant in the context of our present society.

Further, I must also congratulate our new Health Minister and I wish him brilliant success. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): One day hon. Minister, while you were absent, we raised hue and cry over this issue, that is why today you have come prepared.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): I had gone on business.

DR. RAGHUVNASH PRASAD SINGH: People want to see you in the House.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, the invocation of the four words "AIDS" by deciphering Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome is sufficient enough to send a chill down the spine.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II-Section 2, dated 2.8.2002.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

16.34 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

AIDS, as is generally perceived is tantamount to a death warrant. AIDS has assumed a global dimension. Now, AIDS is becoming a global pandemic. No country in the world - whatever high or mighty, may be rich or poor - is immune to that dreaded disease.

Can you imagine that every hour of the day, more than 600 people are being infected with this dreaded virus and that every hour 60 people are being extinct from the map of the world? The international body is contemplating over this menace for long. As we know, it was first detected 21 years ago, and that this dreaded virus was originated in Africa. But now, it has spread to the length and breadth of this Planet. In India, it was first detected in the year 1986 in the red-light areas of Mumbai and Chennai. It was very much confined at that time to the sexual workers. But now this virus has penetrated into all walks of life, and even the rural communities. India is now gradually becoming the epi-centre of AIDS epidemic. More than 3.97 million persons have already been infected with HIV. However, due to our illiteracy, due to social stigma and discrimination against AIDS-infected persons, they never want to disclose the disease before the public view. Therefore, we must first adopt the policy to discourage discrimination and encourage exposition and removal of the veil of secrecy that is being willy-nilly maintained by those HIV-infected persons.

Sir, we, the general people, are very much apprehensive of AIDS because we are under the impression that if we get in contact with any AIDS patient, then, inevitably we will be smacking and kissing of death. Out of this fear, our society always provokes discrimination against the HIV patient. Sir, we have to develop awareness campaign to such an extent that we can be mentally prepared and psychologically equipped to confront the century's dreaded onslaught.

Sir, I am in very much agreement with my distinguished colleague, Shri Kirit Somaiya that it is the challenge of this century. It is a global challenge. It is a global phenomena and we have to act together to fight it out. We have to fight it out globally. Sir, our parliamentarians have already taken initiative to explore ideas and ways and means to fight the situation. In Delhi Declaration, the parliamentarians committed themselves towards 'the world without AIDS'. We pledged to provide leadership and take concrete action to address the complexities and challenges presented by the epidemic. Building on the UN Declaration on Commitment of HIV-AIDS and other international, regional, and national agreements, we pledged, as members of a global community, to strive for equitable distribution of essential resources needed to control this epidemic and to enhance the quality of life of the people living with HIV-AIDS.

Sir, in the 14th Conference held at Barcelona, leaders have expressed their concern that if AIDS is not checked in time, then between 2000 and 2020, more than 46 million people will be perished from the world. But my question is that what we have to do. We cannot remain a mere spectator and only observe the menace.

Sir, I request the Government to follow the example of all those countries in the world who have already successfully confronted the AIDS population, have contained the spread and have checked it successfully. Kindly see the example of Brazil.

Brazil is notoriously recognised as a country of AIDS population. But by sheer endeavour, by political will and committed alliance between the Government and the public, Brazil has been able to contain the spread of AIDS.

Now, the question is how it has been possible. In Brazil, the AIDS patients are freely being distributed the required anti-retroviral drugs and the Govt. has taken up a public health programme. In Brazil, Presidential decree has been issued so that the HIV infected people would get Government bonanza and free anti-retroviral drugs as a consequence of which now, AIDS has been controlled and prevalence of AIDS has been reduced to that country.

Sir, India has a vast population. We have already crossed the mark of one billion and here, the prevalence of AIDS is only 0.7 per cent. But we should not be complacent of the minimum prevalence rate of HIV because if 0.7 per cent is translated into population then it comes out that India is now holding the second largest population of AIDS only next to South Africa. As far as HIV positive patients are concerned, India ranks second after Thailand. Therefore, like the immunisation programme for malaria and tuberculosis, Government should come out with a strategy so that AIDS affected people can have the public health services. Sir, right to access to treatment is regarded as a human right. Accordingly, reduction of prevalence of diseases of any kind is incumbent upon the Government.

So, I think both these aspects are to be converged in such a manner that HIV people may have the access

to public health facilities. I know that it will incur a huge expenditure as far as the Government is concerned. But what Brazil can do, can we not do? Brazil is also a third-world country. Therefore, we should follow the example of Brazil.

It has been estimated that in a country where growth of AIDS is more than 20 per cent, it will automatically affect the growth of economy by a margin of 2.6 per cent. Therefore, the growth of AIDS population will affect the growth of our economy also. All HIV patients should not be treated as AIDS patients. There are various ways of transmission of AIDS in India. 75 per cent AIDS is transmitted through hetero-sexual contact, through promiscuity; 8 per cent of HIV is being infected through blood transfusion and 8 per cent through drug abuse. So, all the HIV positive patients cannot be blown into AIDS patients provided they are being given preventive treatment. Every year, one lakh women in India, who are tested HIV positive, are giving birth to children. But if timely intervention measures can be assured, then transmission of HIV to their children can be prevented. This is called Paediatric AIDS. So, such intervention measures must be introduced in India liberally. We should adopt a liberal policy insofar as distribution of drugs and access to health facilities are concerned.

Sir, we may easily adopt the KAP method - Knowledge, Attitude and Practice method. People are to be educated. They should be aware that by dint of knowledge, AIDS and HIV can be controlled. First, we have to create confidence that we can fight it out. We should not be pessimistic in our approach. In the world, no country is immune to this dreaded virus. Even the industrialised countries like the Western Europe and America have AIDS patients. 1.5 million people have been infected with this disease in Western Europe and America also.

Sir, the problem here is that the treatment of HIV and AIDS is too much expensive. The poor people and even middle class people cannot afford the expense of HIV treatment. However, it is paradoxical to note that there are many pharmaceutical industries in India which are supplying drugs to the Third World countries at a cheaper rate. But this Government is still reluctant to take any supply from those indigenous companies. Earlier, the medicines for treatment of AIDS were to be imported, but now there are companies which are well equipped to deliver the required drugs to our country.

Sir, I would just like to quote some extracts from a magazine. It says:

> "There are, two Indian companies Cipla and Hetero already manufacturing several anti-retrovirus drugs and the third (Ranbaxy) is all set to do so. Cipla has offered to sell to the Government of India the three-drug combination for US $ 600 (less than Rs. 30,000) per person per year. Both Cipla and Hetero have stated that they would offer the three-drug combination to *Medicines sans Frontiers* at about US $ 350 (Rs. 16,000) provided MSF gave the drugs free to patients in Africa. We, in India, must vigorously pursue this issue with both the companies. If a credible third party will be given this offer under the same conditions, then Indian patients could get treatment at low cost of about Rs. 1,300 per month."

I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what is the ratio of HIV patients turning into full-blown AIDS patients in India and whether our budget can afford that expenditure. What is the percentage of HIV patients turning into AIDS patients and what would be the cost of providing drugs to those patients? How much sum has the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare earmarked to eradicate or to control the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in India?

Sir, we know that it is a great challenge to the humankind. It is a challenge to the 21st Century, but we have to accept the reality and we have to confront the menace by iron will and blood. We cannot evade the situation and we cannot escape the ground reality.

17.00 hrs.

Therefore, I would urge upon this Government to take all the necessary action. You may rest assure that the entire country would stand by you in this endeavour. We all are here for extending our wholehearted cooperation to you so that under your leadership India could get rid of the menace of AIDS.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I stand here to speak on the Bill presented by Dr. Saroja, I must congratulate her. She is an eminent gynaecologist of Chennai. She has very thoughtfully drafted this Bill itself. She has not painted a dreaded picture or a gloomy picture of AIDS. But she has rather tried to tell as to what is to be done in view of the prevailing situation. I for one would not like to paint a gloomy picture about AIDS because by constantly dinning into the ears of the people that 'AIDS is bad, AIDS is bad, AIDS is bad, it is a dreaded disease', we create a fear psychosis or phobia in the minds of the people which is not necessary at all.

In this connection, kindly pardon my quoting a

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Sanskrit verse from the *Brahdaranyaka Upanishada*. I would not quote the entire verse. I would quote four of the 11 *Kandikas*. In the fourth *Brahim* of *Brahdaranyaka Upanishada*, the first one is:

[Translation]

Sparshanan Tavagya Kahaynan Evam.

[English]

The entire fact regarding touch is in the skin itself

[Translaiton]

Sarveshang Gandhanang Nashike.

[English]

Smell, good or bad or indifferent, is centred around the nose.

[Translation]

Sarveshang Karmanam Hasta Ekanam Ev.

[English]

Work has to be done with both hands.

The last one but not least is:

[Translation]

Sarveshang Anandnang Upasthang Ekanam Ev.

[English]

In Sanskrit, its English translation is: 'the procreative organs'.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'Sarveshang Rogam Nidanam Kupitam.'

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Correct. I am not going into that. That is why I said that out of the 11 *Kandikas*, I am only telling the fourth. So, the best type of entertainment and happiness comes from the procreative organs. We should not paint a gloomy picture because it would doom people.

Take the case of the Bible. I do not remember whether Luke or Mathew had said that Jesus Christ went to the lepers' colony and cured the people suffering from leprosy. It was a dreaded disease. Now it is not.

[Translation]

Even nowadays in villages they would curse be leper.

[English]

For a woman, they say, 'Be a barren lady'. But now barrenness is not a stigma. Even leprosy is not being taken as a stigma. It is being cured. The first and the foremost thing is that how we should destigmatise the AIDS. That is the most important thing. Let us try to destigmatise AIDS itself instead of dinning into the minds of young children, youth and the old people that AIDS is bad, AIDS is bad, and they should abstain from having sex and all these things.

I am thankful to Dr. Saroja because she has not advocated abstinence. She has admitted that there are commercial sex activities in this country. Whenever there is a commercial sex activity, she has said: "Let condoms be used." Sexually transmitted infections or reproductive tract infections have been there. These will always be there. We have been able to cure syphilis and gonorrhoea by finding out a therapy for it. Now, why should not think of finding out a therapy? Why do we go on giving statistics that about 3.5 million have been suffering in India, about four million people have been suffering in South Africa, Thailand is coming up very fast, and all these things?

Why not think of a way out? I am not going into those details. I am saying why not find out a therapy and a surveillance part of it?

You will kindly agree with me, very thoughtfully, the National Health Policy, 2002 has been drafted by the NDA Government and they have thought of the surveillance part of it. On page 16, it has been indicated: "The absence of an efficient disease surveillance network is a major handicap in providing a prompt and cost effective health care System." The efficient disease surveillance network set up for Polio, HIV-AIDS has demonstrated the enormous value of such a public health instrument. So, disease surveillance is most important and see, Dr. Saroja, being a Gynaecologist has put it in part 3 of her Bill. The most important is disease surveillance.

We should find out. We have been able to check Polio, we have been able to cure leprosy, why have we not been able to cure AIDS? Why not we think of a formulation, think of a therapy for curing AIDS instead of saying it is bad, there should be abstinence? Then we have lots of advertisements in the newspapers: "Do not have sex with this thing, do not do that thing and all those things." Why prevent an ordinary human being from having a little bit of enjoyment in his life? Take the case of poor people. What is the enjoyment they have, what is the entertainment they have? By giving advertisements of this type, we are creating a problem for the society. As I said, let there be some therapy for it.

I am happy that the hon. Minister had attended a meeting at Barcelona and they have discussed the therapy question itself. Now, when they thought of the therapy and the vaccine itself, they found that there are ten

strains of HIV. How to cope up with it? If one strain is subdued or checked, the other nine strains may come up. A very interesting research work has been done where it has been found that HIV archives itself inside the special cell, known as Memory Cell. In the immune system, there is a Memory Cell and it gets embedded in it and Memory Cells could live for 70 years. The HIV disease itself can emerge at any given point of time, without giving any warning to the human being or to the anatomical system. It is better that more money should be spent on finding out the therapy. As I said, formulation is more important than saying that abstain, than saying that it is bad.

Now, we are not saying that Leprosy is bad. Things are changing, society has been changing. It is a fast society we are going into. In the 21st Century, we have gone into a very fast society and in a fast society, we must find out remedy in a faster manner. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to cope up with different types of activities. The Government of India has done one thing of making a surveillance work and there is immediate necessity of provision of anti-retroviral treatment to any citizen who needs it. That is what she has indicated here. Supposing it has been detected and he needs it, immediately Government should formulate an action plan to get into the anti-retroviral treatment immediately. The National Population Policy has also gone into it. The National Population Policy has a number of operational strategies for it. These operational strategies could be better utilised so far as sexually transmitted infections, reproductive track infections, or HIV-AIDS infections are concerned, more money should come on this aspect, rather than giving lots of publicity to this.

I had attended one meeting sponsored by the UNO about two years back. The manner in which a gloomy picture was painted, I have disassociated myself from any type of symposia or meeting relating 10 AIDS because that leaves a very bad taste and leaves a very bad memory to us.

I would urge that this Government should give more money for research work when we are discussing this Bill itself. As Shri Adhir Chowdhary was speaking about it, it costs about Rs.45 a day to give treatment to an AIDS patient. There is a pill-fatigue because a number of pills are being given. Think of giving some medicines so that a person can be cured immediately. The fear has come. In Sanskrit there is a saying:

[Translation]

The entire fact regarding touch is in Smell, good or bad is centred around the nose. Work has to be done with both the hands. Best type of pleasure can be had from the procreative organs.

[English]

The danger has come. Once the danger has come, try to cure it and try to put away instead of saying that danger is coming. Yes, the danger has come. Now you must find out an obstacle, a hurdle so that the danger does not come to you and create problem for you. That is what required. At this moment, I am not going into the other details.

Shri Kirit Somaiya elaborately discussed AIDS. But, as I said, I would not paint a gloomy picture. It is necessary that we must find ways and means of controlling it. In this Bill itself, which she has brought, she has brought one good thing, that is, medical termination of pregnancy. She has very clearly indicated to provide for medical termination of pregnancy so far as pregnant women AIDS patients are concerned.

I would request the Government to go through the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which is pending in the Rajya Sabha. It has been indicated that there will be medical termination of pregnancy so far as mentally ill persons are concerned. Even this is time now to indicate in the Statute that there should be medical termination of pregnancy so far as pregnant women AIDS patients are concerned. She has indicated a way for it.

Although it may not be liked by my hon. colleagues, I would go a little further. In case of necessity, there should be euthanasia. Why do you allow a person to suffer for a longer period? Why not go in for euthanasia? Let there be termination of *life. Jhathas saki sakithrok mirthyut.* Once you have come, once you are born, you are bound to die. If there is no immunity, there is no cure for it. It is better that there should be a mercy killing of these persons concerned.

With these words, I would say that she has made it a pathfinder, a torchbearer for these things to find out what should be done in order to control this disease. I am not going into the details of the Bill itself. It is because she has thoughtfully prepared the Bill itself to make us conscious as to what type of surveillance is required, what type of therapy is required and what type of people, the designated authorities, should be there to control the spread of AIDS, which is taking place, and other ancillary matters, which would come up.

I would suggest that the Government should become aware of it and take necessary steps.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Hon. Chairman, I thank you very much for this opportunity. At the very outset, I commend the work that Dr. Saroja has put in to prepare this Bill. I very sincerely and earnestly compliment her for having introduced this Bill, and the House has now taken up this Bill for consideration.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

As my hon. colleague on the other side has just spoken, I faced the sunny side of life. So I do not want to give a very gloomy picture about the whole thing. The first incidence of this very severe disease, which ends up in death, was detected only 15 years ago. I am not going to give the statistics about the whole thing. When compared to the total population of our country, the number of persons inflicted by this disease is very small. It is insignificant.

Within the last 15 years, since its first identification, it has gone up to an enormous spread and that is the point we have to take care of.

Dr. V. Saroja has prepared this Bill in a very comprehensive manner. I am no person to judge it because I am only a layperson as far as the health sector is concerned. I am a Professor of History whereas she is a Gynaecologist who has been practising for a long time though she has now taken up the larger cause of the people. Now, in this Bill, she has given significance and more importance to prevention and control. Of course, we have to control the fast spread of this challenge of the century, as was put by hon. Members who spoke earlier. By the end of this decade of the new country, we must be able to control further growth or spread of this disease. I think, India can achieve that because we have brilliant scientists though there is drain brain. The Government can make use of the capabilities of these scientists and doctors available within the country.

As the hon. Member who spoke earlier said, we must try to find out a formula for preventing the disease. If we are in a position to control or check the further spread of this disease, we would be very lucky to eradicate it. I still remember, when I was a child, small pox was a dreaded disease. Similarly the sexually-transmitted diseases were also regarded as a curse. That was because of the ignorance of the people but now we know that small pox has been eradicated from the country. Though there are some incidents of malaria, malaria has also been eradicated. Those were diseases, which were once upon a time thought of as never going to disappear from our land. So, I am still hopeful that with a concerted effort on our part and with action in unison from the representatives of the people, the Government, the NGOs, the bureaucrats and everybody else put together, we would be able to prevent the spread of this disease and put an end to this uninvited challenge of the century.

I would like to bring to the notice of this House that the society is inflicting a kind of an ostracism on the people afflicted by this disease. The picture coming before the people afflicted by this disease is very alarming. I do agree with the hon. Member who spoke earlier that such a gloomy picture leads to a fear psychosis in the minds of the people. So, we have to imagine the condition of the people afflicted by this disease.

17.19 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

When they are ostracised by their own kith and kin, their life becomes very miserable. They know that their lives are going to end. So, we must give them a way to have happiness in their short life, which they are going to end, on this Earth. Therefore, I feel that along with medical surveillance, rehabilitation and relief, both physical and mental relief should be provided to these unlucky people afflicted by this disease. For this, awareness programmes of very vital importance. The medical aspect of the Bill has been already framed in a very detailed manner. So, I am not going into the various clauses of this Bill. But awareness programmes have a very significant place in our effort to stop the spread of this disease.

Another point I would like to emphasise is that in the present scenario of privatisation and liberalisation - I am not blaming any system or establishment - the Union Government as well as the State Governments are actually withdrawing from the social service sector of which health and family welfare are of immense importance. If the Union Government and the State Governments withdraw from this sector, then who will take care of the poor people who are afflicted by this disease?

It is already mentioned by other hon. Members that the treatment is very costly. Even for the middle class people, as the medicine is very costly, they would rather think in terms of dying at the earliest rather than having the proper treatment. We can just imagine the conditions of the poor people who form the largest majority of the total population. So, the Union Government and also the respective State Governments should take care of the treatment of the HIV positive patients.

Sir, even in my Kerala State the condition is very bad. The Health Secretary is in doldrums. Kerala is one of the States where the health indices are actually taken to be a model for the countries at the international level also. But, there, we have even cases where the persons who are supposed to be afflicted, not even detected but suspected or supposed to be afflicted by HIV positive, are beaten to death. So, some amount of kindness should be shown to them and that will not come automatically. A proper awareness programme should be designed at the Government level and it should be carried out on a very large scale. I am sure, cultural programmes, street dramas

and the awareness campaign through the electronic media will be very effective because the electronic media is becoming very popular in the far-flung areas. If people do not have television in their houses - in Kerala that is our experience–they go to the neighbouring houses and then see the television programmes. If the Government of India launches such an elaborate programme to give a very elabora awareness programme for the benefit of the people. then that would be very effective. The fear psychosis should be removed from the people through the awareness programme because that is more harmful than the disease itself. Even a person next to kin is actually isolating or ostracising the person afflicted by the disease. This awareness programme will actually help people to get rid of their fear and then they will think in positive manner and try to help the afflicted persons.

Then, another suggestion I would like to submit is health camps for surveillance purpose should be organised. Of course, health camps will be very popular. A number of NGOs are even now conducting eye camps and health camps for detecting and treating various other diseases. Not merely for the HIV patients, but for the general public, health camps should be conducted and there, it can be tested and detected whether a person is actually having HIV or not.

Sir, I wanted to congratulate the hon. Minister because he has already started on this line. We got a communication a few days ago from the hon. Minister, exclusively dealing with this dangerous disease and in that communication, it is mentioned that TB and HIV are co-infectious. So, this is posing a greater danger. Tuberculosis itself is a disease, which has to be treated, but it takes a lot of time and the medicine is also very costly.

Along with that, if the person is afflicted by HIV, then the situation will be very complicated and it will not be possible to control it as we expect.

Considering all these points, the responsibility of the union Government is very high. One positive point is that the hon. Minister has decided to take care of this particular aspect. That is a very healthy and good sign. Of course, if we all come together in unison and take up this challenge of the century, then, I think, there will not be anything which will prevent us from success.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Acquired Immunno Deffiency Syndrom (AIDS) Prevention Bill, 2000 brought forward by Dr. V. Saroja. In fact, as has been stated just now, AIDS is a horrible disease which may pose a great threat to the whole world. According to WHO, about five to ten million people in the whole world are HIV infected. At present India occupies second position in the world in this respect. This disease is spreading very fast. I would like to produce some figures in the House. I am not producing here the figures relating to all the states. But from 1986 to September, 2001 the situation kept on worsening. The ailment aggravated with each dose of medicine. A total of 260 patients were there in the country with all the states taken together from 1986 to 1992. There were 252 patients in 1993, 457 in 1994, 1047 in 1995, 1051 in 1996 and 14149 in 2001 in the country. The highest number of patients out of these are from the states of Kerala, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. More than half of the patients are in the Mumbai city of Maharashtra. Besides that, AIDS patients have been detected in Delhi also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): How many patients are there in Mumbai?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The pace with which this disease is spreading, is in fact, going to create a horrible situation. I want to say that there is no need to create panic in the name of AIDS. The fear of AIDS being generated is not at all desirable.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we used to pray in the Shastras:

"Hey Ishwar dayanidhe bhawat kripaya anene japo-pasanadi karmana,

Dharmarth kaam mokshanam, saddha siddhi bhawet."

meaning thereby - O almighty God, may the 'japa', 'upasana' etc. we do with your favour give us 'chaturvarga'. May we attain the four 'vargas' of 'Dharma', 'Artha', 'Kaama' and 'Moksha'. As long as there was dharma in Artha, as long as there was dharma in Kaama, salvation was possible. But dharma was removed. The modern civilization is deeply involved in everything that is mundane. This has resulted badly in the spread of this horrible disease of AIDS. First there was TB. Then came cancer and that was followed by AIDS. This is quite symptomatic of the modern civilization. Free sex and unregulated life style are what constitute the causes of AIDS.

Life today is unrestrained. It has been said –

"Sanyamah Khalujeewanam, matrivate Pardareshu."

[Prof. Rasa Singh]

i.e. it is 'sanyam' (restraint) which is life indeed in our country.

"Brahmacharyena Devah Mrityumpadhvata" i.e. with the help of Brahmacharya (celebacy), the gods had conquered even death, and the Indian vision prescribed creating immunity in the body so that such diseases could not be transmitted from one person to another. But life today has become unrestrained. Our new generations are being attracted towards various drugs and other addictions such as L.S.D., cocaine and heroin. When the parents have lost control over their children and 'samsakara' has just gone out of life, it has resulted in the teen ages getting spoilt and hence the greater percentage of this disease among the youths. I want to tell the Government that children are the future of India or the world. Awareness should be created among children as to what this disease is, how it can be prevented and controlled - all this information should be imparted to them. We should be strong of character and we should inculcate into ourselves the great values of Indian life. This will make our lives well cultured and well regulated, and thus we will perhaps be able to get from this education what we would never get by spending crores of rupees on medicines for diseases.

Sir, I would further like to say a thing or two. While restraint is needed in behaviour and conduct, one should avoid excessive use of alcohol. The Government should monitor the red light areas. People should be educated so that such tendencies could not develop in the society. We say - Matrivata Pardareshu'- i.e. regard any other woman as your mother. The goal of the practice of monogamy or being loyal to one spouse only can be achieved only if the people who have fallen to base levels try to purge themselves by restraining their lives on the basis of character, good conduct, and abstinence, and thus this disease can be warded off. Another thing that has been said is that there is a need to promote Anti Retro Viral Treatment. The body should develop immunity so that such infections do not spread.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that blood donation camps are organised at several places. All and sundry go there and donate blood. Blood is collected from one and all. Care should be taken as to whose blood is infected or whose blood is not infected, which blood is HIV infected. At such blood donation camps, people in large number donate blood. A culture of organising blood donation camps is developing and the blood banks in hospitals are at times quite poorly maintained, and a single needle is used many times to collect blood from many persons as a result of which the blood gets infected. At the time of immunization also care is not taken to change needles and this helps in spreading this disease. This, too, is needed to be taken care of.

Sir, the Government has also implemented the National Policy for Prevention and Control of AIDS, and Sinhaji, the new Minister is here who will participate in the debate on AIDS in Lok Sabha today and will make reply regarding the efforts of the Government to solve this problem. We expect a lot from him and he has just returned from Barsilona. He will tell us about the measures being taken at the international level to tackle AIDS. A look at the figures of last three years will tell that 229 people died of AIDS in 1999, 378 in 2000 and 765 in 2001. I referred to those deaths because if, from a psychological angle, panic is not created as Shri Kirit Somaiya ji was telling and presenting a very horrifying story, as a result of which the patients who conceal their disease and do not tell anybody about this, may got well. We should infuse confidence into them that as a leper can be treated, so can AIDS be treated, if the patients take medicines and strengthen their immune system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's view is that along with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, other Ministries will also have to get involved in this. They will have to work out many things. They will have to infuse confidence into them. They will have to take every care of the patients. Only then we would be able to control AIDS.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am in total agreement with you. I accept the intervention of the Chair.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, two more things I have to tell. There is a need to pay extra attention to youths - especially those living in hostels with opportunities of boys and girls living together. There is a need to create awareness among them. They need to be taught, they need to be educated in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Saroja has in her Bill dealt with the duties of State Governments, Health authorities and the Central Government, and also the ways to save and examine the 20 weeks old pregnancy of an HIV positive woman, as also kidney and blood donation. The bill also deals with the methods of blood examinations and the ways to check the practice of selling blood by commercial organisations. This bill provides for better care of these four things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the HIV positive person should be persuaded that he can get well with treatment. There

is a need to impart health education to AIDS patients, social awareness should be generated so that the patient could get social support and his family may not neglect him. Along with social support, his rehabilitation should also be provided. Then alone, we can control this disease. Measures should be taken to ensure its prevention and control. Above all, the practical method should be adopted. Meditation should be promoted. This will help man eschew evil and practice good conduct. "Asato ma Sadgamaya" i.e. we should go from untruth towards truth. If these things are practised, I think we must be able to get rid of AIDS.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you gave me an opportunity to speak for which I am thankful to you.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, AIDS is a horrible and transmittable disease. I would like to know the details of international assistance and the names of the international organisations that give assistance to India in view of the magnitude of this disease and also the names of the Indian organisations that receive this assistance.

I would also like to know whether the assistance received from various countries is utilized properly, whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is monitoring it or not so that the amounts of assistance received from other countries are utilized properly and we may be able to prevent and control this disease in the manner we want to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Also the details of Doha declaration.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Dr. Saroja, she deserves to be congratulated for being the first woman ever to introduce this Bill for the prevention and control of AIDS/HIV positive which poses challenge not only to this country but has become a global phenomenon.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Health who has done a commendable job by communicating through a letter to all concerned immediately after he took over the charge which reflect his concerns and awareness about HIV positive or AIDS. This thing he tries to bring to the notice of the entire House through his initial letter.

Sir, the manner in which AIDS is disintegrating the texture of the society, the community and the economy and creating hurdle in the way of progress speaks of a most adverse and alarming situation. The alarming pace at which this disease has spread in the country and the world is a matter of concern and the uppermost thing is that we have failed to find out an effective remedy to fight AIDS despite our all-out efforts.

The alarming situation has been growing day by day. Mere glance at the figures furnished by the World Health Organisation shows that this disease has taken 3 crore 61 lakh adults and 14 lakh children in its grip world over the end of the year 2000. Thirty lakh people have died due to AIDS. The number of HIV positive persons was seven lakh in South and South East Asia in the year 2000. Now the number has risen to nearly 58 lakh adults and children in the region.

What I want to say is that 74% of AIDS infected cases are attributed to unsafe sexual relations. Now-a-days, a lot of efforts are being made to bring awareness about such relations. It has been observed for long that truck drivers while doing their night-shifts hire girls of age group between 14 years to 18 years on national highways and have sex with them. The situation is acquiring alarming proportion day by day. There must be involvement of the local authorities in such activities. There truck-drivers might come across several mobile police gypsies on their way, but despite their vigil there is no let up in the incidence of this activity. Such virus carrier go back to villages and have such relations with others, that is one more reason for the growing number of AIDS patients. In this manner this disease is taking the villages also in its grip. This trend should be arrested.

The sex workers have sex relations with several persons. This is also leading to rising HIV positive graph. One point which I would like to stress that the general awareness programmes being telecast through various channels include propagation of precautionary measures like condom are accompanied by smuts. I think, this type of exposure to society is going to acquire a disastrous form because the minors are unable to understand the usage of condom but the picturisation goes down well and leaves an indelible impression on their minds. Children between 12-18 Years of age group are the most affected by this kind of explicit depiction.

Minutes before Shri Kirit Somaiya delivered over the issue in a very emotional and heart rendering manner that the pregnant women who have been found HIV positive carries the risk of transferring the virus to their womb. How they are to blame? Otherwise also it is the majority of women from every section of the society, who

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

are being tortured whether it is care of dowry, or the domestic violence. The figures by WHO shows that 38-40 percent of pregnant ladies are afflicted with AIDS virus. How they are to blame? Why they have to undergo suffering from all sides?

Every speaker here told that India stands second in AIDS affliction in the world. Lot of publicity is made about it, Seminars are held, meetings and conferences are organised by intelligents to discuss the issue and find remedy. I would like to know as to how many persons are being benefited therefrom? I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister as the persons living on the last edge of the society i.e. in villages, find themselves unable to watch and understand the publicity programmes. In my opinion if these conferences, aimed at bringing awareness among the villagers or health-fairs by doctors are organised at panchayat level in villages, even the illiterate person of the village would be able to get the information about AIDS. Whether the foreign trips of doctors or ministers in an effort to conduct research on AIDS is going to help in any manner? I do not want to blame anybody, but this is true. And it is because of this trend AIDS cases instead of coming down increasing by leaps and bounds and the trend is going on without any check.

One person came to see me from my Parliamentary Constituency. He was very reticent. First of all he was perturbed not knowing as to how I would react and will allow him or not him in my residence. Only after my repeated efforts, he disclosed with a feeling of shame that he has contacted AIDS i.e. people feel ashamed of about such disclosures. It can not be attributed necessarily to unsafe sex. What it is all about rural areas. You can get disposable syringes in cities and big hospital today, but in villages single syringe is used several times to take blood samples of the people. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to impose ban on it so as to prevent infection through blood transfusion.

National AIDS Control Organisation has found in its study that in India a newly born baby got HIV from his/her mother. Whether the scientists have not still made any break-through to get rid of this disease as has been the case with Kalazar and malaria for which many remedies are in use because the moment the person come to know that he is afflicted with the disease, what to talk of the medicines, he can not live for long. Even their near and dear ones try to avoid them. People think that they might contact AIDS even by sitting or eating with him. In this manner he is kept aloof of society. Our opinion is not to make it blown out of proportion rather we should resort to the publicity measures to bring awareness among the people and organise street corner meetings and an impression should be created through the newspapers which can easily go down with the people. Hon. Minister was a film star hence entire country knows well about him. So, if it is for certain that if the public awareness programmes are taken to the countryside and the villagers are cautioned about the HIV syndrome, it would bring awareness among our people. It has now become very much difficult for the poor to make both ends meet, how would he afford to purchase the several costly medicines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kantiji how much time you will take.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I would like that I may be allowed to have some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is 5.50 clock. The time allocated for this bill is about to be over. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I would like that people should be made aware about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not restricting you from making speech. What I want to state is that it is 5.50 pm and the time allocated for the bill is already over. I, therefore, would like to take the consent of the House to increase the time by one hour because it is an important issue an there are many speakers on the list.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): You have extended the time but it should be made sure as to how long the House would sit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will sit upto 6.18 PM. Madam, please conclude now.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that a medicine popularly known as anti-retrovirus for pregnant women costing 175 rupees should be made available on Primary Health Centres to ensure its availability to the pregnant women in rural areas and they do not fall prey to the disease. I would also like to elaborate about certain precautionary measures in this regard. Separate arrangements should be made for the infants to feed them independent of their virus carrier mothers. If this materialise the new born could be saved from the disease to some extent.

Moreover more attention should be centered towards the uneducated or less educated persons and more funds

should be allocated for bringing awareness. A separate cell should also be created to look after the HIV positive people.

AIDS should be included as a subject in the present day syllabi for the children. Inclusion of sex related information and AIDS are to become the study matters, it may help children between 12-18 years of age to be more cautious which will lead to prevention of the disease also. As I have stated, we should resort to publicity measures on large scale and prescribed medicines should made available at every nook and corner so that the public may have access to these costly medicines.

It should be ensured before accepting blood in blood donation centres through tests that the donor is free of this disease. So many persons, like richshaw pullers, donate blood for the sake of earning. Whatever they can cary therefrom, they use it to make both ends meet. To avoid the possibility of infection through blood, blood sample test should be a must at the blood donation camps wherever they are organised.

With all these things, the last point which would like to submit before the hon. Minister is that the initiative on his part is certainly going to make a difference and liberate the people of the villages, society and country at large from this malady called AIDS.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (SWAI MADHOPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this very important Bill of my learned sister Dr. V. Saroja ji. I also appreciate her for the hard work with which she has proposed this bill with utmost care and I hope that honourable Minister will include this Bill in the regular category of Bills and pay due attention towards this Bill and cooperate in the passage of the Bill in an appropriate form and bring the Bill on behalf of the Government.

Only a healthy person can enjoy the fruits of life. It has very rightly been said that the first requirement for happiness is that one should be healthy, the second requirement is that one should have wealth and the third requirement is that one should have a loyal wife and the fourth requirement is that one should have obedient son. This dreadful disease is a hurdle in way of all these four things. Whatever the reason behind this disease may be, my predecessors have thrown much light on these reasons. How Shri Kirit Somaiya is viewing this alarming situation in our country and making some efforts for the prevention thereof. Simultaneously honourable Member of Parliament respected Rasa Singh ji had associated some sentimental aspect with it and in that sentimental aspect, he had thrown some light on the Indian Samaskar, Indian system and family system which hold a great importance.

Even today there are some states which are free from the virus of this disease. I think that this is all due to the grace of the Almighty that the people residing in those states are free from such disease. Moreover the conduct of these people is also above board. Even today virus of this dreadful disease have not reached in the territories of Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Tripura.

It is, either because of their alertness or their disciplined dailly routine. Besides that the grace of the almighty is always there. The world is passing through the 21st Century. Besides it a number of materialistic forces are operating and the media is the biggest amongst them. I would say that bad results of the adoption of Western culture and their open family system, open culture can prove to be harmful for a country like India at any time. Open demonstration of the Western Culture through the media has reached every house. We require good samskars to get rid of it. If we will adopt the samskars compatible with the family system of the Indian way of life, then we can save ourselves from this disease to a great extent. The breaking family system is responsible for it to a large extent. We are running with the materialism in such a way that both husband and wife have to work. In such an atmosphere the mental rifts are but natural to arise. Due to it husband and wife choose separate ways and with that they become afflicted by this disease automatically.

Due to this very reason, their unborn and newly born children fall victim to it. We need to create awareness among the masses. Then only we can prevent this disease to a great extent.

Besides, the gap between male-female ratio is widening. As per 1991 census, these are 933 females, against 1000 males. This gap is far more in the metros. A little while ago, Shri Kirit Somaiya ji, was telling about the situation in Mumbai as he knows well about Mumbai. This ratio is just half in Mumbai and Chennai. This is natural in these circumstances that man turns to sex and a horrifying situation is created in the metropolitans. Tamilnadu has got the highest number of AIDS patients, numbering 15054. Mumbai is second in the list. A large number of labourers come to these metropolitan for their livelihood. They do not bring their families with them. If we wish today that prostitution can be removed altogether then it is perhaps not possible. This has been continuing for ages. This has been there in all ages and times. One of the reasons was the gap between male-female ratio. We should try to

[Shrimati Jas Kaur Meena]

solve this problem within the ambit of law. We should identify the specific area. We should also look which diseases the women are suffering from. The exploitation of women by wealthy and high ranking people has led to spread of AIDS. Stringent action must be taken against those involved in this act and women trapped in this act and women trapped in this vicious circle should be set free.

Today, I am speaking here in this House. Nobody can even think in the village to which I belong that a woman will ever come to this august House and would contemplate over this issue. About 75 percent people living in these villages must not be knowing even the name of this disease and they are not educated and are not knowing about such diseases.

18.00 hrs.

In these villages, chicken pox is called 'Mata' and its treatment is also done superstitiously. If we look at the literacy rate of women, it is 45% in India but this figure of 45% represents those women who have just learnt how to write their names. So it is not such that the level of skilled education, working education or competent education has increased. Literacy campaigns have somewhat increased this rate but after all I will say that AIDS is a disease of the educated and the elite. In the villages people get this disease because of infected blood or injection or the husband of a woman brings this disease from a city like Mumbai where he had gone to earn his livelihood. So this disease has been transferred to him. In this situation he does not know as to what disease he has got. In such a situation it is we who have to be aware, but it is very difficult to awake the awaken. It has become a status symbol for the educated and capable people to have physical relations with more than one woman or go with a new woman every day. So under these circumstances the hon. Minister must think over it because you have been working in such an area or situation that you have a clearer picture than I have. You have seen cosmopolitan city from close quarters. We just hear all this, but what is unfortunate is that the educated people are infecting the poor women and making life worth hell for the children in their wombs. You are a Minister and sister Sarojaji is a doctor. If both of you have the same approach, we are fully with you, dedicatedly with you. Undoubtedly we discuss these things with the women in our respective areas and ask them to tell about their disease to their doctors. But your Ministry talks of organising free camps for the treatment of TB or AIDS and you send money to the villages for this or say for Pulse Polio, but I tell you that I visited 15 villages on the 23rd of March - the Pulse Polio day but there was no arrangement for Pulse Polio even in one village. Only figures are sent to you. So Mr. Minister, I would like to say that if the entire money is utilized properly, this horrible disease will undoubtedly be eradicated completely.

Why these big posters, books and slogans etc.? These may be useful in cities. In cities films are also successful but nothing is happening in the villages because these people are illiterate and all this is falling flat on them. Hence, I would like to say that-

"Mantri, Guru aur vaidya, Jo priya bole Bhoy aas,

raj dharam tan teen ka hoy begahi naas."

You are the Minister. Our hon. Doctor sister has offered us a compendious formula that the footsteps of the Minister is worth following like the sermons of a guru.

If you want to fight this disease fearlessly, you will have to utilise the funds to the maximum extent, otherwise the mega task entrusted to the Ministry under your charge could not be fulfilled. You will have to work out a strategy to awake the village people aware of this disease. It would be for the better that this should be brought to the knowledge of all the MPs about the funds allocated to each of the registered voluntary organisations functional in your area; so that the performance of such organisations could be evaluated and co-operation could be sought.

While concluding, I would like to urge you to enact this Bill to deal with the situation.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, at the very outset, I join my colleagues here to congratulate Dr. V. Saroja, our esteemed colleague for bringing a legislation like this which covers all the aspects of this dreaded disease.

The Bill provides for prevention, control and specialised medical treatment, social support and rehabilitation of those people who are being affected with this particular disease.

Sir, we know that our country is also not beyond this particular vicious and dangerous problem being faced by the world altogether. We have the examples of the African nations before us. They are highly perplexed and without means to control and prevent this deadly disease that has

affected many of the people there. In our country also, millions have been affected. Our cities, specially our metros like Mumbai and Calcutta are supposed to be the breeding grounds of this dreaded disease.

Several suggestions have come up here. We must have a short-term and long-term plan to combat this menace. In the short-term plan, as it is rightly pointed in the Bill itself, we need to have an immediate State-wise survey about the number of people affected and are already under treatment. In the long-term plan, of course, it has to be a publicity drive about the causes, the preventive measures and all that can be done to effectively prevent the spread of this disease.

In the case of publicity drive, our hon. Minister is here. He is someone who knows publicity. He himself would be a good publicity for this very good cause. He has taken the initiative at the very beginning. Only a few days back, the hon. Minister convened a meeting of hon. Members to discuss this particular issue. So, the hon. Minister is very much seized of this great threat before the nation.

When we talk about combating this problem, of course, we need funds. What is the Central Government doing by way of special budgetary provisions for the prevention and cure of AIDS? The Ministry, I hope, in the next financial year, under the able leadership of the hon. Minister will make special provisions for this particular area alone. I do not think that Rs.100 crore or Rs.500 crore of recurring expenditure that Dr. Saroja has mentioned will do to effectively combat this problem, when we think of combating this menace. We are always looking to the West for preventive measures and medicines. Do we have our own Research and Development programme to develop the medicines and preventive measures in this particular field? The Health Ministry has to specially think about it. We have our own traditional systems of medicines and also allopathic system of medicines. We must concentrate and put in funds for special R&D drive to effectively carry out the preventive measures.

I feel that one point has been left out in this Bill. It is the role of the NGOs and other charitable institutions. Of course, in a massive programme like this, which has to be run on a nation-wide basis, the Government alone cannot do the whole thing. Of course, the help of the NGOs and various charitable institutions has to be ensured.

There are several such institutions which are doing commendable work in this particular field itself. It is not only in general health-care but also in treating and taking care of AIDS patients that they help. That help is available in this country. Has the Government thought of those organisations? I can point out any number of names. But I would like to point out one particular name in the State of Kerala, in Trichur district. In Chalakkudi town, there is a place called Muringoor. There is the Muringoor Divine Retreat Centre. There, young nuns, probably of the age of 20 or 21, take care of the AIDS patients who have been brought in by their family members, who can never go back to their families, who want probably a peaceful death. These young girls take care of these patients at their own risk. There are so many institutions like that. Those institutions are functioning without funds and proper support. If the Government, on its own, cannot take care of these patients, it should encourage and help these kinds of organisations. The Government should conduct a State-wise survey to find out the institutions that are engaged in helping the AIDS patients. Whatever possible financial help that can be given to these institutions should be given by the Government and it should immediately come forward to do this. Till the Government can, on its own, or through its various centres, help out these patients, the existing institutions which are engaged in this kind of helpful activities should be encouraged. They should be helped.

Sir, I do not want to go further into it. Several suggestions have come up. At least one suggestion which the hon. Member Shrimati Kanti Singh made here must be considered. If the Government can ensure the availability of one single thing at the Primary Health Centre level like providing disposable syringes, which is something of a very vital and helpful thing to prevent this disease, it would go a long way. If at least that much Call be done by the Central and State Governments, by providing disposable syringes at the PHC level, that would help a lot. Even that is not being done today. The situation in the Government hospitals is very pathetic. The hon. Minister should take care of this. It is a pathetic condition. A very few people can afford to go to private institutions where this kind of modern medical treatment and facilities are available. But a vast majority in our country is the ordinary poor people. Such poor people are without this kind of help. So, the Government should at least take care of providing the minimum facilities in our Government hospitals and Public Health Centres. If all these measures are taken at a very fast and emergent level, it can really help in preventing further spread of this very dreaded disease. It will be a national calamity if it is not checked at the very immediate future itself.

[Shri K. Francis George]

Now, the hon. Minister has taken upon himself this as a particular mission of his in his new job. I hope it will go a long way in helping to prevent and control this disease in our country.

I once again take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Saroja. I also congratulate the hon. Minister who has taken a good initiative in this particular field.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Saroja who has moved this private Bill in this House, is a very important Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* This Bill is brought in as a Private Members Bill. Our Health Minister is a firebrand leader from the Bollywood. It's a matter of happiness that he has now become a Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, AIDS is fast spreading allover the country and the number of AIDS patients has touched a crore mark. AIDS patients are mostly found in our metropolitan cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai. Some concrete steps need to be taken by the Government for the prevention of this disease. Therefore, it has become imperative on the part of Shri Shatrughanji to eradicate this disease. But more funds are required for this purpose. Therefore, Shri Shatrughanji should try to secure more funds for the purpose.

Shri Kirit Somaiya ji told that one of his institutes is engaged in the work of spreading awareness about this disease. One institute of Dr. Saroja ji is also engaged in the same work. When I was the social welfare Minister, I also undertook the work for spreading awareness in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai. The village people carry the virus of AIDS in cities. Therefore, there is a need for prevention of this disease.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now Shri Shatrughan Sinha has entered into politics. Though he should not have entered into politics but since he has joined politics need, we go to Bollywood now. He has got elected from Bihar and become a Minister. People have pinned their hopes on him. Now, it is our duty to bring the youths of our country on the right track who have gone astray. Prof. Rawat was telling that the Buddha religion dated back to 2500 years. Thereafter the Vedic religion came into existence and thereafter the Hindu religion. I want to say that it is a matter of policy. People go abroad and indulge in wrong activities there. Such people should be given stringent punishment. I am of the view that those who violate the policy laid down in this regard should be booked under the 'POTA'. We have laws in our country to deal with such a situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appeal to the Hon. Minister that he should make efforts for eradication of AIDS. We will extend our full support in his this endeavour and there is a need to launch a movement for the purpose. There is also a need to send a clear message to the people about this dreadful disease. And if you take up this work, we are ready to extend our cooperation despite being in the opposition. You just start it, we will support you. But if the Government acts like committing bungling in the allotment of petrol pumps, then we need not extend our support. If you do good work, we will do support you. Dr. Saroja, who has moved this Private Members Bill, the Government should also bring the same kind of a bill for eradication of AIDS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, August 5, 2002 at 11 A.M.

18.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 5, 2002/Sravana 14, 1924 (Saka).

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