

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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(Vol. XVIII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XVIII, Seventh Session 2001/1923 (Saka)

No. 19, Friday, August 17, 2001/Sravana 26, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Question Nos. 361 to 365	2-23
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Questions Nos. 366 to 380	23-46
Unstarred Question Nos. 3794 to 3974	46-262
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	262-272
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Twenty-fifth Report	272
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
'No Purchase – No Sale' of Petroleum products campaign announced by Federation of All India Petroleum Traders	
Shri Ram Naik	273-274
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	274-277
RE : ROLE OF SPECIAL ADVISORS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE	279-283
RE : PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE FISHERMEN IN THE COUNTRY	283-284
RE : ECONOMIC PACKAGE FOR BIHAR	284-293
RE : WRONG FEEDING OF ANSWERS IN COMPUTER FOR PRE-MEDICAL EXAMINATION IN MAHARASHTRA	293-294
ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL	303-339
Motion to Consider	
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	303-307
Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi	307-308
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	308-310
Shrimati Margaret Alva	310-312
Shri Suresh Prabhu	312-317
Motion to Consider	317
Clauses 2 to 45A and 1	317-339
Motion to Pass	339

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

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Collision of Muzaffarpur-Sealdah passenger
with wagons at Jamui Station of Danapur
division of Eastern Railway

Shri Nitish Kumar 340-341

PRIVATE MEMBERS RESOLUTION 341-383

- (i) Adequate funds for completion
of all pending projects

Shri Arun Shourie 341-348

Shri Ramanand Singh 349-353

Resolution - Withdrawn 353

- (ii) Review of decision to withdraw
quantitative restrictions

Shri Sunil Khan 353-359

Shri Kharabela Swain 359-364

Shri Adhir Chowdhary 364-366

Shri Anadi Sahu 366-370

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan 370-374

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat 374-377

Shri J.S. Brar 377-381

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale 381-382

Shri Lakshman Seth 382-383

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION 383-392

Welfare of Tribals

Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda 383-386

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya 386-387

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat 387-388

Shri Jual Oram 388-394

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 17, 2001/Sravana 26, 1923 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at one Minute past
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, namely, Shri Rampal Upadhyay. Shri Rampal Upadhyay was a Member of Twelfth Lok Sabha during 1998 and 1999 representing Bhiwara Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Upadhyay served as a member of the Committee on Commerce and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during 1998-99.

Earlier, Shri Upadhyay was a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1998. He served in the State Government as a Deputy Minister in 1980; as a Minister of State in 1981; and as a Cabinet Minister in 1985. He also served as the Chairman of the Estimates Committee and the Privileges Committee of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly between 1980 and 1985.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Upadhyay was also associated with Panchayati Raj and cooperative movements. A well known social and political worker, Shri Upadhyay worked relentlessly for removal of untouchability, emancipation of the poor from financial exploitation and upliftment of the poor.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Upadhyay actively participated in the freedom struggle. As a journalist, he wrote many articles and poems and was also continuously involved in literary activities.

Shri Rampal Upadhyay passed away on 11 August, 2001 at Ajmer, Rajasthan at the age of 66 after a heart attack.

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.

11.02 hrs.

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

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Debt Recovery Tribunals

+

*361. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any minimum amount has been fixed in respect of the cases to be brought for decision before the Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(b) if so, the minimum amount so fixed;

(c) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to dispose of the cases which are beyond the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Tribunals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount recovered under the above arrangements during each of the last three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) In accordance with the provisions of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 cases involving an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs or more are to be filed before the Debts Recovery Tribunals. The amounts recovered by the Debts Recovery Tribunals up to 31.3.1999, 31.3.2000 and 31.3.2001 is Rs. 646.26 crores, Rs. 1398.40 crores and Rs. 2583.32 crores respectively.

Following further steps have been taken to deal with the cases which are beyond the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Tribunals.

- (i) Constitution of Settlement Advisory Committees by Public Sector Banks for settlement of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) especially of small scale sector. RBI has reported that the recovery of NPAs through the SACs was Rs. 668.37 crores as on 31.3.2000.

- (ii) Public Sector Banks are being encouraged to make use of Lok Adalats for settlement of NPAs involving an amount up to Rs. 5 lakhs. As reported by Indian Banks' Association, an amount of Rs. 84.69 crores has been recovered up to 31.3.2001 under the mechanism of Lok Adalats.
- (iii) Adoption of non discriminatory and non discriminatory guidelines issued by RBI in July, 2000 for settlement of NPAs by Public Sector Banks as a one time measure. These guidelines were applicable only up to 30th June, 2001. RBI has reported that as on 31.5.2001, the Public Sector Banks have recovered an amount of Rs. 1914 crores under these guidelines.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Banks and financial institutions provide loans for the development of agricultural and industrial sectors of the country. It is the responsibility of these institutions to ensure timely recovery of loans, but today the non-performing assets are increasing day by day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the loan of about eighty thousand crore rupees as non-performing assets have not been recovered. Of this, about 63 thousands crores rupees belong to banks and 17 thousand crore rupees belong to financial institutions. Debt Recovery Tribunal has also been constituted to recover this amount. I would like to know from the Government the number of D.R.Ts constituted so far, the number of cases referred to these tribunals, the number of disposed of cases and the amount involved in such cases?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a recovery of about 4 thousand crore rupees has been made during the last year as per my information. If this process continued the outstanding amount can be recovered immediately. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether Government will formulate any time bound programme to recover the outstanding amount so that the recovered amount can be used by the needy people.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, over all 24 Debt Recovery Tribunals have started functioning. As declared by Finance Minister in his budget speech, new D.R.Ts. have been selected and they will start functioning by the month of November. So far 63 thousand accounts were referred to DRTs and Lok Adalats for taking action involving 115 crore 78 lakh rupees out of which 28,174 accounts were settled directly and a sum of Rs.

84.69 crores was recovered. 47,677 cases were referred to DRTs involving an amount of Rs. 88.54 crore including interest and actual settlement amount was of Rs. 14.462 crore and the recovered amount was Rs. 25.83 crore. So far, RBI and DRT have settled 5 lakh 27 thousand 119 accounts. An amount of Rs. 1914 crore has been recovered through these settlements.

The Total amount of N.P.A. as told by hon'ble member is correct. An amount of about 53 thousand belong to Banks and about 17 thousand crore of rupees belong to financial institutions. If you want, I can provide the exact figures of NPA of priority and non-priority sectors. As per the provision of D.R.T., a case should be disposed of within six months, but it is not disposed of in six months. So there is a need to amend the rules. We have constituted a committee under the chairmanship of D.R.T.'s chairman, Shri Agrawal. Its sitting was also held on 2nd July. Efforts are being made to streamline their performance and to settle the high valued accounts. There are some difficulties like shortage of space and staff. These are being removed. 22 DRTs have started functioning and remaining will start functioning by the month of November.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first supplementary has not been answered properly. My points have not been clarified.

The other supplementary is regarding continuous increase of NPA.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, a proper supplementary is also required to get a proper answer.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Sir, it is a proper supplementary. N.P.A is increasing day by day. If somebody takes a loan for setting up an Industrial unit, he invests some of the amount in unit and some for personal expenses. He shows the unit in loss and sick and then tells that unit could not run.

Second reason is that a loan is availed again for the same purpose from another bank in connivance with officers and it then becomes a non-performing assets. Third reason is secret act which does not allow to disclose about the second loan. There are so many reasons causing day by day increase in non-performing assets. The Minister has just told a total N.P.A. of about 82,000 crores of rupees. I would like to know from the Government as to whether he would hold some officers responsible for this kind of act. Whether there will be transparency in providing loan to know the facts because big industrialists are taking

advantage by collecting money through small saving schemes and thus misusing the money. Whether Government will bring transparency and hold concerned officer responsible for it? If so, whether there is any such programme.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : It is a fact that sometimes sanction of loans get delayed due to non-completion of papers, change in appraisal project and change in technology. CMD's of Banks had held three meetings for this purpose and that responsibility has been entrusted to them. The amount is recovered not only by DRT's but it is being recovered by banks also through Lok Adalats. A settlement committee has also been constituted for recovery. Recovery is also made on behalf of the board. I would like to say that there is decrease in its percentage. I admit that N.P.A. is also increased in case of increased outstanding loan....(Interruptions).

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Please tell me about the money diversion.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I agree with you on the point of money diversion. There is a provision of monitoring for every project. It is done on local level also. We interfere only after getting information. We have strictly told all the banks that there should not be diversion and siphoning of money. If it happens then we take action. In reply to a question I had said that in case of siphoning the branch Manager will bring it to the notice of board within fifteen days or one month. They will also get a circular in this regard in a day or two.

You have mentioned about big industrialists. In this regard I would like to tell you that we have 95,72,439 accounts for a loan upto ten lakh rupees involving total amount of rupees fifteen thousand crore. There are 4640 accounts for one to five crore rupees involving total amount of rupees 8970 crore. In all, there are 96,04,673 accounts having an amount of more than five crore rupees which involve an amount of about 32,107 crore rupees. There are 2006 accounts involving 5 crore to 50 crore rupees which have an amount of Rs. 17,697 crore. The number of accounts having rupees fifty crore and above are 47 which involve the amount of 3490 crore rupees.

We have done such classification and on that basis we want to dispose most of high value accounts.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the poor and farmers of the villages have to face a lot of difficulty even on account of small loans. They are put in the jail of Tehsil for 14 days. Even when they are at home they face difficulty, due to debt, every other day. The recovery details of three years given by the hon'ble Minister is not hearten-

ing. It is true that there are non-performing assets worth about Rs. 80 thousand crore. I feel that those who are manipulators manage to get loans from banks and they know how to bamboozle the banks; there are people like Ketan Parikh and Harshad Mehta who own 10 and 15 firms respectively, they take loans from one bank in one name and from another bank in another name, it is a very serious matter. The way the tribunals are disposing cases is not satisfactory. I would like to ask one question from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government propose to publish the list of defaulters?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The list of defaulters is maintained by the Government, every bank as well as the R.B.I. So far as your objection regarding getting loans from different banks is concerned, an information bureau has just been established for that. As and when it starts functioning the things will improve. It is still there that when anyone visits a bank for taking loan he has to produce no dues certificate from other banks. I agree with you regarding the fact that when it comes to small farmers or small borrowers, there is some problem. The S.B.I. has said that there will be no difficulty to the small borrowers because the cases regarding loan amount upto Rs. five lakh are being referred to the Lok Adalats. We want to refer the cases of the loan amount upto Rs. 10 lakh to the Lok Adalats. We have written to the Supreme Court as well as the National Authority of the Supreme Court. It also gives rise to civil suits. BUT we have certainly asked the banks that there is no need to show sympathy to the wilful defaulters and see that there should be no inconvenience to the small farmers and owners of tiny and cottage industries.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Member wanted to know whether the Government is going to publish the names of the defaulters.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : In all such cases where suits have been filed, R.B.I. publishes their names.

[Translation]

A list upto March, 2001 has already been published and there is no objection to it.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Despite a number of efforts, the loan recovery is not as per the expectation of the Government. For collecting income tax, the Government is announcing VDS after every two years, asking people to convert their black money into white money and in turn the Government collect the tax. On the same line, is the Government thinking of asking the debtors to pay loan in any form, either in cash, silver, gold or land? If they pay that amount in such form, the Income Tax Department will not question them from where they have received these assets. As a result, the recovery will be fast in this

connection, three months back, I had written a letter to the Finance Minister. Unfortunately, I have not received even its acknowledgement. So, to recover the loan, could you give a scheme based on VDS line? Let the debtor pay his loan in any form. When the Income Tax Department will not question them, I am hundred per cent sure, 80 per cent of the loan will be recovered within six months. Is the Government thinking on these lines for the faster recovery of debts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : The answer is, no, Sir. We will not encourage black money to be used for repaying the NPAs.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : What about VDS?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : VDS was not my scheme. It was started and closed in 1997-98.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the NPA problem has not been handled to the expected desire of the Government and the nation and enough concerns have been expressed by media and cross-section of the House.

In view of the above, will the Minister tell us whether it is a fact that for the last two years, the loans of those NPA unit holders among the corporate houses who were supposed to clear more than Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore arrears to the banks, have been re-scheduled by the banking authorities in a phased manner to give them relief from the Debt Recovery Tribunal? Will the Minister categorically tell us that no account would be opened for fresh loan or advance for any new unit or project to the corporate houses and the units who are having this liability till that is settled?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, this is the policy of the Government that if there is any defaulter or NPA, no fresh loans are given and no new account for the same company or the individual is opened. I want to clarify to my friend about the NPA and the corporate sector. The restructuring is a continuous process in the banking system, irrespective of small operator or a big operator. So, if the unit is not economically viable and if they want restructuring and the repayment is assured, naturally, it is restructured at all the levels and not for the corporate sector scheme.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, my question was different. If, there is a liability of more than Rs. 100 crore in an individual case in the corporate sector, I would like to know whether you have re-scheduled their loans again. This is the issue which is rocking the country. The big business houses are allowed to re-schedule their loans every time.

MR. SPEAKER : He has not completed his reply. Please listen to him.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, we do not have any information about an individual case involving arrears of Rs. 100 crore and above. If the hon. Member wants to have information about the restructuring of cases involving Rs. 100 crore and above, we can supply that information to him. As I mentioned earlier, the point is that restructuring of loans is a continuous process. So, those who are eligible, irrespective of cases involving more than Rs. 100 crore or below Rs. 100 crore, we cannot deny restructuring to them.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Is the Government satisfied with the present state of recovery of NPAs with regard to not only banks but also other institutions? It is because banks' money amounts to Rs. 53,000 crore and FIs, including IDBI, IFCI, ICICI money amount to Rs. 25,000 crore. Then, non-banking companies' NPAs are almost Rs. 5000 crore, and UTI and other Mutual Funds' NPAs are more than Rs. 10,000 crore. The total comes to Rs. 93,000 crore. Of course, it does not concern two years only; it may relate to 20 years. So, is the Government thinking about some radical measures?

At the same time,

[Translation]

I would like to put the question asked by Shri Dasmunsji, differently.

[English]

This is also not for two years but for years together.

[Translation]

When one company takes loan and transfers it to another group company.

[English]

That is known as siphoning of the money.

[Translation]

It might have been done through investigation of these sub-companies, in that case will the Government make any provision to suspend all managements of all sub groups companies?

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member that NPAs are growing, may be not at a very faster pace. But it is an old disease. Somehow, the system is accustomed to it, whether it is the operator or the banker. At the same time, if there is siphoning of money and if the units become sick, we do not give them loans. The Government's policy is like this. If

there is a group of companies and if the bad units are working, we do not finance them. But if the good units are working well, we do finance them and some times we group the two together and we make recovery from the good units in place of bad units NPAs.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : What action is being taken by the Government against other groups of companies involved in siphoning?

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, we are considering the amendment of the law whereby, if there is siphoning, we would be able to attach the property, whether it is moveable or immovable. He would not be able to dispose it of. This amendment is under the consideration of the Government and it will soon come before Parliament.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, for one time settlement, the time given was upto 30th June, 2001 and some public sector banks have recovered an amount of Rs. 1,914 crore by adoption of non-discriminatory and non-discretionary guidelines. Many people are approaching us regarding the dates. Even now, they are ready to pay the money if the Government is willing to extend the date up to the end of this year as far as recovery of more NPAs is concerned.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, already June has passed and we are in the month of August now. September end is the final settlement date for recovery. A proposal has already been submitted by the bankers and the borrowers. But there is no proposal before the Government to extend the date because there would be no limit to it. There had to be some cut-off date and that cut-off date is already over.

Import of Textile Machinery by Textile Manufacturers in Pakistan

*362. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether All Pakistan Textile Mills Association has shown interest in importing textile machinery from India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up or proposed to take up the matter with the Pakistan Government for allowing textile manufacturers in Pakistan to freely import such machinery from India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As signatories to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement, both India and Pakistan are obliged to give Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment to each other. India has already given MFN status to Pakistan but Pakistan has not so far reciprocated. India has taken up the issue of MFN status on many earlier occasions but this has not elicited a positive response from Pakistan. Imports by Pakistan from India are limited to items specified in a list brought out by Pakistan. Textile machinery is not included in the list of items importable from India during 2001-2002.

[English]

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Sir, from the written reply given, it is clear that Pakistan has not yet reciprocated to give the status of Most Favoured Nation to India. Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the status of MFN was discussed in the recent Agra Summit and, in view of the new development of global trade talks, whether India proposes to persuade Pakistan to evolve a mechanism to protect the interests of textile manufacturers by allowing import of machinery from India to fight against the European Union and other developed countries.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that Pakistan has not given 'Most Favoured Nation' status to India. India has given Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan that is why, Pakistan has listed 600 items for trade between us. So far as the mentioning of these things by the hon'ble Member in the Agra summit is concerned, it was a Summit and, therefore, most of the talks were held between the two leaders. The Commerce Minister of Pakistan did not accompany their delegation while our Commerce Minister was present in the delegation from our side. So far as All Pakistan Textile Manufacturers are concerned, they want this machinery to be imported from India and they have advised the Government of Pakistan in this regard.

[English]

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : I want to know whether a joint Indo-Pak panel is proposed to evolve a mechanism to face the problems due to the antidumping duties imposed on their products by the developed coun-

tries and if so, what are the modalities worked out against the moves of the European Union by our mutual cooperation with Pakistan.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present, there is no such proposal but an institution is with us which is called 'SAFTA'. 'SAFTA' meant duty-free operation by us and non-imposition of any taxes in the area encompassing all SAARC countries, but that goal still remains unfulfilled. Three rounds of talks have already been held and fourth round of talks is going to be held during the month of September, October and November. Dates have been fixed and we hope that some outcome may emerge out of it.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, it is a well-known fact that textile industry plays a significant role in the Indian economy. It contributes 17 per cent of the total production and 37 per cent of foreign export earnings. But since 1991, it has been observed that it is suffering a serious reverse. Till now, 441 spinning mills and composite mills and 74,600 looms have been closed. Further, 465 of them have been referred to BIFR.

Satyam Committee was constituted with a view to facilitating competitiveness in this industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, the question relates to import of textile machinery.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Satyam Committee proposed to reduce the customs duty from 27.65 per cent to 16.45 per cent, eliminate the excise duty and delay the tariff bindings of WTO commitments. Is the Government considering any perspective plan to revive this industry or not?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has no direct relation to my question. It would have been better for the hon'ble Member to have asked this question from the hon'ble Finance Minister, who would have answered it in a better way.

[English]

Fall in Export of Silk

+

*383. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

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

(a) whether silk export during the last six months have come down drastically with trade being diverted to China and lesser known players like Indonesia and Vietnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian silk export has become un-competitive due to the withholding of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) benefits to silk exporters; and

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During the last six month period for which figures are available from December, 2000 to May 2001, the value of silk exports is estimated at Rs. 1167.61 crore against Rs. 994.34 crore for the corresponding period of the previous year. Thus these figures give evidence of increase by 19.4% over this period. However the exports have shown some decline in April and May this year when they totaled Rs. 307 crore as against Rs. 357 crore during the same period last year.

(c) and (d) There is no reason to think that Indian Silk exports have become un-competitive. Benefits under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme have not been withdrawn. However, the benefits upto 6th November, 2000 have been reviewed under entries No. 89/74, 75, 76 covering silk garments, made-ups and fabrics. With effect from 1/1/2001 in regard to entry No. 89/74 covering garments and with effect from 2/3/2001 in regard to entry no. 89/75 and 89/76 covering silk made-ups and silk fabrics respectively, the benefits have been placed under a value cap.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Sir, as you know, silk production in Karnataka is more than 86 per cent. In the reply, it has been stated that silk export is declining. Though the silk is of a very superior quality, export is declining. Is there any defect in the export policy of the Government? Or is it because of the dismal performance of the silk exporters? Now, we are importing silk from China, Indonesia and other countries. The Government is not helping the Indian silk producers. The silk growers have requested the Government to ban the import order and to give proper price for the silk produced in India. I

would like to know categorically from the Government as to whether the Government has any schemes to give more incentives to encourage silk export from India.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Member knows that there is a recession in trade all over the world now-a-days and due to that our exports have declined, but it does not mean that the exports of silk will decrease in future. When we look at the growth of our economy, and make a judgement by the scale of that growth, it looks like that we will be able to accomplish those tasks properly. So far as China is concerned, we do not feel that the Chinese factor is going to cause any decline in our exports.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Sir, under the guidance of NDA Government, silk export has suffered. Even the World Bank is hesitating to provide any financial assistance for the promotion of silk industry in India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the concrete steps being contemplated by his Ministry in order to capture the world silk trade. Are there any specific and scientific steps which are being taken by his Ministry to improve the quality of silk yarn, silk garments and other silk materials? What are the special benefits this Government proposes to provide for the silk exporters and the details thereof?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Hon'ble Member already knows that for this purpose, we have provided duty entitlement passbook which benefits silk exporters a great deal. Earlier, some problem was there from 6th November to 1st January but thereafter this facility has been provided again which now seems to be foolproof. If the hon'ble Member has any suggestions, my Ministry will definitely consider them.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we talk about export, it is said that export has not been affected due to the China factor. My direct question to the hon'ble Minister is whether the assistance provided by the Government or the World Bank for the Silk Research Centre is insufficient? Whenever we talk of quality, if the farmer or its cultivator can maintain its quality.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I think, Shri Gadde Ram Mohan, who is sitting in the last row, if you want to read the newspapers, you can read them in the Library.

and not in the House. You must know the procedures followed in the House. You can read newspapers in the Library. There is no problem.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Sir, I was saying that there is no assistance being given by the Government to the farmers who cautiously maintain the quality of the product in the name of research and there is no decline in the flow of credits from the World Bank. Secondly, the hon'ble Minister is talking of giving benefit to the exporters but it is a different category. They are not producers. Silk growers get the benefit of research centre and if they maintain the quality of silk, exporters will definitely be benefited thereby. It is a different thing to give benefit to the export agencies in the Metropolitan Cities. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the growers will get the benefit of the assistance being given by the Government and the World Bank and will the Government pay special attention to the schemes relating to the exporters, who are not growers.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, silk department is a part of Ministry of Textiles which has taken many measures and one of them is for increasing the production of silk. As such many research centres have been opened which have resulted in increased production. I will definitely forward the suggestions given by the hon'ble member to the Ministry of Textiles.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : The answer given by the hon. Minister saying that the problems of the silk exporters have been solved as on 6th November is patently wrong. Actually, the problems has started by 6th November. In a circular issued by the Department of Revenue, it has been said:

"...it was generally never the impression of the Government to allow DEPB in case of embroidered Silk Garments and silk fabrics and made-ups."

As the hon. Minister said, it is right that the DEPB scheme, that is, the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme, has been helping our exporters to a large extent. That is why, our export of silk has been to the tune of Rs. 2000 crore every year. But by the withdrawal of this Scheme, it has come down considerably. Almost our export earnings have come down to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crore. A meeting was held on 7th July this year. The high level meeting was attended by all the Secretaries of all the Departments concerned. Also, all the members of the Silk Exporting Agency were also there. It was decided to restore the DEPB Scheme. But no order, no circular has been issued so far.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would expeditiously issue an order to all the field officers in the Airports to pass on the benefit of the DEPB Scheme to the silk exporters. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble member has misunderstood my point. I did not say that it was sorted out on 8th November. The Department of Revenue had withdrawn this scheme from 6th November to 1st January, 2001 which led to this difficulty. But, it was reintroduced in January, 2001. As far as the second point is concerned, we have always been mentioning it to the Finance Minister. As you have suggested that such a direction should be given to the airports so that there is no difficulty of any kind to the exports. We are doing this and I am sure that this would be done soon.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Silk is the mainstay of thousands of people in Karnataka. Particularly, at a time when we are faced with competition because of the new WTO regime and globalisation, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government intend to take to protect the domestic industry. On the one hand, import of silk from Vietnam, China and other countries is flooding the market. On the other hand, where we have cheap labour, expertise and internationally renowned designers today, there the incentives on the value added silk, readymade and other items have been withdrawn. I would like to know as to why, what the Government is applying to silk as a whole, is not being made applicable under the DEPB Scheme to these items. The hon. Finance Minister is also here. Women run most of these small units where readymade garments, value added and other items are made.

I would, therefore, ask the Minister as to why the Government cannot extend the same benefits which it is giving to silk, so that more silk items can be exported, when you have competition by way of ordinary silk rather than the value added items.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : The first question of Margaret Alva ji was regarding the reasons for the import of Raw-Silk. Our production capacity is around 16 thousand tonnes, whereas our requirement is around 22-23 thousand tonnes. Therefore, we import according to the demand. Secondly, you spoke about the value added scheme. Our department agrees with you. We have told

the officers of the Finance Ministry about this and I am sure, as I had said in the beginning that we will find solution for this very soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : You are speaking as if there are two separate Governments. Both are sitting side by side. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

Why can the Finance Minister and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry not decide it? Both are in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you discriminating against value added items which is providing so much employment? ...*(Interruptions)* The real employment is in the small-scale industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I have said that we will find a solution very soon.

[English]

Disposal of Insurance Claims

*364. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Forum has been constituted in addition to the Ombudsman scheme to expedite the disposal of claims by the Insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question the hon'ble Minister has mentioned that there is no proposal for constituting any other forum except Ombudsman Scheme. Therefore, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to how many insurance claims were settled every year during the last three years and what special action is proposed by the Government for preventing the delay in the settlement of insurance claims?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ombudsman Scheme was started in November, 1998. The work completed through it amounts to 22,703 and the

total amount is 34,155. Besides Ombudsman, other forums are running already. There is consumer Grievances Redressal cell under which work is also done but other forum are not as active as they should be. This is resulting in delay. One lakh sixty three thousand are yet to be settled by the LIC. Most of all, GIC has to settle more than 11 lakhs. Everybody has been informed through the Government that we are going to review in this regard. We will settle them as quickly as possible. More than four lakh cases are there in the courts. Efforts are being made to work by carrying our inspection at their Centres. We have also tried that the inspection which is being carried out at many places and the high officers visiting there, they themselves are trying to settle some cases through their own experience so that the people may get relief as soon as possible.

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Sir, what is the total number of delayed claims which are yet to be settled and when are they going to be settled?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The claim of LIC is of 1.43 lakhs and that of GIC is 11.16 lakhs. This was 7 lakhs 55 thousand in 1995-96. Now it has come down from 1.67 lakhs to 1.43 lakhs. But the claims of LIC has been increasing every year. Our endeavour is to see if there can be any other mechanism for the prompt settlement and to implement it but Lok-Adalats are most effective in this. Till 1999-2000 we got success in 1740 cases in Lok-Adalats and they have received a compensation of rupees 431 crore. Till now 12 thousand Lok-Adalats have been settled and compensation to the tune of 1000 or 900 to 40 crores have been received.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the insurance sector is being opened up by the Government. One of the banes of the public sector insurance corporation is slowness in the settlement of claims. Now, there is an Ombudsman. The details of claims, which the hon. Minister has now stated, are rather aghasting. My question to the hon. Minister, through you, is that in view of the mounting backlog of cases, will the Government consider starting more courts to deal with the claims of the motor vehicles accidents? The majority of the cases were motor vehicles accident cases. Will the Government consider opening more and more courts to deal with the claims of the motor vehicles accidents under the aegis of the Government of India?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I agree with the hon. Member that the total insurance system dealing with the claims of the motor vehicle accidents is changing. When the full insurance and the third party insurance were there, the claims of motor vehicles accidents were mini-

mum. Then, the courts decided that the third party also be given full insurance. Naturally, the number of cases is mounting like anything. The number of cases requires a very judicious view. I do agree with the hon. Member that it can be exploited. We are taking view of the entire situation and we would try to find out some mechanism to expedite the cases in a better way.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : In regard to the settlement of disputes of the accident cases, I would like to inform the House that the cases are pending for the past ten to 20 years. Is there any proposal with the Government for setting up Lok Adalats? The Lok Adalat gives speedy remedy. It helps both the parties to sit together and discuss directly. Courts are also willing to help in this direction. Will there be a scheme to settle the pending cases quickly so that the general insurance can compete with the private companies?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Private companies may come into the private sector, but I am confident that our insurance corporations like LIC, GIC and its subsidiaries are fully confident. Their network is very active. Day by day they are going in for new products or varieties. That is not the fear. Earlier, I agreed with the House and now I agree with the Member that the settlement of claims should be made at the earliest. We are also trying in this direction. If there is a need to amend the Act, we are ready to go in for an amendment also.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether a vehicle is insured if it is ten years old. There is a lot of dispute between the insurance company and the claimants. The insurance company is not inspecting the vehicle at the time the insurance policy is taken. A person with a good vehicle insures by paying the whole premium for the total loss.

Is there any legal prohibition to take insurance policy based on the model of the vehicle, from year to year according to the age of the vehicle?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I think insurance is done as per the age of the vehicle and depreciation is always there. For a 10-year-old vehicle, we cannot give insurance as a new one.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Premium is being paid for the total loss of the vehicle. Are you accepting it? You have accepted it and that is why there is a dispute.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Premium is paid only as per the amount for which the vehicle is already insured, not more than that.

[Translation]

Central Plan Assistance to States

*365. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to increase the Central Plan Assistance and refix the ratio of loan and grant-in-aid;

(b) whether the Central Plan Assistance provided for State Plan loses its character of assistance due to excess burden of loan amount;

(c) the amount of plan assistance and loan received by the Rajasthan Government during the last three years; and

(d) the amount of loan repaid by the State during the last three years till date?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Gross Budgetary Support for States' and UTs' Plans has been enhanced from Rs. 36,824 crores in 2000-01 (BE) to Rs. 40,644 crores in 2001-02 (BE). The ratio of loan to grants-in-aid continues to be 90% grant - 10% loan for Special Category States and 30% grant - 70% loan for other States.

(b) No, Sir. Plan Assistance is meant primarily for investment in capital formation, on which returns can be expected.

(c) and (d) Details are tabulated below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Central Assistance			Loans repaid
	Loan	Grant	Total	
1998-1999	806.96	362.80	1169.76	120.16
1999-2000	805.77	345.66	1151.43	150.92
2000-2001	706.94	482.95	1189.89	183.61

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request hon'ble Minister that the States are under tremendous pressure due to repayment of interest on Central loan and higher loan ratio in Central Scheme Assistance.

States are not given loan of more than 70 per cent. Area has also been included in the Gadgil and Mukherji formula in addition to population control, per capita income, state exchequer and women. If you look at the map of India, you will find that the area of Rajasthan is the largest at present 60% of its area is desert and the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live there in large number. I would like to know whether Rajasthan Government is proposed to be provided more assistance in the form of loan and grant under Gadgil and Mukherji formula? If yes, then the time by which it will be provided and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon'ble member that the financial condition of the State Government is very serious and it has now become very grave. The main reason for this is not that the States are receiving more loan from the Central Government or we help the States in that. If some change has come into that, then its main reason is known to everybody and it is that the burden of the fifth Finance Commission has fallen on the Central Government and the State Governments too. It has decimated the State Governments. Therefore, if you look at the date, you will see that on current revenue, which belongs to State Governments has decreased many times. When the burden of fifth Pay Commission fell upon the State Governments and as far as the Gadgil formula is concerned, some points were agreed to after a lot of debating in the National Development Council's meeting. There is a national consensus on them. The Central Assistance amount sanctioned by the Planning Commission to the State Governments is sanctioned under the Gadgil and Mukherji formula. No discrimination is made in this and it is neither sanctioned under any kind of pressure nor can it be done that way. At present, we believe that no immediate change is possible in this because unless there is a consensus of all in the National Development Council, which includes backward and more pregressive States, no change in the Gadgil and Mukherji formula is possible.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you that the reply given by you includes the data of the Central Assistance given in the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Central grant of Rs. 806.96 crore and Rs. 06.94 crore was given in the year 1998-99 and 2000-01 respectively. Thus, it is clear that you have provided less loan to the State Government in this year. Rajasthan has faced famine for the third or fourth time. There is acute scarcity of water. Rajasthan gets only one per cent share of the river-water of whole of the country. It causes famine there. Would you reconsider about this amount? Whether there will be any consideration to provide more loan to Rajasthan.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, the size of the annual plan is determined on the basis of a very comprehensive discussion between the State Government and the Planning Commission. The honourable Member is repeatedly asking whether we would provide more loans to Rajasthan Government in future. I would like to clarify that at many times State Government themselves do not want their proportion of loan to be increased. It is because of the fact that if their proportion of the loan is increased, it will result increased interest burden in coming years and their fiscal position will get worse. He has enquired about the loan provided to Rajasthan Government in the year 2000-2001 in comparison to the year 1998-99. You will find that grant has been increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What steps have been taken to solve the problem of Rajasthan Government to tackle drought.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Dasmunsi saheb, the problem is that you get impatient very soon.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am just making you alert.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am coming to that point. I have no intention to ignore that question. The grant was increased from Rs. 362 crore to Rs. 482 crore. There is an increase in the total amount. As regards drought, I would like to say that the Central Government has another plan determined by 11th Finance Commission under which we provide help to the States at the time of natural calamities. As far as the drought in Rajasthan during this year and the previous year is concerned, we have been constantly in touch with Rajasthan Government and we have helped them a lot. For drought relief, we have provided fund from National Calamity Contingency Fund. In addition to it, we have provided them grains

[English]

free of cost to all the drought - affected States from

[Translation]

Government godowns -

[English]

so that they could start the food for work programme.

[Translation]

So, we have provided them a great deal of relief through these schemes. Now, it has rained there and it will make radical changes in the agriculture in Rajasthan.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether the loan provided to Bihar Government under Gadgil Mukherjee formula was full. You have made a provision of providing loan to fight flood and drought as you have told in the case of Rajasthan. Whether the Minister is aware of the fact that most of the districts of Bihar are affected from flood and drought. Whether the Centre intends to provide loan to Bihar Government? If so, how much loan is being provided to the State? If not, reasons therefor? Whether the Bihar Government has made a plan for seeking a grant from Central Government on the question of loan. Whether the Bihar Government has held any talks with the Centre about it? If the Bihar Government was not provided any loan, what were the reasons? It is repeatedly said that no provision was ever made to provide loan to Bihar Government. Whether the Central Government has any plan to help Bihar in fighting flood and drought as more than half of the districts of Bihar are facing drought?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Pappu Yadav, this is not Zero Hour. Please ask your question.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, I want to ask two questions. The first is as to whether the Central Government has any scheme for Bihar under Gadgil Mukherjee formula and what are the views of Central Government in regard to providing loan to Bihar Government for fighting flood and drought. The second is as to whether the State Government has asked for any provision of scheme from you and as to what actions are being taken by the Centre?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a good question.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question was mainly related to Rajasthan and while answering I had told that Planning Commission provides assistance to all the States in an even manner under Gadgil Mukherjee formula. There is no discrimination in it and Bihar has also been helped in the same way. The devolution of Central assistance is executed on the basis of the size of the plans which is prepared after discussion between Planning Commission and the Government of Bihar.

12.00 hrs.

As far as flood and drought are concerned, this is a subject of the Ministry of Agriculture. But, I can say on the

basis of my knowledge about the procedure that the concerned State Government has to inform the Ministry of Agriculture about natural calamity happened in the concerned States or then the State Government puts its demand. It is followed by a visit of a Central team to the State. It makes an on-the-spot inspection and then recommends for the extent of grant. As I have already said that the subject is related to the Ministry of Agriculture and so I am unable to answer as to whether the Government of Bihar had made a contact with the Ministry of Agriculture about the recent drought and flood or not.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister is not providing the correct data. I would like to say that the criteria of the committee constituted during last three years is not right. We have been provided Rs. 21 crore against our demand of Rs. 132 crore in the first year. In the second year, we were provided Rs. 150 crore against our demand of Rs. 960 crore....(Interruptions). The Centre has provided us only Rs. 175 crore against our demand of Rs. 2360 crore. I do admit that food grains were provided to us but it was quite rotten. You have stopped grant for Indira Gandhi canal in Western Rajasthan. I want to know whether you would provide separate grant for Western Rajasthan or not?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The matter of West and East Rajasthan is a matter to be decided by Rajasthan Government. The Centre treats all the States equally. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send him the written reply because the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Telecasting Uncensored Programmes

*366. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

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

(a) whether some foreign companies are telecasting their uncensored programmes into India from outside the country by uplinking in violation of Indian Broadcasting Regulatory Laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such foreign companies;

(c) whether this is causing heavy loss of revenue to the country;

(d) if so, the revenue loss incurred during the last one year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The programmes of Foreign Satellite Channels, which are uplinked from outside the country, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programmes/advertisements code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules frames thereunder. Action in case of violation is to be taken by the authorized officers i.e. DM/SDM/Commissioner of Police and such other officers as may be notified by the Central/State Governments in this regard, under the provisions of this Act. Further, in case any satellite channels/programme violates the prescribed codes, the Central Government under section 20(3) of the Act has the power to notify such channels/programmes for purposes of regulating or prohibiting its transmission by cable operators.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of (c) above.

[English]

Import Duty on Edible Oils

*367. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing rate of import duty being levied on import of different type of edible oils;

(b) whether the Government have any plans to hike the Import duty on all the edible oils to the allowable rate of 300% as per WTO agreement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any

necessary steps to restore the status of coconut, copra and coconut oil as sensitive import items in the EXIM policy; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Current Duty Rate Structure on Vegetable Oils (Crude) of Edible Grade

S.No.	Description	Basic customs duty
1.	Soyabean oil	45%
2.	Palm oil	75%
3.	Groundnut oil	75%
4.	Sunflower/Safflower	75%
5.	Coconut oil	75%
6.	Rapeseed oil	75%
7.	Colza or mustard oil	75%
8.	Other oils	75%

Current Duty Rate Structure on Vegetable Oils (Refined) of Edible Grade

S.No.	Description	Basic customs duty	Special Additional Duty	Total Duty
1.	Soyabean oil	45	4%	50.8%
2.	RBD Palmolein	85	4%	92.4%
3.	Palm oil	85	4%	92.4%
4.	Groundnut oil	85	4%	92.4%
5.	Sunflower/Safflower	85	4%	92.4%
6.	Coconut oil	85	4%	92.4%
7.	Rapeseed oil	75	4%	78%
8.	Colza or mustard oil	75	4%	78%
9.	Other oils	85	4%	92.4%

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

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

(d) and (e) Coconut and coconut oil have been included in the list of 300 sensitive items, imports of which is being monitored by an inter-ministerial committee headed by Commerce Secretary on monthly basis. After removal of quantitative restrictions, import of copra and coconut oil has been placed under the State Trading Regime to be operated by State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Oil Corporation (HVOC).

Duty Liability of Finished Goods

*368. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many companies are violating the existing provisions of Central Excise Act, 1944;

(b) if so, whether the Central Excise Board has issued notices to companies such as Maruti Udyog Limited regarding duty liability on finished goods;

(c) if so, the details thereof, company-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to realise the duty on finished goods?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) When cases of evasion of duty are detected, show cause notices are issued in appropriate cases after investigation demanding allegedly evaded duty, imposition of penalty etc. by competent authority under the Central Excise law. The details of major cases against companies such as Maruti Udyog Limited [involving alleged evasion of excise duty more than Rs. ten crores] for the year 2001-2002 (upto 30th June, 2001) are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Where investigation revealed that the correct duty liabilities were allegedly not discharged by the companies, necessary steps, as per the Central Excise law, have been taken by the Government for realisation of duty on finished goods such as issue of show-cause notices, adjudication and initiating recovery proceedings.

Statement

List of major cases where alleged evasion of excise duty is Rs. 10 Crore and above during 2001-2002 (Upto 30th June, 2001)

Name of the Companies	Amount of alleged evasion (in Rs. Crore)	Nature of violation
1 TELCO, Pimpri, Pune	17.44	Under valuation
2 Gujarat Guardian Ltd. Anklewar	13.70	Under valuation
3 NETCO Shillong	121.64	Clandestine removal
4 Jindal Vijanagar Steel Ltd.	12.84	Under valuation
5 Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	40.51	Violation of section 11D
6 Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	24.71	Violation of section 11D
7 Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	22.01	Violation of section 11D
8 Indian Tobacco Ltd.	10.18	Payment of duty under Rule 57 AD(2)
9 MRPL	18.6	Non-payment of duty under Rule 57CC
10 IOC Ltd. Vadodara	398.99	Short levy of duty
11 Indo Gulf Corpn. Ltd.	47.22	Goods cleared without payment of duty
12 ESSAR Steel Ltd.	24.55	57A, 57F, 11A(1), 11AB, 11AC
13 Maruti Udyog Ltd., Delhi	200.36	Wrong avallment of modvat credit
14 JCT Ltd.	13.85	Wrong avallment of modvat credit
15 Kumar's Cotes Hyderabad	10.29	Non-fulfilment of Export Obligation
16 Atash Industries, Mumbai	37.00	Failure to fulfil export obligation by EOU
17 IOC Ltd.	63.99	Export rules violations
18 Hanil Era Textile Ltd.	14.01	Duty on furnace oil used in factory.
Total	1091.89	

Pay Roll Savings Scheme

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

(a) whether the National Savings Organisation has announced a new scheme called the Pay Roll Savings Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise the interest rates on various schemes of National Savings Organisation to make these schemes more attractive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps being taken to raise the domestic savings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no proposal consideration of the Government to raise the interest rates on small savings. The small savings schemes continue to enjoy

investor confidence as the risk-return equation of these schemes is favourable with the benefits of liquidity, accessibility, tax incentives and implicit sovereign guarantee.

(d) Steps are taken by the Government from time to time for increasing mobilisation of resources through small savings by ensuring attractive returns, tax incentives, easy liquidity, accessibility and information through publicity campaigns. Efforts to raise domestic savings are directed towards enhancing the capacity and willingness to save.

Industrial Growth

*370. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether industrial growth during the first quarter of the current fiscal year has posted a very low growth as compared to the corresponding period of last year;

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

(c) the main reasons for the declining trend of industrial growth;

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to arrest the decline; and

(e) the extent to which these steps would help to improve the industrial growth during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The industrial growth during the first quarter of the current fiscal year has been 2.1% as compared to 6.1% registered during the corresponding period of the last year. The month-wise details of growth rates of industrial production during the current fiscal year are as under :

Month	2000-01	2001-02
April	6.5	3.3
May	6.0	1.9
June	5.9	1.5
Apr-June	6.1	2.1

(c) The main reasons for the declining industrial production are as below :

- Slow down in general investment climate.
- Economic slowdown in U.S. and other economies of the World.
- Comparatively lower agricultural production in the past two years resulting in lower aggregate demand.
- Poor stock market performance, which has weakened consumer and business confidence.
- Persistence of infrastructure bottlenecks and failure to attract private sector investment in infrastructure project.

(d) and (e) The government has taken several policy initiatives to boost industrial production in the country. These measures have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and to boost aggregate demand, improve infrastructure base, upgrade technology, introduce labour flexibility and encourage FDI flows in particular. Some of the initiatives taken recently are briefly mentioned below :

- Basic custom duty in case of raw materials and intermediate goods has been reduced.
- Excise duty has been rationalized, with one rate of Cenvat and one rate of Special Excise Duty (SED).
- Budgetary provisions under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) have been raised to speed up the modernization of textile industry.
- Interest rate on small savings has been reduced.

- Public spending out of the current budgetary allocations has been stepped up.
- Proposals have also been made for suitable legislative changes to improve the operating environment for industry.
- RBI has reduced Cash Reserve Ratio and Bank Rate to increase liquidity and reduce the lending cost.
- To remove infrastructure bottlenecks several incentives have been announced for improvement in power, roads, telecommunications and ports.
- In the new EXIM policy care has been taken to ensure level playing field to domestic producers vis-a-vis imports.

All these measures will have positive impact in improving the industrial production provided the agriculture production registers a positive growth rate during the current fiscal year and the global economic situation improves.

[Translation]

Anti-Dumping Investigations

*371. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) whether India has recorded the fourth highest number of anti-dumping investigations in the world;

(b) If so, the number of anti-dumping cases investigated by the designated authority during the last two years;

(c) the number of cases recommended by the Authority to levy anti-dumping duties indicating the names of countries and items in whose respect recommendations have been made;

(d) the number of cases on which Government have imposed anti-dumping duties on the basis of recommendations of designated authority;

(e) whether several countries have raised objections on levying of anti-dumping duties by India;

(f) If so, the details thereof;

(g) the steps taken by the Government in response to said objections; and

(h) the extent to which domestic industries have been protected after levying of anti-dumping duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the WTO Report, 2001 for the

period 1st July, 1999 - 30th June, 2000, India stands fourth after USA, European Community and South Africa in terms of Anti-Dumping measures in force.

(b) The break-up of Anti-Dumping cases investigated by the Designated Authority during the last two years is given below :

Year	Initiation	Preliminary findings recommended*	Final findings recommended*
1999-2000	19	22	15
2000-2001	27	24	17

*Also include cases initiated in the previous year.

(c) Anti-Dumping Duties have been recommended in 88 cases since 1992. The Anti-Dumping investigations have been carried out on 68 products involving 37 countries. The countries involved are Brazil, Mexico, Korea RP, USA, Japan, China PR, Russia, Kazakhstan, Germany, Thailand, Denmark, Canada, Indonesia, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Austria, France, Taiwan, Malaysia, Ukraine, Portugal Romaina, Turkey, South Africa, Macedonia, European Union, Czech. Rep., Hong Kong, Singapore, S. Arabia, Iran, Poland, UK, Hungary, UAE and Nepal.

The products involved are PVC Resin, Bisphenol-A, Potassium Permanganate, Isobutylene, Benzene, 3,4,5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde, Theophylline & Caffeine, Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber, Sodium Ferrocyanide, Dead Burnt Magnesite, Low Carbon Ferro Chrome, 8-Hydroxy Quinoline, Acrylic fibres, Catalysts, Newsprint, Purified Terephthalic Acid, Graphite Electrodes, Vitamin-C, Magnesium, Met Coke, Polystyrene, Hot Rolled Coils, Lovastatin, Ortho Chloro Benzaldehyde, Calcium Carbide, Fused Magnesia, P Tert Butyl Catechol, Citric Acid, Industrial Sewing Machine Needles, Ethylene Propylene Diene Rubber, Styrene Butadiene Rubber, Hard Ferrite Ring Magnets, Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene, Polyester Staple Fibre, Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric, Thermal Sensitive Paper, Sodium Cyanide, Barium Carbonate, Seamless Tube, Optical Fibre, Soda Ash, Metronidazole, Oxo Alcohols, Aniline, B&W Photographic Paper, Sodium Nitrite, Phthalic Anhydride, Hydroxyl Amine Sulphate, Trimethoprim, Polyester Film, Caustic Soda, Ferro Silicon, Seamless Grade Alloys etc., Strontium Carbonate, Dry Cell Batteries, Phosphoric Acid, Paracetamol, Sports Shoes, Sodium Hydrosulphite, Lead Acid batteries, Choline Chloride, Zinc Oxide, Analgin, High Styrene Copolymer Rubber, Partially Oriented Yarn, White Cement, Hexamine, Vitamin AD₃ and 2- Methyl (5) Nitro Imidazole.

(d) Anti-Dumping Duty has been imposed on 81 products since 1992.

(e) No formal objection has been lodged nor has any case referred to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism under WTO by any country.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

(h) Anti-Dumping Duties are imposed as a corrective measure when there are unfair trade practices. It is therefore, not feasible to assess and quantify the extent of protection provided to the domestic industry.

[English]

Special Economic Zones

*372. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's scheme to set up Special Economic Zone has taken off;

(b) If so, the details of Special Economic Zones that have been set up so far;

(c) whether fiscal and other incentives coupled with 'State of the Art' infrastructure facilities have been provided to attract FDI in these zones;

(d) the extent to which these zones are different from the export proceeding zones;

(e) whether there has been a palpable impact on foreign investment due to such Special Economic Zones; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) In the Export Import Policy (1997-2002), announced in March, 2000, the Government has introduced a policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. As per the policy, the Central Government is not to set up any new SEZs. The scheme, however, envisages setting up of SEZ in the public, private, joint sectors or by the State Governments. Further, existing Export Processing Zones could also be converted into Special Economic Zones.

In accordance with the above policy, four Export Processing Zones located at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat) have been converted into Special Economic Zones on 1.11.2000. In addition in principle approvals have been granted for setting up of Special Economic Zones at Positra (Gujarat) in the joint sector and by the State Governments at Dronagiri (Maharashtra), Nanguneri (Tamil Nadu), Kulpi (West Bengal), Paradeep and Gopalpur (Orissa), Bhadohi,

Kanpur and Greater Noida (U.P.), Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Hassan (Kernataka) on the basis of proposals received from them. The zones are at various stages of implementation.

(c) The facilities and incentives offered for development of state of the art infrastructure in SEZs include exemption from excise duty and concessional custom duty for goods required for development of SEZ and entitlements under section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act. Facilities and incentives offered to SEZ units are exemption from customs/excise duty on import/domestic procurement of capital goods, raw materials, consumables etc., reimbursement of Central Sales Tax, 100% Foreign direct Investment in manufacturing sector through automatic route, facility to retain 100% foreign exchange receipts in EEFC account, and simpler procedures.

(d) Major difference between EPZs and SEZs include (i) no minimum export performance or net foreign exchange earning requirement unlike in the case of EPZs, (ii) domestic sales on payment of full duty, against 50% for EPZ units (iii) retention of 100% export earnings in EEFC account; for EPZs it is upto 70%, (iv) Simplified Custom and Central Excise procedure.

(e) and (f) It is too early to assess the impact on foreign investment due to SEZ scheme as the new integrated SEZs are at the initial stages of implementation.

Cut in Cement Production

*373. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cement manufacturers have further curtailed the production from 10 to 15 per cent from July, 2001 to justify a hike in the prices;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government towards this 'modulated' cut in production, which constitute market manipulation through cartelisation and restrictive trade practices; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) :

(a) — Cement has been delicensed from the year 1989.

- Government does not control or regulate the production and prices of cement.
- Market forces of demand and supply determine the level of production and prices.

— Production of cement has a tendency to keep low during the monsoon, i.e. July to September because of suppressed demand. The quarterly figures of cement production from the year 1997-98 to July, 2001-02 is given below :

(In Million Tonnes)

Month	Production				
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
April - June	18.97	19.93	24.46	25.47	26.36
July - Sept	16.87	17.75	20.93	21.56	7.36 (July)
Oct - Dec	19.33	20.18	22.53	22.62	--
Jan - March	21.57	23.81	26.29	25.87	--
Total	76.74	81.67	94.21	93.52	--

— The figures given above show reduction in the production of cement in the monsoons, which picks up later with the increase in demand.

— Seasonal variations in production is a normal phenomenon and does not prove wilful reduction in the production by the cement manufacturers. In fact, the annual production of cement has risen every year except for marginal decrease (0.73%) in 2000-01.

— There are no reports of scarcity of cement in the market.

— Prices of cement during the month of July, 2001 as compared with the prices during the months of December, 2000 and January, 2001 have shown downward trend as given in the enclosed Statement. Even in the first fortnight of August prices have generally remained either constant or marginally decreased.

(b) There is no specific complaint with MRTP to suggest 'modulated' cut in production from 10 to 15 %, by formation of a cartel by the cement manufacturers.

(c) Government has reduced import duty of cement from 35% to 25% to stabilize domestic prices. However, if the situation demands, Government will not hesitate to take remedial measures in public interests.

Statement

	Dec. 2000	Jan. 2001	Feb. 01	Mar. 01	Apr. 01	4 May 01	28 Jul-01	31 July 01	Price in Dec 00/ Jan 01		13 Aug. 01	reduction on 13 Aug. 01		% decrease in 13 Aug. 01	
	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	Min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	min. max.	max.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Northern Region															
Delhi	133-156	149-155	140-152	140-146	140-152	143-145	124-126	142-144	152-156	8-12-00	140-142	12	14	7.89	8.97
Karnal	152-155	152-155	146-155	143-151	146-155	149-151	135-137	148-150	152-155	8-12-00	146-148	6	7	3.95	4.51
Chandigarh	136-160	158-165	159-165	154-161	154-165	163-165	148-150	156-158	163-165	19-1-01	156-158	7	7	4.29	4.24
Jaipur	121-145	143-145	136-145	135-141	135-150	148-150	115-117	131-133	143-145	8-12-00	131-133	12	12	8.39	8.28
Rohtak	132-150	145-150	145-150	142-147	143-150	146-148	125-127	143-145	148-150	8-12-00	141-143	7	7	4.73	4.67
Bhāinda	134-160	163-165	158-165	154-163	154-164	161-163	140-142	155-158	163-165	5-1-01	156-158	7	7	4.29	4.24
Ludhiana	138-165	168-170	164-170	156-166	156-170	165-168	151-153	155-157	168-170	5-1-01	155-157	13	13	7.74	7.65
Jammu	185-192	195-200	192-200	192-200	192-198	190-195	190-192	190-192	195-200	5-1-01	190-192	5	8	2.56	4.00
Shimla	150-163	165-170	165-170	165-170	165-170	165-170	160-165	165-168	165-170	5-1-01	155-168	0	2	0	1.18
Eastern Region															
Calcutta	124-170	160-165	155-165	153-163	152-158	152-157	132-137	142-147	160-170	29-12-00	142-147	18	23	11.25	13.53
Patna	120-170	130-160	131-160	131-160	135-165	140-160	135-151	140-156	140-170	29-12-00	140-156	0	14	0.00	8.24
Bhubaneswar	128-160	147-161	147-161	145-162	145-162	145-160	130-137	125-140	158-161	29-12-00	128-137	30	24	18.99	14.91
Guwahati	160-184	182-184	180-184	180-184	182-184	182-184	182-184	182-184	182-184	8-12-00	182-184	0	0	0	0
Muzaffarpur	132-173	131-163	132-153	131-163	135-168	140-162	135-154	135-158	152-173	29-12-00	135-158	17	15	11.18	8.67
Silchar															
Western Region															
Bombay	160-180	181-185	180-185	178-185	172-185	170-175	170-175	175-180	180-185	5-1-01	175-180	5	5	2.77	2.70

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Ahmedabad	125-165	158-165	156-163	151-161	150-157	150-155	152-157	152-157	163-165	5-1-01	152-157	11	8	6.75	4.85
Nagpur	137-158	153-160	154-160	152-157	148-155	146-150	128-135	144-148	157-160	19-1-01	144-148	13	12	8.28	7.50
Pune	150-168	166-174	169-174	165-174	158-168	158-161	128-132	155-159	169-174	19-1-01	155-160	14	14	8.28	8.05
Rajkot	124-160	158-163	156-163	150-161	150-157	150-155	152-157	152-157	160-163	12-1-01	152-157	8	6	5.00	3.68
Baroda	125-162	158-165	156-163	150-161	150-157	150-155	152-157	152-157	158-165	5-1-01	152-157	8	8	3.80	4.85
Surat	125-165	158-163	157-163	150-162	150-157	150-155	152-157	152-157	161-165	22-12-00	152-157	9	8	5.59	4.84
Southern Region															
Chennai	170-190	175-190	170-190	165-185	165-180	160-180	155-165	160-170	175-190	29-12-00	160-170	15	20	8.57	10.52
Thiruvananthapuram	180-195	185-198	181-198	178-194	178-192	175-192	180-190	180-190	185-198	19-1-101	180-190	5	8	2.70	4.04
Bangalore	160-175	160-180	157-180	153-173	160-172	158-170	160-170	160-170	165-180	19-1-01	160-170	5	10	3.03	5.56
Hyderabad	145-160	145-160	145-160	135-156	135-150	135-145	150-160	150-160	150-160	19-1-01	150-160	0	0	0	0
Calicut	180-195	180-195	178-195	173-191	173-188	173-186	180-190	180-190	180-195	22-12-00	180-190	0	5	0	2.56
Visakhapatnam	160-170	155-170	150-170	145-162	146-158	142-150	155-165	155-165	165-170	8-12-00	155-165	10	5	6.08	2.94
Goa	133-150	148-165	160-165	152-165	152-155	150-155	150-155*	145-150	160-165	26-1-01	145-150	15	15	9.38	9.09
Central Region															
Lucknow	130-150	142-155	142-155	142-160	146-154	150-152	135-145	142-148	152-155	26-1-01	142-148	10	7	6.58	4.52
Meerut	130-155	145-152	140-152	140-148	145-148	145-148	135-140	140-142	150-155	26-1-01	142-145	8	10	5.33	6.45
Faizabad	115-150	138-152	148-152	143-161	146-150	148-150	135-145	140-145	148-152	26-1-01	138-142	10	10	6.78	6.58
Bareilly	130-150	145-152	141-150	141-148	141-150	145-150	135-140	140-145	145-152	5-1-01	136-142	9	10	6.21	6.58
Bhopal	115-180	153-160	148-158	145-158	145-152	140-145	130-140	132-142	153-160	5-1-01	135-140	18	20	11.76	12.50

(*) as on 15.06.01

Price have remained stable in the first week of August in major consumption centres.

Cinema on Concurrent List

*374. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to seek a consensus on the issue of bringing the cinema from the State List to the Concurrent List of the constitution of India, as agreed to in the conference of State Information Ministers' Conference held in January, 2001;

(b) if so, its constitution and terms of reference;

(c) whether the Government have received the Committee Report;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made and accepted by Government;

(e) whether these recommendations have been circulated to State Governments for their comments;

(f) if so, the reactions of the State Governments thereto; and

(g) by when it is proposed to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (g) The question of bringing the subject of "Cinema" on the Concurrent List has been taken up with the State Governments. However, no consensus has been arrived at in this matter. The 24th Conference of States and Union Territory Ministers of Information & Cinematography held at New Delhi on 21-2-2001 deliberated upon this matter. In pursuance of their recommendations, a Committee has been set up for Development of the Entertainment Sector including films, under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Information & Broadcasting comprising State Ministers of Information and Public Relations from nine States, where, in addition to other issues pertaining to the entertainment sector, this issue will also be considered. The Committee has not submitted its report as yet.

The composition of the Committee constituted vide this Ministry's order No. 103/1/2001 dated 14-2-2001 is as follows :

(i) Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting- Chairperson

(ii) Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting - Vice Chairman.

(iii) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Assam.

(iv) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Gujarat

(v) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of J & K.

(vi) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Jharkhand.

(vii) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Karnataka.

(viii) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Maharashtra.

(ix) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Mizoram.

(x) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Rajasthan.

(xi) Minister in charge of Information & PR, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The terms of reference of the Committee are :

(i) To suggest a policy framework, both at the Centre and in the States, conducive for nurturing the entertainment sector;

(ii) To recommend changes in the legislative and regulatory framework due to the changing/evolving canvas of the entertainment sector;

(iii) To identify the additional infrastructure needs in terms of inter-alia, education, training, software production facilities, exhibition etc;

(iv) To suggest measures for boosting exports;

(v) To identify ways for providing finance for cinema;

(vi) To review the taxation regime and recommend changes, which could be made conducive to greater revenue generation, and at the same time, also encouraging the entertainment sector;

(vii) Any other issue related or incidental for achieving the potential of the entertainment sector.

Subsidies to Reduce Cost of Marketing and Export

*375. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of WTO compulsions and the need for reducing the cost of marketing and exports, both in agricultural and other products;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to grant WTO-compatible subsidies to reduce such exports costs in areas like handling and processing as also in reducing the cost of international and internal transport and freight; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) While the export subsidies are prohibited under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), the countries which were giving export subsidies at the time of entering into force of the Agreement on Agriculture are required to undertake reduction commitments from the 1986-1990 base levels at the rate of 36% in value terms and 21% in volume terms over a six years period. However, in the case of developing countries, the reduction commitments are 24% in value terms and 14% in volume terms respectively over a ten years period and no reduction commitments are required to be undertaken by the developing countries in respect of export subsidies to reduce the cost of marketing exports of agricultural products including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and the costs of international transport and freight as well as internal transport freight charges on export shipments during the implementation period. As far as the goods not covered by the AoA are concerned, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures permits developing countries having annual per capita GNP of less than US\$ 1000/- to give export subsidies upto 3% without the risk of being countervailed.

In India, exporters of certain specified agricultural items under some specific circumstances, get some subsidies to reduce the cost of international freight.

WTO compatible support to reduce the cost of marketing exports of agricultural products has been provided in the scheme for Agri-Export Zones and for Market Access Initiatives.

Reduction in Prices of Wheat Supplied to Southern States

*376. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request for reduction in prices of wheat supplied through FCI to the wheat millers of Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have acceded to the requests of the Southern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from Karnataka Roller Flour Mills Association, Tamil Nadu Roller Flour Mills Association, Confederation of Roller Flour Mills of Southern States, Chennai and Kerala Roller Flour Mills Association for reduction in prices of wheat supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to the wheat millers of Southern States.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Open sale rates of wheat are fixed by the High Level Committee of FCI Zone wise after taking into account the Zonal economic cost of wheat as maintained by the FCI and other relevant factors like carrying costs, tax components and transportation charges, etc. The rates in respect of the Southern Zone are generally higher as compared to the rates applicable to other Zones because of transportation charges.

[Translation]

Export of Sugar

*377. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has initiated measures for enhancing the export of sugar keeping in view the increasing demand of sugar in the World and the decrease in the sugar production of other sugar exporting countries;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to hold negotiations with exporting countries for better coordination so that better prices could be obtained in the international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the export price of sugar fixed for this year

for various exporting countries in the international market?

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

(a) The Government has taken various measures to boost the export of sugar. These measures include, inter-alia, the following :-

- (i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation. This exemption is available upto 30.9.2001 or till further orders, whichever is later.
- (ii) The quantity exported for commercial export is to be treated as advance freesale release to be adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release.
- (iii) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the FOB value of exports of sugar has been allowed.
- (iv) Quantitative restrictions on the export of sugar have been removed. The requirement of registration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) for the purpose of export of sugar has also been done away with effect from 1.4.2001.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration. It may also be mentioned that the export of sugar is completely free and that the export price of sugar depends on a number of factors such as quality and international price of sugar.

(d) The Government does not fix the export price of sugar for any country.

[English]

Exclusion of Medicines from the Purview of TRIPS

*378. **SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to exclude AIDS medicines from purview of TRIPS and GATT;

(b) whether the Government have taken any initiatives at WTO for excluding AIDS medicines and other life saving drugs from the purview of TRIPS;

(c) whether the prices of AIDS medicines are likely to increase due to Patent, new provision under TRIPS;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control the situation;

(e) the AIDS medicine prices of MNCs in the other countries complying with TRIPS and the prices of same in India; and

(f) the coordinating effort initiated by his Ministry with the Health Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) In a Special Session of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) of the WTO, held on 20th June, 2001, India along with 46 other developing countries have submitted a joint paper on "TRIPS & Public Health". It has been demanded in this joint paper that the WTO should ensure that the TRIPS Agreement does not undermine the right of the WTO Members to formulate their own public health policies and adopt measures for providing affordable access to medicines. Greater flexibility and clarity in the interpretation of the TRIPS Agreement has been sought in order to take care of the public health concerns of the developing countries of providing affordable access to essential medicines and life saving drugs. As a part of the redressal of the "implementation related concerns", India along with other like minded group of countries had earlier submitted a proposal in the WTO that the list of exceptions to patentability under Article 27.3(b) of the TRIPS Agreement should also include the list of essential drugs of the World Health Organisation. However, no decision has yet been taken on this proposal.

(c) to (f) The existing Indian Patents Act 1970 including its amendments provides for only process patents for pharmaceutical products and medicines in India and the obligation to provide product patents for pharmaceutical products and medicines by India under TRIPs will come into effect only from 1/1/2005. TRIPs Agreement does not have any specific provision for directly regulating the prices of the medicines, though it provides for the issue of Compulsory Licences under certain circumstances. Currently, the prices of AIDS medicines in India are generally less than the prices of these medicines in other countries. However, the Government are monitoring the prices of AIDS medicines in India and if required, appropriate measures could be taken under the provisions of the Patent Act, 1970 and the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry regularly coordinates with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in this regard.

Outflow of Capital

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

(a) whether the outflow of capital from the country has taken place in the recent years due to unfavourable conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any amnesty scheme has been designed to get these funds back to the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. On contrary, there had been significant quantum of net capital inflows to the extent of US \$8.6 billion, US \$10.8 billion and US \$7.5 billion respectively during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Such capital inflows were attracted by reasonably strong economic growth and sound economic policies of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Antyodaya Yojana

*380. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Jansatta", dated July 25, 2001 regarding the Antyodaya Yojana;

(b) the reasons for the failure of Antyodaya Yojana; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make Antyodaya Yojana a success?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not correct to say that the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has failed. No specific case where a Fair Price Shop (FPS) owner has sold the foodgrains meant for the AAY at higher prices or retained the ration cards of Antyodaya families has been quoted in the news item under reference.

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central Government and the State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS items upto the designated godowns of the FCI. The responsibility of distribution to consumers through the FPSs, issue of ration cards, opening of FPSs and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments.

The Central Government has advised the State Governments to involve the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the supervision and monitoring of the PDS, especially at the FPS level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of the PRIs at the grass root level will make the system transparent and accountable.

[English]

Modernisation of Irrigation Tanks

3794. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development to expand its support to modernize 4,554 Panchayat Raj minor irrigation tanks in the State;

(b) if so, whether the NABARD has agreed to extend its support for the proposed project;

(c) if so, the extent to which NABARD has extended its support;

(d) the number of tanks proposed to be modernized under the proposed project; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought a loan of Rs. 100 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for modernization of about 5000 Panchayat Raj minor irrigation tanks in the State.

(b) NABARD has agreed to consider those projects for sanction wherein the works proposed would not be of maintenance nature and would require capital investment for bringing additional area under irrigation.

(c) NABARD has reported that the proposal has been appraised after conducting field study. The State Government has been advised to initially sponsor breached tanks for bringing additional area under cultivation.

(d) NABARD has further reported that the State Government has so far submitted 127 such proposals with a total outlay of Rs. 408.71 lakh. The projects shall be further appraised after receipt of additional information.

(e) The projects once sanctioned are expected to be completed within a period of three years from the date of sanction.

Provision of Wheat by FCI to Flour Mills

3795. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) whether FCI is providing wheat to flour mills owners at subsidised rates;

(b) If so, the details of the wheat provided by FCI to flour mills owners during the last year and in current year, till date;

(c) whether the wheat at subsidized rates is being provided under any scheme; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) FCI undertakes Open Market Sales Scheme of wheat all over the country at subsidised rates. Roller Flour Mills are also eligible to purchase wheat under the scheme at the prices fixed zonewise.

(b) The quantity of wheat lifted by all parties including RFM's during the last year and current year is as follows :-

2000-2001 2.93 lakh tonnes (Prov.)

2001-2002 : 2.66 lakh tonnes (")

(c) and (d) No other scheme is in operation, at present.

[Translation]

New Branch Offices of LIC

3796. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise number of branch offices of

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) in various States, especially Bihar;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to open more branch offices of LIC in various States;

(c) If so, the details thereof State-wise;

(d) whether all these branches have been opened; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and if not, by when these offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) LIC has reported that there are 2048 (Two thousand and forty eight) Branch Offices presently operating in various States in India. Out of these, 101 (one hundred one) Branch Offices are located in the State of Bihar. State-wise break-up is given at enclosed statement.

(b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Corporation for opening new Branch Offices.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise Break-up of Branch Offices of LIC

Name of the State/UT	No. of Branches
1	2
Haryana	36
Himachal Pradesh	23
J&K	17
Punjab	59
Chandigarh (UT)	10
Rajasthan	110
Delhi (UT)	65
Uttar Pradesh	247
Madhya Pradesh	140
West Bengal	138
Orissa	56

1	2
Assam	50
Bihar	101
Meghalaya	1
Andaman (UT)	1
Sikkim	1
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Mizoram	1
Manipur	4
Tripura	4
Nagaland	4
Andhra Pradesh	176
Karnataka	138
Kerala	85
Tamil Nadu	173
Pondicherry (UT)	3
Maharashtra	250
Goa	11
Gujarat	141
Dadra, Nagar Haveli & Daman	1
Total	2048

[English]

**Revival of Burns Standards
Wagon Company Limited**

3797. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Wagon manufacturing public sector units of public are incurring losses due to placing of less orders by Railway Ministry;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government for procuring more orders for manufacture of wagons;

(d) whether the wagon engineering units of Burns Standards Wagon Company Limited is again facing the crisis after revival package being passed by BIFR recently; and

(e) the steps have been taken to eliminate the crisis faced by the Burns Standard Wagon Units at Howrah and Bumpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Drop in wagon orders as well as their price has been responsible for losses. The subsidiaries of BBUNL namely, BSCL, Jessop, Braithwaite and BWEL, the four major wagon manufacturing companies in the public sector have collectively incurred losses of Rs. 136.43 crores, Rs. 128.32 crores, Rs. 52.74 crores, Rs. 104.17 crores and Rs. 84.49 crores (provisional) in the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 respectively. The Railways have been unable to place orders owing to outstanding wagon orders and vigilance checks regarding use of mild steel in place of specified corten steel being supplied by the Railways to wagon manufacturers as free supply item.

(c) The matter has been pursued with the Ministry of Railways at different levels. Additionally, PSUs, have been advised to actively explore the export market and possibilities for diversification.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) BIFR reviewed the performance of the Company in a hearing held on 23.02.2001 and directed it to prepare a modified package.

[Translation]

Excise Duty Concession

3798. SHRI P. R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether concession facility in excise duty for the items manufactured by the small scale units are also given to other manufacturers, who are manufacturing same brand of items in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Subject to certain conditions, excise duty exemption is available to specified goods manufactured by small scale units. However, exemption is not allowed to goods bearing the brand name of another person, except when such branded goods are produced by small scale units located in the rural area. Non-SSI units are not allowed any such exemption. The policy is to encourage production in small scale units, more so, when such units are located in rural areas.

Industrial Recession

3799. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Industry is gradually going into recession;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the specific steps being taken by the Government to overcome the recession;

(d) whether the Government also feels that there is a need to increase domestic demand to set-off the present industrial recession;

(e) if so, whether the CII has also made certain suggestions to the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. The recession is defined as negative growth in GDP for two consecutive quarters. The quarterly growth rates of GDP and industry indicate that the economy is experiencing a slowdown not recession.

	Oct-Dec 2000-01 (Q3)	Jan-Mar 2000-01 (Q4)
GDP	5.0	3.8
Industry	5.9	3.3

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) To overcome slowdown in industry, the Government have already initiated steps to boost industrial production in the country. These measures have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and to boost aggregate demand, improve infrastructure base, upgrade technology, introduce labour flexibility and encourage FDI flows.

(e) and (f) CII has suggested the following measures to boost industrial production :

- Stepping up the pace of second-generation reforms.
- Expeditious implementation of the policy announcements made in the budget (2001-02).
- Specific actions to accelerate the process of the resurgence of the rural sector.
- Speedy utilization of funds allocated under the budget for Ministries/Departments.
- Speedy implementation of infrastructure projects.

[English]

Audit by Central Board of Excise and Customs

3800. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs has decided to conduct yearly audit on all the units which are paying one crore Rupees or more as excise duty in a financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the audit procedure; and

(d) the procedure followed for auditing the units paying Rs. 20 lakh as excise duty in a financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Board has issued instructions in September, 2000 that the units paying duty of Rs. 1 crore and above from account current in a financial year will be audited mandatorily by using the modern techniques of auditing introduced in Central Excise called 'EA-2000'.

(c) The Government took measures to streamline audit in 1999 where-under new Audit System (EA-2000) was developed by using modern audit techniques and methods. The Central Excise Officers conducting such audits have been extensively trained for this purpose all over India. Scientifically prepared Audit Manual, Standard Audit Programme and Working Papers are main features of EA-2000.

(d) As per the instructions issued, audit of units paying duty Rs. 10 lakhs and above but not exceeding Rs. 1 crore in a financial year, will be undertaken once in two years. However, a system of selection by using Risk Assessment method, based on assessee's profile and risk factors will be applied to identify the units to be audited in the first year.

Advisory Committee on International Trade

3801. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reconstituted the advisory committee on international trade under his Chairmanship to advise in the formulation of International trade policy;

(b) whether the panel has also been authorised to recommend strategies for increasing market access for Indian goods and analyse the implications of various changes in the global scenario; and

(c) If so, the details of recommendations made by the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have reconstituted the Advisory Committee on International Trade vide Department of Commerce's Resolution no : 1/9/98-TPD dated 27th April 2001. The Committee advises the Government in the formulation of International trade policy. The terms of reference of the Committee, inter-alia, include discussing and giving inputs for the ongoing negotiations in the WTO, examining the non-tariff barriers being imposed by various countries against Indian goods and the action to be pursued to get them dismantled, recommending strategies for increasing market access for Indian goods, and analysing the implication of various changes taking place in the global scenario with a view to recommend suitable policy changes, etc.

A meeting of the reconstituted Advisory Committee on International Trade was held on 12th June, 2001. The

Committee made various suggestions which, inter-alia, included recommending a demand for substantive review of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) so as to give necessary flexibility and domestic policy options to the developing countries. The Committee also recommended pressing for the early upfront resolution of the implementation issues raised by the developing countries. The resolution of implementation issues is likely to lead to an increase in market access opportunities for Indian goods particularly in agriculture and textiles. The Committee also recommended that a study should be got done to assess the impact of the Uruguay Round agreements on Indian economy in general and on agriculture and small scale industry in particular.

[Translation]

Non Functioning of Rajgarh DD Centre, Rajasthan

3802. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that LPT (Low Power TV Relay Centre) situated at Rajgarh in Rajasthan is not functioning properly;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether even not a single trained employee has been posted in this Doordarshan relay centre;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which a trained and skilled employee shall be posted in this centre so that the people of Rajgarh could be benefited by this centre?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has reported that the Low Power TV Transmitter at Rajgarh in Churu district of Rajasthan, and the Very Low Power TV Transmitter at Rajgarh in Alwar district of Rajasthan, are generally functioning satisfactorily.

(c) to (e) Two employees are posted at the Low Power Transmitter at Rajgarh in Churu district. The Very Low Power Transmitter at Rajgarh in Alwar district is an unmanned installation, and no staff member is envisaged to be posted there.

[English]

Coffee Board Cafferla

3803. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Coffee Board Catteria functioning at present in the country;

(b) the number of Catteria out of them incurring losses;

(c) the actions taken by the Coffee Board in this regard;

(d) whether there is any programme to revive them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Out of the 11 Indian Coffee Houses operating in the country, only one Coffee House incurred operational losses in the year 2000-01.

(c) to (e) The performances of the Coffee Houses is periodically reviewed by the Coffee Board and where necessary prices of items sold are proposed for revision to reduce / avoid operational losses.

Reconstruction Fund

3804. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with Ministry of Finance regarding setting up of a Reconstruction Fund;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of Finance Ministry thereon; and

(c) the time by which the said fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Procurement of Wheat

3805. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the quantum of wheat procured

in Haryana by Food Corporation of India during the year 2000-2001;

(b) the number of centres opened in the State to procure wheat during 2000;

(c) whether there is a proposal to open more procuring centres in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procured a quantity of 4.12 lakh tonnes of wheat in Haryana during Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001.

(b) A total number of 380 purchase centres were opened to procure wheat by the FCI and State agencies during 2000-2001. Out of these 43 purchase centres were exclusively operated by FCI and 34 centres jointly with State Governments/its agencies. The State Government and its agencies operated 303 purchase centres.

(c) to (e) Before the commencement of each Rabi Marketing Season sufficient number of purchase centres are opened by the FCI in consultation with the State Government to avoid distress sale and inconvenience to the farmers.

[English]

Excise Duty on Consumer Goods

3806. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently substantially lowered excise duty on consumer goods specially processed foods like tomato ketchups, soft drinks etc.;

(b) whether the Government are aware that no relief has been passed on to the consumer by manufacturers; and

(c) If so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) After the budget, no significant change in the excise duty structure applicable to consumer goods specially proc-

essed foods like tomato ketchups, soft drinks etc. has been made.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

3807. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently approved a scheme for implementation of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana with a subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the proposed amendments as well as the procedure to be followed regarding allowing the share of subsidy, State-wise?

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

Anna Yojana (AAY) announced on the 25 December, 2000 contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with food grains @ 25 kg per family per month at highly subsidized rates - Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice.

Keeping in view the extremely poor condition of the Antyodaya families, the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments / UT Administrations to ensure that the end retail price is retained at Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice. The scheme has been implemented so far in 15 States and 3 Union Territories after completion of the task of identification and issue of distinctive ration cards to the beneficiary families.

(b) There is no proposal to amend the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Government of India would be bearing an annual subsidy of Rs. 2221 crores on the implementation of the scheme. State-wise share of subsidy on implementation of AAY is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Statewise subsidy implications in making allocations for Antyodaya Families @25 kg per family per month to the States

Sl.No.	State/UT	Poorest of the poor Households in the State (15.33% of BPL households (Antyodaya)	Monthly Allocation of Foodgrains to Antyodaya families @ 25 kg per family per month (in '000 Tonnes)	Bifurcation of monthly Alloc. of Foodgrains into Rice & Wheat as per present Ratio		Monthly Subsidy Involved	Annual Subsidy Involved
				Rice	Wheat		
				(In '000 Tonnes)			(Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	622800	15.570	15.570	0.000	12.923	155.077
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15100	0.378	0.343	0.034	0.036	3.677
3.	Assam	281500	7.038	7.038	0.000	5.841	70.094
4.	Bihar	1000000	25.000	10.000	15.000	17.750	213.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	287400	7.185	7.185	0.000	5.964	71.563
6.	Delhi	62600	1.565	0.000	1.565	0.986	11.831
7.	Goa	7300	0.183	0.125	0.058	0.140	1.679
8.	Gujarat	325000	8.125	3.250	4.875	5.769	69.225

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Haryana	120900	3.023	0.000	3.023	1.904	22.850
10.	Himachal Pradesh	78700	1.968	1.181	0.787	1.476	17.712
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112900	2.823	2.147	0.676	2.207	26.490
12.	Jharkhand	366500	9.163	3.665	5.498	6.505	78.065
13.	Karnataka	479700	11.993	9.594	2.399	9.474	113.689
14.	Kerala	238200	5.955	5.955	0.000	4.943	59.312
15.	Madhya Pradesh	632400	15.810	4.760	11.050	10.912	130.947
16.	Maharashtra	1001700	25.043	8.765	16.278	17.530	210.361
17.	Manipur	25500	0.638	0.638	0.000	0.529	6.350
18.	Meghalaya	28100	0.703	0.703	0.000	0.583	6.997
19.	Mizoram	10500	0.263	0.263	0.000	0.218	2.615
20.	Nagaland	18900	0.473	0.379	0.094	0.373	4.482
21.	Orissa	505500	12.638	12.638	0.000	10.489	125.870
22.	Punjab	71700	1.793	0.000	1.793	1.130	13.555
23.	Rajasthan	372600	9.315	0.107	9.208	5.890	70.679
24.	Sikkim	6700	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.139	1.668
25.	Tamil Nadu	745500	18.638	18.638	0.000	15.489	185.630
26.	Tripura	45200	1.130	1.130	0.000	0.938	11.255
27.	Uttaranchal	76300	1.908	1.243	0.664	1.450	17.405
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1637100	40.928	12.886	28.042	28.361	340.337
29.	West Bengal	793900	19.848	9.581	10.267	14.420	173.041
30.	A & N Island	4300	0.108	0.073	0.035	0.083	0.995
31.	Chandigarh	3500	0.088	0.010	0.078	0.057	0.685
32.	D & N Haveli	2800	0.070	0.050	0.020	0.054	0.649
33.	Daman & Diu	600	0.015	0.010	0.005	0.011	0.137
34.	Lakshadweep	400	0.010	0.010	0.000	0.008	0.100
35.	Pondicherry	12800	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.266	3.187
Total		9994600	249.865	138.421	111.446	185.101	2221.208

Movement of Foodgrains

3808. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to issue instruction to Food Corporation of India to move additional quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of boiled rice over the normal movement to reduce the pressure on godown space for receiving levy rice by FCI in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken on the request of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether FCI is facing acute storage facilities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for smooth movement of rice from one State to other to reduce pressure on storage capacity of FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government in May, 2001 to issue instructions to FCI to move additional quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of boiled rice per month, over and above the normal movement to reduce the pressure on godown space for receiving levy rice by FCI in Andhra Pradesh, but the request could not be acceded to. It was explained to the Government of Andhra Pradesh that FCI is finding it extremely difficult to sustain the desired level of movement from various procuring States on account of saturation of storage capacity, but it would be endeavouring to optimize procurement and movement. Despite several constraints about 2.97 lakh tonnes of rice per month was moved out of Andhra Pradesh during April-June 2001, as against 2.39 lakh MTs per month during 2000-01 and 2.36 lakh MTs during 1999-2000.

(c) Yes, Sir. FCI is facing acute shortage of storage facilities in Andhra Pradesh as in most of the foodgrains procuring States. In order to create additional storage space for rice, FCI has been allowed to get about 15 lakh MTs of additional storage capacity created through the State Government on 7 years Guarantee Basis in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) In order to improve lifting and movement of foodgrains from the FCI stocks, apart from allocations of foodgrains under various welfare schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Food for Work, Annapurana Yojana etc.,

Government has also raised the allocation of BPL families from 20 kg to 25 kg per family per month. Central issue Prices of foodgrains for APL families have also been reduced.

Hiring of Consultants to Increase Exports

3809. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to hire consultants to study industries abroad with a view to increase the exports of our domestic industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries proposed to be included for such study;

(d) the sectors proposed to be included for the study;

(e) the strategy adopted by the Government to boost the export after the globalisation; and

(f) the extent to which it would be helpful to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Export promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, studies are commissioned from time to time through various agencies with a view to identify export potential and to improve competitiveness of our exports vis-a-vis other competitive countries. The coverage of such studies includes various sectors and various countries having export potential.

(e) and (f) A number of steps have been taken to enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports. Besides these, the measures announced in the new Exim Policy 2001-2002 inter alia include promotion of agricultural exports, market access initiative, setting up business

cum trade facilitation centre and trade portal, strengthening of the Advance Licensing Scheme, etc.

BIFR

3810. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Banks and Financial Institutions have opposed the Government's recent move to wind up BIFR;

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the banks and financial institutions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Special Tariff Regime to Pakistan

3811. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether CII has suggested the Indian Government to offer special tariff regime to Pakistan so as to achieve better economic relationship between both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

5th Pay Commission Recommendation to form Subordinate Economic Service

3812. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation to form Subordinate Economic Service;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and measures taken by the Government to expedite the same; and

(d) the time by which the proposed Subordinate Economic Service is likely to be made functional?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Loans from Banks by UTI

3813. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UTI has decided to mobilise fresh loan by pledging shares worth crores of rupees with banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the rate of interest which is to be charged by banks on this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has intimated that the option of availing a line of credit from banks by pledging shares as collateral is one of the options considered by UTI while addressing the issue of liquidity. The requirement of liquidity is a matter that has come up in the context of the limited repurchase facility offered to unitholders under US-64. UTI has not yet availed of the loan.

(c) According to UTI, banks have offered the line of credit at rates below their Prime Lending Rates.

DD Metro Channel

3814. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the television sets in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada region of Maharashtra do not catch Doordarshan Metro Channel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum to this effect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) At present High Power TV transmitters at Mumbai and Nagpur, and Low Power TV transmitters at Ambajogal and Bhandara, are relaying Metro Channel service in Maharashtra. Prasar Bharati has reported that parts of Western Maharashtra and Marathwada region are covered by these transmitters, and television viewers within the coverage areas of these transmitters would be able to watch Metro Channel programmes.

(c) and (d) Requests have been received from time to time for expansion of Metro Channel coverage in Maharashtra. For further expansion of DD Metro Channel coverage in the State, two High Power Transmitters, at Aurangabad and Pune, and 9 Low Power Transmitters, at Akola, Amaravati, Dhule, Kolhapur, Malegaon, Nanded, Nashik, Sangli, and Sholapur, are under Implementation.

Participation of ITPO in Fairs Abroad

3815. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of fairs held in abroad in which India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has organised Indian participation during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the details of business generated during such participations;

(c) whether large number of business negotiations initiated during these fairs have not been able to bag orders to the desired level; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Details of the fairs and business generated (as reported by participants) for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given at Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(c) and (d) The business negotiation initiated during the fair are directly followed up by the concerned participants with the buyers. Even after the conclusion of the fair, Indian participants and their overseas business contacts continue business negotiations over a long period of time. Results of such negotiations are not reported to ITPO.

Statement-I

Details of Fairs and Business Generated during 1999-2000

S.No.	Name place and dates of events	Business Generated (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Hannover Fair, Hannover (Germany) April 19-24, 1999	1405.80
2.	Asia Pacific Leather Fair Hong Kong, Part I April 20-23, 1999 Part II April 27-29, 1999	1723.00
3.	Zimbabwe Intl. Fair, Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), April 29-May 6, 1999	31.25
4.	Watch and Clock Fair Basel (Switzerland) April 29-May 6, 1999	1760.00
5.	West Japan Import Fair, Kitakyushu, Japan, May 1-5, 1999	Not reported
6.	Intl. Fair of Consumer Goods, Plovdiv (Bulgaria), May 3-8, 1999	4.84
7.	BSM for Textiles and Home Furnishings, Manila (Phillippines) May 27-28, 1999	2124.00
8.	10th Home Furnishing Fair, Tokyo (Japan) June 2-4, 1999	5490.00
9.	TCF-International Textile, Clothing Footwear & Fashion Accessories Exhibition, Melbourne (Australia), June 22-24, 1999	101.90
10.	Fenit-International Textile & Fashion Fair, Sao Paulo (Brazil) June 22-25, 1999	16.00
11.	45th Annual International Fancy Food & Confectionery Show, New York, USA, July 11-14, 1999	Not reported.
12.	20th India Garment Fair, Osaka (Japan) July 27-29, 1999	11934.00

1	2	3
13.	WSA-The Shoe Show, Las Vegas (USA), August 3-6, 1999	767.00
14.	Indian Exhibition, Mauritius, August 11-17, 1999	2800.00
15.	National Hardware Show, Chicago (USA), August 15-18, 1999	3985.55
16.	Izmir International Fair, Izmir (Turkey), Aug. 26-Sept. 3, 1999	61.61
17.	Damascus International Fair, Damascus (Syria), Aug. 28-Sept. 7, 1999	57.50
18.	Fukukoa International Trade Fair, Fukukoa (Japan), September 8-12, 1999	Not reported
19.	Prêt-à-Porter Fair, Paris (France), September 3-6, 1999	1676.00
20.	Expohogar, Barcelona (Spain), September 9-13, 1999	110.86
21.	Communet, Osaka (Japan), September 14-16, 1999	Not reported
22.	Pharmatsiya' 99, St. Petersburg (Russia), Sept. 13-16, 1999	Not reported
23.	4th Japan Stone Fair Intl. Tokyo (Japan), September 28 - October 1, 1999	281.00
24.	World Food Moscow' 99 Moscow (Russia) Sept. 21-25, 1999	260.00
25.	APPA/ASIA/MEMA Show, Las Vegas, USA, November 2-5, 1999	729.00
26.	Tehran International Trade Fair, Tehran (Iran), Oct. 2-9, 1999	3700.00
27.	7th Intl. Trade Fair, Kampala (Uganda), Oct. 6-11, 1999	130.00
28.	Anuga Food Fair, Cologne (Germany), Oct. 9-14, 1999	Not reported
29.	ASPAT-8th Asia Pacific International Fair, Seoul (S. Korea), Oct. 13-17, 1999	Not reported

1	2	3
30.	Interkama Intl. Trade Fair, Dusseldorf (Germany), Oct. 18-23, 1999	319.00
31.	32nd International Fair of Algiers, Algiers (Algeria), Oct. 12-23, 1999	135.00
32.	International Alternative Therapies and Natural Products Fair, Sao Paulo (Brazil), Oct. 14-17, 1999	Not reported
33.	Saitex Fair, Johannesburg (S. Africa) Oct. 19-23, 1999	6495.59
34.	Arab Jewellery & Watch Exh. Abu-Dhabi (S. Arabia), Nov.1-5, 1999	80.36
35.	Baghdad International Fair, Baghdad (Iraq), Nov. 1-10, 1999	106591.00
36.	Technomedica, Lima (Peru), Nov. 15-21, 1999	Not reported
37.	Helmtexil Fair, Frankfurt (Germany), Jan. 12-15, 2000	10066.00
38.	Domotex Fair, Hannover (Germany), Jan. 15-18, 2000	500.00
39.	Chicago Gift Show, Chicago (USA), Jan. 29 - Feb.1, 2000	10.90
40.	WSA Las Vegas (USA) Feb. 4-7, 2000	77.00
41.	India at the New Millennium, Hong Kong, February 24-27, 2000	720.00
42.	Cairo International Fair, Cairo (Egypt), March 1-10, 2000	150.57
43.	Foodex, Tokyo (Japan), March 7-10, 2000	585.00
44.	International Hardware Show, Cologne (Germany), March 12-15, 2000	3600.00
45.	Expocomer International Fair, Panama City (Panama) March 15-20, 2000	655.31
46.	Watch & Clock Fair, Basel (Switzerland) March 23-30, 2000	5838.00
47.	Import Shop. Berlin (Germany) * March 30-31, 2000	Not reported

1	2	3
48.	Asia Pacific Leather Fair, Hong Kong Part I Mar. 30-April 1 & Part II April 5-8, 2000	2703.00
49.	PC Expo, Tokyo, (Japan), Sept. 7-11, 1999	Not reported

Statement-II*Details of Fairs and Business Generated
during 2000-2001*

S.No.	Name place and dates of events	Business Generated (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Vietnam International Trade Fair Hanoi (Vietnam), April 6-10, 2000	13.20
2.	Private Label/Product Development Expo. New York, April 11-13, 2000	13.05
3.	24th Osaka International Fair, Osaka April 29-May 4, 2000	37.13
4.	Indian Exhibition, Tel Aviv (Israel) May, 3-7, 2000	4742.00
5.	Memphis in May International (MIM), USA, May 5-13, 2000	900.00
6.	11th Indian Home Furnishings Fair, 2000 Osaka, May 23-25, 2000	2475.00
7.	TIBCO Fair Bucharest (Romania) May 31-June 5, 2000	99.41
8.	Algiers International Fair Algiers (Algeria), June 13-24, 2000	2820.00
9.	Fenit Intl. Textile & Fashion Fair Sao Paulo (Brazil) June 27-30, 2000	592.50
10.	International Fancy Food and Confectionery Show, USA, July 9-11, 2000	675.00
11.	Dar-es-Salaam Intl. Trade Fair Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) June 30-July 9, 2000	77.69
12.	21st India Garment Fair, Osaka, July 25-27, 2000	13500.00

1	2	3
13.	Indian Exhibition, Santiago (Chile) July 20-26, 2000	6092.00
14.	National Hardware Show Chicago (USA) August 13-16, 2000	1398.00
15.	Canadian National Exhn. (CNE) Toronto (Canada) Aug. 18-Sept. 4, 2000	47.42
16.	International Textile and Clothing Week, Cape Town, South Africa, August 23-25, 2000	810.00
17.	Izmir International Fair, Izmir (Turkey) Aug. 26-Sept. 3, 2000	31.00
18.	Automechanica, Germany, September, 6-10, 2000	9000.00
19.	Pret-A-Porter Fair, Paris (France) Sept. 8-11, 2000	483.30
20.	BNV-Budapest Intl. Fair for Consumer Goods Budapest (Hungary) September 15-24, 2000	145.20
21.	Expohogar Regalo-Intl. Gift & Houseware Show. Barcelona (Spain), Sept. 8-11, 2000	134.42
22.	Silk Road to Helsinki, September 17-October 1, 2000	1575.00
23.	World Food, Moscow (Russia), September 18-22, 2000	Nil
24.	New York Home Textile Show, New York, USA, September 22-25, 2000	2160.00
25.	Indian Exhibition, Kathmandu (Nepal) September 19-24, 2000	14884.19
26.	Tehran Intl. Trade Fair Tehran (Iran) October 1-8, 2000	1236.73
27.	Saltex Fair, Johannesburg (South Africa) October 3-7, 2000	469.25
28.	International Alternative Therapies And Natural Products Fair, Sao-Paulo (Brazil) October 5-8, 2000	21.00

1	2	3
29.	6th World PC Expo, Chiba, Japan, October 17-21, 2000	Not reported
30.	Tunis International Trade Fair, Tunis (Tunisia) October 20-29, 2000	23518.00
31.	Big-I-APPA, USA October 31–November 3, 2000	2583.00
32.	Sial Food Fair, Paris (France) October 22-26, 2000	37060.00
33.	Baghdad International Fair Baghdad (Iraq) November 1-10, 2000	38582.00
34.	World Trade Fair, Hamada, November 3-5, 2000	Not reported
35.	Import Shop, Berlin (Germany) November 23-24, 2000	1803.00
36.	Dakar International Fair Dakar (Senegal) November 23-5 December, 2000	1710.00
37.	Heimtextil Fair, Frankfurt (Germany) January 10-13, 2001	13143.00
38.	Domotex Fair Hannover (Germany) January 13-16, 2001	1619.00
39.	International Houseware Show, Chicago, USA, January 14-17, 2001	3600.00
40.	Consumexpo Moscow (Russia) January 15-19, 2001	1335.00
41.	Dhaka International Trade Fair, Dhaka (Bangladesh), January 20 - February 19, 2001	1710.50
42.	Khartoum Intl. Trade Fair Khartoum (Sudan), February 1-11, 2001	4205.00
43.	Indian Exhibition Dubai (UAE) February 14-18, 2001	14240.17
44.	International Hardware Show Cologne (Germany) February 18-21, 2001	3420.00
45.	Expocomer Intl. Trade Fair Panama City (Panama) March 7-12, 2001	159.40
46.	Foodex Japan, March 13-16, 2001	810.00

1	2	3
47.	World Watch, Clock & Jewellery Show, Basel (Switzerland) March, 22-29, 2001	Not reported
48.	Intl. Food & Drink Exhibition London (UK), March 25-28, 2001	1258.50
49.	Asia Pacific Leather Fair, Hong Kong March 26-28 & April 4, 2001	8000.00

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3816. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring educational institutions throughout the country within the ambit of Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) If so, whether the services rendered by educational institutions throughout the country have shown falling trends and provided deficient services;

(c) if so, the time by which all the educational institutions would be brought in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to safeguard the interests of students and their parents; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, service of any description made available to potential users for a consideration, excluding service rendered free of charge or under a contract of personal service, is covered under the Act. The provisions of the Act are applied in specific cases by the consumer disputes redressal agencies keeping the particular facts and circumstances of the case in view.

[Translation]

Abolishment of Top Posts

3817. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the number of senior level officers after introduction of liberalisation policy which has left very little work for the bureaucrats;

(b) the number of bureaucratic posts in respec-

tive Departments/Ministries which have been abolished during the last year; and

(c) the estimated annual saving on this account to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) An exercise to reduce posts by 10% with reference to the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.92 along with a review to abolish posts at the level of JS, was initiated in 1992. On the basis of this exercise, so far 135 posts at JS level have been abolished and on an overall basis approximately 1.73 lakh posts under various Groups and various Ministries/Departments have been abolished so far. Since rationalising the workforce in Government is an ongoing exercise which impacts on Ministries, Departments, attached offices and subordinate offices, it is not possible to quantify the savings thereon. However, details of annual expenditure on pay and allowances of Govt. establishments are given every year in the Expenditure Budget Vol. I presented to Parliament. Further, the Expenditure Reforms Commission has also been set up to review, inter-alia, the adequacy of staffing under the Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions keeping in view the functions required to be performed by them. The details of posts to be abolished in various Ministries/Departments and resultant savings based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission would be known after appropriate Government decisions are announced thereon.

[English]

Misbehaviour with SC/ST Employees

3818. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received several complaints from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees in All India Radio, Delhi regarding ill-treatment and misbehaviour by senior officers with them;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received during the last two months; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A couple of complaints have been received in this

regard alleging misbehaviour and harassment caused by an officer of Central Monitoring Service, AIR, Aya Nagar against SC staff members.

(c) The complaints are being inquired into by a Committee of Officers.

Appointment of Private Agency Sobhagya

3819. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a private agency named 'Sobhagya' to develop a communication strategy and handle the disinvestment of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL);

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made with the company;

(c) whether the employees of VSNL are on agitation against disinvestment of VSNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof and along with the demands of the employees; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Sobhagya Advertising Services, Mumbai, has been appointed in June, 2001 with a scope of work, inter-alia, including development of a communications strategy to address the concerns of various stakeholders arising from the disinvestment process; ensuring effective communication of the highlights of VSNL and its value drivers to potential investors via substantial positive news flow with a view to building up strong investor interest for the disinvestment etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The VSNL employees have held some demonstrations in support of their demands which inter-alia include job security and protection of service conditions, protection of existing wages, allowances and perks, continuation of pension, family pension and medical facilities to the retired and retiring employees, allotment of

shares at par with no lock-in period, compensation to the Overseas Communication Services (OCS) employees with less than ten years at the time of absorption in VSNL before the transfer of management of VSNL takes place, waiver of the Income Tax charged on the impounded retirement benefits of those absorbed in VSNL as the amount was impounded by the Government for seven years at the interest rate applicable to the General Provident Fund, retention of the existing full time Directors of VSNL and continuation of the constitutional guarantee applicable to the employees even after privatization.

(e) Government have held discussions, at various levels, with the representatives of the employees of VSNL. The genuine concerns connected with disinvestment would, as far as possible, be taken care of through the provisions of the Shareholders' Agreement.

Seizure of Benami Properties

3820. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not so far framed rules for seizure of benami properties under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to frame rules as early as possible so that properties acquired by corrupt practices are brought to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The rules for implementing the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 could not be framed in view of the reservations expressed by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, pointing out that the Act is not workable in its present form. To make it implementable, major issues including the jurisdiction of Union and States with regard to benami properties in the nature of agricultural lands had to be examined.

(c) The major issues have since been examined by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. The proposal to introduce amendments to the Act so as to make it workable and enable the Government to frame Rules is being examined in the Ministry.

Licences to Sell Explosives

3821. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any specific criteria for the allotment of licences to sell explosives or to have explosive godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of licences allotted in the last three years either to have explosive godown or to sell explosives at the retail counter; and

(d) the details of the persons entitled to sell explosives in retail counter in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Licences to possess and sell explosives are granted in accordance with the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 1983 framed thereunder and are, inter alia, subject to :

- verification of bonafides of applicant and purpose.
- verification of site plan showing approach road network, nearby land marks, distances from nearby protected works and safety zone.
- conditions of storage, public safety and security.

(c) and (d) The number of licences issued to possess and sell explosives in last 3 years are as follows :-

Year	No. of Licences
1998-1999	54
1999-2000	58
2000-2001	97

Details of persons to whom these licences have been issued in Tamil Nadu are as follows :-

Year	No. of Licences
1998-1999	4
1999-2000	6
2000-2001	5
2001-2002 (continuing)	6

S.No.	Licence No.	Party's Name	Location
1	2	3	4
1998-99			
1.	E-25(12)2571	M/s Raja Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Erode	Malongadu, Masilingamalayam, Erode
2.	E-25(12)2568	M/s Raja Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Erode	Malongadu, Masilingamalayam, Erode
3.	E-25(12)2569	M/s Raja Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Erode	Malongadu, Masilingamalayam, Erode
4.	E-25(12)2683	M/s S.M. Explosives, Salem	Applyampatti (V), Namakkal
1999-2000			
5.	Ma 6138/E	M/s. Chellaiah Traders, Puthukadai	Kanyakumari Distt.
6.	Ma 6211/E	M/s. Sri Sakthi Explosives, Villupuram	Pattirpalaya, Villupuram
7.	Ma 6212/E	M/s. Sathya Explosives, Gudiyatham, Vellore	46, Bpitchnoor (V)
8.	Ma 6228/E	M/s. Baskaran Explosives, Vellore	Gudiyathan, Vellore
9.	Ma 6237/E	Sri V. Srinivasan, Dindigul	Ulvat Devati, Dindigul
10.	Ma 6250/E	Shri K Pandurangan, Villupuram	Ulundurpet TK, Villupuram
2000-2001			
11.	E-5(12)2773 Ma 6349/E	Shri K. Jagadeesan, Annur	Sanampalayam, Annur (V) Colmbatore
12.	E-24(12)2637 Ma 6355/E	M/s. Vetrival Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Salem	T. Murungapatty (V), Thuraiyur Taluk, Trichi
13.	E-25(12)2638 Ma 6354/E	M/s. Vetrival Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Salem	T. Murungapatty (V), Thuraiyur Taluk, Trichi
14.	Ma 6373/E	M/s. Alankulam Explosives Co. Tirunelveli	Mayamankurichi (V)
15.	E-25(12)2764 Ma 6436 /E	Shri T.S. Padmannaban, Prop. M/s. Guru Explosives, Vellore	Parmathur (V), Vellore
2001-2002			
16.	E-25(12)2777 Ma 6452/E	M/s. Industrial Mining Services, Salem	Pokkampalayam (V), Distt. Namakkal
17.	E-25(12)2746 Ma 6461/E	M/s. Vetrival Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Salem	T. Murungapatty (V) Thuraiyur Taluk, Trichi

1	2	3	4
18.	E-25(12)2747 Ma 6462	M/s. Vetrival Explosives Pvt. Ltd., Salem	T. Murungapatty (V), Thuraiyur Taluk, Trichi
19.	Ma 6463/E	M/s. Sri Muthiah Explosives, Kayathur	Periyakkotai (V), Tuticorin Distt.
20.	Ma 6464/E	M/s. Sri Balan Explosives, Tirunelveli	Kuvalakanni (V), Distt. Tirunelveli
21.	Ma 6467/E	Sri R Viswanathan, M/s. Rani Explosives, Udumalaipet	Periyakkotai (V), Tuticorin Distt.

Action against Companies by SEBI

3822. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Security and Exchange Board of India has been enquiring into a number of companies which have committed irregularities during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such companies against whom the action has been taken by the SEBI for committing the irregularities;

(d) whether the Government have taken any decision for black listing these companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export by APEDA

3823. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

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

(a) whether APEDA has been striving to expand its products-mix by exploring the possibility of export of Gherkins and other agro-produce;

(b) if so, whether APEDA has any plans to organise export of Gherkins, Mangoes, Rose, Onions and Passion Fruit etc. from Karnataka;

(c) if so, the quantum of above items purchased by APEDA in Karnataka for export;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an integrated exported export processing zone under APEDA for agri-produce and floriculture products in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is not directly involved in exporting agro products but only assists the exporters through its various schemes and promotional activities such as for quality improvement, infrastructure development, export promotion and market development. As such it does not purchase any agro products for export. State-wise export data is not maintained. However, from the information available from APEDA, exports of gherkins, mangoes, roses and onions from Karnataka do take place. However, there has not been any commercial scale production and export of passion fruit from Karnataka.

(d) and (e) No specific proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for setting up of Agri Export Processing Zone for agro and floriculture products under APEDA.

Income Tax Returns

3824. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax returns filed during the assessment year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in the salary circles of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kolkata;

(b) the total number of Income Tax Officers and Assistant Commissioners attending to the work in salary circle of the above cities;

(c) whether the number of officers and staff in salary circles are inadequate to meet the existing demand; and

(d) if so, the remedial actions proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The number of salary returns filed during assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Delhi region has been 4.6 lacs, 5.25 lacs and 4.5 lacs respectively.

The number of salary returns filed during assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Mumbai region has been 5.39 lacs, 5.47 lacs and 6.28 lacs respectively.

The number of salary returns filed during assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Chennai region has been 1.62 lacs, 1.88 lacs and 1.09 lacs respectively.

The number of salary returns filed during assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Bangalore region has been 2.45 lacs, 2.54 lacs and 2.56 lacs (as on 31.7.01) respectively.

The number of salary returns filed during assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Ahmedabad region has been 1.23 lacs, 1.51 lacs and 1.40 lacs (as on 31.7.01) respectively.

The number of salary returns filed during assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Kolkata region has been 4.68 lacs, 4.57 lacs and 4.45 lacs respectively.

(b) The number of officers working in Salary circles in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Mumbai have been increased from 37 to 45, 12 to 21, 12 to 18 and 34 to 40 respectively during the current year. However, in case of Chennai and Kolkata, the number of officers are 19 and 36 respectively.

(c) and (d) The number of officers deployed is considered adequate. However, the deployment of manpower is made depending upon the work load and it is reviewed from time to time in order to ensure quality service to the public. Certain policy initiatives have been taken to improve the work methods by restructuring the income tax department, computerising the checking of tax calculation

of income tax returns and by doing away with the requirement of prima-facie adjustment under section 143(1) so that the work load is reduced and the response time of service to public is minimized.

[Translation]

Sale of Flats to Employees of IFCI

3825. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement was reached between the Chairman and Managing Director of the Industrial Financial Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) and the IFCI Employees Association to sell 24 staff flats lying vacant at Kanpur at the rate of Rs. 1,15,500/- per flat to the employees;

(b) whether an amount of Rs. 1,38,600 was received from the employees as 5 per cent earnest money through the IFCI Housing Welfare Society;

(c) whether the management of the corporation is now contemplating to sell these flats to outside parties instead of employees at the same rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that these flats are sold to the employees of IFCI only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The All India IFC Employees Association approached management to sell certain surplus flats in Kanpur to employees after the negotiations for sale of flats to a private builder. The sale was agreed on the same price as the builder was offering.

(b) to (e) With the intention to help the employees, it was agreed to explore the possibility of sale of the flats in favour of IFCI employees. Subsequent to this the employees of the IFCI formed the housing welfare society and through it deposited the earnest money. However, despite management's sincere efforts, the builder refused to relinquish their claim. The employees intum approached Regional Labour Commissioner (RLC), New Delhi and filed an industrial dispute suit against the sale of the flats at Kanpur as well as flats at other centers. However, despite protracted discussions no settlement could be reached and RLC decided to record failure of reconciliation. In view of the refusal of builder and verdict of RLC the management had no option but to formalize an 'Agreement of Sale' in favour of the builder.

[English]

Palm Oil Importing Companies

3826. DR. (SMT.) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether certain palm oil importing companies have been found to be indulging in under invoicing;
- (b) If so, whether the Government have conducted an intensive investigation in this regard;
- (c) If so, the companies that have been found indulging under invoicing; and
- (d) the action taken against those erring companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Certain investigations into alleged under-invoicing by 9 firms/companies having imported Palm Oil or RBD Palmolein, mostly after February, 2001, are being carried out by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Commissioner of Customs at Trichy.

(d) During the searches carried out in the premises of some of these firms/companies, incriminating documents and various records have been recovered. Detailed examination and other related investigations are being carried out in all these cases. On conclusion of the investigations, wherever evidence of evasion of duty by under-invoicing comes to light, show cause-cum-demand notices will be issued and appropriate penal action, apart from recovery of duty evaded, will be taken.

Revision of Criteria for BPL

3827. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the present criteria for determining beneficiaries of Below Poverty Line (BPL) category;
- (b) whether the Government propose to revise the criteria for the BPL category so as to include more families;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) If not, the reasons therefor?

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

of the poor under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is done by States as per State-wise poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 based on the methodology of the "Expert Group on Estimation of proportion and number of poor" chaired by late Prof. Lakdawala on the population projections of 1995. The poverty estimates were revised by Planning Commission subsequently for Andhra Pradesh after eliminating the price depressing effect of the State Government's own food subsidy scheme and for the north eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir bringing them at par with the poverty ratio for Assam.

(b) to (d) The estimated number of BPL families have increased from 586.64 lakh to 652.04 lakh by shifting the base to population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of earlier base of 1995 with effect from 1.12.2000.

Expenditure Reform Commission Report on Food Subsidy

3828. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the food subsidy Bill, which was Rs. 19.91 crore in 1948-49 has increased to Rs. 8100 crore in current year's budget;
- (b) If so, whether the Government are making any serious attempts to reduce the subsidy without hurting the interests of poor consumers; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) There is a provision of Rs. 13,675 crore in the BE for 2001-2002 for food subsidy.

(b) and (c) Some of the measures taken to reduce the subsidy are as follows :-

- (i) In order to increase the offtake of foodgrains, Government has reduced the Central Issue Price of wheat from Rs. 830/- per qtl. to Rs. 610 per qtl. and for rice from Rs. 1130/- per qtl. to Rs. 830/- per qtl. for APL families with effect from 12.7.2001 till 31.3.2002 or still surplus stocks last which ever is earlier.
- (ii) Export of Wheat and rice.
- (iii) Allotment of foodgrains for Food for Work Programme and other welfare schemes.

- (iv) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has been increased from 20 Kg per family per month to 25 Kg per family per month at BPL rates from July, 2001. The basis of allocation of foodgrains for BPL families was changed to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the projected population of 1995.
- (v) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Government @ 5 kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST Backward Students/Nari Niketan etc., sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated, under the Annapoorna scheme, to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old age pension from the State Governments.
- (vi) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.
- (vii) Foodgrains will be allocated for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme.
- (viii) Government have also launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana on 25.12.2000. Under this scheme Government will release wheat and rice @ Rs. 2/- and Rs. 3/- per kg respectively subject to 25 kg. per family per month to approximately one crore poorest families all over the country, and the State Governments have accordingly been requested to identify these families.
- (ix) Certain measures have been taken by the Food Corporation of India to reduce costs, viz., reduction in incurrence of shortages, demurrages, better utilization of storage space etc.

Foodgrain Procurement Policy

3829. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foodgrains procurement policy of the Government at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring some changes in it so that the sufferings of the farmers are minimised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Under the present policy, Government procures foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government agencies under price support operations. However, the farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Govt. at support prices or in the open market, as is advantageous to them.

(b) and (c) The scheme of decentralized procurement of foodgrains was discussed in the Chief Ministers Conference on 21.5.2001 and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Minister and Chief Ministers on 6.7.2001. It was decided that further consultation would be held with the State Governments and the scheme of decentralized procurement would be implemented on a gain sharing basis with those States which agree to adopt the scheme. The scheme has the following advantages :-

- (i) Local farmers would get the Minimum Support Price.
- (ii) Dependence of the State Governments on the FCI for PDS supplies would be reduced.
- (iii) Higher local procurement would reduce pressure on freight movement by rail.
- (iv) Locally grown varieties, which are preferred by local consumers, will be available through the Public Distribution network.
- (v) Since the consuming states themselves will be procuring foodgrains, there would be no complaint about quality.
- (vi) The economic cost of the foodgrains to be procured by the States under the decentralized scheme would normally be less than the economic cost of the FCI.

LIC Losses

3830. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to a news item captioned "shaky LIC suspends 2 officials as MRL sale comes to the boil" appearing in the 'Economic Times' on the 24th July, 2001;

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

(c) the action taken by the LIC against the officials who acted in an unauthorised manner;

(d) the loss suffered by LIC on this account;

(e) whether measures have been taken to ensure that such incidents are not repeated and also whether some guidelines have been issued to be followed by public financial institutions in such matters; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have intimated that the competent authority for taking decisions on investments in LIC is the Investment Committee. In the case of the open offer received from Modi Rubber Limited, without the approval of the competent authority, two officials of LIC unauthorisedly issued instructions offering the entire holding of the equity shares of the Corporation in Modi Rubber Limited.

(c) LIC have intimated that they have suspended two officers - Shri P. Shridhar Rao, Deputy Secretary and Shri Pradipto Sen, Assistant Secretary - on the allegation of illegal and unauthorised transaction. They are conducting investigation in the matter.

(d) LIC have reported that they have not suffered any loss on this account as the offer price is higher than the market price of the shares.

(e) and (f) LIC have reported that the present procedures are adequate to ensure that investment/disinvestment is done with utmost diligence. Present incident is an isolated one and is not on account of failures of Systems and Procedures. However, LIC would be reviewing the present Systems and Procedures to strengthen it further.

[Translation]

Ombudsmen in Banks

3831. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed Lokayukt/Ombudsman to solve the problem of customers in the banks;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending before the Lokayukt at present alongwith the number of cases disposed of during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against the bank employees/officers for not rendering satisfactory customers' services in public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has appointed Banking Ombudsmen at 15 places to look into complaints concerning deficiency in banking services. The position of complaints received by the Ombudsmen; pending and disposed of during last three years is furnished below :-

Sl. No.	Complaints	1.4.97 to 31.3.98	1.4.98 to 31.3.99	1.4.99 to 31.3.2000
1.	Complaints received	7268	7464	6800
2.	of which not maintainable	3148	3317	2614
3.	Disposed of (decision taken)	2722	2807	2484
4.	Pending	1398	1340	1702
5.	No. of awards given	116	92	74

(c) As part of the process of inspection of banks, Reserve Bank of India is conducting Customer Service Audit in banks to ascertain the actual level of the customer satisfaction in respect of 25 crore customer service areas and identify areas of deficiencies which have contributed to the lower level of implementation in banks. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the prevailing position of various aspects of customer service is generally satisfactory. Action is taken by the concerned public sector bank against the employees/officers depending upon the nature of the lapse/misconduct committed by the individual employee/officer.

Bonus Shares by IDBI

3832. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has declared to issue three bonus shares against every five shares to its shareholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IDBI has mobilized loan from the international market;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the IDBI intend to make investments in Nepal;

(f) if so, the manner in which the proposed investment is likely to be made; and

(g) the details of the investment and participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) IDBI has issued bonus shares in the ratio of 3:5 to those shareholders whose names were registered with IDBI on the record date i.e. February 26, 2001 in pursuance of adoption of the proposal at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on January 23, 2001.

(c) and (d) The details of the IDBI borrowings in the international market are as under :

Instrument	Amt. (USD million)	Lender/ Arranger	Interest Rate	Period (years)
1998-99	Nil			
1999-2000				
Syndicated Loan	100	ANZ Investment Bank	LIBOR + 150 bps	5 (Repaid)
Multilateral Line of Credit	50	Nordic Investment Bank	LIBOR + 110 bps	10
2000-2001				
Floating Rate Note (FRN)	100	Barclays Capital Asia Ltd.	LIBOR + 85 bps	4
Syndicated Loan	100	Standard Chartered Bank, Tokyo - Mitsubishi International (HK) Ltd. and Sumitomo Bank	LIBOR + 67.5 bps	5

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. IDBI and Nepal Development Bank Ltd. (NDB) has signed a memorandum of understanding in January 2001. IDBI is entering into financial and technical collaboration with NDB by subscribing to 10% of equity holding in NDB amount to Rs. 10 million. The technical collaboration involves extending advisory services to NDB in the areas of project finance & appraisal, resource mobilization and merchant banking etc. The proposal has been approved by Board of IDBI in view of the strong Indo-Nepalese relations, potential for investment in Nepal and attendant benefits that are likely to arise with collaboration of NDB.

[English]

Procurement of Maize by FCI in Karnataka

3833. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government to take necessary steps for the early clearing of the stock of maize as any delay may spoil the stock;

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

(c) whether the farmers have suffered any loss due to the delay on the part of FCI in clearing off the stock; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Entire stock have been sold to the willing buyers including some Government agencies under Open Market Sale Scheme and lifting is in progress.

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has made full payments to the farmers to the extent of procurement made by FCI. The FCI has also made payment for the stocks procured and passed on by the Karnataka State Food & Civil Supplies Corporation to FCI upto 28.2.2001.

A total amount of Rs. 109.07 crore has been paid to the farmers. Out of this, Rs. 56.42 crore has been paid by FCI and Rs. 52.65 crore has been paid by Karnataka State

Food & Civil Supplies Corporation. FCI is releasing payments to the State Government on the submission of bills regarding release of stocks to the tenderers.

[Translation]

Fake Currency Notes

3834. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of circulation of fake currency notes reported and registered in various banks of each state during the last three years till June, 2001;

(b) whether the Govt. have trained the bank officials and the depositors for checking of fake currency notes; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Verifiable information on number of fake currency notes reported in various banks in the country is available for the period upto Dec 31, 2000. State-wise details for the last three years viz 1998, 1999 and 2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) To enable easy detection of fake currency notes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) organises regular training programmes for various officials including officials of the banks, police, customs, trade association etc. Further, for sensitising the general public including the depositors, the RBI has undertaken a number of measures for giving wide publicity to the security features incorporated in the genuine notes through the print media and the Doordarshan. For general guidance of public, the RBI has brought out a booklet describing features of genuine notes which is also available at RBI's website.

Statement

State	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	853	1619	3724
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	290	330	853
Bihar	1063	3233	6764
Goa	0	0	65

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	674	2184	3157
Haryana	0	0	27
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	415
Karnataka	491	1979	4094
Kerala	249	782	1501
Madhya Pradesh	0	28	128
Maharashtra	2657	5800	13783
Manipur	0	0	4
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0
Orissa	14	11	165
Punjab	4	0	652
Rajasthan	473	3644	6993
Sikkim	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1769	4458	4985
Tripura	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	288	538	5879
West Bengal	413	5100	5391
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
Chandigarh	3	171	2296
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0
Delhi	2563	7289	8450
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Pondicherry	23	0	8
Total	11827	37166	70485

[English]

Procurement of Rough Diamond

3835. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of Gem and Jewellery Export Production Council has visited Democratic Republic of Congo and Russia for making bids in the tender proceedings for direct procurement of rough diamonds;

(b) If so, the dates on which the said delegation has made its visit;

(c) whether the delegation was able to procure directly rough diamonds from the said countries;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A delegation comprising representatives of Department of Commerce, MMTC and Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) visited Russia from 13th to 18th December 2000. Another delegation of representatives of GJEPC visited Societe Minere de Bakwanga (MIBA) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from 7th to 13th December 2000 to explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from them.

(c) to (e) As regards the direct supply of rough diamonds from Russia, a contract valued at US \$ 4.46 million was signed during the visit of the Indian delegation. However, the sale of the rough diamonds from Russia has not yet materialized for want of necessary export licence with the concerned Russian agency to export rough diamonds directly to India. As regards supply from MIBA of the Democratic Republic of Congo, though the Indian

delegation gave its tender bids, they did not succeed in winning the tender on price considerations.

[Translation]

Loan for Agriculture Sector

3836. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether seventy percent branches of the commercial banks are set up in rural areas;

(b) If not, the actual number of these banks set up in rural areas;

(c) whether the percentage of loans given directly to the agricultural sector by these banks has been continuously declining since the year 1998-99 till 2000-2001; and

(d) If so, the percentage of the total priority sector loan given to the agricultural sector during each of the last three years and the extent to which the above percentage was less than the percentage earmarked for agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 32631 branches of commercial banks are functioning in rural areas of the country, constituting 49.5% of total branches as on 31st March 2001.

(c) and (d) Data relating to the outstanding agricultural advances of public sector and private sector banks as on the last reporting Friday of March 1998 to March 2001 are given below. The shortfall in achievement of agricultural lending target (18 percent of net banking credit) has also been indicated.

i) Public Sector Banks

March	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Crore)	% to Net Bank Credit	Percentage of shortfall in achieving the target
1998	34304	15.72	2.38
1999	40078	16.28	1.72
2000	46190	15.77	2.23
2001	53685	15.65	2.35

ii) Private Sector Banks

March	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Crore)	% to Net Bank Credit	Percentage of shortfall in achieving the target
1998	2746	9.7	8.3
1999	3286	9.5	8.5
2000	4239	9.1	8.9
Sept. 2000*	4659	9.6	8.4

* Latest available data

*[English]***Plan for Revival of Capital Market**

3837. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have under consideration any plan for the revival of the capital market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Regional Trade Promotion Centres

3838. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether ITPO has decided to set up more Trade Promotion Centres in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the cities identified for the purpose;

(c) the criteria adopted for the identification of the cities; and

(d) the present location of Trade Promotion Centres established so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) In order to strengthen the export promotion infrastructure in selected regional centres of the country, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is setting up Regional Trade Promotion Centres (RTPCs) in some States with the approval and funding support from the Govern-

ment. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed between ITPO and the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal for setting up of RTPCs at Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata. As per the MOU, joint venture companies with equity contributions from the nominated agency of the respective State Governments and ITPO will be set up and registered under Section 25 of Companies Act to look after the affairs of RTPCs. Chennai Trade Centre has already been commissioned on 31st January, 2001. The works relating to RTPC, Bangalore are in progress. The work at Kolkata has not commenced as yet. The centres were selected on the consideration that a vast country like India, with industrial centers located at different regions/states, cannot concentrate this activity only at one center i.e. Delhi. The broad criteria for selecting the location for RTPCs are as under :-

- (i) Metropolitan town with large population and good industrial base.
- (ii) Proven experience in periodically organizing important trade shows.
- (iii) Support of State Governments in providing developed land with supporting infrastructure.

Violation of Investment Rules

3839. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision for action against the foreign companies which violate the investment rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such foreign companies against whom action has been taken by the Government during the last three years on account of violation of investment rules; and

(d) the dates on which action has been initiated against these companies and the present status of each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Foreign investors are bound by the terms and conditions of the foreign collaboration approval and relevant Indian laws, including the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and Regulations made thereunder. Cases of violation of the terms and conditions of the foreign collaboration approval and/or relevant Acts/Rules are dealt with the Administrative Ministries/Statutory authorities concerned for taking appropriate action against defaulting companies.

Formula for Allocation of Plan Revenue

3840. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government for allocation of plan revenue deficit grants to the States;

(b) the details of allocation plan revenue deficit grants given during 1998-99 to 2001-2002, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken to increase the plan resources and to provide financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government of India is guided by the recommendations of the Finance Commissions in the matter of Plan Revenue Deficit grants. Neither the Tenth Finance Commission, nor the Eleventh Finance Commission have recommended Plan Revenue Deficit grant for any State.

(c) It is for the respective State Governments to take or initiate steps to increase their own resources within the framework of the Constitution. The Government of India, on its part, has increased the Central Assistance to States/UTs from Rs. 36824 crores in 2000-01(BE) to Rs. 40644 crores in 2001-02 (BE) and has provided higher devolution to States in terms of the Eleventh Finance Commission recommendation.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

3841. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a

Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to provide assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF) for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for Central Government employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, already provide for Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Central Government employees. In terms of these Rules, a Central Government servant on completion of 20 years of qualifying service can seek voluntary retirement by giving notice of not less than three months in writing to the appointing authority. These Rules also provide for option of voluntary retirement to employees who are declared surplus provided they have rendered not less than 15 years of service. While there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the existing voluntary retirement scheme for Central Government employees, it is proposed to offer the employees in the surplus pool an attractive VRS package as announced by the Finance Minister in Budget Speech on 28th February, 2001.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal with the Government at present.

Suspension of LTC Facilities

3842. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suspended the LTC facilities to the employees of LIC, Banks, GIC and other PSUs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been strong protest by the Employees Unions/Associations to restore LTC facilities;

(d) whether the Government have agreed in principle to restore LTC facilities in GIC; and

(e) if so, the time by which the necessary notification is likely to be issued by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) It has been decided that the LTC facilities already in vogue

in banks and insurance companies may continue under the decision of management of the respective institutions.

Export of Coffee

3843. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a significant fall in overall exports of coffee from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001;

(b) if so, whether coffee exports have come down to approximately 332 million dollars from a high 447 million dollars in 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons for this steep fall in foreign exchange earnings from coffee exports;

(d) whether there is any effort to maintain Indian market share of coffee exports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of Central support being provided to the coffee growers to face their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir. During the year 2000-01, a total quantity of 2.47 lakh tonnes of coffee was exported as compared to 2.45 lakh tonnes of coffee during 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Though there has been no decrease in volume of coffee exports during 2000-01 as compared to 1999-2000, there has been a decrease in foreign exchange earnings, from US\$447.33 million in 1999-2000 to US\$333.35 million during 2000-01, due to low unit value realization of coffee. The main reason for the same is surplus coffee production by the producing countries surpassing the world consumption leading to mis-match between demand and supply.

(d) and (e) The Board has started implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next five years.

(f) The Govt. of India, through Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, quality up-gradation and water augmentation, has also been providing necessary support in the form of research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other back up support like supply of seed for planting purposes etc.

Further thrust is being given for increasing productivity of coffee particularly in the small grower sector and improving quality of the product to achieve competitiveness in the international markets. The Board is also encouraging the large growers to produce specialty coffees which fetches attractive premiums in developed countries like USA and European Union.

Recently, at the behest of the Govt. of India, the Reserve Bank of India/NABARD has issued instructions to commercial banks to reschedule the crop loans of coffee growers and also to extend fresh working capital loans to coffee sector as a relief to the growers.

Committee on Bank Frauds

3844. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up a High Level Committee headed by Shri A. Ghosh in 1992 to enquire into various aspects relating to bank frauds and malpractices in banks; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the said committee and number of them implemented so far?

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

(b) Major recommendations of the Committee are as given in the enclosed statement. RBI has reported that majority of the recommendations have been implemented by the banks.

Statement

Summary of the main recommendations of the Committee appointed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to enquire into various aspects of frauds and malpractices in Banks.

1. Banks should strictly adhere to the operational precautions.
2. Currency chest transactions should be reported to the RBI's Issue Department on the same day.
3. Banks should guard themselves against misuse of banking channels for activities such as laundering and report promptly unusual transactions to their Head Offices for taking up with tax authorities.
4. Banks should have a written investment policy outlining the essential features of investment portfolio management. They should also review their existing systems and procedures.

5. Banks should lay down a written loan policy as a strong foundation for loan portfolio management.
6. To prevent frauds in advances portfolio, banks should bestow adequate attention to overcome the shortcoming by imparting requisite/need-based training to staff.
7. Banks should establish an independent loan review department both at Head Office and Zonal Office/Regional Office levels.
8. Banks should tone up their control and security procedures so as to guard against frauds in computer related areas.
9. Banks should tone up the efficacy of their inspection and audit machinery for timely detection of irregularities, malpractices and frauds.
10. Proper control systems need to be introduced to govern the working of subsidiaries so as to ensure that activities prohibited for banks to engage in are not undertaken by the subsidiaries.
11. In order to be effective, CVOs need to work independently without pressures from the top management and be given adequate statutory powers to carry out preliminary investigations build up cases and thereafter hand them over to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. The Banks should also evolve systems to ensure that subsidiaries established for different purposes are brought under the purview of appropriate vigilance machinery.
12. There should be effective co-ordination between different investigating agencies - vigilance department of banks, CBI and Police. Periodical meetings among the RBI, CVC, CBI and Banking Division may also be held.

Foreign Visit by Chairman of GIC

3845. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Chairman and other officers of General Insurance Corporation and its four subsidiary companies who visited foreign countries during the last three years and the names of the countries they visited;

(b) the purpose to their visits and expenditure incurred in foreign exchange in each case for each country so visited;

(c) the names of such officers who visited the foreign countries on official tour on the verge of their retirement and purpose thereof;

(d) the details of authorities approving foreign tours by junior level officers' and senior officers of GIC and its subsidiaries;

(e) whether the Government have taken or likely to take some steps to curb frequent and unnecessary foreign tours by the officials of GIC and its subsidiaries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Income Tax Arrears

3846. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees are outstanding against film stars, cricketers, businessmen and traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of film stars, cricketers, businessmen and traders who have not paid the income-tax arrears;

(d) the total number of complaints of income-tax and FERA violation have been received by the Income tax authorities during the last three years, till date; and

(e) the action taken by the Government or proposes to take against them to recover the amount totally from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total Income Tax demands outstanding as on March 31, 2000 are Rs. 59,425.17 crores.

(c) Income Tax department does not maintain separate details of outstanding income tax in respect of cricketers, businessmen and traders. There are total of 911 individuals who have outstanding tax demand of Rupees one crore and above as on 31.3.2001. There are in all 270 film personalities with outstanding tax demand of Rupees one lac and above as on 31.3.2001.

(d) Tax evasion petitions are received by the Income Tax authorities at all levels all over the country. No centralised data of these petitions are maintained. The number of Tax evasion petitions received by the Central Board of Direct Taxes is as under :

Fin. Year	No. of tax evasion petition Received
1998-99	934
1999-2000	1214
2000-2001	943

Some of the tax evasion petitions contain complaints relating to FERA violations also.

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

Gems Testing Centres

3847. **SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Gems Testing Centres in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more centres in the country particularly in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

(a) As per the available information provided by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, a representative autonomous body of the trade sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the details of the Gems Testing Centres in the country, are as follows :

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of Gem Testing Centre
1	2
Maharashtra	1. Gemmological Institute of India 29, Gurukul Chambers, 187/189 Mumbadevi Road, Mumbai-400002
	2. St. Xaviers College Gemmological Division Geology Department, Mahanagar Palika Marg, Mumbai-400001
	3. International Gemmological Institute, Mittal Court Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021
	4. Pan Gem Testing Laboratory Pan Gem Enterprises 10 Sangeeta, Behind Panchratna, Tadwala Road, Pune-411011
Rajasthan	5. Gem Testing Laboratory Rajasthan Chamber Bhawan, Mirza Ismail Road, Jaipur-302003
West Bengal	6. Gem Testing Laboratory CPL, GSI, 27, J.N. Road, Kolkata-700116
Tamil Nadu	7. Gem Testing Laboratory 66, Cathedral Road, Chennai-600086
	8. Shri Ramkrishna Gem Testing Laboratory 70 Perannagar Main Road Salem-636007

1	2
	9. Trichy Gem Testing Laboratory Epoor Complex 86, Diamond Bazar, Trichy-620002
Andhra Pradesh	10. Gem Testing Laboratory 4-3-346 Raja Bhagwandas Marg, Bank Street Hyderabad-500195
Kerala	11. Gem Testing Laboratory Kerala Mineral F & D Project (Government of Kerala) Kesavdasapuram, Pottom Palace P.O., Trivandrum- 695004
Delhi	12. Indian Gemmological Institute "F" Block, Jhandewals Flatted Factories Complex, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-110 055
Gujarat	13. Indian Diamond Institute Katargam GIDC Samul Dairy Road Surat 395 008

(b) and (c) Government do not have any proposal at present to set up any such Gem Testing Centres in the country. There already exists a gem testing centre in the name of Indian Gemmological Institute at Jhandewalan Complex in Delhi. Setting up of any Gem Testing Laboratory or Centre, however, does not require any specific approval from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Inspection Unit of RBI

3848. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has revamped its Inspection Units after the infamous share market scams in which Madhav Cooperative Bank was also involved; and

(b) if so, the details of the other steps taken to check the growing tendency of cooperative banks playing into the hands of share brokers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has taken the following steps to strengthen the system of inspection of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) by its Regional Offices :

- To conduct inspection of all the scheduled urban co-operative banks every year;
- Introduction of a system of off-site surveillance for urban co-operative banks with effect from 31.3.2001;
- To call the Chairman and few Directors of scheduled urban co-operative banks for a discussion at RBI's Central Office and advise them to rectify the deficiencies immediately. Besides focusing on bank specific issues, compliance with RBI inspection report/other instructions, developments in urban banking sector in the State in particular are to be covered.

(b) As per the extant instructions of RBI, urban co-operative banks are not permitted to extend any credit facilities to stock brokers. UCBs are also prohibited from investing in equity/debentures of corporates either in secondary or primary market. However, they were allowed to lend to individuals against shares subject to certain limits. RBI has, however, advised UCBs in April 2001 that they should not entertain any fresh proposals for lending directly or indirectly against security of shares either to individuals/stock brokers or to any other entity; to recall such advances/dispose of such investments, if lent to stock-brokers; to seek repayment by the borrowers by contracted date and no renewals of such advances be permitted; to report their existing outstandings to individual borrowers and other entities against shares on quarterly basis beginning with the outstanding position as on 31 March 2001 in a prescribed format.

Blackmarketing of Essential Commodities

3849. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

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

(a) whether due to discontinuing of supply of essential commodities to above Poverty Line families the blackmarketing of essential commodities has increased; and

(b) If so, the preventive measures initiated/proposed to be initiated by the Union Government to check the blackmarketing to essential goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Allocation of foodgrains has not been discontinued for families above poverty line (APL). The allocation for Above Poverty Line families is being made as transitory allocation and as per the criteria fixed at the time of introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System. However, with regard to levy sugar, the allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been restricted to only Below Poverty Line (BPL) families except in the case of the North East Region, Islands and hill States with effect from 1.2.2001.

"Minor PPF Account Holder"

3850. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban this year on opening a PPF account in the name of a minor, if his father is a PPF account holder;

(b) whether the Government also propose to stop giving interest on old accounts held by minor; and

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

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

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Formula for Devolutions of Central Revenues to States

3851. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many State Governments have represented to the Union Government against the adoption of the new formula for devolutions of Central Revenues under the Eleventh Finance Commission Report (till Jate);

(b) if so, the names of the State which gave the representations and the loss of Revenue transfer assessed by each State;

(c) whether the Government intend to take any action to help these State Governments to overcome the loss; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A number of States including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu made representations in this regard.

The Finance Commission lays down the criteria for determining the share of transfers between the States, from time to time, keeping in view their assessment of States requirement, and the need for horizontal equity. A statement showing total estimated transfers to States under the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission and Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) is enclosed. The Government of India has since, accepted the recommendations of the EFC relating to devolution of Central taxes and duties of grants-in-aid and debt relief to States.

Statement

Estimated Total Transfers Recommended by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission

(Rupees Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Tenth Finance Commission (1995-2000)						Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-05)					
		Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col. 2 to 6)	Share in Taxes & Duties	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit	Upgradation & Special Problem	Local Bodies Grant	Relief Expenditure	Total Transfer (Col. 8 to 12)
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16325.94	686.45	153.88	424.94	490.33	18081.54	28980.25	0.00	285.23	924.90	820.80	31011.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1360.03	307.60	68.31	4.63	27.79	1768.36	918.22	1228.02	90.59	28.52	49.83	2315.18

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3. Assam	7064.14	712.03	206.86	147.56	197.46	8328.05	12362.05	110.68	132.54	254.99	420.60	13280.86	
4. Bihar	23302.45	333.06	240.63	574.28	205.14	24655.56	54934.90	0.00	401.80	678.94	512.48	56727.90	
5. Goa	524.06	77.26	10.79	5.91	4.23	622.25	775.22	0.00	27.28	13.19	5.15	821.56	
6. Gujarat	8014.95	0.00	50.00	259.47	551.17	8875.59	10615.93	0.00	234.85	480.56	668.88	12000.22	
7. Haryana	2554.96	0.00	40.00	99.22	98.93	2793.11	3552.44	0.00	132.65	183.73	336.95	4205.77	
8. Himachal Pradesh	3743.81	772.18	105.03	34.23	106.41	4761.66	2570.25	4549.26	91.16	69.56	180.20	7480.43	
9. Jammu & Kashmir	5904.70	1184.13	105.77	49.68	77.80	7322.08	4854.50	11211.19	127.82	90.07	144.64	16428.22	
10. Karnataka	10034.64	0.00	29.00	291.96	165.23	10520.83	18552.48	0.00	311.53	518.94	309.03	19691.98	
11. Kerala	7217.00	0.00	81.83	204.24	218.74	7721.81	11504.04	0.00	129.14	404.88	278.66	12316.72	
12. Madhya Pradesh	15275.50	0.00	206.37	410.43	201.67	16093.97	33258.98	0.00	494.52	871.48	373.40	34998.38	
13. Maharashtra	12859.84	0.00	100.00	479.96	269.28	13709.08	17431.05	0.00	331.97	972.98	651.49	19387.49	
14. Manipur	1889.63	350.92	74.74	11.54	9.79	2136.62	1377.32	1744.94	58.59	23.17	11.89	3215.01	
15. Meghalaya	1534.58	316.42	16.72	10.12	11.01	1888.85	1287.01	1572.38	57.39	28.31	18.32	2961.41	
16. Mizoram	1398.37	331.19	64.13	3.32	5.00	1802.01	745.11	1676.30	89.84	11.70	12.32	2535.27	
17. Nagaland	2197.38	529.78	53.96	5.21	6.71	2793.04	827.90	3536.24	62.84	14.86	8.12	4449.76	
18. Orissa	8783.41	371.74	137.79	220.10	193.51	9706.55	19026.64	673.60	215.05	385.55	453.66	20754.50	
19. Punjab	3180.41	0.00	81.31	133.95	213.80	3589.47	4316.37	284.21	110.01	209.37	508.57	5428.53	
20. Rajasthan	10255.26	33.45	149.87	255.40	706.89	11400.87	20595.88	1244.68	299.85	590.37	857.85	23588.63	
21. Sikkim	582.07	105.69	10.06	2.48	18.59	696.89	692.43	640.58	66.78	5.50	28.63	1633.92	
22. Tamil Nadu	12622.54	0.00	100.84	402.86	234.33	13380.67	20264.72	0.00	251.88	659.49	425.36	21801.43	
23. Tripura	2325.81	488.78	25.90	14.97	17.75	2873.21	1832.67	2414.16	60.18	32.48	21.55	4361.04	
24. Uttar Pradesh	33526.67	982.00	275.54	890.70	494.00	36158.91	74501.56	1026.74	869.91	1570.78	740.33	78509.30	
25. West Bengal	14104.85	0.00	219.17	453.77	202.63	14980.42	30540.09	3246.09	239.45	775.22	419.00	35219.85	
Total	206343.00	7582.68	2808.50	5380.93	4728.19	226643.30	376318.01	35359.07	4972.83	10000.00	8255.69	434905.40	

National Foodgrains Distribution Policy

3852. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of any uniform national distribution policy on foodgrains, the people are starving in many states and huge surplus of foodgrains is mounting with FCI;

(b) If so, whether several experts have also urged the Governments to come out with a national foodgrains distribution policy; and

(c) If so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Only about 15% to 20% of the total production of foodgrains in the country is procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for central pool. As such the supply of foodgrains to consumer under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is only supplemental in nature.

In order to address the problems emerging from the changed scenario in the food sector, Government has decided to constitute a High Level Committee on 16 November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Ex-Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices to recommend a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows :-

- i) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Price Support Operations.
- ii) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) related issues.
- iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import.
- v) Allocation of foodgrains in Rural Development and other Welfare Programmes.

The Committee has so far not submitted its final report.

Tax Holiday to Earthquake Affected Areas of Gujarat

3853. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat requested the Union Government to grant tax holiday for 5 years to the earthquake affected areas of Saurashtra in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the further development in the matter; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fixed Deposits under Fictitious Names

3854. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "FDs under fictitious names used to invest black money" appearing in The Hindu, New Delhi on May 6, 2001;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this practice; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such banks which facilitated issuance of fixed deposits for large amount under fictitious names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a case has been registered by the CBI against some officials of Indian Overseas Bank, Port Blair branch and one private person who are alleged to have conspired amongst themselves and opened accounts in the names of fictitious persons for depositing illegally earned money to the tune of Rs. 7 crores.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India has also issued instructions to banks to obtain photograph of persons authorised to operate account and also obtain confirmation of address of the account holders independently.

Profit of Banks

3855. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some public sector banks have reported sharp decline in their net profit for the year 2000-2001 due to higher provision for making payments to persons who opted for voluntary retirement scheme;

(b) if so, the total amount of payments made on this account upto March 31, 2001, bank-wise; and

(c) the amount expected to be paid during the current year for above purpose, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that out of 27 public sector banks, 13 banks have recorded reduction in their net profit in 2000-2001. RBI has further reported that the gross profit of public sector banks, as a group, was Rs.

13792.96 crore during the year 2000-2001, against Rs. 13066.36 crore during the year 1999-2000, representing an increase of Rs. 726.60 crore. RBI has further reported that the net profit of public sector banks as a group was Rs. 4316.97 crore during the year 2000-2001, against Rs. 5116.18 crore during 1999-2000, representing a decrease by Rs. 799.21 crore.

(b) and (c) As per the provisional data made available by the public sector banks and data compiled from their published balance sheets, the expenditure charged to the profit & loss account by them towards VRS expenditure as on 31st March, 2001 and to be charged to the Profit & Loss account towards VRS expenditure as on 31st March, 2002, bank-wise are furnished in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Expenditure under VRS in respect of 26 Public Sector Banks upto 31.3.2001

(Rupees in Crores)

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Expenditure charged to P&L Account towards VRS Expenditure as on 31.3.2001	Expenditure to be charged to P&L Account towards VRS Expenditure as on 31.3.2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	11	11
2.	Andhra Bank	60	60
3.	Bank of Baroda	175	175
4.	Bank of India	330	330
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	80	80
6.	Canara Bank	239	239
7.	Central Bank of India	139	139
8.	Dena Bank	108	108
9.	Indian Bank	96	96
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	52	52
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	26	26
12.	Punjab & Sind Bank	55	55
13.	Punjab National Bank	271	271
14.	Syndicate Bank	91	91

1	2	3	4
15.	UCO Bank	51	51
16.	Union Bank of India	119	119
17.	United Bank of India	24	24
18.	Vijaya Bank	60	60
19.	State Bank of India	853	853
20.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	37	37
21.	State Bank of Hyderabad	46	46
22.	State Bank of Indore	11	11
23.	State Bank of Mysore	44	44
24.	State Bank of Patiala	36	36
25.	State Bank of Saurashtra	21	21
26.	State Bank of Tavancore	44	44

*[Translation]***Loan to Foreign Countries**

3856. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the country-wise, loan advanced by India outstanding as on date; and

(b) the estimated interest earned by India from these countries every year, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coverage of VVIPs Visits

3857. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for deputing officers with the reporting unit to cover foreign visits of VVIPs;

(b) whether no officer is sent from the Hindi news room of Akashwani to cover such visits; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Media Units depute officers to cover foreign visits of VVIPs in response to requests from Ministry of External Affairs (External Publicity Division)/VVIP's office. The officers are nominated keeping in view their knowledge and reporting skills and nature of the coverage required. Officers from Hindi News Unit have been sent in the past to cover such visits.

Smuggling Through FCI Godowns

3858. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : 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 that the various godowns of the Food Corporation of India are being misused for smuggling of essential items;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken on persons responsible for this;

(c) whether regular raids are conducted by the Government on the godowns of the FCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the other remedial steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No such complaint has been received by the Food Corporation of India regarding its godowns being misused for smuggling of essential items.

(c) to (f) Security inspections of godowns is done at various levels to detect and plug security lapses. Preventive measures such as deployment of Central Industrial Security Force and State Armed Police at vulnerable godowns are being taken. Agencies like Homeguards, Special Police Officers and Private Security Guards are deployed wherever necessary. FIRs are lodged with the Police for investigation of cases.

If there is a serious complaint flying squad is deployed for immediate action.

Consumer Forum

3859. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are several districts in the country where no Consumer Forum has ever been set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of such districts;

(c) whether the Union Government are facing difficulties in establishing Consumer Forums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps initiated to set up Consumer Forums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Information regarding details of the districts in which District Forums have not been set up so far is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and District Consumer Disputes

Redressal Forums are to be established by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Bank Dacoities

3860. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise, number of bank dacoities reported during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount involved in these cases;

(c) whether a dacoity of Rs. two crore and one lakh took place recently from ICICI bank at RBI located at Parliament Street, New Delhi;

(d) the details thereof and action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty in this incident; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents in new future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Statement showing state-wise number of bank robberies/dacoities which took place during the last 3 years including the amount involved in such cases is enclosed.

(c) and (d) ICICI Bank has reported that they had arrangements with M/s Brinks Arya (P) Ltd. for transportation/movement of bank's cash. On 23rd July 2001 the van after withdrawing of Rs. 2.01 crores from RBI was high jacked at gunpoint by two of the employees of M/s Brinks Arya (P) Ltd. who after looting the cash abandoned the van at Delhi-Gurgaon border. M/s Brinks Arya (P) Ltd. as well as the ICICI bank has lodged complaints with Delhi Police.

(e) Security measures implemented by the public sector banks are reviewed at the State Level Security Committee Meetings held periodically by the Regional Directors of RBI. Banks have classified their branches depending on the risk factors involved and posted Armed Guards and installed anti burglary/robbery devices wherever necessary.

Statement*Statewise number of bank robberies/dacoities took place during the last three years.**(Amt. in lakhs of Rs.)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	1998		1999		2000	
		No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	9.25	-	-	3	55.99
2.	Assam	10	16.75	2	0.61	5	21.27
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	32	152.31	40	141.85	41	131.01
5.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Delhi	1	0.75	1	2.00	1	13.19
7.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	1	21.42
8.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Haryana	3	18.42	4	16.22	1	0.91
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3.22	1	2.00	3	4.50
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	1	1.20	2	1.27	1	2.50
13.	Kerala	-	-	1	10.00	-	-
14.	Maharashtra	6	65.98	5	17.78	4	21.17
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3	7.85	6	21.55	3	1.79
16.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	1	10.00	1	13.60	4	9.15
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	1	5.12
19.	Nagaland	1	182.00	-	-	1	23.00
20.	Orissa	3	24.20	5	25.29	6	30.23
21.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	1	1.97
22.	Rajasthan	-	-	1	0.22	-	-
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	10.47	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	18	105.62	21	33.35	19	152.82
27.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	West Bengal	4	10.46	15	54.58	17	73.52
29.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		67	618.48	105	340.32	112	569.56

[English]

Floating of Tenders by Central Warehousing Corporation

3861. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether CWC propose to float tenders for construction of Warehouses in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such warehouses that are proposed to be constructed in the State alongwith the capacity of the warehouses and places where they would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The action for floating tenders for construction of warehouses in the Andhra Pradesh is being taken up by the Central Warehousing Corporation.

(c) The number of warehouses proposed to be constructed by the CWC in the Andhra Pradesh alongwith their capacities and location is as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of Centre	Capacity (in MTs)
1	2	3
1.	Rajahmundry	5,000
2.	Guntur	1,120
3.	Karim Nagar (new site)	30,000
4.	Bodhan	10,000

1	2	3
5.	Nandi Kotkur	5,000
6.	Mehboob Nagar	10,000
7.	Gudivada	5,000
8.	Machilipatnam	10,000
9.	Nidamanur	10,000
10.	Nandyal	10,000
11.	Emmamamula	8,500
12.	Siddipet	3,400
13.	Duggirala	3,700
14.	Kakinada	10,000
15.	Sarangpur	3,000
16.	Pedakakani	7,000
17.	Suryapet	10,000
18.	Adilabad	10,000
19.	Kalkalur	1,200
20.	Karimnagar	3,400
21.	Ongole (new site)	20,000
22.	Gadwal (new site)	10,000

Merger of Bank Branches

3862. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has decided to merge 440 loss making branches and virtually eliminate its network of Regional Offices across the country as a part of the post-VRS restructuring programme; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. State Bank of India have reported that they have not taken any such decision to merge 440 loss making branches of their bank and thereby eliminating bank's network of regional offices across the country on account of VRS or otherwise.

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

WTO Ministerial Conference

3863. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

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

(a) the issues likely to be raised by India in the forthcoming 4th WTO Ministerial Conference proposed to be held at Doha in November, 2001;

(b) whether the Government are considering to give special emphasis to the matters relating to agriculture in the said Conference;

(c) whether India opposed the fresh round of multilateral trade talks;

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

(e) whether the experts of Indian Council of International Economic Relations Research has suggested the Government to demand for a fresh talks in the proposed meeting of WTO Minister level to be held in Doha (Qatar); and

(f) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO is scheduled to be held from 9th-13th November, 2001 at Doha, Qatar. The main issue which the Govern-

ment propose to raise relates to the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in implementing the Uruguay Round of Agreements. These concerns which have come to be known as "Implementation Issues", fall broadly into three categories. The first category relates to the inherent imbalances and asymmetries in some of the Uruguay Round Agreements. The second category is the lack of sincere implementation of various provisions of the WTO agreements by the developed countries. The third category relates to the non-implementation of special and differential clauses contained in various WTO agreements in favour of developing countries. As a result of these difficulties, the market access gains expected by developing countries from the Uruguay Round of Agreements have not materialized.

India is of the view that Doha Conference should basically review the work relating to the resolution of implementation related concerns, assess the progress and give policy directions for the ongoing mandated negotiations in agriculture and services, and mandated reviews. During the Conference, India proposes to press, inter alia, that the food security and livelihood concerns of the developing countries must be taken care of in the ongoing negotiations in agriculture. No new issues should be pushed into the agenda of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference unless there is convergence of views amongst the WTO membership. This convergence of views could come about only if implementation issues are resolved, contentious 'non-trade' issues are kept off the table and the developing countries are convinced of the need for inclusion of any new item into the WTO agenda and how it is going to benefit them without their domestic policy options.

(e) and (f) Some experts who met at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) have expressed their opinion that the commencement of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations focussed on market access issues in agriculture, services and industrial products is in the best interests of both India and the international community and that the implementation related issues can be resolved only in the context of a new round of negotiations. They have also expressed that sooner India declares her support for a new round, the greater will be her influence in setting the agenda for negotiations. However, India's consistent position has been that the mandated negotiations on Agriculture and Services and the mandated reviews of several WTO agreements, the ongoing work in various Working Groups and subsidiary bodies, the work relating to the accession of over 30 countries along with the work programme for the resolution of "Implementation Related Concerns" of developing countries by themselves constitute a large enough agenda for the WTO and there is no need to further overload it, as it may be unsustainable for WTO. Moreover,

India has been emphasising that the "Implementation related concerns" of the developing countries should be resolved upfront in terms of May 2000 decision of the General Council of WTO without linking it with any fresh round of negotiations. The position is being closely monitored for appropriate action so as to get the best outcome in our national interest from the Doha Ministerial Conference.

[Translation]

Bonus to Central Government Employees

3864. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of Bonus to be paid to the employees of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to increase the amount of bonus to be paid to the Central Government employees.

Soiled Notes

3865. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is facing problem in disposing off soiled notes of smaller denominations;

(b) if so, the surplus stock of soiled notes in comparison to normal capacity in various branches for disposing off such notes;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for short-term and long-term solution to this problem; and

(d) the present status of the projects recommended for secured printing of such notes and the project-wise details regarding the progress of the project till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The number of soiled notes withdrawn by the Issue Office of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased significantly during the last few years from 4472 million pieces during fiscal year 1998-99 to 6550 million pieces during fiscal year 2000-01 (upto May, 2001) as against its capacity to dispose of about 4600 million pieces of soiled notes each

year. This has resulted in accumulation of soiled notes at the Issue Office of RBI and at currency chests maintained at Public sector banks all over the country. As on 31.5.2001, the Issue Offices of the RBI and the currency chests had an accumulated stocks of 2824 million pieces and 3306 million pieces of soiled notes respectively.

(c) The RBI has taken the following steps for increasing the capacity to dispose of the withdrawn soiled notes :

(i) Daily quota for processing and disposal of soiled notes by the staff has been increased.

(ii) A decision has been taken to install Currency Verification & Processing Systems (CVPS) at Regional Offices for mechanised processing of soiled notes. 22 CVPS are expected to be installed at 6(Six) Regional Offices of the RBI by June, 2002.

(iii) Installation of Shredding and Briquetting System at Regional Offices for destruction of soiled notes in eco-friendly manner.

(d) Secured printing of bank notes is at present, done at, Currency Note Press, Nashik; Bank Note Press, Dewas; Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd. at Salboni (West Bengal) and at Mysore (Karnataka). No additional project has been recommended for secured printing of bank notes.

[English]

Export Oriented Units

3866. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been laying emphasis on the establishment of export oriented units in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such units set up in the country as on March 31, 2000, State-wise;

(c) whether any such export oriented units are proposed to be set up in any State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. .

(b) The number of the Export Oriented Units set up in the Country as on 31.3.2001 are 1589. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) As and when proposals are received from individual entrepreneurs, the same are processed and approved in accordance with the Exim Policy.

Statement

State-wise break up of functional EOUs

(As on 31.3.2001)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Functional EOUs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	4
4.	Gujarat	182
5.	Haryana	59
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Jharkhand	5
9.	Karnataka	257
10.	Kerala	34
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28
12.	Maharashtra	230
13.	Orissa	7
14.	Punjab	42
15.	Rajasthan	76
16.	Sikkim	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	286
18.	Uttar Pradesh	81
19.	Uttaranchal	1
20.	West Bengal	52
21.	A & N Islands	2

1	2	3
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9
23.	Delhi	32
24.	Pondicherry	5
Total		1589

Private Placement Deals

3867. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions, mutual funds, foreign investors and overseas corporate bodies have lost about Rs. 19,000 crore in private placement of shares as per the news-item captioned "Institutions, funds take big hit in private placement deals" appearing in *Indian Express* dated July 26, 2001;

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

(c) the policy of the public sector undertakings, institutions, banks etc. to acquire/purchase shares through private placements;

(d) whether the Government have any administrative control on these public sector undertakings, institutions etc; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Government keeps eye on these investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Tea to Russia

3868. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity and value of tea exported to Russia during last three years;

(b) whether there is a great scope to increase the export of tea to Russia; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to explore this new market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY

SINGH): (a) Export of tea to Russia during the last three years are given as under :-

Year	Quantity (Mn. Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1998	82.50	877.32
1999	94.37	820.63
2000	86.55	609.51

(b) and (c) In view of absence of any growth in tea market in Russian Federation and in view of severe competition from other tea producing countries, there is hardly any scope to increase export of tea to Russia. However, Russia being a traditional export market for India tea, the Tea Board has planned a series of promotional programmes including media campaign and brand promotion campaign to promote Indian tea in Russia. Tea Board has also prepared a medium term export strategy with focus on country specific issues including Russia.

Recently a High-level tea delegation from Russia under the banner of Russian Tea & Coffee Association, the Russian Association of Tea Producers' (ROSCHAI) visited India for a greater understanding of tea trade on both sides. It has been agreed that each side would meet periodically to review trading arrangements as a follow up to the agreement reached earlier between ROSCHAI and the Tea Board of India in December 1999.

Also various issues concerning bilateral trade and economic co-operation and steps for further development including problems being faced by exporters of tea to Russia were discussed in the Seventh Session of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Co-operation under the aegis of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation held in January, 2001 at Moscow.

Diploma Courses in Various Languages by IIMC

3869. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is conducting various Diploma courses in Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations etc.;

(b) if so, the details of such courses;

(c) whether IIMC intends to introduce such Diploma Courses in regional languages also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof particularly with

reference to introduction of such courses in Gujarati language?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IIMC is conducting Post Graduate Diploma Courses in English Journalism, Hindi Journalism, Radio & TV Journalism and Advertising & Public Relations.

(c) and (d) Post Graduate Diploma Course in Oriya Journalism has been started this year at Dhenkanal, Orissa. There is no immediate proposal to start a course in any other regional language.

[Translation]

Investment by Banks in Share Market

3870. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has asked certain banks to submit details of their exposure in stock markets after a private sector bank came in the close scrutiny of the regulator for exceeding the prudential limits;

(b) if so, the number of banks which have submitted the details of their exposure in the country's stock markets;

(c) whether some banks have deviated from the prudential norms of the RBI for providing guarantees in the capital market as part of their non-fund exposure; and

(d) if so, the action the Government has taken or propose to take against the banks, which have not followed/are not following the laid down norms of the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had collected data on exposure of all scheduled commercial banks to capital market, which revealed that the total investments of these banks in shares, debentures etc. aggregated Rs. 8773 crore as on 31st January, 2001. The above data had revealed that as on 31st January, 2001, three banks had exceeded the 5 percent ceiling prescribed by RBI for investments in capital market. RBI had called for the explanation of these banks and two of these banks have brought down their investments to 5 percent ceiling as on 31st March, 2001. The remaining bank is taking steps to bring the exposure within the 5 percent ceiling.

In terms of RBI's guidelines, banks are free to issue guarantees on behalf of stock brokers in favour of stock exchanges as per the loan policy approved by their re-

spective Boards. However, the exposure by way of issue of such guarantees are reckoned as part of the 5 percent ceiling. The banks are required to retain margin of 40 percent, (inclusive of cash margin of 20 percent for issue of guarantees) on behalf of share brokers. RBI has taken necessary action against 2 banks which have not followed these guidelines.

[English]

Revamping of UTI

3871. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the working of the Unit Trust of India (UTI);

(b) If so, the outcome thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be revamped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) On the suggestion of the Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.H. Malegam, to review its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual funds industry.

UTI has intimated that the Committee is in the process of submitting its report.

Takeover Code for the Listed PSUs

3872. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Finance Ministry has yet again rejected the Department of Disinvestment's demand seeking exemption from the Takeover Code for the listed PSUs;

(b) If so, the main reasons for rejection;

(c) the extend to which it is likely to affect the PSUs;

(d) whether the Department of Disinvestment had argued that the strategic sale in PSUs alongwith a mandatory open offer of 20 per cent would reduce the

floating stock with the public and lead to thin trading in the stocks; and

(e) if so, the other steps the Government are considering to take in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The open offer process results in purchase of shares of the listed Company by the acquirer. This automatically results in reduction of stocks of shares in the market.

(e) The SEBI Takeover Code prescribes adequate steps to maintain the stock in the market in the event of reduction of floating stock of shares due to open offer. These steps include issue of fresh shares to the market by the acquirer subsequent to the open offer.

[Translation]

Establishment of Chilly Board

3873. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to set up the Chilly Board to promote the exports of chilly;

(b) If so, whether the Union Government have accepted the request of the State Government;

(c) If so, the time by which Chilly Board is likely to be set up in Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Union Government has not received any such proposal from the Government of Bihar.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Amendment to Insurance Act, 1938

3874. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 to tackle the challenges which have arisen before the public sector insurance companies in the wake of entry of private sector in the insurance field;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to declare its decision in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Government proposes to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 for the smooth functioning of the opened up insurance sector. It is proposed to introduce Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2001 in the current Session of Parliament, which would inter alia contain provisions relating to entry of co-operatives into insurance sector, provision for payment of commission fee for insurance intermediaries, allowing flexibility in the eligibility qualification for corporate agents, allowing a more flexible mode of payment of premium through credit cards, smart cards, internet etc. and some consequential amendments. Simultaneously, the public sector insurance companies are taking several measures to strengthen their position in the market.

[English]

Committee on Transaction Cost

3875. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Powered Committee on transaction cost has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken on the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) The High Powered Committee on Transaction Cost of Indian Exports has submitted its report which includes various recommendations relating to Central Board

of Excise and Customs, DGFT, Ministry of Civil Aviation, RBI etc. Most of the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted and implemented. A Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Revenue Secretary reviews the procedures and processes in various offices with a view to further bringing down the transaction time & cost on a continuing basis.

Export of Wheat and Rice

3876. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat, rice and pulses proposed to be exported during the current year and targeted for next year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(c) whether there is expected downfall in the agricultural production;

(d) if so, whether downfall would affect the local market and current stock;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The current export policy provisions for export of wheat, rice and pulses are as under :-

(i) **Wheat** : Exports are allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by APEDA. For the year 2001-02, an export ceiling of 5 million tonnes of wheat has been announced.

(ii) **Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice** : Exports are allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. For the year 2001-2002, export of 3 million tonnes of rice has also been permitted out of the stocks held by FCI for the Central Pool.

(iii) **Pulses** : Exports are allowed freely in consumer packs upto 5 kg.

It is not possible to estimate the likely quantum and value of wheat, rice and pulses that will be exported during

the current year as the exports would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

No targets have been fixed for next year.

(c) As per available information, the production of wheat, rice and pulses during the last 3 years has been as under :-

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Pulses
1998-99	71.29	86.02	14.89
1999-2000	75.57	89.48	13.35
2000-01 (Advance)	68.55	85.50	11.72

Source : Directorate of Economics & Statistics

(d) and (e) In view of the huge surplus of foodgrains available with FCI over and above the buffer stock norms the local market is not likely to get affected.

(f) Does not arise.

International Drug Racket

3877. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an international drug racket has recently been busted in a joint operation of Canada Narcotic Control Bureau and the Mumbai Police code named as "Chevalio";

(b) If so, the number of persons arrested and the countries to which these persons belong;

(c) whether the Canadian Government have requested the Indian Government for the extradition of all arrested persons to Canada; and

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

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

(b) Two persons were arrested by the Mumbai Police. Both are Indian nationals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As envisaged under Section 5 of the India Extradition Act, 1962, appointment of an Extradition Magistrate is being considered.

Indian Institute of Packaging at Hyderabad

3878. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Centre of Indian Institute of Packaging in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether Indian Institute of Packaging has submitted a detailed proposal outlining infrastructural needs, services to be provided to the industries and exporters;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had allocated land for this Centre;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government have made available sufficient funds for the establishment of IIP at Hyderabad; and

(g) if so, the time by which this Centre is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (g) A proposal for setting up of a branch of Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) at Hyderabad is awaiting the formal allotment of the identified building and land appurtenant thereto by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. After the allocation of the land and building by the State Government, a detailed assessment of the need for various facilities that may be required will be carried out by IIP and project report submitted for approval of this Ministry. Provision of Rs. 50 lakh has been made in the annual plan of IIP for the current year.

Deregistering of Suppliers by NCCF

3879. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether NCCF has deregistered most of its suppliers;

(b) if so, whether the NCCF has returned their security amount; and

(c) If not, reasons therefor and by when the same will be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) According to the information furnished by the NCCF, they have deregistered most of their suppliers, who are not manufacturers of branded items, w.e.f. 1.7.2001;

(b) and (c) The amount of Rs. 10,000/- taken as security deposit by the NCCF from its registered suppliers will be refunded by the NCCF to the concerned deregistered suppliers on receipt of their request and after verification of their past liabilities/obligations to the NCCF.

Children Film Society of India

3880. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of film produced/sponsored by the Children Film Society of India in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the total expenses incurred by the Children Film Society in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether any effort been made to encourage the CFSI to produce film, which will have both social content and also commercial viability;

(d) if so, whether any targets have been set up for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The details of the number of films produced and the expenses incurred on production of films by the Children's Film Society of India during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under :-

Year	No. of Films produced	Expenditure incurred
1999-2000	5	Rs. 227.43 lakh
2000-2001	7	Rs. 269.90 lakh

(c) It is the objective of CFSI to provide healthy entertainment to children and young people. The organisation exhibits its films through theatres, T.V. Channels, School shows, film festivals in different States, and sale of Videocassettes.

(d) and (e) No quantitative targets can be fixed for this purpose.

HPT at Sangli, Maharashtra

3881. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Low Power Transmitter (LPT) at Sangli in Maharashtra has failed to cover hilly areas of the district in about 100 kilometers away from the LPT site;

(b) whether the Government have received Memorandum seeking the replacement of the present LPT with High Power Transmitter (HPT) at Sangli;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken a final decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, time by which HPT is likely to be provided at Sangli?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The Low Power TV Transmitter functioning at Sangli has a primary coverage range of about 15 kilometres.

(b) to (d) Requests for expansion of Doordarshan coverage in Sangli district have been received from time to time. At present, two Low Power Transmitters, at Sangli and Khanapur (Vita), are functioning in the district. A Low Power Transmitter for relay of DD2 Metro Channel is under implementation at Sangli. At present, Prasar Bharati does not have any scheme for installing any other Transmitter at Sangli. Further expansion of Doordarshan facilities in Sangli district would depend on priority of projects and availability of resources with Prasar Bharati.

Opening Field Publicity Offices

3882. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open more Field Publicity Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Mehboobnagar of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government have invited suggestions from State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) No new Field Publicity Offices are presently proposed.

Demerging of ITDC

3883. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to demerge India Tourism Development Corporation into a number of companies, each representing a separate property owned by the public sector company;

(b) If so, whether the new entities, acting as shell companies, will then be sold to bidders individually or collectively;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Government has decided that the restructuring/disinvestment plan in respect of the hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) would be as under :-

- (i) The hotel properties proposed to be given on lease-cum-management contract basis, viz., Hotel Ashok Delhi, Hotel Samrat Delhi, Hotel Ashok Bangalore and Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore would be demerged into a separate company with the existing shareholding pattern as that of ITDC.
- (ii) 22 hotel properties would be demerged into separate shell companies for the limited purpose of disinvestment of 100% Government equity. Each of the demerged companies would have a shadow shareholding pattern as that of ITDC i.e. Government (89.97%), the Indian Hotels Company Limited (around 10%) and the employees & others (around 0.03%). Each of these properties would be transferred to the shell companies after a buyer for the particular property is selected through the disinvestment process.

(b) and (c) The properties under lease-cum-management contract are proposed to be given separately to

bidders. It is envisaged that all the properties proposed for 100% disinvestment would also be sold individually.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the time by which the process of disinvestment is likely to be completed.

Distress Sale by Coffee Producers

3884. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that small farmers engaged in coffee growing are forced to sell their produce at a price less than their production cost due to economic liberalisation and open import;

(b) if so, whether it has affected the production of coffee; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide relief to small farmers engaged in coffee growing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in the recent times, due to surplus coffee production by producing countries leading to a mismatch between demand and supply, the prices of coffee both in global and domestic markets have been witnessing a downward trend. As such, the coffee growers are not getting the same price for their produce which they were getting 2-3 years ago.

The production of coffee has been increasing year after year and the production of coffee during 2000-01 was 3.01 lakh tonnes as compared to 2.92 lakh tonnes during the previous year. The estimated production of coffee for the current year is 3.17 lakh tonnes.

(c) The Government of India, through Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, quality up-gradation and water augmentation, has also been providing necessary support in the form of research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other back up support like supply of seed for planting purposes etc. Further, thrust is being given for increasing productivity of coffee particularly in the small grower sector and improving quality of the product to achieve competitiveness in the international markets. The Board is also encouraging the

large growers to produce speciality coffees which fetches attractive premiums in developed countries like USA and European Union.

Recently, at the behest of the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India/NABARD has issued instructions to commercial banks to reschedule the crop loans of coffee growers and also to extend fresh working capital loans to coffee sector as a relief to the growers.

[Translation]

Export/Import

3885. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the imports exceeded exports in the country during the last few years in terms of value;

(b) if so, the extent to which the value of imports has been more than that of exports during the years in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, separately;

(c) whether the value of import of crude oil and

petroleum products is highest out of the total value of imports; and

(d) if so, the percentage value of import of crude oil including petroleum products out of the total value of import during the above period, each year alongwith the export of petroleum products during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the DGC&S data the value of total imports and exports in dollar terms for the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are as follows :

US \$ Million			
Year	Import	Export	Difference
1998-99	42389	33219	9170
1999-2000*	49738	36715	13023
2000-2001*	49639	44328	5311

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The value of import and export of crude oil and petroleum products as well as the percentage of import of crude and petroleum products to total import for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given below :

US \$ Million

Year	Import of crude and petro products	Percentage of import of crude and petro products to total imports	Export of Petroleum products
1998-99	6399	15.09	89
1999-2000*	12612	25.36	29
2000-2001*	15650	31.53	1819

* Provisional figures

[English]

Calculation of Dearness Allowance

3886. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial experts while calculating Dearness Allowance for the Central Government Employees ignore the decimals like .96, .89 etc. and take only the whole number;

(b) if so, whether the employees loss heavily on account of this calculation; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission and Fifth Central Pay Commission accepted by the Government, the percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) for the periods ending December and June each year over the base index average is taken in whole numbers. Fractions are carried forward in calculating the Dearness Allowance.

[Translation]

Tax Rebate for LIC Policy Holders

3887. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide tax rebate to the Life Insurance Policy Holders in order to cover maximum number of persons under the insurance network;

(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 FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Tax rebate to policy holders of life insurance is already available under Sec.88 of the Income-Tax Act. By the Finance Act of 2001, the scope of such rebate was extended to persons obtaining life insurance from private insurers recognized by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority as well.

(b) Tax rebate of an amount equal to 20% of their contribution as premia is allowed, subject to an overall ceiling of Rs. 12,000/- of tax.

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

ADB Loan to States

3888. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the States to whom the Asian Development Bank has sanctioned loans during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of the cities of Rajasthan for which development provision of loans has been made alongwith the amount of loan;

(c) the time by which the utilisation of the aforesaid loan amount is likely to start and the terms and conditions on which loans have been sanctioned;

(d) whether interest on loans has to be paid by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the annual amount of interest to be paid thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) ADB has approved loan assistance for the projects of State Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal during the last three calendar years;

(b) A loan of US \$ 250 million was approved in calendar year 1998 for the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project to alleviate infrastructure and services deficiencies in the towns of Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer and Kota.

(c) The loan was declared effective in January 2000 and is scheduled to close on 30th June, 2005. The loan to Government of India is for 25 years, including a grace period of five years at the Bank's variable interest rate that is determined by ADB on 1st of January and 1st of July every year. Besides a commitment charge @ 0.75% per annum is paid to ADB on the undrawn loan as per Bank policy.

(d) Yes Sir, Interest on loans to Asian Development Bank is to be paid by Government of India.

(e) The annual amount of interest to be paid by Government of India would depend upon the amount of loan drawn down and outstanding from time to time.

Film Certification Guidelines

3889. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification have been issuing film certification guidelines from time to time;

(b) if so, the details of present guidelines;

(c) whether the recent Hindi film "Gadar-Ek Prem Katha" has fulfilled all the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Films, for public exhibition in India, continue to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as per the guidelines issued by the Government on 6th December, 1991, and amended in September, 1997. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) The 5 member Examining Committee,

which previewed the film "Gadar-Ek Prem Katha" (Hindi) for the purpose of issue of certificate, unanimously recommended grant of "U/A" certificate to the film, subject to eight cuts. The Board accepted the recommendation and issued certificate to the film after the applicant accepted the cuts.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Extracts taken from Ministry of I&B's Notification No.805/1/90-F(c) dated the 6th December, 1991 published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India part-II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)

S.O. 836-(E) in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematography Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting No. S.O. 9(E), dated 7th January 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that in sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Board of Film Certification shall be guided by the following principles :-

1. The objectives of film certification will be ensured that -

- (a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;
- (b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;
- (c) certification is responsive to social change;
- (d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and
- (e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

2. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that -

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified.
- (ii) the modus operandi of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted;
- (iii) Scenes :-
 - (a) showing involvement of children in

violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witness to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse;

- (b) showing abuse of ridicule of physically and mentally handicapped persons; and
- (c) showing cruelty to, or abuse of, animals, are not presented needlessly;
- (iv) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown;
- (v) scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking are not shown;
- (vi) scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug addiction are not shown;
- (vi-a)**scenes tending to encourage, justify glamorize consumption of tobacco or smoking are not shown;
- (vii) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;
- (viii) such dual meaning as obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed;
- (ix) scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented;
- (x) scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape, rape or any form of molestation, or scenes of similar nature are avoided, and if any such incident is germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;
- (xi) scenes showing sexual perversions shall be avoided and if such matters are germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;
- (xii) visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups are not presented;
- (xiii) visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantism, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented;
- (xiv) the sovereignty and integrity of India is not called in question;

- (xv) the security of the State is not jeopardised or endangered;
 - (xvi) friendly relations with foreign States are not strained;
 - (xvii) public order is not endangered;
 - (xviii) visuals or words involving defamation of an individual or a body of individuals, or contempt of court are not presented;
- EXPLANATION : Scenes that tend to create scorn, disgrace or disregard of rules of undermine the dignity of court will come under the term "contempt of Court" and
- (xix) National symbols and emblems are not shown except in accordance with the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act 1950 (12 of 1950).

3. The Board of Film Certification shall also ensure that the film -

- (i) is judged in its entirety from the point of view of its overall impact; and
- (ii) is examined in the light of the period depicted in the film and the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which the film relates, provided that the film does not deprave the morality of the audience.

4. Films that meet the above-mentioned criteria but are considered unsuitable for exhibition to non-adults shall be certified for exhibition to adult audience only.

5. (1) While certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family including children can view it together.

(2) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of twelve years may be allowed to see such a film, the film shall be certified for unrestricted public exhibition with an endorsement to that effect.

(3) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that the exhibition of the film should be restricted to members of any profession or any class of persons, the film shall be certified for public exhibition restricted to the specialised audiences to be specified by the Board in this behalf.

6. The Board shall scrutinise the titles of the films carefully and ensure that they are not provocative, vulgar, offensive or violative of any of the above-mentioned guidelines.

** Added on 15th September, 1997.

Sick Sugar Mills

3890. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills in each State/Union Territory;

(b) the number of sick mills and the number of mills functioning out of them at present in each State/Union Territory; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revitalise the sick sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) A statement showing the State/Union Territory-wise number of installed sugar mills is enclosed.

(b) The sick sugar mills belonging to Private and Public sector are covered under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA). According to BIFR, 44 sick sugar companies in Public and Private sectors have been registered with them on 31.3.2001. Out of 44 sugar companies 3 companies were registered twice and 1 company registered thrice at different point of time. In view of that only 39 sugar companies consisting of 70 sugar mills are registered with BIFR. Out of 70 sugar mills, 42 mills operated during the sugar season 2000-2001, State/Union Territory-wise details are as follows :-

	No. of Sick Mills	No. of Sick Mills Operated During 2000-2001 Season (Oct.-Sep.)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	3	2
Bihar	4	1
Karnataka	5	3
Madhya Pradesh	3	2
Maharashtra	3	3

1	2	3
Punjab	1	1
Tamil Nadu	5	5
Uttar Pradesh	42	24
West Bengal	1	1
Kerala	1	-
Orissa	1	-
Rajasthan	1	-
Total	70	42

The cooperative sugar mills (CSMS) are not covered under SICA. They fall under the Cooperative Societies Acts of the respective States. As per information provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 95 cooperative sugar mills were having negative net worth as on 31.03.2000. Out of 95 sugar mills, 92 sugar mills operated during the sugar season 2000-2001, State/Union territory-wise details are as follows -

	No. of CSMS with Negative Net Worth	No. of CSMS with Negative Net Worth Operated During 2000-2001 Season (Oct.-Sep.)
Andhra Pradesh	1	1
Karnataka	10	10
Maharashtra	30	28
Punjab	10	10
Tamil Nadu	12	12
Uttar Pradesh	19	19
Gujarat	6	5
Haryana	6	6
Uttaranchal	1	1
Total	95	92

(c) Government has taken the following steps to revive sick sugar mills/improve the viability of the sugar industry in the country :-

i) The levy obligation of sugar mills has been reduced to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001;

ii) Duty on imported sugar has been raised to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000 to restrict the flow of imported sugar;

iii) The imported sugar has been brought under the released mechanism;

iv) Levy @ 15% on the stocks of imported sugar held by the importers has been imposed with effect from 17.2.2000;

v) Monthly releases of free-sale sugar are being made judiciously to ensure fair realization to sugar industry;

vi) Advanced releases of free-sale sugar are being given to needy sugar mills to enable them to clear cane price due of the farmers.

vii) Ceiling on quantity of exports has been removed.

vii) A committee has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary (F&PD) to examine the cases of sick cooperative sugar mills to recommend revival packages of potentially viable units.

Statement

The State/Union Territory-wise Number of Installed Sugar Mills

Position as on 30.06.2001

S.No.	State	Number of installed sugar mills
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	22
2.	Haryana	13
3.	Rajasthan	3
4.	Uttar Pradesh *	129
5.	Madhya Pradesh	11
6.	Gujarat	22
7.	Maharashtra	143
8.	Bihar	28
9.	Assam	3
10.	Orissa	8

1	2	3
11.	West Bengal	2
12.	Nagaland	1
13.	Andhra Pradesh	41
14.	Karnataka	38
15.	Tamil Nadu	37
16.	Pondicherry	2
17.	Kerala	2
18.	Goa	1
Total		506

* Including Uttaranchal.

[English]

Import of Cars

3891. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether some foreign car manufacturing companies have requested the Union Government to liberalise the rules for import of completely built units (CBUs) cars;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some of the car companies have requested that import of cars under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme should be exempted from the various testing and other requirements prescribed for import of automobiles. Representations have further been received to exempt the condition of homologation on small volume import of cars. It has also been requested that the condition regarding permitting import from the country of manufacture should be relaxed in cases where the imports are being affected by the subsidiary of the manufacturer based in India.

After removal of quantitative restrictions, specific conditions like testing, homologation etc. have been imposed

on import of automobiles to ensure consumer protection, road safety and adherence to specified emission norms. The companies which have made these requests are being advised suitably in the matter.

Import of Edible Oils

3892. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of edible oils imported during each of the last two years, alongwith the names of countries;

(b) the future projections to certain large scale import of edible oils;

(c) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has been taken into confidence of all matters pertaining to edible oil imports in order to edible Agriculture Ministry to plan for production of more oil seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :
(a) Quantity and value of vegetable oil fixed (edible) imported during 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 is as under :-

Year	Qty. (Tons)	Value Rs. Crore	Names of major countries from which imported
1999-2000	4195638	8046.05	Argentina, Brazil, German F. Rep., Indonesia, Malaysia and USA
2000-2001(P)	3974638	5932.76	

P=Provisional figures

(b) to (d) The quantitative restrictions on imports of edible oils have been removed from time to time to meet domestic shortages and also in accordance with our international commitments. However, efforts have always been made to provide a level playing field to domestic farmers by calibrating the duty structure which has been revised four times during the last 18 months.

Fall in the Profit of IDBI

3893. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep fall of 65% in the net profits of IDBI during the last year;

(b) whether the non-performing assets (NPA) of IDBI has also risen to more than 15 percent from 13.4% earlier;

(c) whether in order to revive the health of IDBI, Government propose to bring forward a legislation permitting quick foreclosure and liquidation of bankrupt businesses, as presently defaulting companies are taking shelter under BIFR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) IDBI's profit after tax declined by 27% to Rs. 691 crores in 2000-2001 from Rs. 947 crores in 1999-2000.

(b) Net NPAs of IDBI rose to 14.8% as on 31.3.2001 from 13.4% of the net advances as on 31.3.2000.

(c) and (d) The Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.R. Andhyarujina, former Solicitor General of India has inter alia made recommendation for enactment of Law empowering banks and financial institutions for taking possession and sale of securities of defaulting borrowers without the intervention of the Court. A Working Group has been set up in October, 2000 to examine the recommendation and submit its report.

[Translation]

Import of Meat

3894. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a risk of serious disease spreading across the country due to granting of the permission for import of meat into the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sought the advices of environmentalists and experts on this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) To prevent the eventuality of import of

disease infected meat into the country, import of meat has been made subject to a sanitary import permit to be issued by Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, as per Section 3A of Livestock Importation Act, 1898. As per this provision import of meat shall be allowed only after the import consignment has been examined from all sanitary aspects including prevalence of any disease in the consignment. This measure is likely to ensure that no import of disease infected meat takes place in the country.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

3895. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases regarding repayment of loans provided by financial institutions are submitted to Debt Recovery Tribunal constituted by the Government;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of such cases forwarded to the benches of DRT for taking decision during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the year-wise number of cases disposed of during the said period; and

(d) the amount recovered by the financial institutions as a result of these awards?

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

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

External Aided Projects in AP and Uttaranchal

3896. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the projects under implementation/being implemented in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal with the external assistance with their locations;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government and the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal for these projects; separately;

(c) the time schedule fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal have sent any more proposals for seeking financial assistance from Internal Agencies for certain development projects in the State;

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

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The details of State sector projects being implemented in Andhra Pradesh are given in the enclosed statement. Besides, there are multi-state and central sector projects in which Andhra Pradesh is one of the participating States. As regards Uttaranchal, the information is being collected

and will be laid on the Table of the House.

The information regarding locations of the Projects is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

During 2001-02, the Union Government have released an amount of Rs. 904.19 crore as Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects in Andhra Pradesh. No ACA has been released to Uttaranchal for EAPs during the current year.

The details of amount released by the State Governments are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Figures in Donor Currency in Million

Sl. No.	Name of project	Source	Date of Approval	Terminal Date of Disbursement	Currency	Loan/Gant	Cumulative Disbursement as on 30.06.01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh							
1	AP Dairy Development Coop. Fed. Ltd.	France	5.6.97	31.12.02	Fr. Franc	19.95	18.97
2	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency	IBRD	3.6.97	31.7.01	US\$	50.00	0.00
3	AP Irrigation	IBRD	3.6.97	31.1.03	US\$	175.00	0.00
4	AP State Highway	IBRD	30.7.97	31.1.03	US\$	350.00	129.52
5	AP Economic Restructuring	IBRD	4.2.99	31.3.04	US\$	301.30	117.25
6	Andhra Pradesh Power Restructuring	IBRD	5.3.99	31.8.03	US\$	210.00	99.02
7	AP Health System	IDA	22.12.94	31.3.02	SDR	90.70	69.10
8	AP Hazard Mitigation & E.C.R.	IDA	9.7.97	31.7.01	SDR	57.75	60.72
9	AP Irrigation-III	IDA	3.6.97	31.1.03	SDR	108.10	90.14
10	AP Economic Restructuring	IDA	4.2.99	31.3.04	SDR	179.40	64.81
11	AP District Poverty Initiatives	IDA	12.5.00	31.12.05	SDR	82.90	3.30
12	AP Participatory Tribal Development	IFAD	13.5.94	31.3.02	SDR	18.95	10.65
13	Srisaillam Left Bank P.S.P. II	Japan	28.2.95	12.4.01	Jap. Yen	22567.00	22471.41
14	Srisaillam Left Bank T.P.S.	Japan	28.2.95	31.3.02	Jap. Yen	9546.00	6909.26
15	Kothagudem 'A' T.P.S.	Japan	28.2.95	12.4.02	Jap. Yen	5092.00	4489.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	Kurnool Cuddapah Canal Modernisation	Japan	25.1.96	26.3.03	Jap. Yen	16049.00	3529.22
17	Simhadri and Vizag Trmn. System	Japan	12.12.97	19.2.03	Jap. Yen	10629.00	4562.44
18	Srisailem Left Bank Power Stn.	Japan	25.2.97	16.2.03	Jap. Yen	14499.00	9946.84
19	Integrated Agricultural Demand Side Mgnt.	IBRD	23.6.99	31.12.00	US \$	4.30	0.00
20	AP Tribal Development Project	IFAD	15.5.91	31.3.99	US \$	7.20	1.51
21	APWELL	Netherlands	14.11.94	31.3.02	NLG	35.30	20.06
22	Sustainable Dryland Agriculture	UNDP	1.11.99	30.11.02	US \$	3.10	0.55
23	AP Energy Efficiency	UK	15.11.93	31.12.01	GBP	42.70	14.77
24	AP Dist. Primary Education	UK	29.8.96	31.3.03	GBP	42.50	15.82
25	AP Urban Services Improvement	UK	3.6.99	31.5.06	GBP	94.41	0.00
26	AP Rural Livelihood	UK	23.7.99	31.7.06	GBP	40.18	0.00
27	AP Urban Services for the Poor	UK	3.6.99	31.5.06	GBP	66.09	0.00

Effluent Treatment Methods for Coffee Production.

3897. **SHRI M. CHINNASAMY** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the effluent generated per unit quantity of coffee processed;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to educate coffee growers about effluent treatment methods; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coffee Board has initiated action on the following lines in this area :

- (i) launching of awareness campaigns in the coffee growing tracts about the pollution caused by coffee effluent and adoption of pollution abatement measures recommended by the Board;
- (ii) evolve cost effective effluent treatment plant which is acceptable to the coffee growers and the pollution control authorities;
- (iii) examination of the effluent treatment model developed by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for its adoptability, water utilisation and other parameters by constituting a task force comprising scientists of Coffee Board and officials of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bangalore;

(iv) the technology developed by Application of Science and Technology to Rural Area (ASTRA), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore which promises to be suitable for small and large growers will be tried in the Board's research farms on experimental basis; and

(v) Coffee Board will collaborate with KSPCB in standardising the sieves for separating the mucilage which can drastically bring down pollution load of coffee effluent.

[Translation]

Disposal of Insurance Claims

3898. **SHRI RAMPAL SINGH** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to frame such rules under which the insurance claims will have to be disposed of within seven days on making available all the concerned documents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether penal provision is also proposed against the insurance companies which do not follow the above rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) in terms of the powers conferred on it under IRDA

Act, 1999 (41 of 1999) has proposed to issue regulations entitled 'Policyholders' rights and obligations'. One of the features of the proposed regulations relates to the settlement of claims by Insurance Companies within a stipulated time frame. In the case of the general insurance companies, both in private and public sectors, it is proposed that where all documents have been furnished to the insurer by the insured, if the claim is not settled within 7 days, interest will start accruing from the 8th day at the rate of 10% per annum. In the case of Life Insurance Corporation of India, there is already a provision to pay penal interest at the rate of 9% per annum on the entire claim amount for the period of delay.

Financial Assistance Provided by IDBI

3899. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from the entrepreneurs of the Scheduled Tribe areas of the country including those in Maharashtra during the last year;

(b) the state-wise number of applications given clearance out of them alongwith the number of those which were refused clearance;

(c) the details of the lumpsum financial assistance provided during this period;

(d) whether the Government are aware of some incidence of irregularities during the clearance of financial assistance to the entrepreneurs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) Financial Institutions including IDBI provides financial as-

sistance to all viable industrial concerns irrespective of their location and composition of the population including Adivasis and scheduled tribes. However, the extent of assistance in any area depends upon various factors including the flow of worthwhile applications, infrastructure available, availability of raw material & skilled labour and proximity to market etc.

Instances of irregularity are acted upon by the management as per the existing Government/Institutional instructions.

New Bank Branches

3900. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of branches of commercial banks at present;

(b) whether RBI has given permission to some commercial banks to open their new branches;

(c) If so, the State-wise details of each bank; and

(d) the State-wise new branches opened by these banks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (d) The State-wise number of branches of commercial banks functioning as on 31.3.2001 and also the number of branches opened by these banks during 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2001 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) State-wise and bank-wise details of authorizations issued by RBI for opening of branches are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise number of branches of commercial banks as on 31.3.2001 and the number of branches of these banks opened during 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2001

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of branches of commercial banks as on 31.3.2001	No. of branches of commercial banks opened during 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2001
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	5142	201
2	Arunachal Pradesh	68	-
3	Assam	1231	12
4	Bihar	3549	41

1	2	3	4
5	Chhattisgarh	1043	2*
6	NCT of Delhi	1422	138
7	Goa	324	22
8	Gujarat	3671	141
9	Haryana	1509	63
10	Himachal Pradesh	779	9
11	Jammu & Kashmir	815	21
12	Jharkhand	1446	2*
13	Karnataka	4733	207
14	Kerala	3290	135
15	Madhya Pradesh	3440	91
16	Maharashtra	6278	218
17	Manipur	81	-
18	Meghalaya	179	-
19	Mizoram	78	-
20	Nagaland	70	-
21	Orissa	2218	47
22	Punjab	2527	94
23	Rajasthan	3304	78
24	Sikkim	47	5
25	Tamil Nadu	4762	154
26	Tripura	178	-
27	Uttar Pradesh	8060	178
28	Uttaranchal	832	1*
29	West Bengal	4405	73
30	A & N Islands	31	-
31	Chandigarh	169	15
32	D & N Haveli	11	1
33	Daman & Diu	15	2
34	Lakshadweep	9	-
35	Pondicherry	84	9
Total		65800	1980

* Data relates to number of branches opened on or after 1st November, 2000 in respect of Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal States and from 15th November, 2000 in respect of Jharkhand State as the States under reference were formed from the said dates.

Statement-II

*State-wise and Bank-wise Number of Authorizations
issued to Commercial Banks for opening bank branches*

Name of State	Name of Bank	No. of Authorisations
1	2	3

Andhra Pradesh

Bank of Baroda	1
Bank of India	1
City Union Bank	1
Corporation Bank	8
Global Trust Bank Ltd.	6
Indian Bank	1
Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.	2
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	3
Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	2
Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	1
Punjab National Bank	1
Sangli Bank Ltd.	1
State Bank of Hyderabad	4
State Bank of India	3
State Bank of Indore	1
State Bank of Saurashtra	1
South Indian Bank	2
Syndicate Bank	1
Tamil Nadu Mer Bank Ltd.	2
Union Bank of India	1
UTI Bank Ltd.	1

Assam

Allahabad Bank	1
Bank of Rajasthan	1

1	2	3
	ICICI Bkg Corp. Ltd.	1
	Indian Overseas Bank	3
	Punjab National Bank	1
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	1

Bihar

Allahabad Bank	1
Bank of India	2
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
Canara Bank	1
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
Punjab National Bank	2
Syndicate Bank	1
Union Bank of India	1
United Bank of India	1

Chandigarh

Andhra Bank	1
Corporation Bank	1
Global Trust Bank	1
Indian Bank	1
Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
Punjab & Sind Bank	1
State Bank of India	1
State Bank of Indore	1
State Bank of Patiala	1

Chhattisgarh

Indusind Bank Ltd.	1
State Bank of Indore	4
State Bank of Patiala	1

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Corporation Bank Ltd.	1
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1	2	3
Delhi		
	SB of India	4
	SB of B&J	2
	SB of Hyderabad	3
	SB of Indore	1
	SB of Patiala	6
	SB of Saurashtra	1
	Allahabad Bank	1
	Andhra Bank	1
	Bank of Baroda	5
	Bank of India	2
	Canara Bank	20
	Corporation Bank	4
	Dena Bank	3
	Indian Bank	2
	Indian Overseas Bank	3
	Oriental Bank of Com.	11
	Punjab National Bank	3
	Punjab & Sind Bank	10
	Syndicate Bank	5
	Vijaya Bank	5
	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	8
	Centurion Bank	1
	Global Trust Bank	3
	HDFC Bank	1
	ICICI Bank (Madura) Ltd.	2
	ICICI Bkg. Corp. Ltd.	1
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1
	J & K Bank Ltd.	1

1	2	3
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	3
	Nainital Bank Ltd.	1
	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	1
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	3
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	1
Goa		
	Andhra Bank	2
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
	Sangli Bank Ltd.	1
	State Bank of Hyderabad	1
	State Bank of India	2
	State Bank of Patiala	1
Gujarat		
	SB of India	1
	SB of Hyderabad	1
	SB of Indore	1
	SB of Patiala	2
	SB of Saurashtra	9
	Andhra Bank	2
	Bank of Baroda	2
	Bank of India	2
	Canara Bank	2
	Corporation Bank	5
	Dena Bank	1
	Syndicate Bank	1
	Union Bank of India	1
	Vijaya Bank	4

1	2	3
	HDFC Bank	2
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	2
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	1
	Bharat Overseas Bank	1
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
	Development CR BK Ltd.	1
	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	2
	Sangli Bank Ltd.	1
Haryana		
	SB of India	3
	SB of B&J	1
	SB of Hyderabad	1
	SB of Patiala	6
	SB of Travancore	1
	Allahabad Bank	1
	Andhra Bank	5
	Bank of Baroda	2
	Bank of India	1
	Canara Bank	1
	Corporation Bank	3
	Oriental Bank of Com.	2
	Punjab National Bank	2
	Syndicate Bank	2
	Vijaya Bank	2
	J & K Bank Ltd.	1
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
	Development CR BK Ltd.	1

1	2	3
	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	2
	Centurion Bank Ltd.	1
	IDBI Bank Ltd.	1
Himachal Pradesh		
	Corporation Bank	1
	Dena Bank	1
	State Bank of Patiala	1
	State Bank of Maharashtra	1
Jammu & Kashmir		
	SB of India	1
	Punjab National Bank	2
	Punjab & Sind Bank	1
	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	1
	J & K Bank Ltd.	5
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
Jharkhand		
	SB of India	1
	Allahabad Bank	2
	Bank of India	2
	Canara Bank	1
	Corporation Bank	2
	Punjab National Bank	2
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
Karnataka		
	SB of India	1
	SB of Hyderabad	3
	SB of Mysore	7
	Andhra Bank	1

1	2	3
	Bank of India	5
	Canara Bank	3
	Corporation Bank	6
	Dena Bank	1
	Indian Bank	1
	Syndicate Bank	5
	Vijaya Bank	3
	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	1
	Global Trust Bank	3
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	2
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	2
	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	1
	City Union Bank Ltd.	1
	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1
	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	2
	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	1
	Tamilnad Mer Bank Ltd.	1

Kerala

SB of Travancore	6
Andhra Bank	4
Bank of India	2
Bank of Maharashtra	1
Canara Bank	3
Global Trust Bank	1
HDFC Bank	1
Indusind Bank Ltd.	2
J & K Bank Ltd.	2

1	2	3
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	1
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
	City Union Bank Ltd.	1
	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	2
	Dhanklaskhmi Bank Ltd.	2

Madhya Pradesh

SB of India	3
SB of Indore	6
SB of Saurashtra	1
Bank of India	3
Corporation Bank	1
Indian Overseas Bank	1
Union Bank of India	1
Vijaya Bank	1
Bank of Punjab Ltd.	1
Vysya Bank Ltd.	1
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
IDBI Bank Ltd.	1

Maharashtra

SB of India	10
SB of B&J	1
SB of Hyderabad	6
SB of Indore	1
SB of Patiala	2
SB of Saurashtra	2
SB of Travancore	1
Allahabad Bank	1
Andhra Bank	4

1	2	3
	Bank of Baroda	3
	Bank of India	30
	Bank of Maharashtra	3
	Canara Bank	3
	Central Bank of India	4
	Corporation Bank	13
	Dena Bank	1
	Indian Bank	1
	Indian Overseas Bank	4
	Oriental Bank of Com.	4
	Punjab National Bank	1
	Punjab & Sind Bank	2
	Syndicate Bank	3
	Union Bank of India	2
	Uco Bank	1
	Vijaya Bank	2
	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	4
	Global Trust Bank	8
	HDFC Bank	4
	ICICI Bank (Madura) Ltd.	1
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	2
	J & K Bank Ltd.	2
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	3
	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	2
	South Indian Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	6
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	2
	Bharat Overseas Bank	1
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	2

1	2	3
	Development CR BK Ltd.	3
	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	1
	Sangli Bank Ltd.	7
	Centurion Bank Ltd.	4
	IDBI Bank Ltd.	1
	City Union Bank Ltd.	2
	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	3
	Karur Visaya Bank Ltd.	1
	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	1
	Tamilnad Mer Bank Ltd.	1
	Federal Bank Ltd.	1
	United Western Bank Ltd.	7
	Meghalaya	
	Corporation Bank	1
	Orissa	
	SB of Saurashtra	1
	Allahabad Bank	2
	Corporation Bank	1
	Indian Overseas Bank	2
	HDFC Bank	1
	ICICI Bank (Madura) Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
	Pondicherry	
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	1
	Lakshmivilas Bank Ltd.	1
	Punjab	
	SB of India	1
	SB of Indore	2
	SB of Patiala	8
	Allahabad Bank	1
	Andhra Bank	1

1	2	3
	Bank of India	2
	Central Bank of India	1
	Corporation Bank	7
	Indian Bank	1
	Indian Overseas Bank	2
	Punjab & Sind Bank	1
	Union Bank of India	2
	Vijaya Bank	2
	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	14
	Centurian Bank	1
	HDFC Bank	3
	ICICI Bank (Madura) Ltd.	1
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	2
	UTI Bank Ltd.	3
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
	Tamilnad Mer Bank Ltd.	1
Rajasthan		
	SB of India	2
	SB of B&J	11
	SB of Hyderabad	1
	SB of Indore	1
	SB of Patiala	2
	Bank of Baroda	1
	Bank of India	1
	Canara Bank	1
	Central Bank of India	1
	Corporation Bank	3
	Dena Bank	1
	Oriental Bank of Com.	7

1	2	3
	Punjab National Bank	1
	HDFC Bank	1
	IndusInd Bank Ltd	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	1
	IDBI Bank Ltd.	2
Sikkim		
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
Tamil Nadu		
	SB of India	7
	SB of Mysore	1
	SB of Travancore	1
	Allahabad Bank	1
	Bank of India	3
	Canara Bank	1
	Indian Bank	7
	Indian Overseas Bank	1
	Punjab National Bank	1
	Union Bank of India	1
	Vijaya Bank	1
	Global Trust Bank	3
	HDFC Bank	3
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	3
	UTI Bank Ltd.	2
	Bharat Overseas Bank	1
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
	City Union Bank Ltd.	2
	Karur Visaya Bank Ltd.	4
	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	1
	Tamilnad Mer Bank Ltd.	7

1	2	3
	Dhankiakshmi Bank Ltd.	1
Uttar Pradesh		
	SB of India	6
	SB of Hyderabad	2
	SB of Mysore	1
	SB of Patiala	2
	Allahabad Bank	3
	Andhra Bank	1
	Bank of Baroda	2
	Bank of India	7
	Canara Bank	1
	Central Bank India	1
	Corporation Bank	8
	Oriental Bank of Com.	5
	Punjab National Bank	5
	Syndicate Bank	4
	Union Bank of India	1
	Vijaya Bank	1
	Centurian Bank	1
	HDFC Bank	2
	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	1
	Nainital Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	2
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1
Uttaranchal		
	Canara Bank	1
	Union Bank of India	1

1	2	3
	Nainital Bank Ltd.	2
	UTI Bank Ltd.	1
West Bengal		
	SB of India	7
	SB of Indore	1
	SB of Mysore	1
	SB of Patiala	1
	Allahabad Bank	2
	Canara Bank	2
	Corporation Bank	7
	Indian Overseas Bank	3
	Vijaya Bank	2
	Global Trust Bank	1
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	1
	UTI Bank Ltd.	2
	Vysya Bank Ltd.	2
	Bharat Overseas Bank	1
	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
	IDBI Bank Ltd.	1
	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1
	Dhankiakshmi Bank Ltd.	1

[English]

SCOPE Study

3901. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have chalked out
any post-disinvestment package for top brass Public Sec-
tor Undertakings;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has given some suggestions to the Government in this regard;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) These are contract appointments governed by the terms and conditions therein.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) have suggested, inter alia, re-nomination on the Board separation package as available to employees of that PSE, removal of restriction on joining private sector, preferential treatment in PESB selections and return to the below Board level posts held earlier by them irrespective of whether lien has been retained or not, etc. Suggestions made by SCOPE are kept in mind while finalising the Share Holders/Share Purchase Agreement in consultation with the prospective bidders.

World Bank Assistance for Commodity Exchanges

3902. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are seeking World Bank aid for upgradation of infrastructure for derivatives trading in commodity exchanges;

(b) if so, whether India has obtained \$ 0.49 million loan from the World Bank earlier and is likely seek a similar amount for implementing online trading computerisation and stepping awareness building programmes among commodity traders;

(c) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide the assistance; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

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

(b) Government of India had obtained an Institutional Development Fund (IDF) Grant of US\$ 0.49 million from the World Bank for supporting the development of Commodity Futures Market in India. The Grant closed on 31st October, 2000.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

PDS Network

3903. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite ever increasing food stocks growing demands, the Union Government have been slow in bringing the Above Poverty Level (APL) segment back into the Public Distribution System network;

(b) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to enlarge the numbers of APL segment in the PDS network;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) Families living above poverty line (APL) have not been excluded from allocation of foodgrains under Public Distribution System. While with a view to better targeting the food subsidy towards the families living below poverty line (BPL) allocation of foodgrains for them was doubled from 10 kg to 20 kg at 50% of economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000, the allocation for APL families has been retained at the same level as at the time of induction of TPDS at Central Issue Prices fixed at 100% of economic cost from that date.

In order to reduce the excess stocks of foodgrains lying in the Central Pool, Government has decided to allocate foodgrains for APL families at the discounted rate of 70% of the economic cost w.e.f. 12.7.2001 till 31.3.2002 or till the excess stocks last.

Non-Performing Assets

3904. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given a six weeks time to the Union Government to file a progress report on the steps taken by it on the basis of guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India regarding the non-performing assets of nationalised banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted to the Supreme Court;

(c) the action taken against those held responsible; and

(d) by what time all the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India are likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 11th July, 2001 had, inter-alia, stated that the matter may lie over for six weeks by which time Union of India would be in a position to furnish a progress report of the action taken on the basis of the guidelines to ease the situation of the non-performing assets.

(b) Government of India has not furnished the report to the Supreme Court of India so far.

(c) and (d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) at various levels in the banks. RBI vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 had framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. Effective action by banks for rehabilitation, one-time settlement for filing of suits in all necessary cases by 30.9.2001 has to be ensured by the chief executives. The banks have also been advised to use forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlement of their NPA and guidelines have been issued by RBI in May, 2001 for making increased use of this forum to settle disputes involving outstanding balance in NPA accounts upto Rs. 5 lakhs. Action has also been initiated to bring in a legislation that will facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks.

Banks generally examine staff accountability in loan cases that have non-performing and take appropriate action wherever required.

[Translation]

Smuggling at Indo-Nepal Border

3905. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the smuggling related activities on Indo-Nepal border have registered a alarming rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested on the said border for smuggling related activities;

(d) the action taken against them by the Government; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government to check the smuggling related activities on Indo-Nepal border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it cannot be stated with certainty that the smuggling related activities on Indo-Nepal have registered an alarming increase. However, intelligence inputs, corroborated by seizures, indicate that the Indo-Nepal border continues to be sensitive from smuggling point of view. The details of cases of smuggling detected by the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Indo-Nepal border during last 3 years and current year (upto July, 2001) are as follows :

Details of seizures	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (upto July, 2001)
No. of cases booked	4593	4422	6405	1654
Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)	52.02	58.14	53.21	9.66

(c) The number of persons arrested at Indo-Nepal border for smuggling related activities during last 3 years & current year (upto July, 2001) are as follows :-

Details of seizures	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (upto July, 2001)
No. of persons arrested	277	187	307	41

(d) Penal action and prosecution is initiated under the Customs Act against the persons involved in smuggling related activities and detention under COFEP-OSA is also considered in deserving cases.

(e) All the concerned field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are alert and vigilant to check smuggling related activities on Indo-Nepal border.

Outstanding Amount Payable by Sugar Mills

3906. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in arrears outstanding payable to the farmers by the sugar mills during the current crushing season as compared to previous year; and

(b) if so, the arrears outstanding as on date separately of the Government and private sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The cane price payable amount, cane price paid amount, the cane price arrears amount and the percentage of cane price arrears for 2000-2001 sugar season as on 30th June, 2001 were as follows :

	Rs. in crores
(i) Cane price payable amount	12568.38
(ii) Cane price paid amount	11537.32
(iii) Cane price arrears amount	1031.06
(iv) Cane price arrears as percentage to (i) above	8.2%

Similar details for the 1999-2000 sugar season as on 30th June, 2000, was follows :

	Rs. in crores
(i) Cane price payable amount	9271.73
(ii) Cane price paid amount	8526.96
(iii) Cane price arrears amount	744.77
(iv) Cane price arrears as percentage to (i) above	8.0%

It may be observed from the above that the cane price payable amount in 2000-2001 sugar season has increased by Rs. 3296.65 crores, while the cane price paid amount has increased by Rs. 3010.36 crores as compared to the preceding sugar season. The increase in the cane price arrears has been Rs. 286.29 crores but percentage-wise, the cane price arrears during the 2000-2001 sugar season is 8.2% of the cane price payable amount against 8.0% in the preceding sugar season. The increase in the cane price arrears amount is mainly on account of increase in the cane price payable amount.

(b) The Cane price arrears for Government (Public) Sector and Private Sector sugar mills for 2000-2001 sugar season as on 30.06.2001 were as follows:

Rs. in crores

(i) Public Sector Sugar Mills	157.76
(ii) Private Sector Sugar Mills	491.28

[English]

Food Subsidy to Karnataka

3907. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have requested the Union Government to make available Reserve Bank of India's overdraft to help the State to procure foodgrains from neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard by the Union Government; and

(c) the amount proposed to be released during 2001-2002 towards food subsidy and that released in the previous year?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government releases subsidy to FCI in totality. State-wise subsidy is not released to the FCI.

100% Export Oriented Units

3908. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from several State Governments for establishments of 100% Export Oriented Units in their States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No proposals are received from the

State Governments for establishing 100% Export Oriented Units as these units are set up by Private Entrepreneurs/Promoters with the prior approval of Government of India.

Amendment of FCI Act, 1964

3909. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are proposing to bring amendment to the existing FCI Act, 1964; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporations Act, 1964 (FC Act) has been amended from time to time in the past. At present, in order to amend the Section 27, Sub Section (l) of the Food Corporations Act, 1964 relating to the Borrowing Powers of the Corporation, the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Parliament in the current Session.

Amendment in VOP Control Order

3910. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to amend the Vegetable Oil and Product (Development and Regulation) Control order with a view to facilitate more imports of crude palm oil following the Indian Prime Minister assuring the Malaysian authorities for such imports;

(b) if so, the main amendments being considered;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the extent to which this amendment would be beneficial to the country?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Fraud by NBFCs

3911. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increase in the incidents of frauds made by the non-banking companies in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the company-wise details of such incidents which took place in Madhya Pradesh and the action taken against the said companies;

(c) the action taken to regularise the functionings of non-banking financial companies to protect the interests of investors; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against these non-banking financial companies of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received several complaints from depositors against some NBFCs who have failed to repay their deposits.

(b) The Bank has taken action against 5 Non-Banking Financial Companies which have their registered offices in Madhya Pradesh and have defaulted in repaying deposits. The company-wise details of the action taken by RBI against these companies are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended in 1997 to vest considerable powers with the Reserve Bank of India for effective regulation and supervision over NBFCs. Consequently, the RBI announced a new Regulatory Framework in January, 1998. Actions taken by the Reserve Bank of India to regularise functioning of NBFCs to protect the interests of the depositors are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The actions taken against 5 Non-Banking Financial Companies having registered Offices in Madhya Pradesh are mentioned in statement-I. These and other companies operating in Madhya Pradesh are subject to the measures taken by the RBI, as given in statement-II.

Statement-I*Details regarding action taken against NBFCs having their
Registered offices in Madhya Pradesh*

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Brief description of Company	Action Taken by RBI
1.	Al-Fahad Fincom Ltd. 2nd Floor, Meena Bazar Complex, 55-56 Bombay Bazar, Indore	It was a new NBFC which commenced the business of an NBFI and also accepted deposits from the public without applying for/obtaining a Certificate of Registration from RBI. There were complaints against the company for non-repayment of deposits.	Some of the directors/officials of the company were reportedly arrested by police. A decision has been taken for winding up the company and the case is in process.
2.	Al-Fahad Investments Ltd. (Al-Fahad Group) 2nd Floor, Meena Bazar Complex, 55-56 Bombay Bazar, Indore	Application for issue of certification of Registration has been rejected on 5th July, 2000.	Some of the directors/officials of the company were reportedly arrested by police. A decision has been taken for winding up the company and the case is in process.
3.	Al-Amanat Finance & Capital Services Ltd. 90, Kaghzipura, Indore	RBI had received complaints regarding non-repayment of amount taken by the company in the form of security deposits.	An officer was deputed by the Bank to conduct scrutiny of the books of account of the company but the company was found to have vanished. Certificate of registration has been cancelled on 21st May, 2001. Director General, State Bureau of Investigation, Economic Offences Wing has been requested to take suitable action. A decision has also been taken to initiate penal action against the companies and the case is in process.
4.	Linkers Securities Limited, 22, Vaishali Nagar, Kotra Sultanabad, Bhopal.	The application for COR has been rejected on October 16, 1998	Two depositors had gone to Company Law Board (CLB) against the company for non-repayment of deposits. CLB has passed orders against the company. RBI have lodged FIR with the Police on September 25, 2000 as letters were returned undelivered. The Police have registered cases in the court of judicial magistrate in the court of Bhopal.
5.	Nabco Finvest Limited, Nabco Financial Corporation (unincorporated body), Ujjain	Nabco Finvest Limited was conducting the business of NBFI without obtaining COR.	An officer was deputed for inspection but both the entities were found not existing. The case is under process for initiating penal action.

Statement-II

Actions taken by Reserve Bank of India to regularise functioning of Non-Banking Financial Companies to protect interests of the depositors

1. No company engaged in the financial business can carry on/commence such business without a Certificate of Registration from Reserve Bank of India. The Certificate of Registration is being granted to the NBFCs on assessment and evaluation of the factors and criteria laid down in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

2. The NBFCs with Net Owned Fund (NOF) below Rs. 25 lakh were prohibited from accessing public deposits. The requirement of NOF has been raised to Rs. 200 lakh with effect from 21.4.1999. New companies are not allowed to accept public deposits for two years from commencement of operation.

3. The NBFCs are required to maintain liquid assets at 15% of the public deposits.

4. The NBFCs are required to create a reserve fund and to transfer at least 20% of net profits to such fund every year.

5. Reintroduction of the ceiling on the interest rate on deposits and rationalisation of rate of brokerage.

6. Loan and investment companies allowed to accept public deposits upto 1.5 times of their NOF subject to their achieving CRAR of 15% or more and minimum investment grade credit rating keeping in view the risk profile of their assets.

7. Disclosures in application forms and advertisement have been widened to enable depositors to take informed decision.

8. Caution to depositors to understand the financials of NBFCs.

9. Prescription of Prudential Norms for Income Recognition and Provisioning for Bad and Doubtful Debts. The Prudential Norms have also been extended to the Residuary Non-Banking Companies. Mandatory compliance with the Prudential Norms is a pre-requisite for acceptance of public deposits.

10. Credit and investment concentration norms are to apply to all financial exposures including to own subsidiaries and group companies.

11. Restrictions on investments in a real estate and unquoted shares.

12. Restrictions on NBFCs from creation of any asset in the event of failure to repay matured deposits.

13. NBFCs are required to obtain prior approval for change in their name.

14. NBFCs are required to give three months' prior public notice before change in management/transfer of control/merger/amalgamation of the company and the new would be obliged to offer to the depositors the option to retain their deposits or to repay such deposits.

15. NBFCs are to give notice to RBI at least 30 days prior to the opening of any branch.

16. NBFCs are required to give 3 months' public notice prior to closure of any branch or transfer of management or control of the company to another person.

17. NBFCs are permitted to open branches for collection of deposits and appoint agents outside the State of their registration only if they satisfy certain criteria of NOF and credit rating.

18. All the Directors of NBFCs have been advised to furnish PAN details so as to effectively deal with the problems of vanishing companies.

19. All large size NBFCs having assets size of Rs. 50 crore or above would mandatorily constitute an Audit Committee and institute an internal audit system.

20. Mutual Benefit Financial Companies (Nidhis) are precluded from issuing advertisement in any form and payment of brokerage on deposits.

21. Residuary Non-Banking Companies are required to invest at least 30% of the deposit liabilities in the specified securities as per the investment pattern prescribed by the Bank in lieu of linkage of NOF to total deposits.

22. RBI has developed a comprehensive four pronged mechanism to effectively supervise the NBFCs accepting/holding public deposits. This involves (a) on-site inspection of NBFCs (b) off-site monitoring of NBFCs through periodic control returns from NBFCs using the state-of-art information technology, (c) an effective market intelligence network and (d) a system of submission of exception reports by auditors of NBFCs.

23. The Company Law Board (CLB) has been authorised under the RBI Act to adjudicate the claims of depositors with specific powers to direct the defaulting companies to make repayments. If an NBFC fails to honour the order of CLB, the RBI can launch prosecution

proceedings against it. The Bank has appointed nodal officers at its Regional Offices for instituting prosecution proceedings in such cases. The Bank has also constituted Co-ordination Committees at four metro centres to oversee the implementation of CLB orders by NBFCs.

24. The Bank also appoints observers in NBFCs, which face difficulties in repayment of deposits, in order to oversee the repayment of deposits by the companies as per Directions of RBI.

25. Wide publicity is given to rejection of application for Certificate of Registration and any adverse action taken by the Bank against NBFCs so as to keep the prospective depositors on alert.

26. The Bank has initiated adverse action against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contraventions of provisions of RBI Act and Directions issued thereunder. Adverse action against NBFCs involves issuing prohibitory orders prohibiting them from accepting further deposits, from alienation of assets, filing winding up petitions, launching criminal proceedings against NBFCs and their management for serious violation of the provisions of RBI Act, etc. The Bank also files complaints with the Economic Offences Wings of the State Police Authorities for curbing unauthorised acceptance of public deposits. In several cases the Courts have appointed Provisional Liquidators and also restrained the NBFCs from disposing of their assets in any manner.

27. The unincorporated bodies, engaged in the business of a financial institution, have been precluded from accepting deposits from any persons other than the relatives specified in the RBI Act. These entities are also precluded from issuing advertisements in any manner for soliciting deposits. The entities carrying on non-financial activities are free from the above restrictions.

28. A system for identification, follow up supervision of problem NBFCs has been put in place by the Reserve Bank of India.

[English]

Notification for Private Banks

3912. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued notification dated 25.2.2000 extending the provisions of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 to banks other than Public Sector Banks;

(b) If so, the reasons for issuing this notification;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against this notification;

(d) if so, the demands raised in representations and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the decision taken or likely to be taken by the Government on this representation?

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

(b) The notification has been issued to extend the social security benefits like PF, Pension & Insurance to all eligible employees of banks other than Public Sector Banks.

(c) and (d) A representation has been received in the Ministry of Labour from the Indian Bank Association requesting for exemption from the purview of the EPF & MP Act.

(e) It has not been possible to grant them exemption so far.

Opium Cultivation

3913. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total hectares of land brought under opium cultivation in each State;

(b) whether the opium growers have requested the Union Government for allotting more area under opium cultivation; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to consider their request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total licensed area (in hectares) in different States during the crop year 2001 is as under :-

Madhya Pradesh	11286
Rajasthan	10049
Uttar Pradesh	5350

(b) During the crop year 2001, 4424 cultivators from MP sought allotment of more area.

(c) As per the opium licensing policy for the crop year 2001 a maximum area of 20 ares was allotted to each cultivator.

Bank Loan Defaulters

3914. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy/guidelines of the RBI for sanctioning a loan for more than Rs. 10,25,50 lakhs respectively by public sector banks and whether public sector banks has violated these guidelines/policy of the RBI while sanctioning the loans to these big corporate houses;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of the big corporate houses in Gujarat State have borrowed heavily from the bank and financial institutions and are not repaying the loan and instead their cases have been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA) so that the recovery proceedings against them before Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) are stayed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check this tendency of big corporate houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There are not specific policy/guidelines issued by RBI for sanctioning loan for more than Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 25 lakhs, Rs. 50 lakhs to public sector banks. Policy for sanction of loans and advances are decided by the banks after due approval of their respective Boards for compliance by their branches/offices all over the country.

(b) and (c) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 31.1.2001, 291 Sick Industrial Companies from the State of Gujarat were registered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). While decision has been taken in respect of 191 cases, remaining 100 cases are at different stage of pendency.

(d) There is a proposal under consideration of the Government to repeal SICA and to amend the companies Act, to include the provisions for setting up of National Tribunal which will have the jurisdiction and powers presently exercised by the Company Law Board under the Companies Act, 1956 and the power to consider rehabilitation and revival of companies - a mandate presently entrusted to BIFR/AIFR under SICA as well as the powers for winding up of companies.

General Financial Rules Regarding Rate Contracts

3915. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per provision made in the General Financial Rules under note 2 of Rule 2 of Appendix VIII it has been made incumbent on the Government departments to obtain their requirements only through rate contracts whenever available;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some Government departments are not following the said provision of General Financial Rules and are obtaining their requirements at higher rates from the Kendriya Bhandar, etc.; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter so as to ensure that the funds are not misutilised and greater economy is brought in the Government expenditure to check fiscal deficit vis-a-vis borrowings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Rule 2 in Appendix 8 (Part I) given in Annexure to Rule 102 (1) of General Financial Rules (GFRs) requires tenders to be invited for supply of all articles which are to be purchased for public service unless the value of the order to be placed is small or Head of Deptt. is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that sufficient reasons exist that it is not in public interest to call for tenders. However, Note below this rule indicates the limits for purchases without inviting tenders. Further in keeping with the policy of encouraging the co-operative movement, the Government in relaxation of the procedure laid down in GFRs had made it incumbent on all Central Government departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by Government to make all their local purchases of stationery and other items from the Kendriya Bhandars and two other Co-operatives namely NCCF and Super Bazar only. Thus the said relaxation of GFRs is covered by extant instructions.

Development Council for Sugar Industry

3916. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the consumption, functions and performances of the Development Council for Sugar Industry;

(b) whether the Union Government have any plans to reconstitute the Development Council for Sugar Industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Development Council for Sugar Industry is constituted for a period of two years. The Council was last constituted on 11th November, 1998 and its terms expired on 10th November, 2000. The composition of the Council as constituted on 11th November, 1998 is given in the enclosed statement-I. The Council is being reconstituted.

The main functions of the Development Council for Sugar Industry are given in the enclosed statement-II.

The last meeting of the Development Council was held on 7.10.1999 at Pune and the agenda inter-alia, included are (i) review of sugar situation in the country, (ii) review of the Cane Reservation Area, (iii) Compulsory use of jute as packaging material for sugar.

The Development Council has two Standing Committees namely Standing Research Advisory Committee (SRAC) and the Standing Advisory Committee on Sugar Standards (SACSS). The main functions of these two Standing Committees are as follows :

Functions of SRAC

- (i) To examine the Research Schemes received by the Council from the sugar factories, scientific and other connected organisations.
- (ii) To consider proposals for the purpose of grants in aid for conducting research connected with the sugar industry and other related matters.

Functions of SACSS

- (i) To recommend the introduction of Indian Sugar Standards (ISS Grade) every year for use in the Indian Sugar Industry, Trade etc.
- (ii) Reviewing the price differentials for different grades of sugar.
- (iii) Other related matters connected with the preparation and issue of Indian Sugar Standards etc.

The Standing Research Advisory Committee has been regularly considering the proposals received for the purpose of grants in aid for conducting research connected with the sugar industry and other related matters. During the financial year 2000-2001, one project has been granted financial assistance amounting to Rs. 29 lakhs.

The Standing Advisory Committee on Sugar Stand-

ards has been regularly meeting every year for considering and approving the sugar standards to be adopted by the Indian Sugar Industry and Trade. During the financial year 2000-2001, the Standing Advisory Committee on Sugar Standards held its meeting on 25.9.2000 and approved the Sugar Standards for the season 2000-2001. In the above meeting, the Standing Committee also constituted a Sub Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Director (Sugar) to study various clarification processes adopted by sugar factories and to consider the feasibility of introducing a new process with a view to producing better quality sugar equivalent to refined sugar.

The Development Council also constitutes adhoc committees for specific purposes. A Technical Committee has been constituted on 12.9.1999 to review and revise the existing technical efficiency norms as also guidelines to the specifications for a cane sugar plant. This Committee has already held two meetings and the specifications are expected to be finalised shortly.

A working group has been constituted for fortification of sugar with Vitamin 'A' under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Sugar). A pilot project for production of sugar fortified with Vitamin 'A' has been set up at M/s Shripur Shetkari Shahakari Sakhar Kharkhana Ltd. Shripur, Dist. Dhule, Maharashtra. The plant has already produced 1.4 MTs of fortified sugar which will be sent to the National Institute of Nutrient, Hyderabad for biological impact assessment study.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Development Council is likely to be reconstituted shortly.

Statement-I

*To be published in Part II Section 3. Sub-section (ii)
Extra-Ordinary of the Gazette of India*

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
(Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 11th. November, 1998

S.O.967(E) :- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951), read with rules 3, 4 & 5 of the Development Council (Procedural) Rules, 1952 the Central Government hereby establishes the Development Council for Sugar Industry for a period of two years from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette and appoints the following persons as Chairman, Member-Secretary and Members : of the said council, namely :-

1. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Sugar & Edible Oils, New Delhi

Chairman

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|-----|--|--------|
| 2. | Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil,
(Member, Lok Sabha) | Member | 16. | President, Uttar Pradesh Khandsari
Sugar Manufacturer's Association,
B-92, Gandhi Nagar, Moradabad,
Uttar Pradesh | Member |
| 3. | Shri N. Janardhana Reddy,
(Member, Lok Sabha) | Member | 17. | Sardar Inderjit Singh Grewal,
Member, Shiromani Gurudwara
Prabandhak Committee, Kila
Rajpur, Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab | Member |
| 4. | Shri Suryabhan Patil Vahadane,
(Member, Rajya Sabha) | Member | 18. | Sardar Gurbax Singh, General
Secertary, Bhartiya Kissan Union,
Village Kaleke, Tehsil Barnala,
Distt. Sangrur (Punjab) | Member |
| 5. | Joint Secretary to the Govt.
of India, Incharge of Sugar in
Ministry of Food and Consumer
Affairs, New Delhi | Member-
Secretary | 19. | Dr. Sukhdev Singh, Ex-MLA (Rori)
Village and Post Office Sukhchain,
Distt. Sirsa, Haryana. | Member |
| 6. | Chief Director, Directorate of
Sugar, New Delhi | Member | 20. | Sardar Jaswant Singh, Ex-Deputy
Speaker, Punjab, Village Phaphre,
Distt. Mautsa, Punjab. | Member |
| 7. | Director, National Sugar Institute,
Kanpur | Member | 21. | Er. Vijay K. Bansal, 182-A,
Opposite Gurudwara, Chandnagar,
New Delhi. | Member |
| 8. | Director, Vasantdada Sugar
Institute, Pune | Member | 22. | Giani Harinder Singh, Village
and Post Office Pajgamberpur,
Tehsil Bilaspur, Distt. Rampur
(U.P.). | Member |
| 9. | Director, Sugar Breeding
Institute, Coimbatore | Member | 23. | Sardar Mohanjit Singh Siddhu,
S/o Sardar Udham Singh Siddhu,
Todepur House, New Cantt. Road,
Faridkot, Punjab | Member |
| 10. | President, Indian Sugar
Mills Association, Sugar
House, 39, Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110019 | Member | 24. | Sardar Malkeet Singh S/o Sardar
Naranjan Singh, Village and Post
Office Amir Nagar Dulman, Tehsil
Maler Kotla, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab | Member |
| 11. | President National Federation
of Cooperative Sugar Factories
Ltd., 'Vaikunth' (IIIrd Floor),
82-83 Nehru Place, New Delhi | Member | 25. | Sardar Sanmukh Singh,
S/o Sardar Mohar Singh, Village
Moran Wali - Sunam, Distt.
Sangrur, Punjab | Member |
| 12. | Executive Director, Industrial
Finance Corporation of India,
Bank of Baroda, 16, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi | Member | | | |
| 13. | Joint Secretary to the Government
of India, Secretariate for Industrial
Assistance, Department of Industrial
Policy and Promotion, Ministry of
Industry, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi. | Member | | | |
| 14. | Managing Director, National
Cooperative Development
Corporation, 4, Siri Fort
Institutional Area, Hauz Khas,
New Delhi | Member | | | |
| 15. | Joint Adviser, Industry and
Minerals Division, Planning
Commission, Yojana Bhawan,
Sansad Marg, New Delhi | Member | | | |

(File No. 1(2)/98-IP)
ASHOK KUMAR, Joint Secy.

Statement-II

Main Functions of the Development Council

1. Recommendation of targets for sugar production/
formulation of standard specifications/guidelines to

the specifications for plant and machinery or sugar factory incorporating the latest technology.

2. Through Its Standing Research Advisory Committee, various research projects are recommended for funding through the Sugar Development Fund. Such projects are aimed at improving the technical efficiency of the factories, as also the yield & quality of cane.
3. Through its Standing Advisory Committee on Sugar Standards, ISS grade samples are being prepared each year conforming to specifications prescribed by BIS.
4. Act as a forum for review of Government policies with regard to the sugar industry & make suitable recommendations for consideration of Government.

Export of Cocoa

3917. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of cocoa exported from the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of countries to whom it was exported;

(c) the foreign exchange earned through cocoa exports during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to improve further the export of cocoa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The quantity and value of cocoa and cocoa products such as cocoa paste, cocoa butter, cocoa powder and chocolate confectionery exported during the last three years are given below :

Year	Quantity (Metric Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99	891.50	882.44
1999-2000	1381.80	1180.90
2000-01	1350.11	1342.91

Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta/APEDA, New Delhi.

The countries to which Cocoa and cocoa products are exported from India include Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, UAE and USA.

(d) and (e) Government has been implementing a Central Sector Plan Scheme for development of Cocoa aimed at, area expansion, distribution of planting materials and rejuvenation of old orchards. Government has also been providing assistance for the promotion of exports of horticultural products including cocoa. The assistance is extended for conducting feasibility studies, surveys, promotion of quality and quality control, packaging development, export promotion and market development and training.

Inter-Ministerial Group to Review Export Promotion Schemes

3918. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to appoint an inter-ministerial group to look afresh into existing schemes for export and import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the exporters Associations have criticised the EXIM policy for not incorporating enough export promotion measures;

(d) if so, whether India's share in the World Trade is declining; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote export and to help the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The new five year EXIM Policy co-terminus with Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) is due for announcement in March, 2002. The announcement of the new Policy is always preceded by an evaluation of all existing schemes on the basis of an elaborate process of consultation with the trade and industry and various ministries of the Government of India.

(c) The last two annual exim policy announcements have been largely welcomed by the trade and industry.

(d) and (e) India's share in the world trade has been steadily increasing during the 1990s after recording the

lowest figure of 0.4% in 1980. Efforts are on to achieve the targets of 1% by the year 2004-05. Various measures like Special Economic Zones, Market Access Initiative, Involvement of State and Agri Export Zone are intended to enable exporters to realise this goal.

Marketing Development Assistance

3919. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether assistance being provided under the Marketing Development Assistance Programme has been found insufficient;

(b) if so, whether there is a demand to increase the amount of assistance under the said programme to encourage the exporters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government are conscious of the need for providing adequate assistance under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to encourage the exporters for stepping up their export promotion activities. It is in keeping with this approach that allocations under the scheme have been stepped from a level of Rs. 20.0 crores during 1997-98 to Rs. 40.0 crores during the current financial year.

During the last three years, amount of assistance given to the individual exporters for exploring overseas markets through sale cum study tours, participation in trade delegations, trade fairs, exhibitions, BSMs etc., has increased substantially. The flow of direct MDA assistance to exporters has increased from a level of Rs. 451.27 lakh during the year 1998-99 to Rs. 1242.05 lakh during 2000-01. Also direct MDA assistance to SSI exporters has gone up from Rs. 270.09 lakh during 1998-99 to Rs. 799.64 lakh during 2000-01.

Export of Flowers

3920. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been considerable decline in India's export of flowers during the year 2000;

(b) if so, the quantity of different types of flowers exported during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 and the foreign exchange earned therefrom respectively;

(c) the countries to which the flowers are mainly exported and the reasons for decline in export to these countries;

(d) whether the absence of direct marketing network with the international auctioning countries and high freight rates are the main reasons for this decline; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken to remove these bottlenecks with a view to compete with the other exporting countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Revival of Adilabad Unit of CCI, Andhra Pradesh

3921. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government for revival of Adilabad Unit of Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total manpower involved in this unit and total loss incurred by this Unit during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have since taken any decision in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a suggestion for the revival of the unit through BIFR including sale of the unit so that the private promoter can run it on a sound basis.

(c) The Adilabad unit has 277 employees and the loss suffered during the last three years has been :

(Rupees in lakhs)

1998-99	1974.00
1999-2000	2250.00
2000-01	2566.00 (Prov.)

(d) and (e) Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is a sick company under reference to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body. BIFR has already directed the Operating Agency (OA) to proceed with the sale of all the CCI units, individually or collectively.

[Translation]

Audit Report of Banks

3922. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases from Bihar in which Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received the comments of banks on further action taken reports on the conclusion of inspection reports carried out by the auditors in the banks during the last three years; and

(b) the bank-wise, action taken by the RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that none of the commercial banks operating in the State of Bihar have Head Office in that State. As such, the question of pending inspection reports in respect of banks in Bihar does not arise. However, the inspection reports of branches of commercial banks and controlling offices in the State of Bihar for the last three years have been forwarded to the controlling offices of the respective banks for their necessary follow up. RBI has reported that no inspection note of branch/controlling office is pending with it.

Broadcasting News by AIR, Sangli, Maharashtra

3923. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Radio, Sangli, in Maharashtra broadcasts only the news of AIR, Pune in local language;

(b) whether AIR, Sangli collects major share of its revenue from Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not broadcasting of news composed at Sangli station of AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. AIR, Sangli, in addition to relaying News bulletin from AIR, Pune relays News bulletins in Marathi from AIR, Mumbai and from NSD, New Delhi.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that AIR, Sangli collects major share of its revenue from Sangli and Kolhapur.

(c) According to Prasar Bharati, the present arrangement is considered to be adequate to meet the requirements of the listeners in the area.

[English]

Export of Milk Powder

3924. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of milk powder and other milk products exported from the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a steady increase in the export of milk powder;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further steps being taken to boost the export of milk products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The total quantity of milk powder and other milk products exported from India during the last three years are as follows :

Individual product	Milk Powder (In MTs)			Individual product	Other Milk Products (In MTs)		
	Year				Year		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Skimmed milk	648.27	2617.68	3626.85	Other Milk Cream not containing Sugar	—	448.98	841.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Milk Food for Babies	32.49	40.01	337.70	Whole Milk	---	42.03	2.67
Other Milk Powder	112.44	728.55	3700.45	Condensed Milk	---	0.45	15.95
Milk for Babies	50.02	25.90	251.50	Other Milk Cream Contain Sugar	2.01	280.00	392.00
Total	843.22	3412.14	7916.50	Total	2.01	771.46	1252.29

Source : DGCI & S

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India's export of milk powder has increased from 843.22 MT in 1998-99 to 3412.14 MT in 1999-2000 and further to 7916.50 MT in 2000-01. Major export markets for India's milk powder are Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, France, Philippines, Sri Lanka, UAE and Yemen Republic.

(d) Some of the steps taken for promoting exports of Indian dairy products include :

- i. Participation in trade fairs and exhibitions for creating awareness about the Indian products.
- ii. Buyer-Seller Meets organised to enable exporters and importers to have discussions under one umbrella.
- iii. Financial assistance by APEDA to the exporters/producers of agro products, in particular dairy products under various schemes approved by the Government under various heads like feasibility studies/surveys/consultancy and data base upgradation, Export Promotion and Market Development, Packaging Development, Quality Control and Organisation Building/HRD.
- iv. Identifying and notifying testing laboratories for residue monitoring plan of animal products including dairy products.

Panel for Banking Supervision

3925. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a panel on banking supervision and has called for a formalised coordination between different regulators;

(b) if so, the terms of references of the panel;

(c) the salient features of the recommendations made by the panel; and

(d) to what extent its recommendations have been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that they have not constituted any panel for Banking Supervision for formalised coordination between different regulators.

[Translation]

VRS in BHEL

3926. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) the number of Engineers of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) who have taken voluntary retirement during the last three years;

(b) whether several engineers in BHEL have been declared surplus; and

(c) if so, the number of them and the steps being taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The number of Graduate Engineers and equivalent in Executive cadre who have

state :

taken Voluntary Retirement during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Engineers who have taken VRS
1998-99	No VRS was in operation
1999-2000	483
2000-01	126

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, BHEL had introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for all its employees including Engineers. The employees who opted for retirement under these schemes and could be relieved without affecting the performance of the Company, were allowed to retire.

[English]

Investment Trend in Manufacturing Sector

3927. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per report of 'Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy' the investment trend in manufacturing sector is on the decline;

(b) if so, whether there has been a consistent decline in manufacturing sector investment from the peak period April, 1997 (Rs. 4,20,000 crores) to April, 2001 (Rs. 2,90,000 crores); and

(c) if so, the details of measures planned to revive the confidence of investors in manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) titled "Monthly Review of the Indian Economy" published in July 2001, the total investment envisaged in projects under various stages of implementation in the manufacturing sector, which are monitored by them, has declined from Rs. 4,29,000 crore in October, 1997 to Rs. 2,90,079 crore in April, 2001.

(c) The Government has initiated several policy measures to revive the confidence of investors in the manufacturing sector. These include reduction in the basic customs duty in the case of raw materials and intermediate goods, rationalisation of excise duty, budgetary provisions

to speed up modernisation of the textile sector, reduction in interest rate on small savings facilitating the move towards a low interest rate regime, reduction in Bank Rate and Cash Reserve Ratio aimed at increasing liquidity and reducing lending rates of banks and financial institutions, de-reservation of fourteen SSI items and liberalisation of norms for Foreign Direct Investment.

FDI Inflow in Telecommunication Sector

3928. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether actual inflow of Foreign Direct Investment in the field telecommunication has increased during the last six months as compared to the other fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the FDI inflow in various sectors and during the last two years, till date, sector-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance FDI in other sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The actual inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the field of telecommunication, as compared to other field, during the last six months i.e. during the period from 1.1.2001 to 20.6.2001 is as follows :-

Month	%age of Actual Inflow in Telecommunication Sector	%age of Actual Inflow in Other Sectors
January, 2001	26.68	73.32
February, 2001	0.35	99.65
March, 2001	3.81	96.19
April, 2001	10.83	89.17
May, 2001	1.38	98.62
June, 2001	3.51	96.49

(b) A statement on FDI inflow in various sectors during the last two years i.e. from 1.1.99 to 30.6.2001 is enclosed.

(c) In its endeavour to attract more and more FDI into the country, the Government reviews the FDI policy on continuous basis.

Statement

*Sector wise statement of Actual Inflow from
01/01/1999 to 30/06/2001*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sector	Amount of Inflow	% to total
1	2	3
1. Transportation Industry	2804.62	6.34
2. Electricals Equipments	2746.33	6.21
3. Telecommunications	1578.21	3.57
4. Fuels	1341.47	3.03
5. Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	1067.82	2.42
6. Service Sector	960.94	2.17
7. Food Processing Industries	734.62	1.66
8. Cement and Gypsum Products	717.54	1.62
9. Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	450.96	1.02
10. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	352.06	0.80
11. Glass	339.95	0.77
12. Metallurgical Industries	326.91	0.74
13. Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	311.32	0.70
14. Trading	282.02	0.64
15. Medical and Surgical Appliances	201.02	0.45
16. Industrial Machinery	185.25	0.42
17. Textiles (Includ. Dyed, Printed)	143.82	0.33
18. Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	125.32	0.28
19. Hotel & Tourism	102.44	0.23
20. Fermentation Industries	98.69	0.22
21. Agricultural Machinery	66.71	0.15
22. Consultancy Services	53.66	0.12

1	2	3
23. Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	44.79	0.10
24. Rubber Goods	34.42	0.08
25. Machine Tools	30.00	0.07
26. Scientific Instruments	26.94	0.06
27. Ceramics	21.89	0.05
28. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	8.60	0.02
29. Prime Movers other than Electricals	6.26	0.01
30. Dye-Stuffs	4.50	0.01
31. Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	2.42	0.01
32. Industrial Instruments	0.63	0.00
33. Fertilizers	0.50	0.00
34. Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.29	0.00
35. Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0.24	0.00
36. Earth-Moving Machinery	0.10	0.00
37. Miscellaneous Industries	5019.65	11.35
39. Euro Issues (GDRs/FCCBs)**	15138.35	34.24
40. Acquisition of Shares #	4716.88	10.67
41. Receipt of Inflow in Advance	3312.76	7.49
42. NRI-RBI Schemes *	853.98	1.93
Grand Total	44214.88	

Note :

* Special NRI Schemes Administered by RBI from 01/01/1999 to 30/06/2001

No Country wise details are available with RBI.

** The amount of Inflows raised through GDRs/FCCBs against the FDI approvals accorded by FIPB during the period from January 1999 to June 2001 on the basis of information furnished by RBI.

Reported by RBI, Mumbai-Transfer of Shares from resident to non-resident under section 29 of the FERA during January 1999 to June 2001.

Development of Salt Pan Lands

3929. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken decision for development of Salt Pan Lands in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has shown interest in diverting this land;

(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government in this regard;

(e) the strategy being followed for the development of this land;

(f) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) The Union Government has decided to transfer 5379 acres of surplus Salt Pan Lands at Mumbai from the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion to the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation to develop the same in cooperation with the Government of Maharashtra. It has also constituted a Group of Ministers to examine the issues relating to utilization of surplus salt lands.

(f) to (h) Yes, Sir. Communication has been received from Shri Kirit Somaiya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) suggesting utilization of salt land for mass housing projects, commercial exploitation, development of public amenities, resettlement of slums and development of marine mangrove park as Eco-tourism environment project. The suggestions made by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament would be kept in view by the Government while finalizing utilization of said surplus salt lands.

Shedding of 1500 more Jobs

3930. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have decided to shed 1,500 more jobs during this year and proposes to diversify into other areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of employees of BHEL who have been given Voluntary Retirement during the last year; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the BHEL for the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) There is no specific target. Rightsizing is a continuous effort depending on business profile, technology and workplace management. BHEL has offered the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during the current year. Optees shall be relieved without adversely affecting the performance of the Company.

(c) and (d) 721 employees have been allowed to take voluntary retirement which has cost BHEL Rs. 48.34 crore.

Janashree Bima Yojana

3931. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Janashree Bima Yojana' announced by the Government has come into effect;

(b) if so, the total amount earmarked for the scheme;

(c) the number of policy holders who have subscribed to the scheme, till date; and

(d) what are the benefits which will flow to policy holders from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Janashree Bima Yojana has come into effect since 10th August, 2000.

(b) 50% of the premium of members who are below poverty line or marginally above it will be met out of the Social Security Fund (SSF) created in the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The corpus of the SSF is Rs. 502.40 crores as on 31.3.2001.

(c) The Life Insurance Corporation of India have intimated that the no. of members covered under the scheme till date are 4,03,508 (Four lakh three thousand five hundred and eight).

(d) The benefits under the Scheme flowing to the members are :-

(i) A sum of Rs. 20,000 is payable on the natural/normal death of the member;

(ii) On death/total permanent disability due to accident, an amount of Rs. 50,000/- is payable; and

- (iii) On partial permanent disability due to accident the amount payable is Rs. 25,000/-.

[Translation]

**World Bank Aided Projects
in Maharashtra**

3932. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the schemes being implemented with the World Bank assistance in Maharashtra;

- (b) the amount of financial assistance provided by the World Bank for the above scheme; and

- (c) the target achieved so far under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c)

S.No	Name of the Project	Name of Participating States	Date of Signing/ Closing	Amount of Assistance (US \$ Million)	Disbursement as on 31.06.01 (US \$ Million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bombay Sewage Disposal Project	Maharashtra	28.12.1995/ 31.12.2002	182.000	109.205
2.	Maharashtra Health System Development Project	Maharashtra	14.1.1999/ 31.3.2005	134.000	7.960
3.	Hydrology Project	A.P., Kerala, Tamil Nadu, M.P., Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat & Maharashtra	22.9.1995/ 31.3.2002	122.400	52.800
4.	Women & Child Development Project (ICDC-III)	Nationwide	6.7.1999/ 30.9.2004	300.000	37.200
5.	Cataract Blind Control Project	U.P., M.P., A.P., Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra	19.5.1994/ 30.6.2001	87.800	51.140
6.	2nd District Primary Education Project	Haryana, H.P., M.P., Karnataka, U.P., Maharashtra, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Orissa	15.7.1996/ 30.6.2003	425.200	240.060
7.	Tuberculosis Control Project	Nationwide	14.3.1997/ 31.12.2002	142.400	25.170
8.	Malaria Control Project	Nationwide	30.7.1997/ 31.3.2003	164.800	34.790
9.	Second National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Nationwide	14.9.1999/ 31.7.2004	194.754	42.720
10.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Nationwide	19.5.2000/ 30.6.2004	142.600	29.540
11.	Reproductive & Child Health Project	Nationwide	30.7.1997/ 31.3.2003	248.300	91.090

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	States Road Infrastructure Development Technical Assistance Project	A.P., Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Manipur, Maharashtra, M.P., Karnataka, U.P., Kerala, Mizoram and Tripura	14.1.1997/ 31.12.2001	51.500	41.500
13.	National Agriculture Technology Project	A.P., H.P., Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab	22.6.1998/ 31.12.2003	196.800	41.555

* In nationwide and multi-state projects, separate allocation and disbursement for Maharashtra State is not available.

[English]

FM Channel Bangalore

3933. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) when the AIR, Bangalore's new FM Metro Channel started;

(b) the places proposed to be covered under FM transmission in Karnataka;

(c) whether the people have to buy a new set due to the proposed shifting of broadcast of all programmes of All India Radio Vividh Bharti to FM stereo mode; and

(d) if so, whether the Government would take steps to make the availability of the programmes both in medium wave and FM stereo?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The FM stereo channel at Bangalore is expected to be commissioned shortly. No definite date has been fixed as yet.

(b) FM Transmitters are being set up at Mysore, Mangalore and Dharwad.

(c) The present receivers will continue, in the present mode, to receive the Medium Wave/Short Wave broadcasts. FM receivers will be required to receive the programmes broadcast on FM Transmitters in stereo mode.

(d) It is not feasible to broadcast stereo programme on medium wave.

[Translation]

Setting up of Heavy Industries in Madhya Pradesh

3934. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will

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

(a) whether after 1990 not a single Heavy Industry has been set up in Madhya Pradesh so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for setting up of heavy industries in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the schemes containing proposals for setting up of various industries in Madhya Pradesh pending with the Government indicating places alongwith these schemes would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) Following the delicensing of the non-strategic sector, the initiative for location of industries rests with the promoter. In so far as the Department of Heavy Industry is concerned, there is no proposal for setting up any new public sector unit.

[English]

Misuse of Funds taken by Companies from Banks

3935. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1896 dated March 9, 2001 regarding misuse of funds taken by companies from banks and state :

(a) the reasons for not generating information about misuse of funds taken by companies from banks/financial institutions by the RBI;

(b) whether Banks/financial institutions generate information about misuse of funds given by them to companies etc.;

(c) if so, the details of such companies to whom

funds of Rs. 1 crore and above were sanctioned and they misused the funds;

(d) the action taken by the banks in each case, bank/financial institution-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the details of suits filed by banks and financial institutions in respect of loan defaulters, which is available on the RBI website as on date; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has a elaborate system of generating information on various aspects of operations of banks and FIs which inturn collect information from its branches/offices spread throughout the country. The effort involved in this exercise is enormous. Only that information is collected by RBI which is required for regulatory purposes and which RBI is authorized as per various powers given under different acts.

(b) and (c) Banks & FIs have details about functioning of companies assisted by them. However, under the existing provisions of banking laws, the disclosure of name of borrowers of banks and financial institutions is not permissible.

(d) Banks/FIs take action as per the terms of the agreements entered into by them with the assisted companies as also the legal remedies available to them for proper use of loan for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

(e) and (f) As the details of suit filed cases by banks and FIs in respect of defaulters is already available on RBI website for everybody, there is no need to lay the details on the Table of the House.

Restructuring of Public Sector Financial Institutions

3936. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure all the Public Sector Financial Institutions keeping in view of the crisis of UTI, GIC and LIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have not yet appointed/nominated its representatives in most of the Financial Institutions under the public sector; and

(e) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to restructure all the public sector financial institutions at present. However, the performance of these institutions is being reviewed on a continuous basis and whenever it is considered necessary, the Government is taking appropriate steps for institution's rehabilitation/restructuring. Currently It has been decided to infuse Rs. 400 crores into the capital of IFCI as a part of its restructuring/rehabilitation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Save Grain Campaign

3937. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Save Grain Campaign has been implemented through the help and co-ordination from State Governments, NGO's and PSE's, etc;

(b) if so, the details of the various SGC offices in the country, State-wise, location-wise and their performances during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government have any plans to increase the number of SGC offices in the country as well as the fund allocation to the SGC's; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the amount allocated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) In order to reduce the losses of foodgrains during the post harvest period, Government of India had launched the 'Save Grain Campaign' (SGC) in 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this scheme are training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level. Improvement of grain storage structures and popularisation of scientific storage structures like metal bins, pucca kothies and RCC ring bins and other activities are carried out by the 17 SGC offices for the benefit of

farmers. In the activities of SGC, active collaboration of the State Government, NGOs, Corporate houses etc. are obtained.

allocated to SGC offices during the last three years are as under :-

(Rs. in crores)

(b) The details of the SGC offices indicating the locations and their jurisdiction are given in the enclosed statement-I. Targets and achievements under various activities of the SGC during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, the details of funds

S.No.	Year	Funds allocated		
		Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1.	1998-99	1.50	4.06	5.56
2.	1999-2000	1.28	4.31	5.59
3.	2000-2001	1.34	4.88	6.22

Statement-I

Location of Save Grain Campaign Teams and Areas covered by them

Sl.No.	Location of main teams	Area Covered	
		States	U.T.s
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu
2.	Bangalore	Karnataka	-
3.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	-
4.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	-
5.	Calcutta	West Bengal, Tripura & Sikkim	Andaman & Nicobar
6.	Chandigarh	Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and J & K	Chandigarh
7.	Guwahati	Assam, Manipur, Nagaland & Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram	-
8.	Ghaziabad	U.P., Haryana & Delhi	-
9.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	-
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	-
11.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	-
12.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry
13.	Patna	Bihar & Jharkhand	-
14.	Pune	Maharashtra & Goa	-
15.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	Lakshadweep
16.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	-
17.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	-

Statement-II*Performance of SCG Field Offices during the last three years*

Sl.No.	Activities	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	Stipendiary Training (Nos.)	372	372	389	389	420	420
2.	Non-Stipendiary Training (Nos.)	620	894	930	1128	1009	1215
3.	(a) Villages covered* (Nos.)	620	823	930	1023	1009	1150
	(b) Nucleus villages developed (Nos.)	400	403	400	407	434	435
4.	Film/Slide shows	992	1254	1319	1473	1429	1663
5.	Exhibitions arranged/participated	620	873	930	1071	1009	1166
6.	Construction/Improvement of non-metallic storage structures	15500	16714	17750	20149	18600	21996

* This includes the number of nucleus villages developed.

UTI's Investment In Companies

3938. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the companies where UTI has made its investment;

(b) the present performance of these companies;

(c) the schemes of UTI which have shown negative growth;

(d) whether the UTI schemes are not regulated by SEBI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Policy on Growth

3939. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has asked USA Government to mount proactive policy on growth, that would support a transition to more sustainable growth rates during his recent visit;

(b) If so, whether the USA has agreed to consider the India's request; and

(c) the time by which the USA propose to consider India's request?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Trade Treaty with Nepal

3940. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Acrylic yarn imports into India through Nepal has grown from 160 tons in 1996 to more than 12,000 tons today;

(b) whether many countries are using Nepal as a conduit to obtain duty free status to their produce, which gets no value addition in Nepal;

(c) whether the products like Vanaspati, Copper Wire Rods, Ball Bearings etc. are also entering into India via Nepal as duty free stuff;

(d) if so, the reasons for the retention of such concessions to Nepal after a series of anti-Indian campaigns like IA Hijack, Hrithik Roshan related anti-Indian demonstrations and of the growing presence of ISI activists are taking place in Nepal;

(e) the date on which the free trade treaty with Nepal expires;

(f) whether the Government would consider protecting nation's interest over diplomatic considerations; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Import of acrylic and other synthetic yarn from Nepal to India has increased from around 3 MT. during 1996-97 to 13,252 MT. during the period April, 2000 to February, 2001.

(b) The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, as modified on 3rd December, 1996, provides that Government of India will allow access to the Indian market free of Customs Duty and quantitative restrictions for all articles manufactured in Nepal without any specified value addition in Nepal and the sourcing of raw materials used.

(c) Representations have been received regarding excessive import of certain products including Vanaspati Oil, Copper Wire etc., from Nepal under preferential trade regime.

(d) The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade has had a positive impact on bilateral trade and economic development of Nepal which has served the larger political and security interests.

(e) to (g) The current validity of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade is upto December 5, 2001 with a provision that it shall be automatically extended for further periods of five years at a time, unless either of the parties gives to the other a written notice of its intention to terminate the Treaty. The interests of the Indian Industry shall be kept in view during discussions, at the appropriate time, with the Nepalese Authorities.

[Translation]

Export of Sugar

3941. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of sugar exported during each of the last three years till date, country-wise;

(b) the quantum of sugar proposed to be exported during the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain better quality of sugar in International market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Sugar exported during each of the last three years till date is as follows :

Year	Quantity	Quantity : Tonnes
		Value : lakhs
1998-99	12735	1735.93
1999-2000	12990	1813.50
2000-01	331184	42773.53
2001-02 (April-May)	144459	18007.09

Source : DGCI&S

The details of quantity & value of sugar and the countries to which exported are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) With effect from 1-4-2001 sugar has been allowed to be exported freely without any restrictions. As such any quantity of sugar can be exported during the current year.

(c) The sugar exported from the country is as per requirement of the international market.

[English]

Procurement of Paddy in Andhra Pradesh

3942. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

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

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for the procurement of rice and paddy in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether FCI has achieved the target set up by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have annouced/issued comprehensive guidelines circular grouping various grades of rice under grade 'A' for the purpose of fixing remunerative price;

(e) whether such guidelines have been implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, it was decided that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) would accept 70 lakh tonnes of levy rice during the Marketing Season 2000-2001. Besides, FCI and State Government would procure 10 lakh tonnes of paddy in the ratio of 30:70.

(b) and (c) As on 13.8.2001, FCI has accepted a quantity of 67.10 lakh tonnes of levy rice and 0.55 lakh tonnes of paddy. Procurement of paddy and rice is continuing.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Minimum Support Price of Grade 'A' paddy is Rs. 540 per quintal as compared to Common paddy which is Rs. 510/- per quintal. Any variety of paddy having a length breadth ratio of 2.5 and above is categorised as Grade 'A' Paddy.

[Translation]

Turnover of Foreign Bank Branches

3943. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise annual turnover of the branches of foreign banks during the last year;

(b) the extent up to which these banks branches are helpful in promoting the export trade of the country;

(c) whether the countries such as Ukraine, Azarbalzan, Kazkhkistan, Turkmanistan and Kirkistan are having bank branches in India; and

(d) if not, how the tradings, such as opening of Letter of Credit (LC) is looked after for the exporters of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it does not collect information on State-wise turnover of foreign banks operating in India. RBI has further reported that the total advances and deposits of foreign banks operating in India, during the year ended 31st March, 2001 was Rs. 42,996.52 crores and Rs. 59,190.48 crores, respectively.

(b) As per RBI's guidelines the foreign banks operating in India are required to lend 32% of their net bank credit to priority sector, which includes credit to export sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Foreign trade with countries whose banks are not present in India, is done through the correspondent banking arrangements with the banks in those countries.

Telecast of Serials

3944. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of serials being telecast since April, 2000 and the number of serials have more than 100 episodes given approval since then and the names of producers of these serials;

(b) the criteria laid down for increasing the number of episodes of serials; and

(c) the number of cases with regard to new serials pending till date, serial-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that total number of serials being telecast on Doordarshan's national network since April 2000 is 15, out of which 8 serials have more than 100 episodes. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that extension beyond the sanctioned number of episodes is granted on the request of the producer taking into consideration the popularity, content, quality, viewership and revenue generating potential of the serial besides the programme requirement of Doordarshan.

(c) The details of serials pending for slotting on Doordarshan's national network are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of the serials/daily soaps being telecast on National Network of Doordarshan since April, 2000.

S.N.	Name of the Serial/daily soap	Name of producer
1.	Kiran	M/s News & Entertainment TV, New Delhi
2.	Jeevan Rekha (Life Line)	--do--
3.	Shaktiman	M/s Bheesham International, Mumbai
4.	Suraag	M/s Adhikari Brothers TV Network Ltd., Mumbai
5.	Suspense This Week	--do--
6.	Aap Ki Saheli	M/s H.M. Video Productions, Mumbai
7.	Sanskritinama	M/s News & Entertainment TV, New Delhi
8.	Shohrat	M/s Amazing Video Production, Mumbai
9.	Kasam	M/s Balaji Telefilms Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
10.	Kahani Saat Pheron Ki	M/s Numbus Creative Corp. Ltd., New Delhi
11.	Aane Wala Pal	M/s Indraprastha TV Network, New Delhi
12.	Shehnai	M/s United Television, New Delhi
13.	Sanjog	M/s Pritish Nandi Communications, Mumbai
14.	Sabla	M/s D.K. Films Enterprises, New Delhi
15.	Satya	M/s Star Agencies, Mumbai

Note : TV serials at S.No. 8 to 15 are having more than 100 episodes.

Statement-II

Details of Serials pending for slotting on Doordarshan's National Network

S.No.	Name of the Serial	Name of the producer
1	2	3
1.	Bach Ke Rehna Re	M/s Sagar Entertainment, Mumbai

1	2	3
2.	Maharathi Karan	M/s Numerouno International Ltd., Mumbai
3.	Nav Grah Shakti	M/s Creative Eye, New Delhi
4.	Sangharsh	M/s S.K. Youth Films, New Delhi
5.	Aparajita	M/s N.G. Productions, Mumbai
6.	Indian Footprint	M/s Miditech, Delhi
7.	Chetan Ki Ghadi	M/s Meditech Pvt. Ltd.
8.	Doosra Aadmi	M/s Night Inematic, Mumbai
9.	Yeh Mera India	M/s Roots Adv. Inc., Delhi
10.	Gate Raho Dot Com	M/s B.A.G. Films, New Delhi
11.	Bemaut	M/s Tele Star, Mumbai
12.	Kohi Apana Sa	M/s Balaji Telefilms, Mumbai
13.	Mrigjal	M/s Samsara Production, Mumbai
14.	Partapi	M/s Adkar, Mumbai
15.	Yeh Bandhan Kachche Dhago Ka	M/s Final Take, Mumbai
16.	Muqqamal	M/s A Samay Creations, Mumbai
17.	Zameer	M/s Mukta Telefilms, Mumbai
18.	Bandish	M/s Siddhant Cine Vision Ltd., Mumbai
19.	Har Jawan Ki Kasam	M/s Aavishkaar Move Tone
20.	Shakti	M/s Nimbus Communications, New Delhi
21.	Ek Mayaan Do Tahwar	M/s Troncel, Mumbai
22.	Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar	M/s Janseva Nyas, Pune
23.	Skyjack	M/s UTV, New Delhi
24.	Ayus Aur Nanhi Pari	M/s Ravindra Jain, Mumbai
25.	Ankhen	M/s Sagar Enterprises, Mumbai

[English]

External Aided Projects in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

3945. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the projects undertaken with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the total funds provided by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, project-wise;

(c) whether the Government have effectively monitored the progress of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details of State sector projects being implemented in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are given in the enclosed statement. Besides there are multi-State and Central sector projects in which Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are also participating.

(c) and (d) The monitoring of the projects is being done both at the level of State and Central Governments. Apart from the Project Authorities and Project Monitoring units of State Governments and Administrative Ministries of the Central Government, the projects are also monitored through the concerned Credit Divisions and the Project Management Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (c) and (d) above.

Statement

As on 30/06/2001

Sl.No.	Loan/Grant Description	Figures in Donor Currency in Millions			
		Loan/Grant		Terminal	Cumul.
		Currency	Amount (Million)	Date of Disb.	Drawal
Karnataka					
Asian Development Bank					
1	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development 10/05/1996	USD	85.00	30/6/02	49.08
2	Karnataka Urban Development & Coastal Environment Management dt. 19/05/2000	USD	175.00	30/6/05	0.77
Tamil Nadu					
IBRD					
1	Second Madras Water Supply dt. 20/11/1995	USD	80.50	30/6/02	61.48
2	Second Tamil Nadu Urban Development dt 14/07/1999	USD	105.00	30/11/04	69.21
IDA					
3	T.N. Water Resources Consolidation dt. 22/09/1995	XDR	181.90	31/3/02	92.97

Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute

3946. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open a field station of Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI) in Tamil Nadu;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to increase the annual allocation of funds to IGMRI; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the last three years to each of the five field stations of IGMRI?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The allocation of funds for the Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur and its five field stations has increased from Rs. 406.70 lakhs in 1999-2000 to Rs 426.00 lakhs in 2000-2001.

Details of the amount allocated for the last three years to each of the five field stations of IGMRI are given below :

(In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the field station	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
		Plan	N. Plan	Total	Plan	N. Plan	Total	Plan	N. Plan	Total
1.	Udalpur	39.80	--	39.80	30.20	--	30.20	73.40	--	73.40
2.	Jabalpur	117.00	--	117.00	37.00	--	37.00	62.40	--	62.40
3.	Hyderabad	2.30	45.90	48.20	7.00	46.00	53.00	5.50	56.40	61.90
4.	Jorhat	2.90	34.50	37.40	1.70	34.80	36.50	4.60	32.00	36.60
5.	Ludhiana	0.70	36.40	37.10	0.90	36.30	37.20	0.45	35.30	35.75
Total		162.70	116.80	279.50	76.80	117.10	193.90	146.35	123.70	270.05

AP Rural Poverty Reduction Project

3947. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have advised the Government of Andhra Pradesh to submit "AP Rural Reduction Project" to Ministry of Rural Development and Planning in principle clearance before being posed to the World Bank;

(b) If so, whether both the ministries have given in principle clearance to this project;

(c) whether this project is pending with his Ministry for processing and forwarding to World Bank;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be forwarded to the World Bank?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The project proposal is under examination with reference to coverage, thrust, strategy and convergence. A decision to pose the proposal to the World Bank is expected soon.

World Bank-IMF Meeting

3948. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister has attended the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF during the month of May, 2001 and has assured that India is ready for new round of trade talks;

(b) If so, the major decision taken in the conference; and

(c) the extent to which India has assured its full cooperation in improving the trade talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Finance Minister attended Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF held during April 29-30, 2001 at Washington. Without formally stating India's position with regard to the next round of trade negotiations, the Finance Minister had emphasized the need for helping the developing countries to maximize their gains from globalisation through trade.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Restructuring of FCI

3949. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any study to revamp and restructure the FCI;

(b) if so, the steps taken to plug loopholes and contain leakages in the transportation and storage of foodgrains;

(c) whether some steps have been taken to remove corruption and make FCI economically viable and self supporting;

(d) whether there is a proposal to privatize some godowns of FCI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) A study has been commissioned by the Government through the 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. The study report is under examination. No separate study has been conducted to revamp and restructure the Food Corporation of India, as such.

(c) to (e) FCI has a separate Vigilance Division with adequate staff and infrastructure at the Headquarters as well as in field offices. Efforts to curb corruption are made regularly.

FCI which operates in accordance with the directions

of Government of India in areas relating to procurement and distribution of foodgrains, receives budgetary support from the Government of India.

At present, there is no proposal to privatise any godown of FCI.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

3950. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange reserves in the country till date and the amount out of this as bank deposits of NRIs;

(b) the comparative figure during the last three years;

(c) whether the foreign exchange reserves of the country is sufficient; and

(d) if not, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to increase foreign exchange reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) amounted to US \$43.81 billion as on August 3, 2001. The foreign exchange reserves with the Reserve Bank of India, which have been accumulated over the years, represent the net outcome of India's international transactions on both the current and capital accounts of balance of payments. Therefore, it is not appropriate to apportion the stock of foreign exchange reserves to any single or group of transactions, including the NRI deposits.

(b) India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) held by the Reserve Bank of India amounted to US \$32.49 billion at the end of March 1999, US \$38.04 billion at the end of March 2000 and US \$42.28 billion at the end of March 2001.

(c) and (d) The level of foreign exchange reserves at present is comfortable, considering the requirements for essential imports, short-term liabilities including debt service payments, and other unforeseen contingencies. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India monitor closely the developments in the balance of payments and take such measures, as are considered necessary, from time to time to increase exports, invisible receipts, including remittances and to enhance inflows of capital, particularly foreign direct investments, so as to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

[English]

Redefining of Industrial Sickness

3951. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing concessions for industrial development programme in the backward districts and the State-wise list of industrial backward districts at present;

(b) whether the Government are considering to redefine industrial sickness;

(c) If so, whether in the existing act, sickness is defined as the erosion of net worth for three consecutive years for companies which have been in existence for five years;

(d) If so, the main features of the new redefined industrial sickness;

(e) the main objectives of this modifications; and

(f) the extent to which this would help in attempting the revival of the sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL**) : (a) The concessions available for industrial development of backward districts include central assistance for setting up Growth Centres (list at statement-I) and for developing infrastructure facilities for small industries. Subsidy in transport, investment, interest & insurance is also granted to units set-up in specified locations. Also, income tax benefits are available to undertakings that start manufacture or production in backward districts, on or before 31.3.2002. The list of districts entitled for income tax benefits (specified in two categories) is at statement-II. Besides, excise duty concessions are available to industrial units in the North East.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I*List of Growth Centres*

Sl.No.	Name of Growth Centre	District
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Hindupur	Anantapur
2.	Khammam	Khammam

1	2	3
3.	Ongole	Parkasam
4.	Vizianagaram-Bobbili	Vizianagaram
Arunachal Pradesh		
5.	Nikiog Ngolung	East Siang
Assam		
6.	Chariduar	Sonitpur
7.	Maria	Goalpara
8.	Chaygaon	Kamrup (unapproved)
Bihar		
9.	Begusarai	Begusarai
10.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur
11.	Chhapra	Chhapra
12.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga
13.	Muzzafarpur	Muzzafarpur
Chhattisgarh		
14.	Borai	Durg
15.	Siltara	Raipur
Goa		
16.	Electronic City	Verna-Plateau
Gujarat		
17.	Gandhidham	Kutch
18.	Palanpur	Banaskantha
19.	Vagra	Bharuch
Haryana		
20.	Bawal	Rewari
21.	Sana	Ambala
Himachal Pradesh		
22.	Kangra	Kangra

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir		
23.	Lassipors	Pulwama
24.	Samba	Jammu
Jharkhand		
25.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh
Karnataka		
26.	Dharwad	Dharwad
27.	Raichur	Raichur
28.	Hassan	Hassan
Kerala		
29.	Allapuzha-Malappuram	Allapuzha-Malappuram
30.	Kannur-Kozhikode	Kannur-Kozhikode
Madhya Pradesh		
31.	Chainpura	Guna
32.	Ghirongi	Bhind
33.	Kheda	Dhar
34.	Satlapur	Raisen
Maharashtra		
35.	Akola	Akola
36.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
37.	Dhule	Dhule
38.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri
39.	Nanded	Nanded
Manipur		
40.	Lamlai Napai	Imphal East
Meghalaya		
41.	Mendipamar	East Garo Hills
Mizoram		
42.	Laungmual	Aizawl

1	2	3
Nagaland		
43.	Ganeshnagar	Kohima
Orissa		
44.	Chhatrapur	Ganjam
45.	Kalinganagar-Duburi	Cuttack
46.	Jharsuguda	Jharsuguda
47.	Kesinga	Kalahandi
Pondicherry		
48.	Polagaon	Karaikal
Punjab		
49.	Bhatinda	Bhatinda
50.	Pathankot	Gurdaspur
Rajasthan		
51.	Abu-Road	Sirohi
52.	Bhilwara	Bhilwara
53.	Khara	Bikaner
54.	Jhalawar	Jhalawar
55.	Dholpur	Dholpur
Sikkim		
56.	Dencheng Block	South Sikkim (Unapproved)
Tamil Nadu		
57.	Erode	Periyar
58.	Oragadam	Kancheepuram
59.	Tirunelveli (Gangai Kondal Napur Block)	Tirunelveli
Tripura		
60.	Bodhjung Nagar	Tripura-West
Uttar Pradesh		
61.	Bijoult	Jhansi

1	2	3
62.	Jamaur	Shahjahanpur
63.	Pakbawa	Moradabad
64.	Dibiapur	Auraiya
65.	Khurja	Bulandshahar
66.	Satharia	Jaunpur
67.	Sahjanwa	Gorakhpur
Uttaranchal		
68.	Shivrajpur-Deorampur	Pauri-Garwal (unapproved)
West Bengal		
69.	Bolpur	Birbhum
70.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri
71.	Malda	Malda

Statement-II*Category 'A' Industrially backward district:**

1.	Godda	Bihar
2.	Gumla	Bihar
3.	Araria	Bihar
4.	Madhepura	Bihar
5.	Dumka	Bihar
6.	Khagaria	Bihar
7.	Kishanganj	Bihar
8.	Palamau	Bihar
9.	Madhubani	Bihar
10.	Jehanabad	Bihar
11.	Saharsa	Bihar
12.	Nawadah	Bihar
13.	Sitamarhi	Bihar
14.	Sahebganj	Bihar
15.	Aurangabad	Bihar

1	2	3
16.	East Champaran	Bihar
17.	Purnia	Bihar
18.	Siwan	Bihar
19.	Vaishali	Bihar
20.	Lohardagga	Bihar
21.	The Dangs	Gujarat
22.	Wayanad	Kerala
23.	Idukki	Kerala
24.	Gadchiroli	Maharashtra
25.	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Sarguja	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh
28.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Bastar	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Phulbani	Orissa
31.	Kalahandi	Orissa
32.	Jalore	Rajasthan
33.	Barmer	Rajasthan
34.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
35.	Churu	Rajasthan
36.	Banswara	Rajasthan
37.	Sidharthanagar	Uttar Pradesh
38.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh
39.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh
40.	Maharajganj	Uttar Pradesh
41.	Banda	Uttar Pradesh
42.	Basti	Uttar Pradesh
43.	Chamoli	Uttar Pradesh
44.	Uttarkashi	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
45.	Almora	Uttar Pradesh
46.	Pithoragarh	Uttar Pradesh
47.	Tehri Garhwal	Uttar Pradesh
48.	Murshidabad	West Bengal
49.	Cooch Behar	West Bengal
50.	Bankura	West Bengal
51.	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal
52.	Malda	West Bengal
53.	West Dinajpur	West Bengal

* List of districts has shown States, as they stood prior to the creation of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, and Chhattisgarh.

*Category 'B' Industrially backward district:**

1.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Mahbubnagar	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Katihar	Bihar
4.	Bhagalpur	Bihar
5.	Gopalganj	Bihar
6.	Darbhanga	Bihar
7.	West Champaran	Bihar
8.	Saran	Bihar
9.	Bhojpur	Bihar
10.	Samastipur	Bihar
11.	Deogarh	Bihar
12.	Nalanda	Bihar
13.	Gaya	Bihar
14.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar
15.	Rohtas	Bihar
16.	Banaskantha	Gujarat
17.	Sabarkantha	Gujarat
18.	Bidar	Karnataka

1	2	3
19.	Seoni	Maharashtra
20.	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
21.	Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh
22.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh
24.	Sidhi	Madhya Pradesh
25.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Raigarh	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Morena	Madhya Pradesh
28.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Rajgarh	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Rajnandgaon	Madhya Pradesh
31.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
32.	Beed	Maharashtra
33.	Bolangir	Orissa
34.	Mayurbhanj	Orissa
35.	Balasore	Orissa
36.	Ganjam	Orissa
37.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan
38.	Dholpur	Rajasthan
39.	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan
40.	Tonk	Rajasthan
41.	Nagaur	Rajasthan
42.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan
43.	Sikar	Rajasthan
44.	Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh
45.	Lalitpur	Uttar Pradesh
46.	Hamirpur	Uttar Pradesh
47.	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
48.	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh
49.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh
50.	Etah	Uttar Pradesh
51.	Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh
52.	Etawah	Uttar Pradesh
53.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh
54.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh
55.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh
56.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh
57.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh
58.	Jalaun	Uttar Pradesh
59.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh
60.	Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh
61.	Kanpur Dehat	Uttar Pradesh
62.	Mainpuri	Uttar Pradesh
63.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh
64.	Farrukhabad	Uttar Pradesh
65.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh
66.	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh
67.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh
68.	Purulia	West Bengal
69.	Birbhum	West Bengal
70.	Midnapure	West Bengal

* List of districts has shown states, as they stood prior to the creation of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, and Chhattisgarh.

[Translation]

Gramset Scheme

3952. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the funds spent on the Gramset Scheme during each of the last three years State-wise;

(b) the programmes broadcast under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to include the tribals in this programme to promote the tribal culture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no such scheme as 'Gramset Scheme' in operation through All India Radio at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Slowdown of US Economy

3953. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Chief of trade and development agency has warned the world economy, which recorded the strongest growth performance of 4 per cent last year would face serious down-side risks this year because of a sharp slowdown in the United States economy;

(b) if so, whether the countries like Japan, South Korea, Malaysia are expected to suffer most due to their dependence on the exports of micro-electronic and information technology products to the US;

(c) if so, to what extent it has also affected the Indian economy; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of proposes to take to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The reported assessment of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is contained in the Trade and Development Report 2001 of UNCTAD. The current slowdown in the US economy is of world wide concern for prospects of world economy, given its pivotal role in bolstering global demand in recent years.

(b) An important reason for the US slowdown is the unwinding of its high tech boom resulting in a drop in

its investment spending. This is likely to affect the exports of Information Communication Technology (ICT) related sectors of Japan. Similarly, the downside risks of East Asian Countries like South Korea and Malaysia, who are globally linked to the high tech cycle in the US are considerable. As the performance of these economies depends to a large extent on external demand for electronic goods, their growth would suffer from any such reduction/deceleration in world demand for these goods.

(c) India's export basket is diversified in terms of products and destinations. Although USA is India's largest trading partner, its relative share to GDP is not large and therefore makes downside impact on our exports not significant.

(d) The trends in the external sector are under constant review and closely monitored and appropriate measures taken in the light of the emerging trends.

Inspection of Banks

3954. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India lay reports on the inspection of banks on the Table of the House;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to direct the RBI to lay reports on the inspection of banks with action taken reports on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) There is no provision in the statutes requiring the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to lay its reports on the inspection of banks on the Table of the Parliament.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

City Cooperative Bank

3955. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inquiry into the status and accounts of the City Cooperative Bank, Lucknow has revealed large scale irregularities committed by it including the violations of RBI directives for investments, advances and returns of the bank;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the scrutiny of books of accounts of the City Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lucknow, has revealed several irregularities in its operations. These included lack of documentary evidences for investments to the tune of Rs. 2140.56 lakhs and misutilisation of the money by a Director of the bank, non-production of fixed deposit receipts, non-framing of loan policy, granting of advances against shares in excess of the ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakh, violation of RBI directives on unsecured advances, unsatisfactory liquidity position of the bank, heavy reliance on institutional deposits, circumventing the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), absence of the system of concurrent audit, violation of RBI guidelines on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning, etc.

(c) With a view to prevent preferential payment to depositors and to contain the run on the bank, RBI has issued a directive under Section 35 (A) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Cooperative Societies) to the bank on March 22, 2001 directing it not to accept fresh deposits or give fresh loans and not to repay more than one thousand rupees to any single depositor. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Uttar Pradesh was requested to supersede the Board of management of the bank and to appoint an Administrator for securing proper management by invoking the provisions of Sub-section, (iii) of Section 90B of the U.P. Co-operative Societies Act, 1965. Accordingly, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies issued an order on 9th April, 2001 superseding the Board and appointing the District Magistrate, Lucknow as the Administrator of the bank. RBI has also filed a criminal complaint against the Chairman, Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the bank in the Court of Judicial Magistrate, Lucknow on April 3, 2001.

Debt Relief to States

3956. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of debt-relief enjoyed by the States as a result of the Tenth Finance Commission on general debt-relief and performance based debt relief during 1997-2000, State-wise; and

(b) the amount of general debt-relief for the States recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission during 2000-01-2004-05 and performance based debt relief 2000-01 enjoyed by various States as recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission, State-wise and the

percentage of such relief to State's debt retirement i.e. interest payment and capital repayment taken together?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A statement showing State-wise details of general debt-relief, which is performance based, under the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, during 1997-2000 is enclosed.

(b) General Debt Relief based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission will depend on the fiscal improvements that may be effected during this period by the States. As the scheme of debt relief operates with a time lag. States have not yet been given any debt relief on EFC's recommendations.

Statement

General Debt Relief to States, on the basis of TFC Recommendations, during 1997-2000

		(Rs. in Crore)
States	Amount	
1. Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	
2. Assam	6.86	
3. Bihar	21.52	
4. Goa	1.49	
5. Gujarat	13.40	
6. Jammu & Kashmir	9.54	
7. Karnataka	5.76	
8. Kerala	5.45	
9. Maharashtra	19.00	
10. Meghalaya	1.79	
11. Nagaland	0.07	
12. Punjab	24.88	
13. Tamil Nadu	30.35	
14. Tripura	2.02	
15. West Bengal	3.75	

DGS&D Rate for Stationaries/ Office Consumables

3957. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

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

(a) whether the Government offices/departments, public sector undertakings, Corporations etc. are spending huge amount of money on purchase of computers, computer consumables, printers zerox machines, photocopier paper every year;

(b) if so, the reasons for not putting these items on DGS&D rate contract;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring these items on DGS&D rate contract to save public money and to provide best quality items;

(d) if so, by when these items will be available on DGS&D rate contract; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Department of Commerce/DGS&D do not maintain such a data. The Central Government Departments/ Public Sector Undertakings/Corporation etc. procure their requirement of these items within the financial powers delegated to them.

(b) to (e) The Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D) are concluding rate contracts for various items (except computer consumables). The computer consumables are small value item and are locally procured by users. The renewals of some of these rate contracts is under consideration and would be finalized shortly.

Oriya News Bulletin

3958. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast morning Oriya news bulletin in Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar; and

(b) if so, the extent of time slot and the date since when it will be telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that at present there is no proposal to telecast a morning news bulletin in Oriya from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneswar.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

AIR/Doordarshan Kendras

3959. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the place-wise number of AIR and Doordarshan Kendras operating in Rajasthan at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more new Kendras in Rajasthan during the 10th Five year plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The location-wise details of radio stations and TV transmitters of Doordarshan presently functioning in Rajasthan are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The 10th Five Year Plan is under formulation and it will not be feasible to specify details.

Statement

A. All India Radio

Stations :

- | | | | |
|----|---------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Jaipur | - | 1KW MW Tr. |
| | | - | 1KW MW Tr. (V.B.) |
| | | | 50 KW SW Tr. |
| 2. | Ajmer | - | 200 KW MW Tr. (Relay) |
| 3. | Bikaner | - | 20 KW MW Tr. |
| 4. | Jodhpur | - | 100 KW MW Tr. |
| | | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (VB) |
| 5. | Udaipur | - | 20 KW MW Tr. |

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---|-------------------|
| 6. | Suratgarh | - | 300 KW MW Tr. |
| 7. | Kota | - | 1KW MW Tr. (LRS) |
| 8. | Alwar | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (LRS) |
| 9. | Nagaur | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (LRS) |
| 10. | Banswara | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (LRS) |
| 11. | Chittorgarh | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (LRS) |
| 12. | Barmer | - | 20 KW MW Tr. |
| 13. | Swai Madhopur | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (LRS) |
| 14. | Churu | - | 6 KW FM Tr. |
| 15. | Jhalawar | - | 6 KW FM Tr. (LRS) |
| 16. | Jaisalmer | - | 10 KW FM Tr. |
| 17. | Mt. Abu | - | 6 KW FM Tr. |

B. Doordarshan

TV Transmitters functioning in Rajasthan (as on 13.08.2001)

I HPTs (8)

Barmer (Int)

Bundi

Jaipur

Jaisalmer

Jodhpur

Ajmer (int.)

Jaipur (DD-2)

Jodhpur (DD-2)

II LPTs (66)

Alwar

Anupgarh

Bansi

Banswara

Baran

Bari Sadri	Nathdwara
Barmer	Nimaj
Basava	Nohar
Beawar	Nokha
Bhadra	Pali
Bharatpur	Tonk
Bhilwara	Udaipur
Bikaner	Phalodi
Chirawa	Pilani
Chittaurgarh	Pratapgarh
Churu	Raisinghnagar
Deeg	Rajgarh (Churu)
Bali	Ratangarh
Nagar	Rawatsar
Dungarpur	Sagwara
Ganganagar	Salumber
Kushalgarh	Sardarshahr
Navalgarh	Sawalmadhopur
Taranagar	Shahpura
Hanumangarh	Sikar
Hindaun	Sirohi
Jaisalmer	Sridungargarh
Jalore	Sujargarh
Jhalawar	Suratgarh
Jhunjhunun	Gangapur (S.M. Pur)
Karanpur	Kishnagarh-Vas (Alwar)
Karauli	Vallabhnagar
Kesrlaji	Makrana
Khetri	Kota (DD-2)
Kotputli	III VLPTs (18)
Mount Abu	Amet
Nagaur	Andhi
	Bhim

Chaumahla

Deogarh

Fatehpur

Gangapur

Kotra

Kumbhalgarh

Laxmangarh

Mandalgarh

Neem Ka Thana

Rajgarh (Alwar)

Rawatbhata

Sikari

Tibi

Viratnagar

Zawar Mines

IV Transposers (2)

Jamua Ramgarh

Lalsot

Fake Credit Cards

3960. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees are being withdrawn fraudulently through fake credit cards in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases of fraud committed through fake credit cards in the country alongwith the details of total amount involved in this during the last one year; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the said criminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) RBI has reported that based on the information collected by them following frauds had taken place in the area of fake credit card during the last 3 years.

Sl.No.	Bank Name	No. of cases	Amount Involved (In Rs.)
1	Canara Bank	01	26,000.00
2	Central Bank of India	01	4,41,703.79
3	Vijaya Bank	01	2,63,000.00
4	City Bank	01	1,72,977.25
5	Standard Chartered Bank	06	8,32,355.86
6	Punjab & Sind Bank	01	3,25,000.00

The concerned bank initiates appropriate action in the fraud cases such as reporting to the police, taking steps for recovery and initiating action for staff accountability, if any.

[English]

Live Coverage of Sports Events

3961. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are facing great hardships in according uplinking facilities to foreign satellite channels for live coverage of sports events and

similarly Doordarshan is also facing difficulties in accommodating live telecast of sports events; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As per extant uplinking guidelines, uplinking facilities are allowed from India to all TV channels, including foreign satellite channels, through permitted teleports or through VSNL, subject to fulfilment of criteria laid down in the guidelines. Doordarshan is not facing difficulties in accommodating live telecast of sports events.

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

News in Maithili

3962. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Radio Patna broadcasts news in Maithili which is largely spoken in Maithlanchal;

(b) if so, the number of days the news in Maithili is broadcast in a week;

(c) whether there is any proposal to broadcast news in Maithili daily; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, News bulletin in Maithili prepared by Regional News Unit at AIR, Patna is broadcast from AIR, Darbhanga thrice a week, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, for a duration of 5 minutes at 1815 - 1820 hours.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hindi Monitoring Units

3963. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether Hindi Monitoring Unit has been recently set up in the News Service Division, AIR;

(b) if so, the number of Hindi broadcasts of foreign countries being monitored alongwith the broadcasting time;

(c) whether such significant broadcasting organizations as BBC, Voice of America, broadcast Hindi bulletins and these are not being monitored;

(d) if so, the efforts being made for strengthening the Hindi Monitoring Unit;

(e) whether Committee was constituted in the news service division on the suggestions given by several

VIPs and Members of Parliament for increasing the number of reporters in Hindi Monitoring Unit; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Prasar Bharati on the suggestions given by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) A Hindi Monitoring Unit was set up in the News Services Division, AIR on 19.09.1996 with the primary purpose of strengthening news gathering.

(b) and (c) The details of Hindi bulletins monitored by the Unit are as follows :

Voice of America	0600-0630 hrs.
BBC	0630-0700 hrs.
BBC	1930-2000 hrs.
Radio 'Roos'	1830-1900 hrs.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to strengthen this Monitoring Unit.

(e) and (f) The Committee constituted to study the need for expanding the unit did not recommend creation of additional posts of reporters.

[English]

Popularity of AIR/Doordarshan Programmes

3964. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

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

(a) whether the popularity of All India Radio/Doordarshan under Prasar Bharati has declined during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details of comparative viewership of ZEE TV, Sony TV, Star TV in comparison to the AIR/DD during the said period; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of programmes in AIR/DD?

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

(b) All India Radio viewership is not comparable to those of TV. In so far as TV Channels are concerned, according to Television Audience Measurement (TAM)

survey carried out in 27 cities for February 2001, the Audience Share of DD-1 and DD-2 channels in all homes vis-a-vis private channels are as follows :-

Channel	Audience Share
DD-1	28.3
DD-2	12.1
Sony	4.5
Star Plus	7.7
Zee	3.2

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the improvement in the quality of programmes is a continuous process. Prasar Bharati endeavours to adopt the latest techniques from all quarters for improvement in quality in its programmes.

HPT Link at Raiganj, West Bengal

3965. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received a request for a High Power transmitter link at Raiganj, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in providing the HPT link at Raiganj?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two letters were received from Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, MP, requesting for installation of a High Power TV transmitter at Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.

(c) Major parts of Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal lie in the coverage zone of the High Power TV transmitters at Kurseong (West Bengal) and Katihar (Bihar). Prasar Bharati expects that Doordarshan coverage in the area will improve further after commissioning of the High Power Transmitter under implementation at Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur District. Prasar Bharati does not have any approved scheme at present to set up a TV transmitter at Raiganj.

[Translation]

Regional News Bulletin

3966. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state : the present status of regional news bulletin used to

be broadcast from Ranchi station of Akashvani after the division of Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Prasar Bharati has intimated that after division of Bihar State, Regional News Bulletin, of 10 minutes duration from 1900-1910 hours, is broadcast daily from AIR, Ranchi. Besides, AIR, Ranchi is broadcasting five weekly news bulletin, of 5 minutes duration each, in Nagpuri Kurukh, Mundari, Ho and Santhali dialects on Saturdays.

[English]

Approvals of FDI Proposals

3967. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved 32 Foreign Direct Investment proposals worth Rs. 477 crore during the month of June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the FDI proposals approved, sector-wise; and

(c) the foreign companies involved in these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 32 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 477 crore have been granted approval based on the recommendations of FIPB in its meeting held on 14.6.2001. The details are contained in Press Release of 20.6.2001 issued by this Ministry, which is also posted on the SIA Website (<http://www.nic/indmin>)

Coverage of Olympic Events

3968. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan sent a 15 -Member team to cover the Sydney Olympics;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, when the International Olympic Committee was taking care of all the technical aspects of telecasting the event live to public broadcasters and Doordarshan was getting six feeds everyday from different venues;

(c) the details of the amount spent by Doordarshan on all the events;

(d) whether the Doordarshan has been recovered the expenditure as well as made some profit;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fix the responsibility on the officers for causing financial loss of the Doordarshan?

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

(b) Prasar Bharati have intimated that in order to bring live customised coverage of sports events with commentary from the point of view of the participating Indian sports contingent and round the clock telecast of the events on its sports channel, it had deputed a team, along with three non-official commentators, to Sydney to cover Olympics, 2000.

(c) Details of the amount spent by Doordarshan are as follows :

1	Rights Fee	Rs. 11,63,68,646/-
2	Tech. Costs	Rs. 2,80,59,980/-
3	TA/DA	Rs. 21,53,900/-
4	Space Booking	Rs. 62,57,156/-
Total		Rs. 15,28,39,682/-

(d) to (f) Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan could recover Rs. 8,50,50,000/- which included a revenue of Rs. 1.08 crore from in-house marketing and Rs. 7.50 crore from the encashed bank guarantee of M/s Pritish Nandy Communications Pvt. Ltd. because of its withdrawal from the assignment. Doordarshan had no alternative but to arrange for in-house marketing on short notice.

(g) Since marketing process needs to be initiated well in advance, sudden withdrawal by the agency left no scope for Doordarshan to recover the full expenditure. Bank Guarantee of the agency, which was responsible for the loss, has already been encashed. No action is required to be taken against any official in this regard.

Allocation for Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar J&K

3969. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation for Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar, for the current financial year;

(b) whether the same has been disbursed;

(c) If not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether the outlay has been reduced as compared to the last year amount;

(e) If so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government are aware of the need for augmenting for Srinagar Kendra's budget to enhance the anti-insurgency content of the Srinagar Kendra by involving the local talent to counter shrill of anti-India Pakistan media propaganda;

(g) If so, the steps taken in this regard;

(h) whether in the current fiscal year Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar, is yet to effect long due payments of the private producers, artists and other regional creative elements associated with it inspite of the militant risk to their lives in contributing to the nationalist content of the production; and

(i) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the budget allocation for DDK, Srinagar is Rs. 1232.00 lakhs under Non-Plan and Rs. 166.00 lakhs under Plan for the current financial year.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 446.25 lakhs under Non-Plan and full amount of Rs. 166.00 lakhs under Plan has been released till August, 2001. Release of funds to different Kendras is done on instalment basis.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Reduction in allocation is due to the fact that commissioning for programmes for DD(Kashmir) is also being done by Doordarshan Headquarters, by utilizing funds through DDK, Delhi as well as DDK, Srinagar.

(f) and (g) A considerable portion of the budget from J&K Special Software Scheme is spent under royalty and in-house production of programmes at DDK, Srinagar.

(h) Payments to producers is a continuous process and effected on the verification of records, completion of formalities and availability of funds from time to time.

(i) Does not arise.

Visit of Delegation to Japan and USA

3970. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 35 member strong entertainment industry delegation from India had a 10 day visit to Japan and the USA between June 10 and 20 of 2001 under the aegis of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI);

(b) if so, whether these visits have proved successful;

(c) whether she also joined the discussion with Japanese entertainment industry;

(d) if so, whether the main purpose of the Federation of Commerce and Industry was to help the entertainment industry to develop;

(e) whether it is expected to improve the segments of films television broadcasting, cable television and television software; and

(f) if so, to what extent the India has achieved success after these visits?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. A FICCI delegation led by the Minister of Information & Broadcasting visited Japan and USA from 12th-20th June, 2001.

The objective of the visit of the delegation to Japan & USA was to show case internationally the achievements and potential of the Indian Entertainment Industry and to explore fresh avenues for business development. Some immediate achievements of the visit are : (i) The possibility of more Indian films being released in Japan, with the NHK considering to increase the number of Indian films screened by them, (ii) Talks have been initiated by Indian companies with their Japanese counter parts for doing animation work in India, (iii) An increased interest evinced by US companies and International Finance Corporation (IFC) in funding the media and broadcast sectors and (iv) An offer of assistance from Motion Picture Association of America (MPA) to help curb piracy of Indian films in the US. In addition, the members of the delegation got extensive opportunity to interact with their overseas counterparts.

Kashmir Channel

3971. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the name of Doordarshan Channels, region-wise those are being telecasted to counter fissiparous separatist propaganda in various militancy affected States;

(b) whether the administrative apparatus of all these channels is invariably based in their respective States or regions except only in the case of the Kashmir Channel;

(c) whether the administrative production and operational control of the Kashmir Channel is being managed from Delhi instead of Srinagar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the tremendous difficulties faced due to this remote controlled functioning of Kashmir channel by talented Kashmiri producers and other creative elements associated with and other desirous and deserving to be considered for fair allocation of programmes on this channel;

(f) whether she was scheduled to inaugurate the Balti programme from Srinagar recently and also to announce the shifting of Kashmir Channel to Srinagar on that occasion;

(g) whether that proposal was shelved in the face of stiff resistance against it by the sections within Kashmir Channel interested in its continuation in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) All Doordarshan Channels and Kendras carry programmes with a view to promote national integration and to dissuade people from false propaganda, wherever required. Administrative set up in respect of all Regional Channels/Kendras including Kashmir Channel are based in the respective State Capitals. However, the Kashmir Channel spends much larger amount on commissioning of programmes as compared to other Regional Channels. Since the necessary supporting system to handle commissioning of programme of this magnitude is not available with J&K, Srinagar, the same is being handled from Doordarshan Headquarters. Further, keeping in view the prevailing situation in Kashmir, inputs are required from a Broad based Committee of experts to give appropriate thrust to the programmes for Kashmir Channel. The present arrangement is helping in producing the right kind of programmes which are required for Kashmir Channel.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Advance Income Tax

3972. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the big Corporate Houses have been paying huge amounts as advance Income tax in excess of their tax liability and consequent loss to Government's exchequer on account of payment of interest on these amounts deposited;

(b) if so, the details of corporate houses/industries who have resorted to such practice;

(c) the total loss to exchequer on account of this;

(d) whether the officials involved in these racketeers have been held responsible; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Advance tax payment is required to be made under the Income Tax Act, 1961 on the principle of 'pay as you earn' during the same period when the income is being generated. Therefore, necessarily, it is based on estimation of income as the final income can be known only when the accounting period is over and accounts are finalized. In view of the above provisions of law, it is not correct to say that corporate houses overestimate their tax liability only to earn interest. Further more, the rate of interest paid on refund arising out of the excess advance tax now stands at 0.75 percent for every month or part of the month with effect from 1st of June, 2001. On the other hand, for non-payments/short payment of advance tax, the rate of interest levied is 1.25 per cent for every month or part of the month. Again, the interest on refund is calculated from the 1st day of April of the assessment year and not from the date of payment of advance tax; whereas for non-payment or short payment or deferment of advance tax higher interest is levied from the due date itself.

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

(c) As the statutory interest is paid on excess amount of advance tax on the principle that the money was used by the exchequer, it is not treated as a loss.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Projects Undertaken by Cement Corporation of India

3973. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the

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

(a) the details of projects have been undertaken by the Cement Corporation of India in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total amount allocated to each project;

(c) whether due to delay in the installation of some projects, cost escalation has taken place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) CCI has not undertaken any project for setting up of new capacities for Cement production during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Backlog of OBC Vacancies

3974. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to fill up the backlog of OBC vacancies in BHEL and other Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Government has issued clear guidelines for reservation in favour of SC/ST/OBC, disabled persons etc. PSUs have been advised to strictly adhere to these guidelines. However, recruitment to below board level posts including filling up of backlog of OBC vacancies in BHEL and other Central PSUs come under the purview of the managements of the respective undertakings and details regarding backlog of vacancies are not centrally maintained.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3987/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Designs Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 414(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001 under sub-section (4) of section 47 of the Design Act, 2000, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 475(E) dated the 29th May, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3988/2001]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of the section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-

- (i) The Central Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. CO : PRS : LEGAL : MISC : 3513: SAK: 2K-01 : in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2001.
- (ii) The Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 3932 in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2001.
- (iii) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/P-2/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2001.

- (iv) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PL/DAC/P-2/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2001.
- (v) The Bank of Maharashtra Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.AXI/ST/DM/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2001.
- (vi) The Indian Overseas Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IRD/184/06 in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2001.
- (vii) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. H.O./LEGAL/0053 in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2001.
- (viii) The Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. TBD:PC: 2000-01 in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2001.
- (ix) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. H.O./Legal/0091 in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2001.
- (x) The Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 1384/PD:IRD (O)/0089/Reg./18 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2001.
- (xi) The Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.1385/PD:IRD (O)/0089/Reg.6 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2001.

- (xii) The UCO Bank (Officer) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. OSR/1/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2001.
- (xiii) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PAD: IR: OSR: Amend 47:2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2001.
- (xiv) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PAD: IR: OSR: Amend 48:2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2001.
- (xv) The Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER/IRD/975/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2001.
- (xvi) The Canara Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IRS:124(C):1101:NAK in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2001.
- (xvii) The Indian Overseas Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F:IRD/184/29 in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2001.
- (xviii) The Indian Overseas Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IRD/184/32 in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2001.
- (xix) The Bank of Maharashtra (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. AXI/ST/OSR/3169 in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2001.
- (xx) The Bank of India Officers Employ-
- ees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IL:2000-3 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2001.
- (xxi) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F.3(b)/17.5. 2001 in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2001.
- [Placed in Library. See LT No. - 3989/2001]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-
- (i) S.O. 73(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of import.
- (ii) S.O. 74(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (iii) S.O. 159(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of import.
- (iv) S.O. 160(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purposes of assessment of export.
- (v) S.O. 278(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2001 to,

- gether with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of import.
- (vi) S.O. 279(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of export.
- (vii) S.O. 353(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of import.
- (viii) S.O. 354(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of export.
- (ix) S.O. 469(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of import.
- (x) S.O. 470(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of export.
- (xi) S.O. 587(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of import.
- (xii) S.O. 588(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of export.
- (xiii) S.O. 709(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of import.
- (xiv) S.O. 710(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purposes of assessment of export.
- (xv) S.O. 748(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum laying down the tariff values for three specified products mentioned therein for the purposes of determining their value for assessment of customs duties leviable on ad valorem basis on their import.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3990/2001]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-
- (i) G.S.R. 562 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on theophylline and caff-

ine, originating in or exported from the European Union at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (ii) G.S.R. 563 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 9/2001-Cus., dated the 31st July, 2001.
- (iii) G.S.R. 570 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on specified dry batteries exported from the Peoples Republic of China, Imported into India.
- (iv) G.S.R. 671 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 14/2001-Cus., dated the 6th February, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3991/2001]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hind and English versions) under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 :-

- (i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Life Insurance - Re-Insurance) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/REG/12/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000.
- (ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/REG/5/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2001.
- (iii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Form of Annual Statement of Accounts and Records) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 459(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3992/2001]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 534 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 5/2001-CE(NT), dated the 1st March, 2001, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3993/2001]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 :-

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investment Advice by Intermediaries) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001, published in Notification No. S.O. 476 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2001.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Venture Capital Investors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001, published in Notification No. S.O. 501 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2001.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for Board Meetings) Regulations, 2001, published in Notification No. S.O. 515 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2001.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2001, published in Notification No. S.O. 698 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3994/2001]

- (7) A copy of the Thirty First Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended on the 31st March, 2001, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3995/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Tea Warehouses (Licensing) Amendment Order, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 697 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2001, issued under sub-sections (3) and (5) of section 30 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3996/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3997/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 1999-2000, along with the Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 1999-2000.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3998/2001]

- (5) A copy of the Corrigendum (Hindi and English versions) to the *Annual Report and Audit Accounts of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation India Limited for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 3999/2001]

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) : Sir, on behalf of Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 along with the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 4000/2001]

[English]

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

* Annual Report and Audited Accounts were laid on the Table of the House on the 22nd December, 2000.

[English]

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**'No Purchase - No Sale' of Petroleum Products
Campaign announced by Federation of
All India Petroleum Traders***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT) have been pressing the Government for an early decision of certain issues pertaining to Dealers' Commission, Quality, Temperature Variation Allowance, etc. of petroleum products. The Union Government had constituted three committees to examine the various issues in detail in consultation with FAIPT. Reports of the Committees on Quality Issues and Temperature Variation Allowance have been received. The report on Dealers' commission is in final stage and is likely to be received shortly. The Ministry is looking into the demands of FAIPT. The Dealers' commission is revised periodically. This time also the same will be revised after proper examination and analysis.

As has already been reported in the newspapers FAIPT had given a notice of 'No Purchase - No Sale' campaign with effect from the midnight of 19th August. If the call for 'No Purchase - No sale' campaign had materialised, a strike like situation would have emerged in which the retail outlets being operated by some of the dealers of oil marketing companies namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited would have stopped retailing Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel from the midnight of 19th August. It was apprehended that supplies of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel to public might have been disrupted. I had, therefore, convened a meeting of Chairmen & Managing Directors and Directors (Marketing) of oil marketing companies on 6.8.2001 to review the developments. Thereafter, the Directors (Marketing) of Oil Marketing Companies have had three rounds of negotiations with FAIPT to resolve the issues.

In view of the fact that it is the responsibility of the Government to maintain uninterrupted supply of petroleum products, I had also convened a meeting of Secretaries (Food and Civil Supplies) of State Governments and Union Territories and the oil marketing Public Sector Undertakings on the 10th August, 2001 to discuss steps required to be taken in order to meet this eventuality. During this meeting, the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations assured that they would extend their full co-operation in handling the emanating threats and to

(Also Placed in Library. See No. LI.-401/2001)

ensure that there was no interruption in Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel supplies during the period of agitation.

As a result of discussions, a "Contingency Plan" was drawn up outlining the steps to be adopted by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/District Administration and Oil Companies so that the supplies of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel are maintained during the period of agitation.

Under the "Contingency Plan" the District Collectors were advised to take all steps to maintain the supplies through the retail outlets owned and operated by oil companies, consumer pumps, dispensing facilities in oil company depots, installations/terminals, LPG bottling plants and pipeline tap-off-points and also to take over the dealer operated retail outlets which are located in key and prominent locations in cities, National and State Highways, pilgrim and tourist centres etc. and operate through oil companies.

I am happy to announce today that the FAIPT has agreed not to go ahead with the 'no Purchase - no Sale' campaign and there is now no apprehension of any disruption of normal supplies of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel and no difficulty will have to be faced by the people for meeting their day to day needs of these petroleum products. The Government have assured the FAIPT that their concerns will be looked into as early as possible.

12.07 hrs.

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : With your permission, Sir I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 20th August, 2001 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Indian Council of World Affairs (Second) Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills :-

- (i) The Constitution (91st Amendment) Bill, 2000.
 - (ii) The Salary, Allowances & Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
4. Discussion and Voting on the following Demands and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills :
- (i) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2001-2002.
 - (ii) Demands for Grants (Vote on Accounts) Manipur for 2001-2002.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :-
- (i) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
 - (ii) The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2001.
 - (iii) The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
6. Discussion on Resolution seeking adoption of the recommendations made by Railway Convention Committee (1999) in their Second Report on 'Rate of Dividend for 2001-2002 and other ancillary matters.'

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) Most of the Mills of National Textiles Corporation are closed. Workers have not received salaries for two months. Immediate steps should be taken to revive and restart 76 Mills of National Textile Corporation.
- (ii) There is a move to dilute Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987. Notification has expired on 30th June. Steps should be taken to extend the notification to save the Jute Industry as well as the jute growers.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (SRIGANGANAGAR) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- 1. Continuous decline in cotton prices have mentally perturbed the farmers. Thus, the Government should help firm up the prices and fix it.
- 2. There is a need to discuss increasing unemployment in the country.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) Removal of quantitative restrictions and its adverse impact on farmers' livelihood and food safety, and
- (ii) Completion of all pending irrigation projects.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (KARUR) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

"Women are entitled for equal rights in every field in the society. But the Women's Reservation Bill seeking 33 per cent in Parliament and State Assemblies is kept pending in this House. Therefore, it should be taken up, discussed and passed."

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) Serious issues of farmers of India to be taken up in the Fourth Ministerial Conference of W.T.O. in November at Doha and to get necessary favourable amendments made in the agreement on agriculture. Last week, the Government had also agreed for that, and
- (ii) One rank one pension and the other issues of ex-servicemen whose longstanding demands are required to be implemented soon.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) Corrective Policy by the Finance Ministry to stop misuse of OCB and FII Sub-Accounts; and
- (ii) Protective measures to protect the interest of small investors.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) A master plan for the control of flood in Orissa involving all the rivers flowing through the State; and
- (ii) India's point of view with regard to agriculture, labour and environment to be presented at the next round of W.T.O. talk.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. There is a need to review working of article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and granting rights of original residents to the citizens of other States of India.
2. The need to enact a law to release old age people of 60 years or above serving imprisonment in jails.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

- (i) To discuss the large scale killing of sharks in the coastal seas of India and it is being done so for export of shark fish causing danger to the whale species as such; and
- (ii) To discuss the issues of large scale of floods caused by heavy rains in the Himalayan ranges and huge siltation of rivers in India and the need to have bilateral talks with Nepal on those issues.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. V. Saroja - Not present.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice. This is the most important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am coming to you

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has made defamatory remarks against the Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, he has given notice for Privilege Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I have submitted a Privilege Motion in this regard. My submission is that the motion may be admitted. Without giving notice to the Finance Minister, calling him looter, a thief who will run away like Marcos and that he has embezzled crores of rupees from UTI.

[English]

All are coming under rule Nos. 352 and 353. It is the breach of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kirit Somaiya, I have received your notice of question of privilege against Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, MP, regarding his alleged defamatory remarks against the hon. Finance Minister and other Ministers on 2nd August, 2001 during discussion on UTI's US-64 scheme. The matter is under my consideration.

Now the House will take up the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on an important matter related to the Ministry of Defence. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : I have moved a censure Motion against the Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you later. I will call one by one. The first name on the list is that of Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise an important issue. Village Badalibhai Tehsil Chandwad District Nasik is in Maharashtra. Agra-Mumbai road crosses this village which causes as severe traffic hazard. Every year, a number of accidents take place on this stretch killing 3-4 children, and cattle heads. My submission is that this road should be diverted via Bhayadi so that movement of traffic can be facilitated.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 15th August, 1998, the Prime Minister of India had declared from rampart of Red Fort that the

Government intends to provide job to 10 crore people within next 10 years. It was reiterated by hon'ble President of India in his address to nation. He also stated that a task force would be set up for this purpose and he further added that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, this issue was raised only during this week on the 16th August, 2001.

[Translation]

How can it be permitted time and again?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : You have been raising same issue continuously for the last three days.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, unemployment is a very serious issue. This Government are doing nothing in this regard other than misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised this issue.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Alright, you may go ahead.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : The task force set up under the chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia was to submit its report in July, 1999. It has been submitted after two years. Conclusion of this report is that new employment will not be generated, on the contrary efforts would be made to downsize the staff systematically. It is a very serious matter. The Government are doing nothing to provide employment to the unemployed youths. The percentage of jobseekers, during nineties has gone up by 2.2½ percent whereas percentage of employment generation has been below one percent. It is a very serious matter and the Government are misleading the House. The Government of India do not have any systematized programme for prevailing employment to the people.

My submission is that the assurance given by the Prime Minister should be reviewed in the House itself.

[English]

12.17 hrs.

RE : ROLE OF SPECIAL ADVISERS IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention, the attention of the

Government and the attention of the entire House to a very important matter relating to the security of our country.

It is the hon. Minister of Defence who is answerable to Parliament for all matters pertaining to the Ministry of Defence on behalf of the Government. That is the established practice. It is also a fact that the Service Chiefs are to report to the President of India, the Prime Minister of India and the Minister of Defence. They are supposed to report to no other authority.

A very important news report has been published now and the Government is still keeping quiet without any contradiction or denial. That is why, I have brought it before this House for the response of the Government. It has been reported on the 13th August in the *The Asian Age* that the Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Defence Shri Arun Singh has acquired the status of *de facto* Ministry of Defence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. Are you going to give the reply to it?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, are you going to allow him to discuss newspapers reports here?

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak. If the Minister concerned is here and wants to spond, he can reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We shall be obliged if the Government gives us some information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Without having any constitutional authority, Shri Arun Singh holds weekly meetings with the three Service Chiefs, has access to each and every file of the Ministry of Defence and is the pointsperson for all major decisions. ...*(Interruptions)*

After the 'Tehelka exposure', the entire nation is quite aware of what is happening in the Ministry of Defence. We would be much obliged to the Government if the Government comes forward to make it clear whether such an extra-constitutional authority has any access to files. In the meetings of the three Service Chiefs only the Raksha Mantri, the Minister of State in that Ministry and the Defence Secretary can be present and none else.

That is the established procedure. How can an Officer on Special Duty or an Adviser - whatever may be the status of Shri Arun Singh - get access in such meetings? The Government has to answer to the House on this

point. The hon. Minister of Defence may clarify the position. We have also moved a Calling Attention notice today from our Party on this issue. This matter cannot be dealt with casually. After the 'Teheka' episode, the nation wants to know as to how many more such things are being done in the South Block, in the Ministry of Defence.

Therefore, if the Government responds now, it is fair enough. Or, I request that you admit our Calling Attention notice where the Government will have to categorically reply to the issue. We want the country's defence to be in the safe hands. We want that no extra-constitutional authority should have any access inside the meetings in the Ministry of Defence or in the meetings of the Service Chiefs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Every individual associated with the affairs of Defence Ministry is working as per the Constitution of India and other laws of the land.

[English]

There is no extra-constitutional authority in the Ministry of Defence. The entire working of the Ministry of Defence is done as per the laws of the land and the established conventions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Yerrannaudu to raise his issue now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, my question was very specific. I want to know whether Shri Arun Singh has been designated as a Special Adviser or as O.S.D. and if so whether he has any access to such meetings. That is the question. He is trying to overrule it.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Arun Singh ji had been the closest friend of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Today what is wrong with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

What happened to you all of a sudden? ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : So what. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please do not try to score any personal issues. I am talking on an important matter which has an issue of

propriety. I insist that our Calling Attention notice may kindly be admitted and the Government should give a full reply. Sir, we gave the notice.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You know that, Calling Attention Motion is not allowed to be raised in the House.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Yes Sir. We insist that Shri Jaswant Singh, hon. Minister of Defence must come to the House and clarify this issue. This is the concern of the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, the question is a specific one.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, it is not an issue to be dealt with so casually. We cannot accept it. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not take it casually but take it with some seriousness. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please take your seat. I called Shri Yerrannaudu.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We raised the issue. The Government did not respond. Sir, the Government did not respond to my specific question whether Shri Arun Singh has been appointed as a Special Adviser and whether he has access to files and the meetings of the Defence Service Chiefs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, today is the last day of the week. Forty notices are with me. You have raised the issue. The Government has also responded to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the Government did not respond to the specific question.

MR. SPEAKER : What about the other hon. Members who want to raise their issues?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The other hon. Members also will get their chance. This is also a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised it. I think you have asked the Chair also to include it as a Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I raised a genuine issue. The Government did not come out with a specific reply. The Government cannot avoid a specific question.

[English]

12.21 hrs.

RE : PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE
FISHERMEN IN THE COUNTRY

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please allow Shri Yerrannaidu to speak.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of fishermen belonging to nine States had submitted a memorandum to the Government of India regarding their problems and grievances. After thorough discussions with the fishermen community and their leaders, the Government of India appointed the Murari Committee and the Committee submitted its report to the Government. But, so far, the Government has not implemented any of these recommendations.

Since last midnight, nearly 3,600 fishing trawlers - in the total coastline of Andhra Pradesh from Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Kakinada to Nellore - have stopped fishing activities. Nearly one lakh families depend upon the fishing activity. The Government of India has also recently increased the berth charges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,000. The Government of India has also given licences to foreign vessels to catch fish in our seawaters. That is why our fishermen are not getting any catch.

Sir, our fishermen have invested lots of money. They have taken loans from all the nationalised banks. The situation today is that people of nearly 3,600 trawlers have gone on strike. The Government of India should look into it. I am requesting that the hon. Minister of Surface Transport should come and make a statement. This is a severe situation. The Murari Committee has submitted its report long ago.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA) : Sir, I associate with the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given any notice?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am requesting the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, through you, to take note of it.

This matter relates not to a single person of single individual; it relates to lakhs of people. In Andhra Pradesh, thousand kilometres of sea coast is there.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Argal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE(BOLPUR) : The Spokesperson of the Government would respond. ...(Interruptions) He is responding to every matter on behalf of the Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am waiting for some reply. This matter relates to lakhs of fishermen. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, it is not possible to give reply immediately to the issues raised during 'Zero Hour'. ...(Interruptions) But it is an important matter and I feel, it is related to the Ministry of Shipping, instead the Ministry of Agriculture. The issue raised by you is related to the Ministry of Agriculture and I would speak in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (MURENA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Madhya Pradesh are facing power crisis. My submission is that the farmers desirous of taking electricity connection are not provided connection in time. Their names have been in the waiting list for the last ten years. Not even a single megawatt power has been generated in Madhya Pradesh. For kilometers, we do not find any electric cables as cables are stolen. Law and order situation is also very poor over there and the farmers are in a troubled state. Transformers are stolen during night, whereas the Government hardly bothers about it. ...(Interruptions) My submission is that special attention should be paid towards power generation so that the farmers do not have to face power crisis in future. Replacement of old meters by computerised meters have lead to resentment among farmers. Sir, in view of power crisis, I would like to urge the Government to pay special attention toward power generation and the State Government should be directed to solve the problems of farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

12.27 hrs.

RE : ECONOMIC PACKAGE FOR BIHAR

DR. RAGHUVANSHI PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the M.P.'s and Ministers from Bihar, who had come to Delhi, met hon'ble Prime Minister in November last year and had demanded for an economic

package for Bihar and also gave a memorandum in this regard. The Prime Minister had even given an assurance. After the partition of Bihar economic condition of Bihar has become critical. ...*(Interruptions)* Two thirds of total population of united Bihar is left with Bihar and one-third population has been transferred to Jharkhand and on the contrary Bihar is left with one-third resources and two third income has gone to Jharkhand. Moreover, hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that implementation of recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission has further deteriorated the economic scenario. ...*(Interruptions)* Since Bihar's economic condition was already in doldrums therefore, a special economic package was demanded in the memorandum. Secondly, Central Loan of Rs. 10,000 crores to Bihar should be written off. Thirdly, the State of Bihar should have been accorded a special status whereas the Central Government has accorded this special status to newly formed State of Jharkhand. Bihar has been meted with injustice and discrimination is being done with the State. Every year Bihar faces the fury of flood and drought because of interstate river water. 8 crore 20 lakh population of Bihar, which comprises farmers, labourers, down-trodden and other poor people, have to face economic crisis. Therefore, my submission is that an economic package be given to Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, for the first time, he is telling the truth. So, I also associate with him.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you can also associate.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Therefore, I would like to know that what had happened to that economic package and other demands? ...*(Interruptions)* I demand that the Government should pay special attention towards Bihar otherwise it is like a sleeping lion. ...*(Interruptions)* Bihar knows how to fight for her rights. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, my submission is that the Government should clarify its commitment regarding giving economic package, waiving of loans, granting special status to Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, you can also associate.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : I also associate myself with the demand for grant of

special status. Since Bihar's economic condition is very pitiable. ...*(Interruptions)* Bihar faces the fury of flood for 6 months and drought for the next 6 months therefore, under these circumstances Bihar should be given special status. Bihar's condition is similar to that of North East and it is likely to be deteriorated further. There is a need to write off the loans of farmers. My submission is that the Government should pay attention in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government should give reply to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Many Members have supported Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Seth, just one minute. The hon. Minister is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, consequent upon partition of Bihar and transfer of maximum resources to Jharkhand. ...*(Interruptions)* There can be no doubt about what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji, Shri Devendra Prasad ji, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shrimati Shyama Singh, Shri Somnath Chatterjee have said. Out of the total resources of United Bihar, two thirds resources have gone to Jharkhand whereas two thirds of the population is left with Bihar. It has definitely raised the question of financial crisis in Bihar. Further, as Shri Devendra Prasad ji has said, onslaught of flood and famine has further made the situation more grave. The Union Government must pay attention towards it. ...*(Interruptions)* What else, I can say about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has not completed his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing, except what the Minister is saying, would go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing, except what the Minister is saying, would go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I will convey the issue raised by hon'ble Members to the Prime Ministers...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) : Sir, I rise to raise an issue not only of public importance but also of national importance. The Government of India is very indifferent to the cause of the public sector fertiliser factories in this country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tiwari, I am on my legs. Shri Ramanand Singh, please take your seat.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, the Government of India is totally indifferent towards the revival of the fertilizer factories in this country. Fertilizer is an important component for the growth of agriculture in this country. The Government is planning to set up a fertilizer factory at Oman and fertilizer would be imported from that country. Such an act would ruin the indigenous fertilizer industries and they would either be closed down or would become sick.

Sir, the Government of India has not declared any fertilizer policy. This is very important for the millions of agricultural workers who are working in the agriculture sector. Growth of agriculture is key to our economic development. A few days back, the BIFR has issued winding up notices to a few public sector fertilizer units, including the Haldia unit and the Durgapur unit of HFC.

Sir, I seek the intervention of the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers in regard to the revival of the public sector fertilizer units. Presently, there are no urea producing plant in the State of West Bengal. The Durgapur unit has been closed down and the unit at Haldia would also be closed. I seek the intervention of the hon. Minister in the matter so that the public sector fertilizer units at Haldia and Durgapur could be revived. This is very important for the growth of agriculture in the country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, these are very important issues of important public sector undertakings manufacturing fertilizers. Urea is a necessity for the survival of agriculture in this country. But nothing is being done in this regard. The Government is totally indifferent. The factories are either getting sick or are being closed down.

Now fertilizer would have to be imported from foreign countries at whatever cost they want and what is the Government doing? It is just sitting quite. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, seven fertilizer factories have been closed down. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing except, what Shri Vishnu Datt is speaking, would go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing others to speak. They also are Members of this House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (JAMMU) : Sir, I have been raising this issue for the last three years that during monsoon season, when river Chenab gets inundated, it changes its course resulting in washing away several villages every year as well as the crops of farmers are also get destroyed. Whenever we request the Central Government for diverting the flood water, everytime the Government replies that they are facing financial crunch. What would the Government do if it do not save the villages getting washed away in flood water. This year also, flood situation is grim, several villages and their land has been washed away. So far, no steps have been taken to rehabilitate the people uprooted during last year's flood and people are on the verge of hunger. ...

Sir, my submission is that the Central Government should take some concrete steps this year and protect them from the floods. ...(Interruptions) Otherwise it would further aggravate problem of unemployment and hunger. Under these circumstances, the Government should come forward and give a special package to the State and protect the people and their land so that the increasing problem of unemployment and hunger can be averted.

[English]

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (JALANDHAR) : Sir, there is a road-cum bridge over the river Satlu] in my constituency Jalandhar in Punjab. This bridge is highly strategic from defence and security point of view. This is an important link with the border of Pakistan. This bridge has outlived its life. Thousands of commuters are in constant danger because this bridge is old and dilapidated. The recent unfortunate railway accident that occurred due to collapse of an old bridge is a pointer and an eye-opener for the otherwise sleeping authorities.

12.41 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

This road-cum-rail bridge remains closed from seven

in the morning to seven in the evening. In emergencies, people are put to great inconvenience because of this.

[Translation]

People are apprehensive that this bridge may collapse at any moment. The bridge is closed for traffic during night. This is the only rail-cum-road bridge of its kind in the country. Now this concept is no more in use. Moreover, the traffic too has increased many fold. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission to the concerned authorities is that this bridge should be replaced and a separate bridge for rail and road be constructed.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is highly condemnable and unprecedented in the history of Tamil Nadu that journalists were attacked by Tamil Nadu Police on the night of 12th August.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, a Commission of Inquiry is appointed to go into this incident.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Almost all the journalists condemned this attack. They went on a fast and adopted a unanimous resolution day before yesterday demanding that a CBI inquiry be conducted and the guilty be punished.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This is a State-subject. They are politicising the issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, the subject given by the hon. Member is 'freedom of press in Tamil Nadu'.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : We in the DMK believe in the freedom of press very strongly. We support the demand of journalists and request the Minister of Home Affairs to initiate action to conduct a CBI inquiry into the incident in order to render justice to the fourth estate.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : If the functioning of State Governments is to be debated here, why should they be in existence at all?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, the subject is 'freedom of press in Tamil Nadu'. I will go through the record to see if there is anything objectionable in what the hon. Member has said.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the indifferent treatment meted out to the Central Marine Fishery Research Institute located at Man-

dapam in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. Of late, its importance is sought to be curtailed. The institute that comes under the Union Agriculture Ministry must be protected and the Centre must immediately intervene in the matter. Pearl culture is there as oysters grow abundantly there. Likewise Krubar variety fishes are available there in large number. They earn considerable foreign exchange as they are exported in good quantity. Coral reef available in plenty there is used in cement industries. It also serves as a well recognised Marine Research Institute and such a status has been accorded by various Universities all over the country. It remains as a gateway to abundant sea wealth. Post graduate and Ph.D scholars go through this Research Institute. The Institute is located in a pollution free environment. It used to be a Headquarters Station in the southern region but now it is being shifted to other neighbouring States. Recently its headquarters has been moved to a neighbouring State. Of the 12 scientists, six have been moved out and the fifty percent of vacancies have not been filled for the past one year now. It is made to lose its importance step by step. There is an impending danger that the entire institute may be moved out of Mandapam and Tamil Nadu state to a neighbouring State. As far as southern districts of Tamil Nadu are concerned, public sector units and Government run institutions are scarce and they are nil or negligible for the past 52 years.

This prestigious Research Institute functioning there must be retained with its eminent status and it needs to be protected from being shifted. The Research Institute attracts scientists from many countries far across the globe. Hence the Central Marine Fishery Research Institute at Mandapam must continue.

I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry to come forward to run this Research Institute at Mandapam itself and shall the process of its being shifted to other neighbouring States.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE (SARANGARH) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious issue. For the last five days, I have been giving notice to raise this issue during Zero Hour. I am grateful to you for understanding the seriousness of the issue and for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Our national symbol Ashok Chakra, Satyamev Jayatey is being grossly misused. Certain rules have been formulated regarding the use of this symbol so that the dignity of this symbol could be maintained. It is indeed a matter of great insult for this country to paste a label depicting national symbol on the bottles of liquor by the Chief Minister of newly created State of Chhattisgarh, when he became utter failure in its auction. After opening

the cap of bottle it is thrown away in the dustbin. It is an insult to the national symbol.(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is totally wrong.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : I request the Government to dismiss such a Chief Minister of the State and legal action should be taken against the guilty persons after conducting an inquiry in this regard.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, he is not right. Therefore, it should be expunged from the proceedings of the House.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anything objectionable would be expunged.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 24 and 12 districts of Bihar are in the grip of drought and floods respectively. It is for the first time after 1964 and 1968, that such a magnitude of destruction have taken place there due to drought and floods. 5,000 people were died in 1968. It is a very heart-rending situation. Scanty rainfall has occurred there. Only 20% of farmers of 24 districts have sowed the seeds which reflects the gravity of the situation.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu ji, this issue has been discussed under rule 193.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue pertains to drought, therefore, it is a new matter. What is the meaning of lift irrigation? State Government has not done boring at any place in Bihar. Neither in village not in any district. Permanent supply of electricity is not being made even in Patna-the Capital of Bihar and the condition of villages can be very well imagined. Adequate supply of electricity is not being provided to any of the lanes or houses in Bihar villages. Small canals have been dried up and people have constructed their homes there. Due to this the supply of water to big canals has also affected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What the Government of India has to do in it?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I alongwith Shri Raghuvansh Babu and Shri Devendra had already requested Shri Pramod Mahajan to give Bihar the status of a Special State and to provide special assistance to it. I request the Union Government to announce special package for Bihar. A permanent solution to the problems of drought and floods in Bihar should be evolved. Central Government should make arrangements to provide fodder,

medicines, food grains etc. to Bihar. I would like that in these adverse circumstances, Bihar should be given the status of a special State. Central Government grants loans to Bihar Government but that loan is misutilized there. There should be a check on it and outstanding loans of farmers should be waived off.(Interruptions) Special package should be provided to those villages which are in the grip of drought and floods. It is my personal request.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have stated your views. Now please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The Minister of Power is present in the House. He should make arrangements to provide electricity to Bihar to save the farmers.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For how many times you will be asked to sit?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Please save Bihar in such circumstances.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, 90% of the people of Bihar do not have the current. It is a very serious matter.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir 5-7 years ago Central Government and State Governments had announced to waive off the outstanding loans of small farmers. Thereafter, bank official stopped taking instalments of the loans taken by these farmers. They were informed that their loans have been waived off. Now the loans of small and big farmers which was to the tune of Rs. One thousand and Rs. Five thousand respectively has since been increased to Rs. Ten thousand and Rs. Fifty thousand respectively. Now these farmers are being harassed and sent to jails. Earlier also several members have raised this issue and it was requested that if not the principle amount, atleast this interest should be waived off. Be it Land Development Bank, Cooperative Bank or any other bank, farmers can deposit their principal amount in these banks. Therefore, I request the Central Government to direct the State Governments, especially the State Government of Jharkhand to waive off the outstanding loans of farmers and recover only principal amount. This much is my submission.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (JABALPUR) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to state the Government that the large dams of national

level are becoming dangerous for the country. During the construction of a dummy gate on Barji Dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh water gushes out suddenly due to some problem causing the death of two assistants there. It has created panic among the people. This problem could become acute in future if action is not taken with the help of State Government. Further this area is earthquake prone and has been reported by the newspapers as well. There are so many dams in India like this one. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take care of these problems and ask the State Government to complete the works at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, MICA is one of the important industries of Jharkhand State. When MITCO was there as one of the subsidiaries of MMTC, the employees of MITCO used to get their salaries at par with the employees of MMTC. After becoming sick, MITCO was referred to BIFR and BIFR in 1994 recommended its merger with MMTC. So, MITCO got merged with MMTC, and MICA became one of the divisions of MMTC as MICA Division.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that even after its merger, the pay scales of the employees and the workers of MICA division of MMTC have not been revised since 1987. I visited Koderma and Gindri and saw the pitiable conditions of the workers there. They are getting only Rs. 300 per month. The workers are to work in a MICA industry.

Sir, their wages have not been revised whereas the wages of the employees of MMTC have already been revised twice. So, I urge upon the Government that the wages of the employees and the workers of the MICA division of MMTC should also be revised and be brought at par with the pay scales of the employees of MMTC.

12.54 hrs.

RE : WRONG FEEDING OF ANSWERS IN COMPUTER
FOR PRE-MEDICAL EXAMINATION IN MAHARASHTRA

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the rules of Medical Council of India, common Entrance Test is conducted for the admissions in medical colleges of Maharashtra. However, this year irregularities have taken place in this test. It has happened for the first time. This exam. used to be conducted by the Maharashtra University but after the new Government came into power, it was conducted by the Director of Health of the State. This examination is conducted in four phases.

68,000 students had appeared in this exam. The four

phases are - 11, 22, 33 and 44. However, wrong answer was feeded in Part 8M of 33 which affected 16 thousand students. Health Minister of Maharashtra had come here yesterday. He has demanded 363 seats for Maharashtra out of which 300 are demanded for MBBS and 63 for Dental Colleges. I would like to know from the Government whether the Government have agreed to allot these seats and the action taken against the persons involved in the irregularities happened while conducting this examination. What efforts have been made by the Government so that such mistake should not be repeated in future? University used to conduct medical entrance exams in the state earlier. I would like to know steps taken by the Government in this regard. Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present in the House, he should reply in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, I cannot compel him.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : But he wants to answer me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If he wants to answer, then it is all right.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can understand the problem, however two things have been separately pointed out that in Maharashtra the wrong feeding in the computer, led to some error in the question papers of the examination and on account of this that the student had to suffer. I am the Minister of Information Technology and if wrong information are fed anywhere in the computers then the State Government will have to look into the matter and take proper step for its redressal. Secondly it has been requested that Central Government may increase the medical seats to 363 for Maharashtra. I have just now received this information that the State Health Minister has met the Government. I will inform the hon'ble Minister after consulting the Health Minister as to what action has been taken by the Government in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue of the country rising above the interests of all the political parties. By the way it is not the concern of the political parties, rather it is concern of the nation and 'Kissa-i-Dard sunate hain ki Majboor Hain Ham.' Our world famous athlete,

Shri Milkha Singh who is also known as flying sikh held one press conference yesterday. Even before my birth, in 1958 he won four gold medals in Asian Games, one gold medal in Commonwealth Games and his record in olympic in 1960 has not yet been beaten as yet. In the press conference he tearfully stated that he won 77 race out of 80 in which he participated. Now he is sorry with the state of affairs that the Arjun award that is being given to him is being given on the recommendation of the PMO. The PMO is interfering in it. His achievements in the sports have been insulted as he is a celebrated athlete of the international acclaim. *...(Interruptions)* Rudy ji I am telling an important thing.

[English]

I am quoting from his own Press Conference.

[Translation]

It is the statement of Milkha Singh that he gave in the Press Conference and he said that there is interference of the PMO in giving him the award. He also said that the award is being recommended for those persons who have no significant achievement in their lives. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : He is telling absolutely wrong thing. I myself have heard his press conference. They implicate the name of PMO whenever they like. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Yesterday, it was reported that the President, Indian Olympic Association Shri Kalmadi Saheb was expelled from her chamber by the Minister of sports, Kumari Uma Bharati. She said,

[English]

'get out of this room'.

[Translation]

When the President of Indian Olympic Association Shri Suresh Kalmadi is treated like this, that what can be more unfortunate and shameful for the country. *...(Interruptions)* CNN and BBC have broadcasted the press conference of Shri Milkha Singh and I would like to submit that crores of people of this country have eyes on it. As a responsible citizen of this country I would like to submit that if awards are given on the recommendations then it will be an insult to the nation. There is no any politics in it. *...(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour' you have raised the matter and drawn the attention of the Government towards it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Milkha Singh had held press conference in Chandigarh. Its news has been published in leading newspapers all over the world. In that he has alleged. It is not my statement, it is his statement and not mine. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

I stick to it and I authenticate it

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Suresh Kalmadi ji had visited the chamber of the Minister of Sports but the Minister was not ready to listen to him and she told him to get out of her room. *...(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sardar Milkha Singh ji has directly alleged the Prime Minister's office that the Ministry of Sports is distributing sports prizes at the instance of PMO. It has been said by him. I am only quoting him in the House. I am not telling anything on my own. It has been published in the newspapers all over the world. *...(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are saffronising the sports. Will the sports prizes be distributed at the instance of RSS or other political parties? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already mentioned it. I have now given the floor to Shri Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (JALANDHAR) : I may also be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Brar had given a notice to speak.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH : In what capacity, is Shri Malhotra speaking? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Balbir Singh, you have not given notice to speak on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, has Malhotraji given the notice? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Has he given the notice? Why is he speaking? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seat?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sardar Milkha Singh ji is one of my best friend. He has participated in prominent international events like Olympic and Asian Games. He accompanied me to participate in these sports and when I was Chief-de-mission, then he had also gone with me and I have great respect for his sentiments. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Please listen to me now. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Balbir Singh, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The record that he had made in 1960 has not yet been broken by any Indian. It is really a matter of shame that such a sports man of international repute did not get Arjun Award for forty years. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Please, let me now complete. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR : It is wrong. At that time sports medals, Padam Shri etc. were not being given on recommendation. Padam Shri medal was the greatest sports award at that time that was given to him. It is not a matter of any political party. ...(Interruptions) this son is acclaimed golfer of Ludhiana. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Brar ji should tell as to who is responsible if Milkha Singh was not given this award from 1960 to 2001. ...(Interruptions) It would have been better if Brar ji would

have told the House about all this, but he has stated things in a extremely wrong way and it is not good to drag Prime Minister's Office in this matter. PMO is not concerned with sports medal....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak now,

...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : This is an allegation against the PMO, made not by me but by Sardar Milkha Singh, the flying sikh. ...(Interruptions) I am very sorry. It is not my allegation. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Right from the beginning, the president of Athletic Federation has been from Congress Party. So far why his name has not been recommended and why he has not been given any award. During last 40 years of Congress regime, he did not get any reward. Now when NDA Government has given him award, objection is being raised. He has not mentioned the name of PMO. Since you are mentioning the name of PMO time and again, it seems as if you are levelling allegation against PMO also. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : During last 40 years, Mr. Milkha Singh has not said anything but today he has said this because he feels that recommending an award for him is as good as making fun of him. ...(Interruptions) It is a matter of concern for famous and renowned players. You want to politicise this issue.

[English]

You are trying to score a point.

[Translation]

You should rise above party lines. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

You stand totally exposed on this.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : He wants to involve Prime Minister in this but I feel that it is a matter of shame. Instead of sympathizing with him and respecting his sentiments, you want to politicise this issue.

[English]

SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Brar has said.

[Translation]

Yesterday, discussion over saffronisation of Education took place. Besides, I had also raised the issue of N.C.E.R.T. which Joshiji has justified in this reply. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a matter of shame that today we are also saffronizing the issue of sports.

[English]

This is a shame. Infact, the whole House should associate itself with what Shri Brar has said.

[Translation]

This is a fact.

[English]

He has done proud to the country.

[Translation]

So far no one in India could break his record. But we are giving Arjuna Award to him after 40 years. Shri J.S. Brar himself has not said anything, this has been said by Shri Milkha Singh in Press Conference that PMO has influenced to give this award. PMO interferes in giving away Arjuna Award. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I request that you and the whole House should associate itself with what Shri Brar has said.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Sir, the petrol and diesel in India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you please listen. Just now hon'ble Minister has given a statement.

[English]

I wanted to convey this to you. But before I could do that, you have started speaking.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, you must congratulate the hon. Member that even before his mentioning it, the Minister has said that it is withdrawn. So, the credit should go to the hon. Member.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and in particular of the Ministry of Finance to a very serious situation which has been caused by the abrupt downgrading of India's investment ratings by two of the leading international credit rating agencies, namely, Standard & Poor and Moodys. Sir, this will affect the foreign direct investment and inflow from the multilateral institutions. Sir, I am afraid that the Ministry of Finance's approach has been very casual. This

kind of downgrading is normally done after some degree of discussion and consultation. So, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Finance was consulted. If so, what did they do at that stage to allay the apprehensions about the lack of seriousness about the economic reforms in India or about containing fiscal deficit? What did they do exactly because this could not happen suddenly?

Secondly, what exactly is the approach of the Ministry of Finance? One approach could be to deal with these matters which have been pointed out as the reason for the downgrading. The other approach could be to ignore them as we did in 1998. After Pokhran also, they downgraded India but we took the view that it did not matter very much as India's basic fundamentals were very sound. The State Bank's success in the Resurgent Bonds which were floated all over the world and which were subscribed many times displayed that. That was the resounding answer to that downgrading. So, the point is that, we can say that we do not bother about it. As a matter of fact, before 1991 when we went to the IMF, we never bothered about international credit rating.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want from the Government?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, I want a strong and energetic action by the Ministry of Finance either to refute them or to take appropriate action against them. It is because bad image is something which is very easy to get and difficult to lose and good image is something which is difficult to get but easy to lose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : The Minister of State is sitting here. This is an important issue and he should say something over this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, your letter regarding privilege matter has been referred for verification from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : Sir, yesterday also, you did not allow me to speak. Will you not allow me to speak even today?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your letter refers to alleged police atrocities on your family members. A copy of the letter has been sent for verification.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, while raiding my village, Goybari on 8 August, 2001 in the name of the nabbing the extremist elements the dresses of the youngest daughter of my elder brother and a guest girl were completely removed by some CRPF personnel at our residence. Afterwards, some CRPF and

Assam Police commando force personnel made an abortive attempt to gang rape them. Fortunately, they had a providential escape. ...*(Interruptions)* They were grievously beaten up by the police. My elder brother's eldest daughter was also seriously tortured. Some innocent Bodo people also have been killed by Army personnel in Gosaigaon sub-division. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

When you people talk about the incident of insulting Draupadi,

[English]

then it becomes very important. But when the question of respect of innocent tribal and Bodo girls and women comes up, then it does not have any sort of importance. Is it the kind of India? Is it a free country where we do not have security?

I strongly condemn this sort of a stepmotherly attitude shown by both the Government of Assam and the Government of India. Why could the Government of India not direct the CRPF and the Army personnel not to indulge in such crimes?

[Translation]

I would like to know as to how long they will oppress our girls and women, try to rape them and kill innocent people in the name of nabbing the extremists.

[English]

During the Bodo Land Movement, already more than 2000 innocent people were killed and butchered like dogs by the security personnel. This sort of heinous crime is still being committed and atrocities are being perpetrated by the CRPF and the Indian Army personnel.

[Translation]

who has got the power to control Army, CRPF and Police?

[English]

Until and unless Bodoland is created, we do not have any sort of security in India. So, creation of Bodoland has become a must. Without any sort of delay, it has to be created on the lines of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh.

The erring police officials and CRPF officials should be nabbed immediately on the directions of the Government of India and those who are responsible for the killing and torturing of innocent Bodo people and stripping off and molesting innocent girls and women should be hanged. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The clothes of the youngest daughter of my elder brother and a guest girl were completely removed and attempts were made to rape them. Fortunately they escaped.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Sir, this is a serious matter and the Minister should come out with a statement on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Adhir Chowdhary, I have already told him that a copy of his letter has been sent for verification. Only then the matter would be referred to the Privileges Committee. That is why, I have informed him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMURTHIARY: Sir, this is a very serious matter. The erring officials involved in such heinous crimes should be punished. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Does this issue loses its importance because this issue relates to Tribal people?

[English]

Sir, I urge upon the Government of India to intervene and direct the CRPF and the Army to stop heinous crimes being committed and atrocities being perpetrated on innocent people.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN) : Sir, six years ago, an agreement was signed between India and Russia for the supply of SUKOI-30 aircraft. The then Prime Minister and the Defence Minister had assured the nation of acquiring the most modern aircraft, SUKOI-30, for our Army. It is also reliably learnt that a substantial amount of Rs. 3000 crore has been paid by India to Russia for purchase of these aircraft. Now, six years have lapsed and the nation has been kept in the dark. The Centre owes an explanation to the entire nation in this very serious matter. Even Russia itself is not using these aircrafts as the production process is not complete.

Under these circumstances, how can India get SUKOI-30 aircraft? In our country, every now and then, defence air crashes take place and pilots are losing their lives. It is because the aircraft that they are using are almost out of date. It, therefore, becomes the moral duty of the Government of India to tell this august House about

the entire episode regarding the purchase of SUKOI-30 aircraft. The Government should buy scientific and reliable aircraft immediately in order to save the lives of our pilots and to strengthen our aircraft fleet.

I demand that this Government should come out with a White Paper regarding this entire deal without any further delay.

13.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

[English]

14.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eight
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair)

ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL* - contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will not take up Item No. 10.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an important Bill. The main purpose of this Bill is to conserve the scarce energy. This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. It scrutinised this Bill and gave a number of suggestions. I am glad that the Minister has accepted almost all the suggestions made by the Standing Committee on Energy. He may move amendments to incorporate all those suggestions in the Bill.

Now, we are facing energy crisis. The Bill is overdue. A number of countries have enacted similar type of legislation to conserve energy. Energy does not mean only electric power, energy includes fuel, fossil, petroleum, and non-conventional energy. The need of the hour is to conserve whatever energy we have. Almost 60 per cent of the energy is consumed by industrial and commercial sectors.

In the industrial sector, we have age-old industries and machinery and appliances, which are being used in these industries, are energy consuming. So, there is a need to replace them and there is a need for modernisation. Take the example of textile industry. Their machinery used in most of the textile mills, particularly in the National Textile Corporation, are very old. They consume more energy and there is a need to replace all these machinery by energy-efficient ones.

Sir, in the original Bill, the Railways were not included, but the Standing Committee made a suggestion to include the Railways because the Railways consume both electric power as well as diesel. The Railways have their own research and development organisation. Though they have developed a fuel-efficient diesel engine, the Railways use 60 per cent of diesel that is imported by us, because only 20 per cent of our tracks have been electrified so far. But the Railways have to conserve diesel.

Sir, when this Bill is passed, a Bureau of Energy Efficiency will be created to supervise energy conservation in the country. The problem in our country is that we spend very less on research and development. The norm is to spend five per cent of the turnover on research and development, but we spend much less. As a result of this, we are not energy efficient in many areas.

We are producing about 1,00,000 MW of electric power. But a large number of power plants, which have been started in the 1960s and 1970s, need renovation and modernisation. If we strictly go by the standards, we will see that majority of these power plants are not fuel-efficient. We need large investment for renovating and modernising these power plants. By renovating and modernising them, we will not only be able to make the power plants fuel-efficient, but we will also be able to increase our power generation. We need more power. There is a gap both in peaking and non-peaking period.

In order to bridge the gap, as new power plants are required as well as the old power plants are required to be renovated and modernised, investment is required. Investment is required for replacement of machinery.

Now, we will create a bureau to supervise all that and for those who will violate the guidelines, the provision of penalty also is there and the Standing Committee made suggestions to reduce the penalty. That has been accepted by the hon. Minister. But the problem is to make the people aware of energy conservation.

Our energy loss, what is called T&D (Transmission and Distribution) loss, is about 27 per cent. In some States, it is more than 40 per cent. If we can reduce this T&D loss, say, by 10 per cent, we will be able to save the energy to a great extent and for that also there is a need for renovation and modernisation of our transmission system. There is a mismatch in the investment for power generation and for transmission and distribution.

Sir, the ideal norm is if you spend one rupee for thermal generation, you are required to spend one rupee for transmission and distribution. That is not being done. As a result of that the transmission and distribution loss is 27 per cent in our country. So, the question is how we can save this, how we will be able to make people aware of conservation of energy.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, Dated 17.8.2001.

We have abundant reserves for fossil fuel, but we are not using it properly. We had coal based fertilizer plants. Coal was used for manufacture of urea. But all the coal based fertilizer plants, which we had, have now been closed down. Now, again there is a move to start coal based fertilizer plants to manufacture fertilizer and coal as feedstock.

Then education of the people is also required. I do not find anything in the Bill with regard to any provision relating to educating the people. There is only a provision of penalty and that there will be a bureau. There will be an inspector and we will have to see that the Inspector Raj, which was there in the earlier times, again should not come.

Then comes energy audit. If that is made mandatory, then we will be able to achieve our target to a great extent.

Now, there is a plan to have a cent per cent metering system. There also, defect is there. How much have we been able to achieve it?

Agriculture has not been included here. Agriculture also consumes a substantial percentage of energy. Agriculture should also be included here as the fertilizer factory has been included, and the Railways, which was not there in the original Bill, has been included. Then, textiles is there. We have to motivate the people to use fuel-efficient machinery. How can that problem be tackled? That also has to be taken into consideration.

There is a need to conserve energy and if we can conserve, we will be able to increase our thermal generation. We have enough potentiality of hydel that is not being harnessed. We have the potentiality of more than 70,000 MW. Our target is to produce additional one lakh MW by 2012. We will be able to achieve this target if proper steps are taken. Not only by creating a Bureau we will be able to achieve this target but we will also have to make the people aware to spend for Research and Development. There are old industries like textiles, jute, engineering, and mini steel plants. Previously, there was arc steel. Arc steel plant used to consume much power. So, we will have to develop the new technology, and for that, investment is required. We are not spending much for Research and Development. For Research and Development, sufficient funds should be made available. We will also have to switch over or to replace old machinery, which consume more power. How will they be able to replace it? That also should be thought of.

It is a well-intentioned Bill. I support this Bill but certain other measures have to be taken so that we can conserve our scarce energy and the energy, which is required, is properly utilised.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I thank you very much for permitting me to speak on this subject which is very vital at the present juncture.

Though the Bill is laudable to some extent as far as conservation of energy is concerned, the Department needs a holistic approach with regard to many other problems. Sir, in a country where there is a great deal of demand for energy, growing demand for energy keeps on increasing, ever increasing demand, we need a policy for conserving energy as well. That alone is not the only way to meet the shortfall.

In the Ninth Plan, the target of capacity addition was 40,000 MW. But has that been achieved? It was estimated that a capacity of 6500 MW should be added every year to meet the shortfall. So, generation is also important in the same way we conserve energy. So, the Ministry rather has a holistic approach with regard to generation of energy and loss accruing due to transmission and distribution. What policy do you have when, especially, the loss due to transmission and distribution in some States is almost 30 per cent? In some States, it is over and above 30 per cent. It is nearly 40 per cent. Unless there is a comprehensive approach to this effect, I do not think we will be able to match the growing demand. With regard to theft, what policy has the Government got? It is another area of concern in the Ministry of Power and that is also missing.

There are certain clauses which need a thorough scrutiny. As far as clause 15(d) is concerned, it designates any agency or a designated agency to co-ordinate, regulate and enforce the provisions of this Act. Why not this be delegated to the State Government? Power being in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, were those particular provisions really given to the State Governments and their opinions sought with regard to this Bill? I doubt there is any such consultation made except the Joint Parliamentary Committee which went into the details. All the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted. Therefore, our demand is with regard to the enforcement. The subject may be left to the State Government.

With regard to penalty, the provision is that the authority can levy from one rupee to Rs. 1 lakh. People can get away by paying Rs. 1 lakh as penalty. So, regarding recovery policy, the Minister may have a re-look into it. As far as revenue recovery is concerned, we all know how it is done. If there is a misuse of crores of rupees and if you will levy a penalty of Rs. 1 lakh, people can easily get away with that. Unless you have a separate forum for

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

revenue recovery, I do not think it is possible. It is going to delay and protract for ever.

There is another area, that is, with regard to generation of energy where the Ministry can concentrate more. I would like to take up two issues of the State of Tamil Nadu, which would go to show how we are callous in generating power. One very important issue is that the Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to set up an LNG based power project at Ennore near Chennai.

The total project cost is estimated to be Rs. 6,500 crore. In this project basically, LNG is imported. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : I think, I have taken only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today, we have got Private Members' Business also.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : But that starts only at three o'clock. If you want me to sit down, I will sit down though I have just made only one point.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : This point does not pertain to the Energy Conservation Bill. If the hon. Member wants, he can come to me and discuss this.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : It is indirectly concerned with this Bill for the simple fact that this is not going to be the ultimate step. You will have to concentrate on generation also.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That way, we need a massive discussion on the entire energy policy. Here, we are discussing only conservation of energy.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Let me complete this point on this very important aspect.

The hon. Prime Minister, during his visit to the United States of America had entered into an agreement. The Government of India has not signed the termination guarantee clause and given the liquidity guarantee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Are you referring to the Bill?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : It concerns the Bill.

You want to conserve energy but you do not want to generate energy. This is my point. In the LNG-based

project, the cost per unit is only Rs. 2 and this has been delayed by the Government for almost six months. We were supposed to implement this agreement in March, 2001 whereas we have been entering into agreements with Enron where the cost per unit is Rs. 6. Why is this double standard practised? Why is this step-motherly attitude adopted?

Unless you have a holistic approach, this problem cannot be solved by mere passing of this Energy Conservation Bill alone. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into this aspect and see that it is also cleared.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, the fact that there is a yawning gap between the quantum of energy available and the energy required in the country cannot be challenged. The quantity of energy available certainly is the barometer of the nation's progress.

The other day, there was a Question here, which brought to our notice the fact that the target fixed by the Government for generation of energy was reduced from 48,000 MW to 28,000 MW and further reduced to 20,000 MW. Perhaps, that is also not the target that we could meet. Given this situation, it is certainly the need of the hour to devise means to conserve energy. I feel that this Bill makes an effort in that direction. It is certainly necessary that we make maximum use of energy that is available to us.

Despite all our efforts in the past, the plant load factor continues to be low. As it was pointed out earlier, the transmission and distribution losses continue to rise. There is wastage of energy on every score. There is a need to devise means to cut on wastage. We have mostly seen that a good section of industry in this country has machinery that is obsolete and worn out and when used consumes much more energy than a good machine would if put in its place. For these reasons, we do hope that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency stipulated by the hon. Minister in this Act will serve a useful purpose. Already, steps have been taken to set up corporations for generation, transmission and distribution of energy. All these efforts put together should help us in meeting the insurmountable difficulties we have on the energy front.

I find, from the Bill, that there are provisions to designate a person as a designated consumer in view of the intensity or the quantity of electricity to be used by him and certain responsibilities and obligations are cast on him. It is all right to do that but I think there are not enough guidelines. I do wish that such guidelines are provided through the rules and regulations later to specify people whom you can designate as a particular class of consumers and against whom you can impose certain conditions.

Sir, I welcome the step to provide for energy audit. But once you have elaborate provisions for that purpose, you still are sticking to your old colonial legacy, you still want some inspectors to visit those premises and again trouble those people repeatedly. If you issue a direction to the concerned person for the energy audit and you have heavy penalty for violation of those provisions, then why do you again have that provision of inspection? It is our experience in any given field of the nation's activity that wherever you provide for an inspector to have some say in the matter, it is only lawlessness that rules the day. I wish that when we move forward with new enactments in this liberalised economy, we must make a conscious effort to ensure that this 'Inspector Raj' which has often been lamented by all the people is done away with.

When I saw this Bill, what really impelled me to speak on this was that while the Government does not want to make a concerted effort to conserve energy, we do not really find the Government taking steps to save energy even in the smallest places which, put together, would really work out to a very huge amount. For instance, despite the fact that you have exhortations by the Government to the people to save electricity, one policy of the Government which I pointedly want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to, is the provision relating to the levy of minimum charges. This is the point which I want to make.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give your suggestion, the Minister will take action accordingly.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I will not take more time. I am just concluding.

You have a provision for levy of minimum charges irrespective of the fact whether the consumer consumes electricity or not. I can understand when you had a provision like this in the case of the industry. But then you are extending it to the commercial establishments. You have extended it to the domestic consumers. All right, even if you have extended it to them. You incur certain expenditure on building up the infrastructure and for that you want to levy some minimum charges. It is okay. But what are you really doing? Every time we find the Government enhancing that amount, I think, perhaps they just want to earn all the revenue from the levy of minimum charges alone.

I know of cases where people, when they go out of a room they switch off the lights and when they come in they switch on the lights. They want to save every unit of

electricity. But if, at the end of two months, you slap a heavy bill on them, what for are the savings of energy by them? Are we not encouraging waste of energy that way? I would like the hon. Minister to call a meeting of the representatives of people despite the fact that you are setting in place the regulatory authorities. The State Governments are there. I come from a Union Territory where there is no semblance of democracy and whenever anything comes to their mind - to cover up their inefficiency and their failure - they would only increase the dose of these minimum charges and this is what the people are made to pay.

I would like the hon. Minister to take initiative in that aspect because if you really wish to save energy, that is one point from where you can begin with. You should rather give incentives to the people for saving energy and not penalise them for saving energy as it has been done in the case of frequent enhancements in the consumption charges of energy.

With these words I certainly wish to support this Bill as a good effort. But, at the same time, you kindly make some provisions on the lines that I have suggested.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon'ble Minister will reply.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA) : Sir, since my name is there in the list of speakers, I therefore request that I may be given time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But now the time is over.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : For this two hour have been allotted and we have consumed only 1½ hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal of your party has already spoken on this issue.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : He has spoken in place of Shri Rajo Singh.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I rise to speak on this Bill because I have a real interest in this matter which, I think, is being looked at very superficially. The energy crisis in the country calls for much more than bureaucratic regulatory bodies. The question of transmission losses, the question of old equipment, the question of meters being tampered with, the question of illegal connections and various other problems - they tell us - lead to almost 30 per cent of the energy being wasted.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he believes that just by these kind of superficial bodies being created - here again, the issue was raised yesterday not technocrats but bureaucrats - this problem can be sorted out.

Sir, when we talk about energy, we are not talking only about electricity. There are experiments all round the world to find alternate sources of energy. I want to ask the hon. Minister, with the kind of facilities that are available today, whether any investment or any effort is being made to take on things like wind energy and solar energy. Solar energy in most parts of the world today is becoming a replacement for electricity. There is no effort at finding alternate sources of energy in a way it should be done by investment.

The second thing I am asking him is on the question of utilising biogas. In fact, whole of Patna city roads used to be lit with the city waste at one time. I do not know whether anything works or not now - Shri Sinha should know - but the entire city waste used to light the streets of Patna city at one time with the utilisation of city waste. No effort is made in other directions.

I do want to point out that there has to be much more attention paid to the wastages in their public utilities, their Government offices. On roads, we often see lights on during day time. We see all sorts of wastage which goes on from the Government itself. They want to tax the citizen, the ordinary consumer, but what are they doing to conserve energy within their own establishment? At several places, Electricity Boards are giving free electricity to their employees just as one of their Ministers is giving free telephones to the entire telecom system employees. We have got many Boards which are giving totally free electricity unlimited to their employees. What are they doing to control such malpractices within the system itself? Then, I would say, impose a ban on wasteful utilisation of electricity, like on weddings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I have not spoken even for five minutes. Why are you saying conclude? I am always sitting in the Chair in the afternoon and I never get a chance to speak.

I want to know what he is doing to stop wasteful utilisation of electricity at weddings, at festivals, and the useless wastage which goes on all over the country. I am asking the Minister whether he would consider introducing a slab system so that those who consume less should be charged at a lower rate and for those who consume more, let the rate go up so that there is an incentive to consume less. In the slab system, if they want to consume beyond

that point, they will pay higher rates. We have it in many States and I think, that should be taken up as an alternative.

Sir, public awareness campaign to make people realise, particularly the school children, that they have to support their initiative is very important. When he forms these committees, he may please include women in them. If he can have the women help and support them, he will be able to do something. He has all sorts of people on these regulatory boards, with no representation for sections who can really help him in this cause. Then, I would say do not have bureaucratic bodies; think of the technocrats and think of those who can make some kind of contribution.

As we said yesterday, decongest Delhi of more and more offices and shift regulatory authorities outside Delhi. Many years ago, the Cabinet had taken a decision that all Governments Offices should be decentralised. Please consider moving this regulatory body to the South, preferably to Bangalore or somewhere else like that.

Sir, I think that the most important point is the reforms in their Electricity Boards. I know that it will create a real problem, but with all that he is doing, until distribution of electricity is privatised and given in the hands of those who will bring in more discipline, he will not be able to control the consumption of electricity.

I know, Sir, that you are very much in haste. But the point is, we should also have an opportunity to make a contribution. The Ministers are always talking. We do not get a chance to put forward some of the important issues.

I would say that this Bill is not going to solve the problem. It is going to add to the overheads of the Government. Government is creating another body. The Government says that it is making some staff reduction but it is actually adding it somewhere else. The Government's overheads are going to go up and the consumption is not going to come down by this kind of a measure. That is all I wanted to say.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : Sir, I will very quickly go over the points raised by the hon. Members. First of all, I would thank all the hon. Members for supporting this Bill.

Every unit of energy saved is equal to three units of energy generated. That is why there is need for energy conservation. That is no way takes us away from our priority of generating power. But, if we keep on generating power without working for its conservation, all our efforts would result in wastage of our scarce resources. Every new megawatt of capacity addition of power requires a minimum expenditure of Rs. 4 crore. If we save one

megawatt of power, we have saved Rs. 4 crore. The potential for saving energy in the country is as high as 25 per cent. If we try and save about 25,000 megawatt, we would be saving as high an amount as one lakh crore rupees. That amount of one lakh crore rupees could be invested in several projects.

Many Members have said that the nature of the set-up should be less bureaucratic; and that *inspector raj* should be avoided. I am very happy to announce that I have already decided that we will be resorting to a self-regulatory mechanism. We are not going to resort to organisations which will actually be visiting the premises to read the meters. We are going to resort to self-regulatory mechanisms which will obviate the need and rigours of inspectors going around tapping on the doors of the citizens and the industry.

It was mentioned by some hon. Members that the Director-General should not be an IAS officer. We have already accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee in Clause 9(1) wherein we have already said that the Director-General will not necessarily be an IAS officer. He would be conforming to certain qualifications. A person who actually has those qualifications would be selected. Therefore, we have already accepted this very important recommendation made by the Standing Committee. In fact I am very happy to say that the Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Standing Committee without exception. We have already included energy generating stations also. It is not that we are not targeting them, they have also been targeted. They will have to reduce their energy insensitivity. Railways have also been included.

Since it is already there in the Schedule, - again on the recommendation of the Standing Committee - it was suggested that more fiscal concessions should be given. On that point, since the hon. Finance Minister has deliberately come here to listen to this, I am sure he will definitely take care of it by providing certain concessions for energy conservation devices.

It was pointed out that the headquarters need not necessarily be located in New Delhi. I agree with this. I can assure the House that the headquarters will definitely not be located in Delhi. Because Shri Mohale wanted to speak but was not allowed to do so, perhaps the headquarters could be located somewhere in Maharashtra the State where he comes from.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : That is because you come from Maharashtra.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Since he could not speak, we must make allowance for him.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : There are many other Members who have not been able to speak. Why not in their States?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Shri Mohale is the only Member from Janata Dal (Secular). Because we really respect secularism, Janata Dal (Secular)'s wishes should be taken into consideration.

Different dates have been prescribed for implementation of different provisions of the Bill. One of the Members asked as to why it was so. There is a specific reason for it. Different industries at different points of time will be brought into the control of various provisions of the law. Therefore, it is prescribed like this. In any case, the different provisions will be notified from time to time. It is also stated that we must include scientists and technocrats in this Bureau. The composition of the Bureau would be - six members would be from technical Department and research organisations; five members would be technical personnel; and four members would come from industry, appliances manufacturers, and consumers. All these people are going to be included.

In fact, these people, the technocrats, the scientists and the professionals, outnumber the official members who are going to be nominated to this Committee.

Sir, I respect Shrimati Margaret Alva. She knows the problems of the Government. She had said that we know how all the Government offices always keep the light burning. She had remained the incharge of the DoPT. She knows better than anybody else about it. So, we will take care of this point.

In addition, I can also assure her that we will include more women in this Committee than men.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : Sir, the year 2001 is the Year of Empowerment of Women. May I request the hon. Minister to have one-third persons as ladies in that Committee?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : In fact, I was thinking of including more than that. But she wishes to reduce the number. All right. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, he can make it 50:50. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is already stated that we should encourage Research and Development. I am very happy to announce that about six months back, for the first time, we appointed a Research and Development Committee for the power sector. This Committee

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

includes very eminent scientists who are doing commendable work in the power sector's Research and Development.

Many of the processes that we have developed so far are only covering other parts. But the basic research in the power sector has not been done as much as it should have been. So, Research and Development will be taken care of.

We will also cover the area of conservation which Shri Basu Deb Acharia really wanted us to do.

Sir, we are already taking a number of covers for the Research and Modernisation of existing power plants. The potential there is as high as 15,000 MW. In fact, in this regard, a programme has been launched by the Government known as the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) under which an earmarked amount will be spent for the purpose of Research and Modernisation of the existing power plants. We will take care of this.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Have you considered captive power plants for industries? Let the industries invest in the captive power plants.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Madam, may I tell you that all these issues have already been covered. But they are not the part of this Bill. This Bill is meant for something else. In fact, we cannot include all the issues pertaining to power sector in this Bill. There is a separate Bill which we are going to introduce in Parliament which will cover all these areas including what you wanted to know, viz., why we are not covering renewable energy. This Bill is not really meant for that. Renewable energy, captive power generation, hydro power generation, etc. are all issues relating to generation of power. The Bill is targeting on conservation of energy on the demand side. Therefore, this issue cannot be dealt with by this legislation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : You may consider it.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Obviously, we will consider them. But they cannot be considered here as they do not come under the ambit of this Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : But we hope that when you refer to the matters relating to energy, you will consider them.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : He has already said it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : He should consider all these issues. Industries should be allowed to invest in the captive power plants. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you please continue.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, I therefore, think that this Bill merits unanimous adoption by this House and I can say that this Bill has been supported by all the Members as all the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been adopted. Of course, I look forward to its being approved unanimously by this House.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has forgotten to mention an important point regarding agriculture. During the intervention yesterday, the Minister had pointed out that agriculture sector is also included in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi, you have already spoken.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, it is a very important point. There are some States which give free electricity to farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

If this is implemented in the agricultural sector, agrarian's entire economy will be put to troubles. They cannot change the pump-sets overnight. What is the time limit? What is the policy being adopted?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, in fact, we are not prescribing the minimum energy efficiency standards for each and every type of industry. The pump-sets are manufactured for agriculture. They are used in only agriculture. But the pumps are manufactured by the manufacturing sector. When they are manufactured, we are trying to prescribe the new energy conservation standards for them. Those standards once prescribed will be used by them. Agriculture is going to benefit here. The powers used in agriculture with the help of agricultural pumps is targeted at the manufacturing level. Therefore, there is no need to prescribe it.

Sir, one hon. Member wanted to know about the tariff. All these tariff issues are now settled by the Regulatory Commission.

So, the Regulatory Commissions will have to really address these issues. Therefore, we need the support of the House to pass this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT) : Sir, I want to have a small clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. From 3 o'clock, we have to start the Private Members, Business.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that there are certain States in the country, which are giving free power. It used to be a popular slogan during election campaigning. So, I want to know what is the policy of the Central Government. Does he encourage this or does he really discourage this? It is a very simple question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : This, of course, is not a part of this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* I will definitely answer this question at an appropriate time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, 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 - Definitions

Amendments made :

Page 2, after line 3, insert -

'(aa) "Appellate Tribunal" means the Appellate Tribunal for Energy Conservation established under section 30;

(ab) "building" means any structure or erection or part of a structure or erection, after the rules relating to energy conservation building codes have been notified under clause (a) of section 15 or clause (1) of sub-section (2) of section 41, which is having a connected load of 500 kW or contract demand of 600 kVA and above and is intended to be used for commercial purposes;'. (3)

Page 2, line 11, for "hydro-electricity", substitute -

"nuclear substances or materials, hydro-electricity". (4)

Page 2, for lines 14-15, substitute -

'(g) "energy audit" means the verification, monitoring and analysis of use of energy including submission of technical report containing recommendations for improving energy efficiency with cost benefit analysis and an action plan to reduce energy consumption;'. (5)

Page 2, --

Omit lines 28 to 34 (6)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 - Management of Bureau

Amendments made :

Page 3, line 17, for "ten", substitute "twenty". (7)

Page 3, line 18, for "fourteen", substitute "twenty-six". (8)

Page 3, for lines 20 to 22, substitute -

"(a) the Minister in charge of the Ministry or department of the Central Government dealing the Power *ex officio Chairperson;*

(aa) the Secretary to the Government of India, in charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing with the Power (9) *ex officio member;*

10.

Page 3, for lines 32 to 43, substitute -

(e) The Secretary to the Government of India, in charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing with the Atomic Energy

(f) the Secretary to the Government of India, in charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing with the Consumer Affairs *ex officio member;*

54 of 1948 (g) Chairman of the Central Electricity Authority established under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 *ex-officio member;*

Karnataka Act 17 of 1960 (h) Director-General of the Central Power Research Institute registered under the Karnataka Societies Act, 1960 *ex-officio member;*

XXI of 1860 (i) Executive Director of the Petroleum Conservation Research Association, a society registered under the Societies Act, 1860 *ex-officio member;*

I of 1956 (j) Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, a company incorporate under the Companies Act, 1956 *ex-officio member;*

63 of (k) Director-General of the Bureau of *ex-officio*
1986 Indian Standards established under the *member;*
Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986

(l) Director-General of the National Test House, Department of Supply, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata

1 of 1956 (m) Managing Director of the Indian *member;*
Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956

(n) One member each from the Five *member;*
power regions "representing the States of the region to be appointed by the Central Government

(o) Such number of persons, not exceeding four as may be prescribed, to be appointed by the Central Government as members from amongst persons who are in the opinion of the Central Government capable of representing industry, equipment and appliance manufacturers, architects and consumers *member;*

(p) such number of persons, not exceeding two as may be nominated by the Governing Council as members

(q) Director-General of Bureau (10) *ex-officio member-secretary*

Page 3, line 46, for "clause (f)", substitute "clause (n), (o) and (p)". (11)

Page 3, line 48, for "clause (f)", substitute "clause (n), (o) and (p)". (12)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 7 - Removal of member from office

Amendment made :

Page 4, line 19, for "clause (f)", substitute "clauses (n), (o) and (p)". (13)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 - Constitution of Advisory Committees and other Committees

Amendment made :

"Page 4, lines 29 and 30, for "the Bureau may, from time to time and as and when it is considered necessary," substitute -

"the Bureau shall, within six months from the date of commencement of this Act,". (14)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 - Director General of Bureau

Amendments made :

Page 4, for lines 38 to 45, substitute -

"9. (1) The Government shall, by notification, appoint a Director-General from amongst persons of ability and standing, having adequate knowledge and experience in dealing with the matters relating to energy production, supply and energy management, standardisation and efficient use of energy and its conservation.

(2) The Central Government shall, by notification, appoint any person not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India as Secretary of the Bureau." (15)

Page 4, for lines 48 and 49, substitute -

"(4) The salary and allowances payable to the Director-General and other terms and conditions of his service and other terms and conditions of service of the Secretary of the Bureau shall be such as may be prescribed." (16)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 12 were added to the Bill.

15.00 hrs.

Clause 13 - Powers and functions of Bureau

Amendments made :

Page 6, lines 10 and 11 --

omit "having regard to intensity or quantity of energy used by it". (17)

Page 6, line 36, for "appointed by designated consumers",

substitute "designated or appointed by designated consumers"; (18)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 14 - Power of Central Government to Enforce efficient use of Energy And its conservation

Amendments made :

Page 7, line 1, for "manufacture or sale or purchase", substitute -

"manufacture or sale or purchase or import". (19)

Page 7, after line 3, insert -

"Provided that no notification prohibiting manufacture or sale or purchase or import of equipment or appliance shall be issued within two years from the date of notification issued under clause (a) of this section." (20)

Page 7, for lines 6 and 7, substitute -

"(e) specify, having regard to the intensity or quantity of energy consumed and the amount of investment required for switching over to energy efficient equipments and capacity of industry to invest in it and availability of the energy efficient machinery and equipment required by the industry, any user or class of users of energy as a designated consumer for the purposes of this Act. (21)

Page 7, line 26, for "to appoint energy manager", substitute "to designate or appoint energy manager". (22)

Page 7, line 30, for "to be appointed", substitute "to be designated or appointed". (23)

Page 7, for lines 34 to 36, substitute -

"(o) direct any designated consumer, who does not fulfil the energy consumption norms and standards prescribed under clause (g), to prepare a scheme for efficient use of energy and its conservation and implement such scheme keeping in view of the economic viability of the investment in such form and manner as may be prescribed". (24)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 15 and 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 17 - Power of Inspection

Amendment made :

Page 8, for line 47, substitute—

"17. (1) The designated agency may appoint, after the expiry of five years from the date of commencement of this Act, as many inspecting officers as may be". (25)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 to 25 were added to the Bill.

Clause 26 - Penalty**Amendments made :**

Page 10, line 47, for "one lakh rupees", substitute "ten thousand rupees". (26)

Page 10, line 48, for "ten thousand rupees", substitute "one thousand rupees". (27)

Page 10, after line 49, insert—

"Provided that no person shall be liable to pay penalty within five years from the date of commencement of this Act." (28)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 26, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 27 and 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29 - Civil Court not to have jurisdiction**Amendment made :**

Page 11, line 28, for "appointed under this Act", substitute -

"appointed under this Act or the Appellate Tribunal". (29)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 30 - Establishment of Appellate Tribunal**Amendment made :**

Page 11, lines 32 to 40, for clause 30, substitute -

**"CHAPTER VIII A APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION**

**Establishment of
Appellate Tribunal:**

30. The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Appellate Tribunal to be known as the Appellate Tribunal for Energy Conservation to hear appeals against the orders of the adjudicating officer or the Central Government or the State Government or any other authority under this Act.

30

**Appeal to Appellate
Tribunal**

30A. (1) Any person aggrieved, by an order made by an adjudicating officer or the Central Government or the State Government or any other authority under this Act, may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal for Energy Conservation :

30 A

Provided that any person appealing against the order of the adjudicating officer levying any penalty, shall while filing the appeal, deposit the amount of such penalty :

Provided further that where in any particular case, the Appellate Tribunal is of the opinion that the deposit of such penalty would cause undue hardship to such person, the Appellate Tribunal may dispense with such deposit subject to such conditions as it may deem fit to impose so as to safeguard the realisation of penalty.

(2) Every appeal under sub-section (1) shall be filed within a period of forty-five days from the date on which a copy of the order made by the adjudicating officer is received by the aggrieved person and it shall be in such form, verified in such manner and be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed :

Provided that the Appellate Tribunal may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of forty-five days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for non filing it within that period.

(3) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (1), the Appellate Tribunal may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders thereon as it thinks fit, confirming, modifying or setting aside the order appealed against.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall send a copy of every order made by it to the parties to the appeal and to the concerned adjudicating officer.

(5) The appeal filed before the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose of the appeal finally within one hundred and eighty days from the date of receipt of the appeal:

Provided that where any appeal could not be disposed of within the said period of one hundred and eighty days, the Appellate Tribunal shall record its reasons in writing for not disposing of the appeal within the said period.

(6) The Appellate Tribunal may, for the purpose of examining the legality, propriety or correctness of any order made by the adjudicating officer or the Central Government or the State Government or any other authority under this Act, as the case may be, in relating to any proceeding, on its own motion or otherwise, call for the records of such proceedings and make such order in the case as it thinks fit.

Composition of
Appellate Tribunal

30B. (1) The Appellate Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson and such number of Members not exceeding four, as the Central Government may deem fit.

30B.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act :—

(a) the jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal may be exercised by Benches thereof;

(b) a Bench may be constituted by the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal with two or more Members of the Appellate Tribunal as the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may deem fit :

Provided that every Bench constituted under this clause shall include at least one Judicial Member and one Technical Member;

(c) the Benches of the Appellate Tribunal shall ordinarily sit at New Delhi and such other places as the Central Government may, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, notify;

(d) the Central Government shall notify the areas in relation to which each Bench of the Appellate Tribunal may exercise jurisdiction.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may transfer a Member of the Appellate Tribunal from one Bench to another Bench.

Explanation - For the purposes of this Chapter, —

(i) "Judicial Member" means a Member of the Appellate Tribunal appointed as such under item (i) or item (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 30C, and includes the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal;

(ii) "Technical Member" means a Member of the Appellate Tribunal appointed as such under item (iii) or item (iv) or item (v) or item (vi) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 30C.

Qualifications for
Appointment of
Chairpersons and
Member of Appellate
Tribunal,

30C. (1) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal unless he —

30C.

(a) in the case of Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, is or has been, a judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court; and

(b) in the case of a Member of the Appellate Tribunal, —

(i) is or has been, or is qualified to be, judge of a High Court; or

(ii) is or has been a Member of the Indian Legal Service and has held a post in Grade I in that service for atleast three years; or

(iii) is or has been a Secretary for atleast one year in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing with the Power, or Coal, or Petroleum, or Atomic Energy; or

(iv) is or has been Chairman of the Central Electricity Authority for at least one year; or

(v) is or has been Director-General of Bureau of Director-General of the Central Power Research Institute or Bureau of Indian Standards for at least, three years or has held any equivalent post for at least, three years; or

(vi) is or has been a qualified technical person of ability and standing, having adequate knowledge and - experience in dealing with the matters relating to energy, production and supply, energy management, standardisation and efficient use of energy and its conservation, and has shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to engineering, finance, commerce, economics, law or management.

30D. The Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal and every Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall hold office as such for a term of Five years from the date on which he enters upon his office :

30D.

Provided that no Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall hold office as such he has attained,-

(a) in the case of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, the age of seventy years;

(b) in the case of any Member of the Appellate Tribunal, the age of sixty-five years.

30E. The salary and allowances payable to and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed :

30E

Provided that neither the salary and allowances nor the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.

30F. If, for reason other than temporary absence, any vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal, the Central Government shall appoint another person in accordance with the provisions of this Act to fill the vacancy and the proceedings may be continued before the Appellate Tribunal from the stage at which the vacancy is filled.

30F

30G.(1) The Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government, resign his office :

Provided that the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall, unless he is permitted by the Central Government to relinquish his office sooner, continue to hold office until the expiry of three months from the date of receipt of such notice or until a person duly appointed as his successor enters upon his office or until the expiry of term of office, whichever is the earliest.

30G

(2) The Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall not be removed from his office except by an order by the Central Government on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry made by such person as the President may appoint for this purpose in which the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal concerned has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of such charges.

30H.(1) In the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the senior-most Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall act as the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal until the date on which a new Chairperson, appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act to fill such vacancy, enters upon his office.

30H

(2) When the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence, illness or any other

cause, the senior-most Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall discharge the functions of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal until the date on which the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal resumes his duties.

30-I. (1) The Central Government shall provide the Appellate Tribunal with such officers and employees as it may deem fit.

30 I.

(2) The officer and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.

(3) The salaries and allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.

30J. (1) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject, to the other provisions of this Act, the Appellate Tribunal shall have powers to regulate its own procedure.

30J.

5 of 1908

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its function under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, while trying a suit in respect of the following matter, namely :-

5 of 1908

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of documents;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) subject to the provisions of section 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, requisitioning any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any office;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
- (f) reviewing its decisions;
- (g) dismissing a representation of default or deciding it *ex parte*;
- (h) setting aside any order of dismissal or any representation for default or any order passed by it *ex parte*;
- (i) any other matter which may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(3) An order made by the Appellate Tribunal under this Act shall be executable by the Appellate Tribunal as a decree of civil court and, for this purpose, the Appellate Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3), the Appellate Tribunal may transmit any order made by it to be a civil court having local jurisdiction and such civil court shall execute the order as if it were a decree made by that court.

(5) All proceedings before the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code and the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purpose of sections 345 and 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

30K. Where Benches are constituted, the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may, from time to time, by notification, make provisions as to the distribution of the business of the Appellate Tribunal amongst the Benches and also provide for the matters which may be dealt with by each Bench.

30 K

30L. On the application of any of the parties and after notice to the parties, and after hearing such of them as he may desire to be heard, or on his own motion without such notice, the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may transfer any case pending before one Bench, for disposal, to any other Bench.

30 L

30M. If the Members of the Appellate Tribunal of a Bench consisting of two Members differ in opinion on any point, they shall state the point or points on which they differ, and make a reference to the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal who shall either hear the point or points himself or refer the case for hearing on such point or points by one or more of the other Members of the Appellate Tribunal and such point or points shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority of the Members of the Appellate Tribunal who have heard the case, including those who first heard it.

30 M

Right of appellant to take assistance of legal practitioner or accredited auditor and of Government to appoint presenting officers.

30N. (1) A person preferring an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal under this Act may either appear in person or take the assistance of a legal practitioner or an accredited energy auditor of his choice to present his case before the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.

30 N

(2) The Central Government or the State Government may authorise one or more legal practitioners or any of its officers to act as presenting officers and every person so authorised may present the case with respect to any appeal before the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.

Appeal to
Supreme Court

30-O. Any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the Appellate Tribunal, may, file an appeal to the Supreme Court within sixty days, from the date of communication of the decision or order of the Appellate Tribunal, to him, on any one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of the code of Civil Procedure, 1908:

30 O.

5 of 1908

Provided that the Supreme Court may, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal within the said period, allow it to be filed within a further period of not exceeding sixty days."

(30)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clause 32 - Composition of Appellate Tribunal

Amendment made :

"Page 12, line 17, for "clause (f)", substitute clauses (n), (o) and (p)" (31)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 32, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 33 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 38 - Member to act as Chairperson in certain circumstances

Amendment made :

Page 13, after line 26, insert -

"Provided that the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, shall not grant exemption to any designated consumer or class of designated consumers for a period exceeding five years :

Provided further that the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, shall consult the Bureau of Energy Efficiency before granting such exemption." (32)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 39 - Staff of Appellate Tribunal

Amendment made :

Page 13, for line 27, substitute—

"39. The Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal or the Members of the Appellate Tribunal or officers or employees of the Appellate Tribunal or the members of the State commission or the members, Director-General;" (33)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 40 was added to the Bill.

Clause 41 - Distribution of Business amongst benches

Amendments made

Page 13, line 38, for "clause (f)", substitute "clause (n), (o) and (p)". (34)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

Page 13, for lines 41 and 42, substitute --

"(c) the salary and allowances payable to the Director-General and other terms and conditions of his service and other terms and conditions of service of the Secretary of the Bureau under sub-section (4) of section 9;" (35)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

Page 14, after line 26, insert -

"(qa) the form of and fee for filing such appeal under sub-section (2) of section 30A;

(qb) the salary and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal and Members of the Appellate Tribunal under section 30E;

(qc) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and other employees of

the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (3) of section 30-I;

(qd) the additional matters in respect of which the Appellate Tribunal may exercise the powers of a civil court under clause (i) of sub-section (2) of section 30J;". (36)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 41, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 41, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 41 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 42 to 45 were added to the Bill.

Suspension of Rule 80

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 37 to the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 37 to the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 45 A - Provisions of the Act not to apply in certain cases

Amendment made :

Page 15, after line 39, insert —

45 A. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to the Ministry or Department of the Central Government dealing with Defence, Atomic Energy or such other similar Ministries or Departments, or undertakings or Boards or institutions under the control of such Ministries or Departments as may be notified by the Central Government." (37)

"Provisions of the Act not to apply in certain cases."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That new clause 45A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 45A, was added to the Bill.

Clause 46 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule

Amendment made :

"Page 16, for lines 3 to 13, substitute -

1. Aluminium;
2. Fertilizers;
3. Iron and Steel;
4. Cement;
5. Pulp and paper;
6. Chlor Alkali;
7. Sugar;
8. Textile;
9. Chemicals;
10. Railways;
11. Port Trust;
12. Transport Sector (Industries and services);
13. Petrochemical, Gas Crackers, Naphtha Crackers and Petroleum Refineries;
14. Thermal power stations, hydel power stations, electricity transmission companies and distribution companies;
15. Commercial buildings or establishments." (38)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 - Short title, extent and commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 5, for "2000", substitute "2001". (2)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-first Year" substitute "Fifty-second Year". (1)

(Shri Suresh Prabhu)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.14 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Collision of Muzaffarpur Sealdah Passenger with Wagons at Jamui Station of Danapur Division of Eastern Railway

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : It is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate collision that occurred between 132 Dn Muzaffarpur-Sealdah Passenger and 11 wagons of a departmental train that rolled down from Gidhaur station. The accident occurred at Jamui station on the Jhajha-Kiul section of Eastern Railway's Danapur Division at 20.12 hrs. on 16.8.2000.

132 Dn Muzaffarpur-Sealdah Passenger train arrived at Chaura Block Hut at 19.48 hrs. and stopped as scheduled. At that time, Departmental Goods Train with a load of 15 eight-wheeler wagons loaded with ballast was being stabled at the adjacent station Gidhaur.

Gidhaur is a four line station on double line section having one main line and one loop line in the UP direction as also one main and one loop line in the Down direction. UP loop line has a high platform and down loop line has a low platform. Both platforms are connected with a foot over bridge.

The ballast was to be unloaded at the next block section and it was decided to stable the Departmental Train. During the process of Stabling the porter uncoupled the wagons presumably for creating a gap for the passage of pedestrians. Immediately after this when the wagons had been uncoupled 11 wagons started rolling down from Gidhaur towards Chaura Block Hut. On receiving this information 132 Dn Passenger train was backed towards Jamui station in the rear in order to avoid the Collision. While the train was being received on the down mainline at Jamui station the rolled down wagons collided with the train engine of 132 Dn Passenger train at Jamui station. As a result of this accident two coaches-3rd and 4th from train engine mounted on each other. The total casualties as a result of this unfortunate accident is—killed 10, Grievous injuries-5, simple injuries-10. The injured have been admitted to Civil Hospital, Jamui. Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1,00,000 to the next kin of the deceased, Rs. 25,000 to the grievously injured and Rs. 5,000 to those who sustained simple injuries is being made. They are being paid Rs. 5000. The compensation amount will be paid after the matter is decided at Railways claims tribunal. The amount of compensation for the injured and the killed could go up

to Rs. 32,000 and Rs. 4 lakhs respectively. The trapped passengers have been rescued and evacuated from the accident site and train movement has been restored.

Accident relief medical vans from Jhajha and Danapur have been sent for medical care of the injured. As soon as the information was received, the divisional Railway Manager of Danapur left for the accident site along with the other officials and reached there at 01.25 hrs. on 17.8.01. General Manager, Eastern Railways has also reached the accident site from Kolkata along with officials of the Headquarter. Two cranes of the capacity of 140 tonnes each, have reached there one from Asansol and the other from Mughalsarai. The ruling gradient in Jhajha-Mokama section is 1 in 200. From the Gidhaur station itself, the section has a falling gradient of 1 to 300. Prima facie, the cause of the accident seems to be the downsliding of goods coaches from Gidhaur station. The guard and driver of the goods train, the station master of the Gidhaur station and the porter have been put under suspension. Commissioner, Railway security of the Eastern circle will inquire into the accident.

I convey my condolences to the bereaved families and sympathy to the injured on behalf of Railways and myself. I trust, the entire House shares my sentiment. I promise that strict action will be taken against the guilty officials.

15.18 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS RESOLUTION

(i) Adequate Funds for Completion of All Pending Projects - Contd.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up Private Member's Business. Shri Arun Shourie will continue his speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Sir, I will take a few minutes because a large number of Members have participated in the debate. It is a very important matter that Shri Ramanand Singh has

raised the point regarding completion of incomplete projects and how the Government should give its first priority to them.

His first proposal was that there should be a programme directed mainly to speed up the implementation; secondly, funds should be provided for this purpose and thirdly, new schemes should be launched only when funds are arranged for them. During the course of the debate, a large number of Members had given heart-rending accounts of how projects have not been completed and as a result of that what great hardships have befallen on the residents of that area.

Very many important suggestions have been made based on the direct experience of individual Members like Shri Swain, Shri Sahu and others. The hon. Members made very important contributions. Shrimati Shyama Singh mentioned several important steps which would enable us to execute these projects more swiftly.

It was said that we should physically verify the projects much more than we do now, that there must be a Committee to identify incomplete projects and that the amount that is lying unused must be specified. As I had mentioned, some of these are functions of C&AG. If we see the reports of the C&AG, the agency does really focus on the projects which are lying incomplete. Several remarks have been made to increase the MPLADS funds.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Regarding the unspent amount, you said that it is the function of the C&AG. But that comes after several years. What we want is that there should be some immediate supervision to see whether the amount has been spent or not and instructions to that effect must be given by your Ministry.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : That is a very important consideration. There is a three-tier system of monitoring the projects. Sir, 461 projects are constantly on the monitor of the Ministry of Programme Implementation. I had drawn the attention of the House last time to the quarterly report which is prepared in regard to these 461 projects. In that, report several aspects, like the milestones that have been achieved, the amount that has been sanctioned, the amount that has been spent up till now, the time delay, the cost overrun etc., are covered and it is reviewed at levels up to the Prime Minister's Office, including the Cabinet Secretariat. Every quarter the report is punctually placed in the library. I hope the Members may also see this detailed monitoring report. That would help you to bring pressure on the relevant authorities and not just on the Central Ministries and the project authorities. Shri K.P. Singh Deo was relating how projects get delayed because of laxity on the part of local authorities. Many problems, like land

[Shri Arun Shourie]

acquisition, crop up and projects get delayed. So, I would urge all the Members to look at this report and you will find that with our joint cooperation, we should be able to expedite implementation of projects.

Shri Ramanand Singh made a suggestion that special funds should be made available for completing these projects. Actually, funds are not the real constraint in the completion of projects. I personally studied about 207 projects from this point of view and I found that only 48 projects, funds constraint was even mentioned as a factor which was accounting for the delay. Of the 461 projects on our monitor, 85 projects are without any date of commissioning. They have just been included. Of these 85, 61 are in Railways. We should see our responsibility in violating what Shri Ramanand Singh was urging us to do. Each time the Railway Budget is presented, we urge the Railway Minister to include this particular line or that particular line in our constituencies. So, these lines get included. Nominal allocations, like Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh are made and they then become incomplete projects of the future. We should also exercise some self-discipline. In spite of the needs that are natural to us because of our wanting to cater to the urgent requirements of the people in our constituency, we should not urge that such projects be taken on board without there being funds. If we delete those 41 projects of Railways, then in only seven of 166 projects, was funds constraint even mentioned by the project authorities as accounting for delay.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the name of such projects, the time by which they would be completed and expenditure incurred thereon. Besides, what he has to say about the projects which have been included without his knowledge and without any consideration. Such projects can't be completed.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : As I have said, the number of such projects is 85, out of that, 61 relate to railway lines which have been incorporated by successive Railway Ministers on our request in Mid-budget. As the hon. Railway Minister has said, their completion would take 30 years. Therefore, neither we ought to make such requests nor the Ministers should include them merely for showing. I am in total agreement with you.

Second thing that I want to say is that money gets locked up in incomplete projects. Therefore, the Ministry of Finance is making special allocation since the year 1996-97.

[English]

It is to complete these incomplete projects and to focus on them. This is a major consideration with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs when it considers projects in allocating funds. If it is the last mile, we request the Government to give the funds immediately.

The second point is that in respect of the Accelerated Power Development Programme, this year the hon. Finance Minister provided Rs. 1500 crore, the allocation is precisely directed to this objective. Whichever incomplete projects are there, we give Rs. 1500 crore so that they can be completed immediately. In this way, urgently needed power can be brought to the area.

The same is done in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. I would mention this specially because almost every single Member who spoke on the matter gave examples from irrigation. This Programme has been there since 1996-97 and about Rs. 5,500 crore have been spent on this programme. Money has been given for this very purpose. Whatever is the last mile of the irrigation canal or any work, we request the Government to take that up and complete that. This year itself, the hon. Finance Minister has provided about Rs. 1712 crore for this purpose. This is a significant factor. Because of the deteriorating condition of State finances, many States were not able to contribute the matching funds in regard to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. So, while formerly Central assistance used to be provided on a 1:1 ratio - the State Government contributed rupees one crore and the Centre gave rupees one crore - now, this has been changed. The Centre gives rupees two crore for every one crore rupees which the State Government can provide for completing that particular project. In respect of the Special Category States, for which great concern has been expressed, this ratio has been enhanced to 3:1. So, funds are being provided precisely for the purpose for which the hon. Member wanted that done.

Shri Ramanand Singh has given many examples from Madhya Pradesh. The fact is that in the case of Madhya Pradesh itself, I looked up the figures since 1996-97, almost Rs. 260 crore of Central assistance has been provided for completing incomplete irrigation projects. So, I think, it is not the constraint of funds - which was one of the main points in the Resolution - which is a factor that is holding up the completion of projects. There are other reasons that are doing so.

I will just narrate to the House in two minutes what are the other steps which have been initiated by the Government so that Shri Ramanand Singh is assured that the Government is on board in regard to his own senti-

ments. First, all the officers and all the project authorities have been told that they can begin the acquisition of land and the provision of infrastructure like water, power at the site just after the "in principle" clearance. They do not have to wait for the final project being approved. They do not have to wait for the entire funds being approved. They can begin the preliminary steps when getting the "in principle" clearance for the particular project.

Similarly, Shri Kharabela Swain had suggested that there should be an Empowered Committee, an Inter-Ministerial Committee which should meet regularly so that all problems which arise during the execution of the project can immediately be attended to. He will be happy to know that the Government has anticipated his advise. There are now Empowered Committees in each Ministry to handle all the problems arising in the case of any project being implemented by that Ministry.

As I mentioned, monthly and quarterly reviews are prepared. The main problem that is arising, actually speaking, is that in Government nobody becomes accountable for any delay or cost overrun. For this purpose, in 22 Ministries, Standing Committees have been set up so that they can actually affix responsibility. I have been going through these reports. I do not think I betray any secret. But the fact is that this is one point which we need to tighten up. A report on the Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee is now made mandatory. When you come to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for an increased allocation for a particular project, the Report of the Standing Committee fixing responsibility for time and cost overruns has to be affixed for the Cabinet to consider that. Everybody has been saying that this procedure is not as tight as it should be. Very often we find that persons are not identified or the persons who have been identified have already retired and steps cannot be taken. The steps taken should be an example to others.

As a part of the result of such measure - one of the encouraging factors is that the cost overrun has now come down. In 1988, the cost overrun was about 66 per cent of the original cost. In 2000, this has come down to 36 per cent of the original cost. We analysed these 461 projects. Out of these, only 28 projects have accounted for 85 per cent of the cost overrun. So, we have been making efforts to focus on these 28 projects and see how they can be expedited and things can be made better. Two-thirds of the amount is being accounted for by just ten projects. Two or three projects like Dulhasti and others are in terrorist-infested areas. There is no easy solution to them but efforts are being made on those ten projects.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time fixed for this resolution expired at 3.32 hrs. If the House agrees the allotted time may be increased by 15 minutes so that the mover may reply.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the leave of the House, the time for resolution is increased by 15 minutes.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : One very important suggestion was made by Shri K.P. Singh Deo that the rehabilitation procedures must be expedited. He has given an example of 1,350 persons from NALCO who were displaced and for years on end, their problems had not been attended to. Under the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission, both for land acquisition and rehabilitation procedures, a Working Group was set up and the House would be getting proposals about amending land acquisition laws and rehabilitation procedure laws so that these can be expedited. I would hope that the courts would also do so in the case of Narmada. I calculated that just between stay that the court ordered the completion of the hearing and the delivery of the judgement, the interest cost on the amount that had sunk into the project was Rs. 4,000 crore. I would hope that this factor would be borne in mind by the courts.

A feature we found was that a standard contract document had not been finalised and to my horror I discovered that groups had been working for 35 years in Government on standardising this contract document. In the last four months, we have worked on this and we finalised this document. It has been submitted to the Committee on Secretaries so that it can be adopted by everyone.

Therefore, in conclusion, I entirely agree on the importance of the subject that Shri Ramanand Singh has raised. About the suggestions on the individual projects, including the projects for power generation and others, I would convey them to the concerned Ministries.

I feel that it is not necessary to bind the Government by a Resolution on a matter to which it is already alert. In conclusion Sir, I would plead firstly that people should not be misled by foundation stones. And, Members and Ministers should also not lay foundation stones. They should lay only completion stones. If we exercise just that much self-discipline, we will ensure quick execution of all the projects.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister was about to say something about MPLADS, but he was interrupted by an hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, about MPLADS, an hon. Member had said that I was the only one who was standing in the way of the amount being increased and asked why I did not realise that my reputation was suffering on that account. I am quite accustomed to my reputation suffering on many counts. But I have an important shield in the Finance Minister sitting here. So, I will pass on the responsibility to him.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Sir, since I come from a smaller State, let me analyse one particular problem. In the North-East, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland are all small in size and they are represented by one Member of Parliament, like myself and other States are represented by two Members of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a very important point. I never get an opportunity to express this point when both the Minister of Programme Implementation and the Finance Minister are sitting here. I think, the point to be considered here is, when other States get the amount through MPLADS, each MP looks after only a specific area, but in smaller States like ours, we are not able to cover the whole State whereas in other States they cover only one district or a specific area. So, I think, the amount sanctioned to each MP should be enhanced, at least, in the case of smaller States. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, it is not enough to say that this is a small issue. You come from a large state, that is why it is a petty issue for you but for people like us who come from smaller states, this is a big issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb. This is not fair. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Finance is present here. I request him to announce the increase in amount under MP Local Area Development Scheme today itself.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is not ready to react. How can I call him?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not fair. I am a lady. So, kindly give me a chance

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Sinha, you did not give your name when I had asked for the names of Members wishing to speak. Accordingly, your name is not on the list.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, through you, I just want to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister one point. The hon. Finance Minister happens to come from the State of Bihar. Before they start putting up projects, why do they not see that they complete the older ones? But apart from that, they are fully aware of the fact that there are many projects sailing along for the last 20 years and they have not yet been completed for some reason or the other causing both drought and flood in Bihar. Both could have been controlled if these 20-year long projects have been completed in time first, before taking up new power project elsewhere.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, she has made an important point. During her speech also she had mentioned an important project. As I promised her, I will draw the attention of the Power Minister to that particular project and request him to examine why something else has been substituted, maybe, because of change of Governments or change of Ministers. In this context I would like to share one point with the House which the Comptroller and Auditor General of India had told me. He had said that he discovered, very often the project is brought to completion, but not completed by Governments because once it is completed, then they have to pay the salaries, maintenance and so on and so forth. But if it remains incomplete, the funds will be coming from Shri Yashwant Sinha. This is a peculiar device that is used.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN : That means, no new scheme will come.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : So, if the House disciplines all the State Governments on that account—that there shall be no new scheme in your case unless old schemes are completed—we will only be too happy, if this happens.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had moved this resolution during last budget session on March 2 and on August 4 last year, several other Members had supported it. All members, be they of the opposition of the ruling party, from Shri Anadi Sahu, of Congress to DMK and all others who have spoken on this have supported the view that those projects which have been pending since first five year plan should be completed on priority basis and Government of India should take up new projects only when it has adequate funds. I have listened to the answer of hon. Minister. Definitely he has given a firm and serious answer. It is a matter of happiness that he has assured us to enlist all the pending projects department wise with a view to ascertain the time since which they are pending and keeping a close watch over such projects. But hon. Minister, I would like to tell you one thing that the Government ought not to make it a prestige issue as entire House has agreed to it. This resolution should be passed by the Lok Sabha unanimously so that the House is also made aware of the projects which are incomplete right from the first five year plan to tenth plan wherein billions and trillions of rupees are locked up and is increasing, the people whose lands have been acquired are not being paid compensation nor being rehabilitated and that such projects are causing loss to the country and obstructing the prosperity and progress of the Nation. We are taking loans from abroad and international Monetary Fund in the name of development projects and a part of that loan is being used for routine expenses such as administration. Spending money meant for development on establishment is unfortunate and matter of shame for any Government.

I know that as William Wordsworth has said.

[English]

"Man may come and man may go, but the nature shall remain for ever. Similarly Government may come and Government may go, but the nation shall remain for ever.

[Translation]

Since, nation has to live, it should be developed in a planned manner. Previous Government did it, and now the new Government is announcing more and more schemes. Hon. Minister, may kindly collect information from the Ministers about the number of stone foundations laid for various irrigation projects and prioritise them accordingly. I want to tell you that projects launched twenty years ago are still incomplete and in some of them work has not even started. How the people are going to trust elected representatives and ministers? We first lay foundation stones

and then forget all about it.

Then the new Government comes which adopts new schemes and don't complete the pending or previous projects. I had also discussed this thing with hon. Laxminarayan Pandeyaji who is a senior Member and later on I presented the resolution. Hon. Minister, Sir, I would like you to make arrangement for the department wise enlistment of all the schemes. I am happy that the hon. Minister was listening to my views carefully when I was speaking that day. Today, hon. Minister of Finance is sitting here, it would have been better if the hon. Minister of Railways were present here to tell as to how many projects are pending. Lalitpur Singrauli rail line was surveyed in 1977 during the regime of Shri Morarji Desai and its foundation stone was laid by hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is project worth 950 crore rupees.

Only Rs. 1 crore were released for it. If the Government release only one crore rupees for a project of 950 crore rupees, then what is the need for taking up such project. You must decide about the time period of the project and try to finish it within it. A number of electricity, irrigation projects and those of information and broadcasting have been pending for years in the country.

I had told that Bhadeya Irrigation projects of Jawaharlal Nehru's regime has been pending since 1952. This is a matter of shame for the previous as well as the present Government. By when this will continue. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Minister is listening carefully, I would like to say something more. The hon. Minister has given this assurance that the pending projects are being enlisted departmentwise in the Department of implementation and am hopeful that it will be done. I would like to tell the house as to how the project cost increase. The initial outlay of Bansagar project was 600 crore and during the reply to my question in Lok Sabha it was informed that its cost has escalated upto 3600 crore rupees within 18 years. Similarly, the work on Lalitpur, Singrauli Railway line has come to a halt due to Forest Conservation Act of the Government of India. Shourieji, you are the Minister of Forest and Environment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Hon. Minister, Sir, an over bridge should be constructed at Yamuna river. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are the mover of the Resolution, now you conclude, entitled time is going to lapse.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : I am saying a very important thing. I conclude within two minutes. 250 irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

Government have been lying pending due to Forest Conservation Act. To cite an example, one crore of rupees were spent over Patana pond project, however the Department of Forest and Environment made the work to halt. Only 15 lakh rupees were requested to be spend for its completion. Due to it, the Adivasi population of the area which used to irrigate their land through sub canal has lost the facility to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : The Irrigation schemes etc. about which he is talking are state projects. States start these projects but don't complete those. Centre don't have much right to interfere in regard to these projects as they come under the purview of state list. Though you are right in pointing out the delay in Rs. 950 crore project which is a central project.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : No, these projects have been lying pending due to the provisions of the Department of Forest and Environment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : I am concluding within a minute. Similarly the Bergi dam project at Narmada has been lying pending for the past 20 years. If you are of the view that these come under the state list. At least some financial assistance by the centre can be provided to our State for completing this project so that the dry land areas of Satana, Reeva and Seedhi district could also be irrigated. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister not to pressurise me to withdraw my Resolution and ensure its passage in the House. It is a Resolution in welfare of the entire country and don't make it a prestige issue for the Government. Though I have faith in your assurance however engineer in charge of each project should be made accountable for the time bound completion of a project. Engineers keep on changing hence no one is made accountable. This thing only results in the misuse of the funds the project. You must ensure the timely completion of the project and work progress related to it should be reviewed from time to time. Right now, you said that a Committee of 22 Ministers will do it. I would like to say that how can 22 Ministers can yet together when not even three Minister can discuss a thing together. What will they do? How long will it take for 22 Ministers to decide?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these are two or three points.

[Translation]

Some of his suggestions have actually been implemented. As he has said that engineers and officers keep

on changing. I would like to say that a nodal officer for each project is appointed who is not changed throughout the duration of the entire project. Second thing is that next year the employees of the Government will be on programme implementation as has been said by the hon. Prime Minister. He has just announced that

[English]

it will be the year of implementation.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say to the Member?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Secondly, there is no question of making prestige issue over it.

[English]

We all agree with this. So, I would urge that there is no need for a binding Resolution because all those things are already being done. I am saying this only from that point of view. But regarding the specific projects that he has mentioned, I will certainly look into each one by going through the record. I would, therefore, request that there is no need for the Resolution. Please withdraw it. Whenever you want I will report to you on the new steps which have been taken on this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : I would like from the hon. Minister to give clear assurance.

[English]

I am not satisfied.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given. Now you put your proposal in the House for it is the property of the House.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : I would like the hon. Minister to the effect of completing those projects which have been lying pending for the last ten years.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I don't want to take much time. You have said that hundreds of projects are lying pending. There are only 15 such projects on our monitor which have been lying pending since earlier than 1985. Four of these projects are in Bihar and West Bengal each, one is Dulahasti project and the other Koel Karo Project which has yet to take off. Another one is J.P. rail line project in Bokaro which is pending due to the township

coming in its way. Everything is being analysed. I would like to assure you that

[English]

we will make a detailed study and we will proceed that way in regard to these 15 projects.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing your resolution?

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : As the hon. Minister has given assurance for completing these projects and have convened a meeting of 22 Ministers in this regard. I withdraw this resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Ramanand Singh be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

[English]

15.53 hrs.

(ii) **Review of Decision to Withdraw Quantitative Restrictions**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House will take up the Resolution on the review of decision to withdraw quantitative restrictions to be moved by Shri Sunil Khan.

Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time to this Resolution. Shall we fix two hours? Does the House agree?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for the first time. If the House desires, we can consider extending the time later on.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : I beg to move :-

"As the decision to withdraw the quantitative restrictions with effect from 1st April, 2001 will seriously affect Indian economy and result in closure of domestic industries and severe unemployment, this House urges upon the Government to review its decision and to renegotiate the terms of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in order to protect the industrial and agricultural sector."

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Cabinet. The poor and the developing countries are being looted by the developed countries like America and colonial Western rich countries. The system by which they loot us is called WTO. As per the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, there was a discussion in Bretton Budo with World Bank and IMF. In India, there was the first Ministerial Conference in 1944. India was a Member in 1948. The main object was to exchange commodities from one country to another country. The object of the GATT was to simplify the system. The noted economist, Dr. Anil Kruger, has described quantitative restrictions, licence and restrictions as rent seeking activities which carry a premium to windfall profit for the quota holders.

This is why, some analysts in India have defined 'QRS' as 'quota raj', which breeds corruption and inefficiency.

The Agreement on Agriculture forms a part of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and was signed by the member countries in April, 1994 at Marrakesh, Morocco and came into force from the 1st January, 1995. It has a ten-year implementation period from 1995 to 2004 for developing countries. It is needless to mention here that even as the implementation is due in 2004 our hon. Minister has already lifted the ban on 1st April, 2001 of the quantitative restrictions. Why did he withdraw the quantitative restrictions on 715 items from the 1st April, 2001 though India has two years more time to implement the Agreement? That was because of the pressure on the WTO by the American Government.

I quote from a book, *Working Class* what Shri Mulasoli Maran had said. Shri Mulasoli Maran, our hon. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry represented India at the meeting of Ministers of Trade and Economy of the G-15 countries at Cairo. He said, 'We knelt down, succumbed to pressure and signed on the dotted line.' We all know the reasons for the failure of the Seattle Ministerial Conference. Let us go to the root of the matter. There is a proverb : 'Just because the camel knelt down, it was loaded.'

15.58 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

The agreement on agriculture forms part of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and was signed by member countries in April 1994 at Marrakech, Morocco and came into force on the 1st January, 1995, as I already stated. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture covers three broad areas of agriculture and trade policy, market access and domestic support and export subsidies. India had a quantitative restriction on import of 825 agricultural

[Shri Sunil Khan]

products as on 1.4.1997, which it was justifying on balance of payments considerations. QRs. Already phased out from 1st April 2001 on 715 items out of 1,429 items and the remaining portion were phased out from the 1st April, 2001 QRs. on many agricultural products were phased out on the basis of the so-called balance of payments position but this is not the reality.

The foreign exchange reserves position in India is unstable. It is not based on trade surplus. Its main components are foreign loans and assistance and NRI transfers. Foreign institutional investors are also bringing in money because our rate of return on investments is higher than that in the West. India should try to retain quantitative restrictions on agricultural produce as long as India has no trade surplus.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, quantitative restrictions should be related to trade surplus and not related to so call better balance of payment position. We should unite the developing countries for making a change in the WTO Agreement. The agricultural sector also marked a low growth rate. The Economic Survey for 2000-2001 has pointed out that the growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors has gone down from 7.1 per cent in 1998-99 to 0.9 per cent in 2000-2001. The foodgrain production marked an absolute decline by 4.7 per cent in 2000-2001 compared to the previous year, despite consistent decline in agricultural sector's growth and the absolute decline in the foodgrain production much below the 1998 level.

The hon. Minister of Finance posed the problem of food economy in the country as one of the managing surpluses. The obscenity of the remarks of the hon. Minister of Finance regarding food surplus has been exposed in the background of the numerous cases of starvation in the villages of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and many other places. There is a steep hike in the prices of Public Distribution System by the Government. There is a decline in the *per capita* actual availability of foodgrains for the above poverty line and around poverty line people which is around the figure for those above the poverty line despite overflowing godowns of FCI. We should ask for the bringing together all domestic measures such as Green box measures; Blue box measures and Amber box measures.

The subsidy reduction agreed at Marrakech was on a percentage basis. This is an eyewash because already the subsidy given by the developed countries is so vast that even with some percentage reduction it is more. We should ask that the subsidy should be fixed quantitatively at certain level or on *per capita* basis. The developing countries should be allowed to take measures

for ensuring food security and rural employment generation. The money spent on these measures should not be included in the calculation of aggregated measures of support.

To implement this, creation of separate food security, rural employment and development need to be considered. The Agreement on agriculture allows only 25 countries to provide export subsidy to their agricultural products. This is adversely affecting the competitiveness of the agricultural products of the developing countries. We should ask for elimination of export subsidy within an agreed period of time.

I want to mention a very pathetic thing concerning our villages. Our poor rural women, who are widows, who are mothers of small children, are traditionally producing the puffed rice. We call it '*Muri*' in Hindi and in Mumbai it is called '*veil*'. After two per cent of freight charge increase in coal caused by the hon. Minister of Railways and the lifting of subsidies from the fertilizers, the cost of production of this puffed rice has increased. What is now happening with the withdrawal of the QRs.? The Americans and other G-7 countries are producing this puffed rice after getting more than 50 per cent subsidies and they are packing it in laminated packets and these packets will come to India. I want to ask the hon. Minister—will the poor rural mother of India be able to compete with the American or the G-7 countries?

This is the condition of our traditional producers, of our village economy. He must have to think about them. Sir, I have already talked about implementing the creation of separate food security, rural employment and other things.

Agreement on Agriculture allows only 25 countries to provide export subsidies to their agricultural products. This is adversely affecting the competitiveness of agricultural products of the developing countries. I have already mentioned about that.

Let us come to industrial slow down in the country. As per the statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 370 today, that is, or 17.8.2001, the industrial growth during the first quarter of the current fiscal year has been 2.1 per cent as compared to 6.1 per cent registered during the corresponding period of the last year. The manufacturing sector growth slipped down to 5.2 per cent and electricity generation to four per cent in 2000-2001 compared to 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent respectively in 1999-2000, respectively according to the report published by Central Statistical Organisation. In the service sector, the growth rate, after reaching the high of 10.5 per cent in the year 1995-96, has hovered

around eight to nine per cent in the subsequent years. In every sector, even in the IT sector, how also slumped.

Sir, both the FICCI and CII have put the blame on the high interest rate regime of bank loans for declining investment level, but they conveniently suppressed the fact that despite all the slow down in the economy, the major corporates have significantly improved their cash reserves, showing huge invisible surplus in their hands. As reported by *Business Standard* of 30.7.2001, they include Tata Steel, Reliance, Infosys, Grasim, L&T, Hindustan Lever, Wipro, Satyam Computers and many others. This phenomenon signifies that the industry lobby prefers not to put their own funds for investment in real economy which generates production and employment; they prefer funds from banks and FIs at cheaper rates to be put in production ventures, which at their convenience may be converted to non-performing assets. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance has already stated in reply to a Question in Lok Sabha during Question Hour today that the non-performing assets are in the range of Rs. 70,000 crore to Rs. 80,000 crore. Earlier, the figure was at Rs. 56,000 crore.

Sir, in this year's Budget, the Finance Minister has withdrawn Rs. 2,000 crore from import and imposed excise duty of about Rs. 3,200 crore. As a result of this, I think that eight lakh small scale centres would either go sick or close down. About 40 per cent of the small scale sector all over the country, especially in Gujarat and Maharashtra, would either go in sick or close down due to imposition of the excise duty. Because of the cheaper imports, all the foreign goods are coming to our market at cheaper rates and when we are marketing our products, it becomes difficult.

NALCO is the biggest profit-making company in the mineral sector. In 1999-2000, after paying taxes, they made a profit of Rs. 500 crore. In this connection, I have asked a question in the Lok Sabha. When I visited NALCO as part of the Parliamentary Delegation, I asked the officers a question about the cost of production in NALCO, and the cost of production in the highest aluminium producing country in the world, that is, Australia. When we compare the difference in rates, we are producing aluminium at a much cheaper rate than Australia. However, in the market, due to the imposition of excise duty, our cost is heavy when compared to the cost of aluminium from Australia. Therefore, all the profit-making companies, including the small and tiny sector, are in a disastrous form.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to be a patriotic citizen. We all know that people like Khudiram, Bagha, and Jatin have lost their lives for the sake of

Independence, Freedom.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear me. You have taken more than 20 minutes. How much more time would you like to take?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Please give me half-an-hour. I will come to the point.

Sixteen per cent excise duty hits the ready-made garment units very badly. In the worst ever man-made calamity to have hit the country, over 25 per cent of the 58,000 medium-scale ready-made garment manufacturing units have been closed down, whose worth is to the tune of Rs. 5,400 crore. A simple calculation of applicable taxes brings the revenue loss of Central and the State Governments to over Rs. 1,350 crore. A hefty 90 per cent of the Rs. 70,000 crore ready-made garments industry has been catered by the unorganised sector. The organised sector is dependent on the unorganised sector for jobbers and contractors who are involved in various processes. Two lakh fifty thousand garment manufacturing units absorb 40 per cent of fabrics produced in the country.

Sir, America and the G-7 countries are protecting their markets by introducing by-American laws, by-Japan laws and by-France laws. Why we are not making by-Indian laws to protect our domestic industry?

I wish to mention one thing about the heavy Industries. Within ten months period, this time, if you invest Rs. 150 crore in IISCO and the total investment comes to Rs. 510 crore. It is the first industry in India established in 1888. When it was taken over by the Indian Government, no investment was made in it. They have given all the profits to the Finance Department.

Sir, there are assets worth rupees two lakh crore. There are three captive iron ore mines. The Chiriyia ore mine, which is known to all of us here, has a reserve of two billion metric tonnes. What is the valuation of the reserves at the Chiriyia iron ore mines? It is estimated at Rs. 1,16,000 crore. Twenty metric tonnes of iron ore could be extracted from this mine every year. Even then its reserves are not going to get exhausted soon. It has the highest iron ore reserve in the world. In case of the other three coal mines, the Chasnala coal mine has a reserve, the cost of which is estimated at Rs. 45,000 crore. So, IISCO should be revived.

Sir, the ban on the Quantitative Restrictions have been lifted by the Government. The period for the Quantitative Restrictions was for a period of ten years from 1995 to 2004. Why has it been lifted before the expiry of its time? What was the hurry? What were the reason for lifting the ban on the Quantitative Restrictions before

[Shri Sunil Khan]

the expiry of its schedule time? The reason is the pressure of the Americans. Some 200 years back, we invited the White people to do business in our country and today we are again inviting Red people to our country. It is a matter of concern for every citizen of our country. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister - if he loves this country - please withdraw this, otherwise, the citizens of this country would not spare him.

Sir, I have moved this Resolution and I believe that everyone, be it from the Treasury benches or be it from the Opposition benches, would support this Resolution so that India could be self-sufficient and the Americans would not enter our country. We should abide by the wishes of the people because this is a democracy where the guiding principle is, 'by the people, of the people and for the people'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resolution moved:

"As the decision to withdraw the quantitative restrictions with effect from 1st April, 2001 will seriously affect Indian economy and result in closure of domestic industries and severe unemployment, this House urges upon the Government to review its decision and to renegotiate the terms of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in order to protect the industrial and agricultural sector."

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, Shri Sunil Khan has basically stressed on two points. He has stressed on the closure of domestic industries and on the creation of severe unemployment. He wants this House to urge upon the Government to review its decision and to re-negotiate the terms of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs in order to protect the industrial and agricultural sectors.

Sir, he has stressed on the point that the ban on the Quantitative Restrictions has been lifted only because of American pressure. Actually the Government of India, as a founder member of the WTO is supposed to do it and India is not doing this on American pressure.

Sir, I would like ask a basic question. China is not a member of the WTO. China is supposed to be a communist and a patriotic country as has been suggested by the mover of this Resolution. But China today is in the queue for getting an entry into the WTO. It is waitlisted at 48. It is very eagerly waiting to enter into WTO. Why is it so?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : They are going to the WTO with power and not by folding hands... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Our markets are being flooded.... *(Interruptions)*

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has heard your speech patiently.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, they are wasting my time. Please do not count this time.

The Government of India has sent a delegation to China in the month of July. I was one of the members of that delegation. The delegation included about 12 Members of Parliament, a few industrialists and a few leaders of trade unions.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : I have gone through that paper also.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The Communist people were asked to go as a part of that delegation, but they declined to do so. They were scared to go to China and see for themselves how their 'guru' is doing. However, they say that they did not want to go along with the industrialists.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : When we go, we go alone. We will not go with the money of industrialists. We will not go on the ticket given by industrialists.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, we did not go on the money of industrialists. It is the Government of India which sent us. Madam Najma Heptullah, Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha, was the leader of that delegation. It was not a BJP leader who led that delegation. There were three trade union leaders on that delegation - from INTUC, HMS and BMS. They all went but the Communist party people did not go.

When we say we want to make India great, how are we going to make India great? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Kindly tell us what you have seen in China.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, you have not allowed me to put my important question.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khan, you will have the right of reply. You can clarify the issues at that time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khan, please sit down. You will have the right of reply. You can reply to the points later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Hon. Member from the Congress party Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari, who is sitting here right now, has also come with us.

SHRI A.C. JOS : You tell us what you have seen in China.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : How to make India great? Are we going to make India great by merely giving protectionism to our industries?

When we got down at the Beijing airport, I could not believe my eyes. I could not decide for a moment whether I was in China or I had landed in America. American transnational giants have spread themselves all over China. Every one of us could see the hoardings of companies like Siemens, Motorola, General Motors, Kentucky Fried Chicken, all over China. This is the state of affairs of a country which is considered the only Communist country existing in the world now.

It is not just the industrialists and the trade unionists only who have their points of view in this country. In our democratic set up, the consumer has also got a point of view. As a consumer, am I not entitled to good quality products? Am I not entitled to low cost goods? Am I to have any thing produced in India at high cost with low quality? If a foreign product of high quality is available in India at a very low cost, why cannot the Indian producer produce the goods at the same cost with the same quality? If we want to make India great, opportunities should be given to small-scale industries, to the industrialists of India so that they can produce the best quality goods at the lowest prices.

Indians have proved their merit after going abroad. The Prime Minister of India wanted to have his knee operation done. He could not have it done in India. He went to America in search of the best Surgeon in the world. He went to America and he met the best Surgeon in the world. That Surgeon is an Indian.

India has got the capacity. India can do it here also. India did it in the past also.

Sir, I will not take much time of the House. I will just give some of the suggestions based on my experiences as to how India can protect its industries including the agriculture sector.

Firstly, the cost of borrowing money in India is very high. If one goes to a bank for loan for setting up an industry, the rate of interest payable is 12 per cent. But in China and other developing countries, for the

similar purpose, the rate of interest is only 4.5 per cent. That is why the cost of production in India is high.

Secondly, the cost of power in India is very high. In China and other developing countries, it is only Rs. 2 per unit whereas in India it is Rs. 5 per unit.

The Communist leaders have taken it upon themselves to make the workers great. They think all the time as to how they can go on agitation, *talabandi*, namely, lock-outs, etc. In China, the workers have no right to agitate. One can ask Shri Tiwari and he will tell as to what is happening there.

Sir, in China, we spoke to several trade-union leaders. They had said that they do not have the right to agitation. When I asked one of the trade-unions what would happen if something wrong happened to any worker, I asked what would happen if the Government did not pay the required salary to their workers. They said that they have an arbitration tribunal where a member from the Judiciary, a member from the Government and a member from the trade-union sit there. There, the decision would be taken. Whatever decision would be taken, that would be the final verdict.

Sir, in our interaction with them, they also said that they are just going in for privatisation of the State Owned enterprises, which we here call as the public sector enterprises. There, the laid off workers are given a subsistence allowance only for two years. They are given training. If within those two years they do not train themselves properly, they are kicked out. They gave the reason that whatever they are doing is for the interest of their nation and the country.

Moreover, Sir, a worker from China is three times more productive than a worker from India. That is why the cost of production in other countries is too less.

Sir, the hon. Minister is present here. He should see to it that there is an end to the *Inspector raj*. Fifty inspectors will go to the same industry and everybody will ask for money. There is too much of corruption in our country. Corruption is also there in China. But in China at least corruption is for the positive. To get any work done, they demand money. But here, the inspectors say, 'give me the money otherwise I will close down your industry.'

So, my request is that the Government should see that there is an end to the *Inspector raj*.

Sir, my next point is on the raw materials. Raw materials should be made available to the small-scale industries at an affordable rate. It is not being made

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

available at an affordable cost which is one of the reasons that our cost of production is very high.

Sir, my next point is about the foreign direct investment (FDI). The hon. Minister of Commerce is present here. I would just request him as to why he should not allow the Foreign Direct Investment to the agricultural sector also. It is absolutely essential. The quantum of production in India with regard to any agricultural products is too less. In one hectare of land, the quantum of production of wheat is about one-third of what Ukraine produces. Why can we not go like Ukraine standards in this regard? We can also do it and we should do it.

There is strangling low level yields in a very large portion of marginal, small and semi-medium holdings burdened with a high proportion of landless labourers, small holdings and highly concentrated food oriented cropping system which would, therefore, be facing serious challenges both internally and externally in the process of fulfilling the WTO commitments.

In India and everywhere in the world, the small-scale industries do not produce the finished goods. Basically they form the ancillary industries. You can take the case of Gurgaon where there is a Maruti Company and around it, there are 1,500 small-scale industries or ancillary industries. They support the main factory, that is, the Maruti Company. So, instead of going for the finished products, we should also see that small-scale industries produce more of small things, which support the big industries.

Finally, I will tell that it is not America of which we are scared, but we are scared of smaller countries like Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Korea, etc. Once upon a time, it so happened that when we said that foreign goods are coming into the country, it used to be goods from America only. But it is not so now. When we are discussing about invasion of foreign goods, we are talking about Chinese dolls or Chinese bicycles, etc. Why is it like that. China is a country having similar problems as we have.

I want to say only two more sentences and conclude. With regard to agriculture, we should promote region-specific agricultural planning and development and we should involve Agricultural Universities in that regard. We should also not depend upon the Agriculture Department of the Government because they will not do anything. We should develop technologies in the agricultural sector. We should also develop rural infrastructure like roads, cold storage, power supply and things like that. We also want promotion of food processing industries.

So, I would say that WTO is not against the interests

of this country; WTO has given an opportunity to India to fight with any country of the world and to prove ourselves as the best country so that in the 21st century, India will be a super-power.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Thank you, Sir.

Withdrawal of quantitative restrictions has already created a flutter and has created a furore throughout the length and breadth of the country. There is no doubt that India is a founder member of WTO. WTO is a mechanism through which we can deal with the hostile situation. It has been prevalent since World War-II, the time when India had got sterling balance. But once the reserve got depleted, then at the dawn of the Second Five Year Plan, India again resorted to quantitative restrictions.

Here, we are not discussing of how to emulate ourselves with China or America or any other country. India has the capacity and potentialities to survive on its own feet, on its own ethics and on its own culture. The fact is that withdrawal of quantitative restrictions has already hit severely the agricultural sector specially and small-scale sector in general. Agricultural sector plays a significant role in Indian economy in terms of GDP, in terms of food security and others.

Sir, out of the last removal of 715 items, 145 items belong to agriculture and household sector. On the one hand now India is having surplus foodgrains rotting or overflowing in the godowns and on the other hand the poor people of Kalahandi and Bolangir, the KBK districts, are starving to death. So, this is a paradox. It is poverty while we are sitting on plenty. So, it is reminiscent of French Revolution. When the Queen was told that people were starving to death and they do not have bread, she retorted that they might eat cake. So, we are in such a situation.

Sir, the hon. Minister, who represented our country in the WTO, had fought courageously against the discrimination by the developed countries or the OECD countries. In this scenario, so many questions have cropped up. As far as seed is concerned, our agriculture basically is sustained upon traditional farming or upon seed saving techniques. But now the seed giants of developed countries, taking advantage of the withdrawal of restrictions, are surging into our country with seeds especially terminated seeds or hybrid seeds. How can India, with its present infrastructure, withstand the onslaught of those seed giants? Once a farmer uses the terminated seed, he will have to again purchase the same seed. Therefore, that farmer will be gradually depending upon those seed giants.

Secondly, the world-wide campaign is going in the direction against the GE food and GE seeds. Genetically modified and genetically engineered seeds are now a subject of controversy. May I ask the hon. Minister whether India have the infrastructure to screen those seeds, because those seeds may eventually endanger our environment? It may cause health hazards also. So, a quarantine policy has to be adopted. I would like to know whether this Government could check the surge of the genetically engineered seeds or food. We already have unrestricted half carcass meat, poultry and so on. Do you have the Prevention of Food Adulteration Department or the hazard preventive measure well equipped, which can effectively reduce these health hazards and food contamination?

Sir, as you know, in America, Europe, Australia, and even in Asian countries like Philippines, they are now taking measures to check genetically engineered seeds. So, there are manifold implications as far as removal of quantitative restrictions are concerned. Sir, on 28th September, 1999 the Indian Government made a secret deal with USA however this Government had given a commitment to the WTO members that all the restrictions will be withdrawn by 2003. When the Kandahar episode took place and when the entire country was seething with anger and anguish, this Government found convenient time to strike a bilateral agreement with America with a view to withdraw the quantitative restrictions. Therefore, 1429 restricted items were removed from that restricted category.

Sir, you know that India is such a country where 70 per cent people belong to the villages. The livestock sector plays a significant role as far as employment generation and regular income are concerned. Sir, as regards milk, India had accomplished a revolution which may be called 'White revolution'. Now, India is the largest milk producing country in the world. The total output is around 80 million tonnes. Sir, now those milk-producers are apprehending that with the removal of quantitative restrictions dairy products would start pouring into our country which may eventually deal a fatal blow to that sector. Sir, that is why, I would request the hon. Minister to have a rational balance between the bound duty and customs duty so that at least the poor people of our country could survive. If you ask a new born baby to run, he would not be able to run. It is because he has to be acclimatised with the situation. He has to be adapted first. Therefore, it needs a gestation period. Any radical measure cannot help those poor people. Sir, the customs duty on dairy product is 35 per cent and the total duty limit is 40 per cent. On butter fat and on oil derived from milk and cheese, the bound duty is 40 per cent and basic customs duty is 35 per cent. Sir, kindly see one thing. On milk cream and on other sweetened matter,

the bound duty limit is zero per cent. However, the customs duty is fixed at 35 to 60 per cent in the case of concentrated milk.

I know that our hon. Minister is a very competent and educated person. May I ask him whether with these measures he is able to save the poor milk producers? In the wake of the White Revolution the replication of Amul had been propagated throughout the country. Now in India we have 1.8 million members under the milk cooperative societies. So, you should not do anything that would blunt the edge of this sector that we are enjoying for so long.

In the end I would quote a few lines from the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology:

"However, according to India's proposal to the WTO on Agreement on Agriculture, the average tariff in OECD countries in 1993 were 214% for wheat, 197% for barley and 154% for maize. In certain commodities the tariff peak reached 300% and above. In EU the out of quota tariff for bananas is 180%, in Japan these tariff range between 460% and 600% for dried beans, peas and lentils, in US groundnuts have a tariff of 164%. Recently, Japan has levied a tariff of about 1000% on rice to protect its domestic rice producers. Though the India proposal make a demand for the on going review of the Agreement on Agriculture that as a special and differential measures, the developing country members should be allowed to maintain appropriate levels of tariff bindings keeping in mind their development needs and the high distortions prevalent in the international markets, yet the Financial Budget for 2001-2002 made a very dismal effort to raise the tariff marginally or hardly half a dozen items as "safeguard mechanism" for domestic production against highly subsidised and cheap imports of agricultural products from developed countries."

Therefore, I would request you to see that India is not made a dumping ground for the awful materials of the developed countries. You should evolve a strategy so that our poor people can earn their livelihood and make both their ends meet.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, when I stand here to speak on the Resolution tabled by Shri Sunil Khan, I feel that he has tried to paint a dismal picture of the philosophical, political and economic status of the country. It is quite natural that he being a man with Leftist opinion, he would look at the pessimistic aspects of the problems that are with us. It would have been better had he thought of the

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

optimistic aspects of these things. Anyway, that is beside the point.

When we go back from 1947 to 1994 to 2001, we have travelled a long way, in coming to a final shape of the World Trade Organisation and agreements signed. Now we cannot unscramble the eggs. It would be better if we can eat the poach or the omelette with all flavour and taste we it to our good content. That is what is required now. Once we have agreed to the WTO regime, we have to accept the rigors it is quite natural that this world has become too small, as you would see outside the Central Hall a quotation written in golden letters from the Panchatantra.

"Ayam nijah paro veti
Ganana Laghuchetsham

Udar Charitanam tu.
Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."

The world has become a small family because of communication, information technology, exchange of ideas and so many other factors. We are becoming small and we cannot prevent it. Once we are becoming small, it would be better that we adapt to the system that is prevailing at this time. As has been said by Shri Khan by Shri Swain and by Shri Adhir Chowdhary also, 1429 items have been removed from quantitative restrictions over a period of time in order to see that we get accustomed and acclimatised to whatever shocks we may be getting or whatever difficulties that we might be facing in the transition stage. But let us be very clear, Shri Khan in particular and hon. Members in general, that opening up of the floodgate or removing the quantitative restrictions does not mean that we do not have restrictions. I would quote a paragraph from a good journal. It says:

"No country in the world is, in reality, a free trading nation. Every country protects its sensitive interests through a set of WTO – consistent measures. So does India. While the quantitative restrictions which the world sees as obnoxious are gone, there are import duties, anti-dumping duties and safeguard measures, animal and plant protection policies, human health, safety regulations and quality standards."

I will come to these things first. We have recently passed the Livestock Importation Bill wherein we have indicated that if there is a trace of any disease or if there is any difficulty in disease control in getting an animal product in India, there will be a restriction as has been indicated here. Let us assume that we are importing agricultural produce. Now, we can as well say that a particular type of insecticide which we have used

in producing grains or cereals or anything like that is not good to our health and we will not accept it. So, there are many restrictions. If I go on speaking on them, I will go on for minutes or hours together. That is why, we have to take into account the positive aspect of this issue. We can always put restrictions in import of different articles.

Shri Choudhary was saying about anti-dumping duties and so many other things. In a way, I agree that in the initial period we may suffer a slight setback on the manufacturing side. Many kinds of subsidies have been given to the small-scale industry. In the small scale industry also, you find that excise duty has been brought down by the Finance Minister and tariff rates have been put in such a manner that whenever such an article is coming in, we are able to compete in a better manner.

Shri Khan was saying about NALCO. The public sector undertakings have become flabby. They are taking more funds and not producing what is required for us at a reasonable price. That is why, the thinking or the craze of the day is to disinvest. It is not disinvestment. It should be privatised. There should be a level-playing field. We should think of competitiveness. If articles are coming from outside, let us find out whether the exporting countries have subsidised them to keep the price at a lower level. If they have subsidised it to an extent that we cannot compete, then there will be anti-dumping duties. We have to see these things. That is why, two Directorates have been created in the Government of India to ensure that we are not put to disadvantage when articles are coming from outside. Many things have been given to us to see that we are at par with other countries.

Between 1947 and 1997 we have taken a decision that because of the low balance of payments situation, we will not import goods. But once our balance of payments position became good, we could not deny the opportunity to other trading countries to come to us or we could not deny ourselves an opportunity from going to other countries. A mention was made about U.S.A. All of us know that under TRIPS, many of our professionals are going to America and they are better off there. Had we not gone into bilateral agreement with the USA, would it have been possible for us to send the professionals to America? That is why we had to take away the Quantitative Restrictions by 2001. We should not think of only one aspect. If a glass is half full, you can either say that the glass is half full or the glass is half empty. If you say the glass is half full, then it is positive and if you say that the glass is half empty, then it is negative. Think of half-full aspect of the glass. That is what has to be thought of. Whenever we remove Quantitative Restrictions, two types

of restrictions are put. The restrictions in the first type are, non-automatic licences, import through canalised agencies, special import licensing etc. In the second type also we come across many factors, which have helped us in seeing that we are not put at an disadvantage by any one. I would invite the attention of Shri Sunil Khan to Shri Murasoli Maran's recent statement wherein he has stated that he is going to WTO to see that we get a better deal in this regard. I would like to quote only a portion of his speech. He said :

"The implementation related concerns of the developing countries should be addressed upfront by the WTO members as this arose out of the Uruguay round of negotiations concluded in 1994."

I think he would be going within a month's time to see that again discussions are held so that these problems are tackled. In our country, the price in the manufacturing sector is very high. If we can import, we can give some sort of benefit to our people by giving them cheaper variety of goods and also good quality goods. They can also be provided with a wide variety of goods. That is why, to see that we get a better deal, in the Budget of 2001-2002, tax holiday for five years and thirty per cent deduction of profits from the income for the next five years to the enterprises engaged in the integrated business of handling transportation and storage of foodgrains have been announced. Shri Kharabela Swain made a passing reference to this. We have got so many things. If we can give benefits to those who produce, then there would be better research and extension of services. If we do that, we can give reasonable Minimum Support Price to our farmers; we can provide better food stocks to our people through the Public Distribution System at cheaper prices and at the same time we can ensure that those who bring articles from outside do not put us at a position of disadvantage. That has to be kept in mind. The Government has been thinking of these problems and has been providing all sorts of safeguards to ensure that the interests of the people are protected.

Sir, since you have rung the bell, I would like to conclude by quoting a *sloka* from *Yajurveda*. It is in the Third Chapter and it is 50th *sloka*.

"Dehima dadami te, neeme dahinitadadhe

Niharam cha harashi mei, niharam mi haranite khadyah."

17.00 hrs.

The English translation of it is like this. I give the English translation because, I feel, my communist friends might not be quite adept in Sanskrit. So, I should give the English translation of it.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : That is wrong. How do you say that?... (Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : That is wrong. What is the evidence of it?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Madam, you may not agree with me. But that is my feeling.... (Interruptions) You may differ with me. But that is my feeling.

Now, I give the English translation of it.

"Give me, I give thee gifts.

Bestow on me and I bestow on thee.

To me present thy merchandise and I to thee will

Give my wares."

The saying is that you give your merchandise to me and I give you my wares. It is a reciprocal method. It has been thought of some 5000 years back. The WTO would bring about a reciprocal method of merchandise and wares being taken from one country to the other.

With this I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I support the Resolution. The Resolution, as it appears, is very simple. We need not bother about what is happening in China and India. No comparative study is called for when we analyze the Resolution. I do not find that anybody will dispute the basic issue that is contained in the Resolution. The Resolution is very important and relevant in the context of the Doha Conference.

The WTO is having a Conference at Doha. Many things are taking place around the world. Even the US Administration is of the view that some review is required in respect of the WTO Agreement. It does not dispute that aspect. We have also made our position clear that there must be some review with regard to the WTO Agreement entered into long before.

Sir, even today it has been reported in the newspaper that India is not alone in this matter. So, we will have to make the best use of the situation. I think nobody will dispute that India's industrial development is lagging behind. Our infrastructure development is much less when compared with the other countries. It is due to reasons beyond our control. So, in a world of competition, the Indian industry will find it very difficult to meet the situation. We want some time. We want some infrastructure development so far as the basic Indian industries are concerned.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

We know that we were having public enterprises. We were not in a world of competition then. So, the Indian industry is nowadays facing some crisis. To avoid that crisis, we require some protection. That is what is required.

With regard to Agriculture also, the same thing is there. The World Trade Organisation has ruined the Indian agricultural produces. I am coming from the State of Kerala. We know that coconut is the main crop of Kerala. The mechanism by which coconut is produced is age-old. We have not made any infrastructure development in respect of cultivation of coconut. We all know about that. Moreover, coconut is infested with disease. The mite disease destroys the coconut crop. We also know that the drying of leaves is an incurable disease so far as the coconut crop is concerned. No medicine has been found out so far to save the coconut tree when the leaves are drying. The only mechanism is to cut down the tree which is of twenty or thirty years old. That way, the growth of it is cut down.

There is an inherent weakness in the agricultural produce of Kerala, not only of Kerala, but of the whole country and we cannot compete with other countries in that respect. So, we want some changes, some amendments to the WTO Agreement. This is not communism, this is not the experience of Marxism, but this is a practical experience of the people of Kerala. They are facing a crisis. It so happens that coconut is primarily an agricultural product, but as per the terms of the Agreement entered into WTO, it has become a commercial product. The removal of trade restrictions has ruined coconut production in India. So, we want a change in the system. I would request the hon. Minister to convert coconut into an agricultural product and try to get the benefits that will come along with it.

Sir, now I would like to say a few words about rubber, which is a primary agricultural product of Kerala. We are the sole producers or, in other words, we have a monopoly as far as production of rubber is concerned. The entire economy of the State of Kerala is based on the production of rubber, but it is facing a crisis spread over a number of years. Now, rubber products are imported without any restrictions. Even second-hand tyres are imported into India. The net result is that the rubber growers of Kerala are facing starvation. They are small holders and their production method is age-old. There are some drawbacks with regard to production of rubber due to flood and drought, which are beyond the control of mankind. So, there are certain adverse situations, which will affect the growth of the industry. Therefore, we want some protection. It so happens that rubber is a commercial production. We would like the Government

to convert it as an agricultural product and try to get the benefits. The removal of quantitative restrictions has adversely affected these two primary agricultural products in India and thereby it has affected hundreds of thousands of people. Therefore, I would request my beloved friend to take up this matter in the Doha Conference. We are not alone there. There are other people who will also support us.

Sir, we see that each and every nation is taking its own decisions based on its own interests. Let us take the case of China. Many people were arguing that China has developed many goods, but we know that China is treated as the Most Favoured Nation by the US Administration in the matter of commerce, even if they say that there are incidents of violation of human rights in China. But in the international market, the US Administration considers China as the Most Favoured Nation. Why are they doing it? It is because the American industrialists find China as the best market for selling their goods. Let us not think that everything is all right in the United States of America. They are also facing a crisis. The US Administration is also facing a crisis. Even the G-8 countries have their own contradictions. They have their own difficulties. There are differences of opinion and contradictions between the European Union and the US Administration in the matter of trade. It is quite natural that there would be contradictions and conflict of interests between the developed countries. India is a developing country. So, all the developing countries should take a firm and united stand in the Doha Conference to see that their interests are safeguarded. There is nothing wrong in getting the WTO Agreement revised to help our farmers and to help our industry. This is not done at the risk of customers. My friend was arguing that the customers will have the choice. Definitely, they will have the choice but not at the risk of the nation.

Our basic industries are facing crisis because they do not have much infrastructure development. How can they compete with others in the world market? So, considering our special difficulties, considering our special priorities, we have a right cause to take up the matter at the Doha Conference. I think that justice will prevail, everybody will agree.

If you see, recently Americans have lifted some ban on the goods imported from India, but still there are restrictions on pharmaceuticals and on agro-products. There is an alibi that India did not take patent protection in this matter. So, their point is that we have not taken sufficient measures to protect the patent rights of the US Administration. What they did was that they imposed some ban on some of our goods to be imported by America. That is in their interest. So, I would suggest that when our Minister of Commerce goes to Doha, he

must have a clear idea of the coconut and rubber growers.

Not only that, but in the history of humankind, the coffee industry has never met with such a huge crisis. In the London Market, coffee is not required, in the world market, nobody is in need of coffee. But so far as India is concerned, India is one of the major coffee producing nations. And what is the result? Our economy is badly affected. In the case of Tea also, we have been definitely affected. I think, the hon. Minister also takes tea and he understands the problem and he has some idea about coffee also. All these products are facing crisis in India.

I do not say that it is because of the Trade Agreement, etc. No sensible man will say that it is because the Trade Agreement is there. What I would urge upon the hon. Minister is that we must have in mind that some protective steps should be taken to review the decision, which we have taken in a particular context. The economic situation has changed. So, in the changed economic situation, we can definitely argue for a case of revision in certain articles even though we have removed the quantitative restrictions.

In that context, I am only confining to Doha Conference. The resolution is also based in that context. So, when he represents India at the Doha Conference, he should have in mind the difficulties of coconut growers, the coffee growers, the tea growers and also of the rubber growers of India. They are part and parcel of our nation. So, we want some protective steps to be taken.

Is it not true that Americans have taken steps in this regard? They have taken steps to protect their farmers. The Australian Government took some protective measures for its wheat. There are even developed nations, including America, which have taken protective steps. In the matter of Soyabean, they have taken protective steps. The US Administration has taken protective steps in the matter of Soyabean cultivators. Recently, the Australian Government took measures to protect their wheat cultivators. Why? Because it is in their national interest. So, also we should consider all these aspects in our national interest and see that the Agreement is revised to the extent possible, so that our national interests are protected.

I hope that he will take a very bold stand and definitely he will be getting the backing of all the developing countries. Of course, we cannot expect the backing from the developed countries. African countries, Malaysia and other nations will help us. We are fighting for a cause, and I hope, our Minister will take a bold step at Doha Conference and see that the spirit of this Resolution is implemented.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel very sorry to say that I am unable to support the proposal moved by Shri Sunil Khan regarding review of the decision with regard to lifting of Quantitative Restrictions. In fact, with the passage of time, my friend Congress Party has forgotten the policies of Manmohan ji which he had implemented in 1991 and during the Prime Ministership of hon. Narsimharao ji, Shri Pranab Mukherjee was sent to sign the WTO. We are bound to go by the decisions of WTO. And today, the same congress friends are supporting the communists.

"Nikale Hain kahan jane ke liye pahunchenge kahan ye maloom nahin, In raah mein Bhatakne walon ko manzil ki disha maloom nahin."

When we have once decided what is to be done, i.e., when we have signed the GATT; or the WTO and when 141 countries have become member of WTO then why this issue of re-reviewing is being raised? Now it is time to proceed further. And so, we need not look into the past, but only towards our future. We have to see the welfare of our country first. Our farmer is no less than anyone. Indian farmers cannot be demoralised like this. We have given the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan aur Jai Vigyan'. In the present scenario our farmer should be well-confident. I feel sorry to say that we are paying for the policies of the congress for the last 50 years. The share of agriculture in GDP was 54.96 percent at the time of independence, which has reduced to 27.87 percent, whereas the labour force in agriculture remains the same. We shall have to change ourselves as per the needs of the time in order to bring positive changes in this situation. Hon. Minister of Commerce and hon. Minister of Agriculture etc., all are sitting here.

"Log kahate hain ki badalta hai Zamana,

Mard wah hai jo Zamane ko badal de."

When we have taken a step forward in the field of liberalisation, Globalisation and when we have signed the WTO, then it is always prudent to proceed in that direction only. India has attained high prestige and it is unbecoming of a country to back out from its promises as we are bound by the rules signed by our own selves. We have entered the 21st Century. And at this juncture, it is being said that we should re-review all this. It seems that our communist friends intend to put hurdles in the path of development. They want to drag the country back to its previous position with such retrogressive and reactionary acts. I would like him to recall as to

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

what is the position of Soviet Russia today? It was once the super power in the world, but due to non-competitive approach, one can very well see the position of Soviet Russia today. China woke up in time. It is seeking the help and assistance of America today, as a result of which there is openness in China. It is developing fast. We can also make our agriculture trade-market oriented and more prosperous, but the only thing required is proper deliberations in this regard. We should not make a pessimistic approach. We only have to ponder over the facts as to what we have to do, how we have to do in order to become a part of this global competition. Our country is no less than any other country. It is said: "Ayam nijah Paroveti Ganana Laghuchetsam, Udaarcharitanam tu vasudhaiva Kutumbkam".

We call the entire world as one single family, India cannot remain aloof and unaffected, be it agriculture trade or commerce activities all over the world. It is correct that our small scale industries should get protection and should also have the competitive spirit. We should produce good variety of seeds and articles and do hard work. We should not raise slogans for the fulfilment of our demands whatsoever the situation may be. Comrades have ruined the country with such unjust demands. What is the condition of public undertakings today? Mr. Chairman, Sir, today all the sick units and public undertakings are proving to be 'white elephants', difficult to manage and maintain. What is the reason behind? Actually no one is willing to work, people are here just to create hurdles and discourage the environment of competition. In fact everyone should work hard for the country and get good prices of their product. I wish that the agriculture product of India should compete with the world agricultural products. We grow a very high quantum of coconut which is not grown anywhere in the world so we should increase this produce with a good variety and introduce it in the world trade. This would definitely increase our income.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is the founder Member of the World Trade Organisation. As we are bound, so it is required to implement the suggestions given regarding agriculture. I would like to mention the following points.

First of all, we have to accomplish the commitment of market access. We have to provide support to the domestic products if there is a need of funds. We shall also have to give subsidy in a short time if we need it for exporting our products. But we shall have to determine the tariff measures till December 21st 2004. There is no need to review this. If we wish we can take our steps forward.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a conference of Chief Ministers regarding the WTO was held which was presided over by the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

at the Chief Ministers' Conference on WTO/Agreement on Agriculture and Food Management.

[Translation]

I would finish my statement after reading two-three lines.

[English]

"It is one of the most constructive and satisfying conferences of Chief Ministers in the past three years. The nature and depth of participation has shown that, cutting across the party lines, all of us can adopt a common approach to the problems of agriculture."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request Shri Sunil Khan to adopt a common approach. The common approach in the conference of Chief Minister is now prevalent in the entire country. All representatives have reached. Now we should make some reforms in it. One should not have a single distinct approach, nor things would set right by blaming America. We should think over the matter as to how India can be brought at equal footing with America in this field.

[English]

"This Conference has laid a strong basis for a national consensus on an effective action plan for the future. Agriculture is a State subject. However, the challenges as well as the opportunities before Indian agriculture have made it imperative for the closest possible cooperation between the Centre and the State on a continuing basis."

[Translation]

The main point i.e. the conclusion at the end is as follows :-

[English]

"As regards the WTO, I agree that we should no longer discuss the past. Let us look to the future with the confidence and a common resolve. One of the most important requirements is to enrich expert inputs into our deliberations and decision-making, both at the Centre and in States. This is also necessary for strengthening our market intelligence system. Another pressing need is to effectively communicate all the salient aspects of the WTO and Indian agriculture to our *Kisans* and to the people at large."

[Translation]

W.T.O. was signed keeping the interests of the Indian farmers in mind and now it is our duty to make these farmers aware of the utility and importance of the W.T.O. in an effective manner.

[English]

It has been stated here :

"In the absence of proper communication, many misgivings arise, which do no good to our ability to overcome the challenges."

[Translation]

We would not be able to overcome the challenges if we fail to create awareness amongst our farmers.

[English]

"As a first step, I would like the Commerce and Agriculture Ministries to organise awareness-building meetings in all the State capitals in collaboration with the State Governments. Similarly, the Centre should benefit from the expertise developed by the States."

[Translation]

So, the Centre and the States, may collectively make efforts to create this awareness and consciousness as to how we can develop our agriculture and Small-Scale Industries after signing the W.T.O., how we can proceed further and become independent, how we can earn more and more money from other markets and have profit. Moreover, how we can raise the standard of our living, we are required to have a unanimous approach on all these matters and only then we should implement it. I am thankful to you for having given me a chance to speak.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I extend my thanks to you. I rise to support the proposal on Quantitative Restrictions moved by my friend Shri Sunil Khan in the House. Perhaps my friend Shri Rasa Singh Rawat has misunderstood the issue. Infact the actual problem does not relate to WTO or withdrawing our Membership from WTO, or opposing it, but our main concern is the preparations that we have to make for the next round of talks to be held in Doha and how effectively will our hon. Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran, present the stand and the concerns of the common men, the poor farmers and the people associated with small scale Industries of India over there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the first instance I would like to submit that Punjab is an agrarian state. I would talk about the ground realities in connection with the concerns expressed with regard to the Industries after the removal and withdrawal of Quantitative Restrictions. There are the concerns which have already been expressed earlier by the great leader of farmers of the country, Chaudhary Charan Singhji. An ancient poet of Punjab, who was a down to earth person, had once expressed the plight of farmers in his own words, when he said-" Gai belch ke Ghodi lyandi, dudh peene gai leed Chakhani Pal" meaning thereby-

[English]

'I sold my cow and bought a mare.'

[Translation]

So the farmers said that my children went there to have milk, but instead they got the dung of the horse in turn. Punjab, the agricultural state of our country faces the same situation today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to say something about Industries. Ludhiana is called as the 'Manchester' of India. And all Cycle Industries are closed there. All Small Scale Industries have come to a standstill. In Batala also, our industries are closed. In Govindgarh Steel Plant is also closed. All our small scale Industries and big industries are closed in Rajpura. As a public representative I am not talking about the statistics. Many of my friends have revealed the statistics here. But I wish to say that the problem of unemployment as also other problems have all arisen due to signing the W.T.O. agreement without proper deliberations and preparation, which has ultimately benefited the developed countries. And as a result, developing countries have been suffering losses. I wish that this were not a repeat of the Agra Summit and we did not fail due to our incapability. Under your leadership we extend our support to you in Doha. This matter relates to our country. I wish to make two three comments over the preparations, the Government shall make before going there.

In the recent past, it was published in the newspapers that the NDA Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of a prominent leader of the farmers, Shri Sharad Joshi and the Committee was required to review the effect of WTO on agriculture and the farmers. It is being said that conclusions had been reached after surveying and studying 15 States as to what effect is the WTO going to leave on our agriculture and the farmers but the said committee itself was dissolved and all the conclusions of the Committee went into cold storage. I

[Shri J.S. Brar]

would request the hon. Minister of agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh to kindly touch upon this aspect during his speech on the next resolution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say two three things more. The hon. Minister has to take care of the States where per capita consumption of fertiliser is more. Foodgrains worth Rs.16000 crore are lying unused in the godowns. It is being rejected in other States as it is not of a good quality. We tried a lot to have more agricultural production. Now we have been given assurances regarding the products that are to be exported, but I wish to ask the hon. Members as to what is the condition of farmers in Rajasthan, or Uttar Pradesh and what is the condition of coffee, tea and rubber growers in Kerala, 20 years back the price of cotton in the market was Rs.1500 per quintal and today, despite the day to day price rise, the farmer is getting Rs. 1800 per quintal and if the son of a farmer has to take admission in any professional/technical course, he is required to pay Rs.35 lakhs or Rs.20 lakhs. So this condition of farmers is to be kept in mind and properly studied before the talks.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude my speech after making two more points. We have 440 lakh tonnes of foodgrain and 40 percent of the people are living below the poverty line and we are unable to provide food to them. Now we are saying that we would be benefited by the agricultural agreements and other agreements, but we should re-think over this issue. Sunil Khan ji is very right while saying that if our farmers are not benefited by this, then we should re-think over this issue instead of reviewing it.

[English]

The farmer is in a distress

[Translation]

and he has a feeling that we stand to lose due to the WTO and it would not be right if we do not review it in the Parliament. I would like to say to my friend, who is always interested in the welfare of the people that this issue needs no mention.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Brar, we have started discussion on this Private Member's Resolution at 3.17 p.m. We will have to take up the Half-an-hour discussion also. Please conclude.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Yes sir, I will take just two more minutes to wind up.

[Translation]

I was saying that the farmers in other countries of this competitive world feel that farmers in Punjab have big holdings.

[English]

Only 2.5 hectares is the average holding per person in Punjab. Now you tell us how will he compete with the farmers of U.S. and other countries?

17.34 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

We are being asked to compete with the farmers having 20,000 acres of land. The hon. Minister may kindly take care of this fact in the next round of talks to be held in Doha. It is right that we have opted for land reforms in the country, which has not yet been implemented in many States, but one thing has to be kept in mind that if we have to compete in the international market, then we cannot do two things at the same time, i.e. enforce land ceiling as also ask our farmers to compete with American farmers having large chunks of land of 20,000 acres.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to say to the hon. Minister that he should first of all deliberate on all these points. News regarding subsidy is published in newspapers every now and then. Farmers of Japan, France, U.K. and America get a lot of subsidy and in comparison to that if our farmers want to avail of a bank loan they have to give 20 percent of the loan amount as bribe, thereby denying to their own children in order to raise loans from banks, moreover, they also go on accruing and accumulating interest on interest itself. I support the views expressed by my friend Shri Radhakrishnan ji and other hon. Members in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 8 lakh tractors in our country and there are many markets for selling tractors. Our farmers buy tractor after raising loan from the banks, but they do not have any source to repay it. And that is why they are selling their tractors under compulsion. In fact we do not have time to discuss the suicides committed by farmers, otherwise I would have mentioned about the worse conditions of our farmers. I wish to say that the developing countries should oppose W.T.O. with full vigour.

Sir, I wish to say to Rasa Singh ji with regard to

his couplet that this issue was raised during our tenure also. During the Prime Ministership of Shri P.V.Narsimharao, I was an M.P. from Congress party. I had expressed my concern at that time and had said:-

"Woh pathar hain Jo gir Jaate hain tukado ho kar,

Kabhi hausle bhi musmaar hua karte hain

Manzil ki taraf badhna hi tohfa hai aadam,

Raaste to Sabhi dushwar hua karte hain."

This is not the matter of a party. This relates to the country. The issue has been raised by Shri Sunil Khan and supported by Chaudhary Saheb and Radhakrishnan ji but opposed by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat Ji. I want to tell them that when Lok Sabha was discussing the issue of farmers, not a single Member of any party supported the issue of World Health Organisation. All of them said that this is against farmers and common people of the country and will alienate us from our roots. This is confirmed by the fact that the agriculture committee of WTO, in its report, has called for review of the causes of worsening economic situation of the developing countries during last five years and the steps should be taken to improve it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Agriculture Minister is an able minister and he will consider all aspects. We have to consider many aspects in Democracy. He knows that people of his state are not supporting it. Farmers throughout the country are opposing it. Hon. Agriculture Minister commands respect all over the country, he is a sensitive person. I hope he prepares well for the issues that are going to be raised in Doha and he will not allow agriculture and industry of the country to get destroyed.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude for the opportunity you gave me for speaking on the resolution moved by Shri Sunil Khan. I support his resolution.

Sir, slavery is of two-three types. First is economic slavery, second is social slavery and the third is state slavery. In our country, social slavery has decreased gradually. Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ended political slavery by hoisting 'Tiranga' from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15 August. But economic slavery is still there. The roots of economic slavery are deep. It is the economic slavery which causes political and social slavery. WTO is the way to economic slavery.

Members of the ruling party may say that it was brought by the Congress, but in my opinion it is not prudent to point a finger at anyone repeatedly. We need

to look at the ways to improve it. Hon. Agriculture Minister looks from the view point of agriculture. I know Shri Maran since long. We should look at the condition of farmers and workers. Three crore people work in poultry farming. In Maharashtra, five lakh people work in handloom industry. In Mumbai, five lakh people worked in textile industry. The industry failed and people become jobless. The landowners got a huge amount but we need to consider those people who have become jobless after the closure of factories. The industry in my Parliamentary constituency was developing, but with the onset of WTO, unemployment increased. We need to consider that. The conditions in India are different. American policy is that of Chanakya. They know that out of 100 crore population, 25% are well off. America targets this segment. What was the amount of total subsidy paid by America before the WTO regime? After the WTO, subsidy was doubled. And we are pressurised to withdraw subsidy and change policies.

Morarji bhai was an able Prime Minister. Chaudhary Charan Singh said that India is not a weak country. It will remain self dependent and will not be deterred by what other countries think. If the Congress does the same, why do they oppose it. They should make firm efforts to make India self dependent. Withdraw from the WTO, that is my request.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the time you allowed me to speak. The issue raised by Shri Sunil Khan is an important issue which concerns farmers as well as the country. I also thank him.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) : Sir, I rise to demand review of the Terms of the GATT because our experience is very much bad. In every field, we are facing a serious crisis. In the field of agriculture, small-scale sector, and heavy industries, there is a serious crisis. After signing the GATT, if our country's economy is going to be groomed, certainly, we could have supported it, but the result is going to be quite different.

I am giving some statistics. These are not my statistics; I am giving the statistics of the Central Statistics Organisation, which will certainly justify the review of the Terms of the GATT, and also the review of the withdrawal of Quantitative Restrictions. I am giving some examples and, I think, the House will agree upon to review the Terms of the GATT.

Sir, the industrial growth rate during April to June this year had nose-dived. The manufacturing sector is bleeding and the small scale sector is on the verge of a collapse. I would like to give some statistics here.

[Shri Lakshman Seth]

Sir, the industrial growth rate plunged to 1.5 per cent in the period between April and June this year as compared to a 5.9 per cent growth last year. What does this prove? The growth in the power sector last year was five per cent. This has come down to 1.4 per cent this year. There was a growth of 4.4 per cent in the mining sector. This has plunged to three per cent this year. At present, the growth in the consumer goods sector is 4.9 per cent. It was 8.9 per cent last year. The growth rate in the capital goods sector also has come down to 2.9 per cent as compared to 7.6 per cent last year. In the consumer durable sector, the growth rate has plunged to eight per cent as compared to 24 per cent last year. The fiscal growth rate in this country during the period April to June has dipped to 7.5 per cent as compared to 22.7 per cent last year. A recessionary trend has started in every field of the economy. Unemployment is increasing. People living below poverty line, figures as given by the Planning Commission, is 27 per cent. Even after 54 years of our having attained Independence, the rate of illiteracy in our country is very high. What have we achieved through this GATT? What has happened because of this GATT? The developed countries that have acquired the technology are making use of their technology to produce various agricultural products and food processing products and are dumping in our country and thereby their industries are flourishing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Laxman Seth. Please take your seat. You can continue your speech next time. Now, the House would take up the Half-an-Hour discussion.

[English]

17.48 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR-DISCUSSION

Welfare of Tribals

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN) : Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to discuss an issue related to tribal welfare. I am also thankful to my colleague, Shri Bhartruhari Mahatab for having put a Starred Question on this issue on the 7th of August, 2001.

Sir, this is an important matter and it needs personal attention...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when would I get time?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next time when House discusses it. At present, we are having half-an-hour discussion. It had to start at 5.47. It was based on a question.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : When do I speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not right. Its time has expired. You will be given the chance later.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : When?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whenever the occasion arises?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: If it comes next year, will I have to wait till then?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The allotted time for the subject has expired. You will be given the opportunity when the subject is discussed next time. Now we are continuing with another subject. The House will be conducted according to rules.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : The reply given by the Minister was not satisfactory. Tribals comprise about 8.1 per cent of the country's population. That is a considerable number. The Government is not taking care of this sizeable population. In this connection I am reminded of what hon. President of India has said in his address to the nation on 14th August, 2001, on the eve of the Independence Day. He said, 'It is very essential to strike a balance between freedom and justice.' This is hundred per cent correct and fully relevant to the issue under discussion.

The gap between haves and havenots is increasing under this NDA Government's regime. This Government has no political will or commitment to remove the imbalances in the society. According to the figures available, for construction of Girls Hostels, the Government has released Rs.32 lakh in the year 2000-01. For construction of Boys Hostels, an amount of Rs.32 lakh only was released. For Ashram Schools, funds to the tune of Rs.5.32 crore were released but not a paise has been spent. This shows that this Government has no political will and commitment to take care of the needs of the tribal people in the country. If the Government fails to revise its policy towards tribal people, there would be a scenario where one could see two Indiās - one of haves and one of have-nots.

The condition of tribal people residing mostly in the remote rural areas is going from bad to worse. I

bring this matter to the attention of the Government with the hope that the Government would come out with a specific plan for upliftment of tribal people in the country and that the Government would endeavour to remove imbalances in the society.

The President also said in his address that the poor were getting impatient. I would say that the tribals are getting impatient. They are leading pathetic lives. We all have heard of the incidents of starvation deaths of tribals. Till recently, people belonging to a tribe in the hilly areas of Karnataka were using bamboo as a vessel to cook rice. Even today some of them depend on hunting for their livelihood. In Orissa and in the North-Eastern States there is a large population of Scheduled Tribes. More funds are required for the development of primitive tribals. Increase in the Budget allocation for tribal welfare schemes has been meagre. Special Assistance sanctioned towards Tribal Sub-Plan during the year 1999-2000 was just Rs.400 crore.

This amount remained the same during 2000-01 also. But no money has been spent for this special scheme. In fact, my first question to the hon. Minister is that why there is no increase in the grants under the Special Central Allocation for the Tribal Sub Plan.

I want to mention one more point. Has the hon. Minister got any monitoring system to see that the amount released reaches the needy ones? Otherwise, Sir, as our former Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi had also said, only 10 per cent of the total amount released would reach the needy.

There is no question of blaming one another. All of us have to introspect. Creating a new Ministry is not enough. Monitoring is more important. More than the middlemen and the unscrupulous 'outsiders', the tribals across the country should beware of the Government machinery itself. A large amount of money given by the Centre to protect them against exploitation and their upliftment has been grossly misused by the authorities.

My second question is whether it is a fact that the money is being released often on the last day of the financial year. If so, will the hon. Minister kindly change this trend?

My third question is about the backlog in the reservation of jobs in the State Government and Central Government services. Is it a fact that this backlog is mounting year after year? If so, what are the measures contemplated by the hon. Minister to clear this backlog?

My fourth question is about the allocation of amounts.

The amount allocated for the development of primitive Tribal groups for the year 2001-02 is Rs. 1,250 lakh. What is the amount released till today?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Sir, I am concluding within a minute.

They have allocated Rs. 1,250 lakh. But even this amount has not been spent properly.

Sir, my fifth question is about the opening up of residential schools. In the Ninth Plan, under TSP, the Centre proposed to establish 100 residential schools on the pattern of 'Navodaya Vidyalayas'. What is the number of such schools established in the country and particularly in Karnataka as on today?

Sir, my sixth and the last question is about the awareness programmes. What special efforts have been made by the Ministry to bring in awareness of all the schemes both at the Government level and voluntary organisation level relating to Tribals, primitive tribals and migratory tribals like *banjaras* and otherwise?

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 8.6% or almost 9% of our total population comprises of adivasis. For the last many years several programmes have been launched to provide facilities to the Scheduled Tribes for their upliftment. However, they could not be benefited by these programmes or whatever benefit they got was negligible. This is the situation in all States of the country be it Meghalaya, Manipur, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra or other parts of South India where adivasis are in majority. I would like to know two four questions from hon'ble Minister that during the last three years, adivasis or Scheduled Tribe people who are.. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not two-four but ask only one question.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : I will ask only one question. The first part of my question is that for the last so many years, Scheduled Castes are living in hilly areas or in forests which are called vanya gram also. These vanya grams have been converted into State grams and adivasi people are earning their livelihood by doing farming. Now these people are being forced to evacuate their land, atrocities are being committed on them. What steps have been taken by the Government for the welfare of these people belonging to Scheduled Castes?

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

18.00 hrs.

The second part of my question is about the plight of the several schemes launched for the welfare of the adivasis all over the country alongwith the amount spent upon these schemes during the last three years. The third part of my question is that several educational institutions and hostels have been opened for adivasi students. However, the condition of these students is pitiable. There is no teacher to teach them also the catering arrangements are not up to the mark. I myself have inspected the hostels and found that the inferior quality food items are being provided to these students. What action the Government is taking in this regard? The last part of my question is that Government is spending crores of rupees to provide medical facilities to adivasi people. I myself have found that the schemes which were to be started in Madhya Pradesh and adivasi areas of Chhattisgarh for the welfare of adivasi people have not been started so far. I have visited the places where ponds were to be dug off. There is not a single pit what to talk of the water. Even after 54 years of our independence, no improvement has been made in the condition of adivasi people. I would like to state the hon'ble Minister to review the welfare schemes being implemented by it and to derive some conclusion in this regard for the welfare of the adivasis people. They could get medical, educational and other facilities for their social upliftment. A ban should be imposed on forcing the adivasi people to evacuate the forests. What steps are being taken by the Government to convert the 'Vanyagams' into 'Rajasavagams' and to allot the land to these people?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as has been stated here that even after 54 years of our independence, the economic, educational or social condition of adivasis has not been improved as was desired. Several schemes worth crores of rupees have been formulated but their benefit could not be reached to them. Through you, I would like to know that why the Government has not achieved the desired results by the efforts which have been made till now to save the social and cultural heritage of adivasis. Adivasis are more in number in 'vanyagams'. They earn their livelihood through farming. Government should consider to give them the ownership of agriculture land. They are totally dependent on forests. I would like to ask the Government is there any special scheme to ensure their participation. The second part

of my question is that 7.5 % of Rajasthan's population is comprises of adivasis. Dongarpur, Banswara, Slumber, Udaypur and Chittorgarh districts are adivasi dominated areas. Adivasis of these areas are living in a miserable condition. Development is not taking place there even after launching the special component schemes and opening of ashrams for these people. Meena community in Rajasthan comes under Scheduled Castes list, however, every third person of this community has become IAS. On the other hand the condition of 'Bheel' 'meena' people of Doongurpur, Banswara, Udaypur and Chittorgarh district has not been improved. Not even 1 % of them attained lower posts in Government offices what to talk about higher posts. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government has paid attention towards this disparity. If so, the efforts made by the Government to remove such disparities.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : Sir, I am thankful to all the members and express my gratitude towards them. I have been allowed to speak during half an hour discussion. I also express my gratitude towards the Ministry for giving me the chance to explain before this august House. From first five year plan to 4th Five Year Plan development of tribals were undertaken as per the general planning. During 5th Five Year it was thought that development of tribals can not go with the development of general people. In this way it would come difficult for the tribals to come in the mainstream of the society. Therefore, a TSP approach - Tribal sub-Plan approach was adopted in 5th Five Year Plan. One more scheme was launched for the tribals in this plan. For the implementation of this scheme 194 ITDA or ITDP-Integrated Tribal Development Project or agencies were constituted all over the country. Tribal areas were identified and marked. In tribal populated areas, some units were constructed in the name of Modified Area Development agency (MADA) which could be set up with in a block. Such areas were also identified where out of the total population of 5 thousand, more than 50% belong to tribes. 82 cluster groups who live in small pockets and in last primitive tribe groups were also identified. Hon'ble member was stating that 75 such groups are living in pre-agriculture stage who are living in poor conditions and do not want to mingle with other people. They are in far flung areas. That schemes was launched for the development of such people. Sir, only one percent of the total plan outlay was spent for the tribal development. In the second plan, the allocation was less than one percent. During 5th Five Year Plan, more than 3% allocation

was made for this purpose. In 8th Five Year Plan 9.47% allocation is being spent. Sufficient funds should be provided for tribal development. Out flow of the allocation should be ensured and it is going on. I would also like to place before you the literacy rate also. In 1961 All India literacy rate was 24% out of which literacy rate among the tribals was 8.5%. In 1971 after 10 years all India literacy rate was 29.4% out of which the literacy rate among tribals was 11.3%. During the census of 1991 all India literacy rate was 52.2% and tribal's 29.6%. Hence, during the last 30 years all India literacy rate has been increased from 24 to 52% i.e. literacy rate has been increased by 2 ½ times. Literacy rate among the tribals increased from 8.5 to 29.6%. That means the increase was three times than the previous one. Hence, we can not say that development has not taken place though it is not up to the desired extent due to lack of sufficient attention.

Hence an independent Tribal Affairs Ministry was constituted after the NDA Government came to power. A question has been asked as to how much money has been spent alongwith the breakup of expenditure during the last three years. When I took charge of the Ministry its budget allocation was Rs. 630 crores. I got it enhanced to Rs. 810 crore within a year. This year the allocation has been made to the tune of Rs. 1049 crores. We also want to give benefit to the tribal living in non scheduled areas. Hence we have carved out the National Tribal Development Financial Corporation out of SC/ST Financial Corporation. Our expenditure is also in excess of 85%. Hon. Member has raised the question also that though the budgetary allocation was much more, we have spent only 32 lakhs rupees as regards the girls hostel.

Similarly, as regards the boys hostel, an amount of Rs. 32 lakhs have been spent though the budgetary allocation was also much in excess to that amount. Though a budgetary allocation has been made for Ashram school, however you have been showing nil expenditure for that. This is partly centrally sponsored and partly under centrally sector scheme. 50 per cent of its cost should be contributed for boy's hostel also. If the states are not willing to pay the 50 percent of their share, from where will the centre pay the money? The government is also considering to convert the various tribal development schemes from their existing 100 per cent centrally sponsored form to centrally sector schemes. Though suggestions are being given by the people to this effect, state governments are reluctant to share any responsibility in it also. Same is the case with boy's school and Ashram schools. Today

many states are hesitant to open Ashram Schools for the fear of having to contribute 50 per cent funds to run these which include the expenditures like the payment of salaries to teachers, stipend to students and other sundry expenditures. Hence the states are not coming to the front. An initiative can be taken in this regard if hon. Members pay some attention in this regard. An initiative has been taken in this direction after the arrival of this Government in power. The centre as well as the states should contribute 50 per cent each in the three schemes namely boy's hostel, girls hostel and Ashram schools. However, as the state government are reluctant to share their responsibility hence we have hold deliberations with the Ministry of Planning and Programme implementation and it has been decided that the hon. Members will provide the money from their MPLADS funds equivalent to the share of the state for the project in one's constituency. A circular to this effect has been issued and the hon. Members also have received a letter in this regard both from the MPLADS as well as from one side... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Hundred per cent funds should be given by the central government.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : That has been continuing since 5th plan. Though it may be changed in future, presently, the old situation is prevailing.

We conduct special recruitment drive from time to time to clear the backlog. Though you have brought it to my Notice that no special drive has taken place so far, however it is a very difficult job to clear the backlog in states. States are repeatedly included to fetch data of that backlog. It is only through the directions given by Shri Bhuriaji, the Chairman of SC/ST commission that the state governments make efforts to clear the backlog.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member has asked as to whether the backlog is timebound?

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Yes, backlog clearance is also timebound. We also insist it to be a no loss process and backlog should be cleared within one to two years. However, it is difficult to maintain and compile its data

[Shri Jual Oram]

from organisation to organisation. Though it has been directed to fill up the vacancies for tribal immediately, delay occurs due to procedural follow up.

Secondly, the number of candidates entitled for postmatric stipends is more than 19 lakhs in the country...
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Start a special drive to clear the backlog.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The minister is replying.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Regarding van gram hon. Pandeyji has told that a three days seminar of the SC, ST MPs was held after the assumption of power by the Government. This seminar was inaugurated by hon. Prime Minister and attended by the then Minister of Law Shri Ram Jethmalani also. After holding deliberation in the seminar it was decided to direct each State Government to rehabilitate that every tribal by providing all kinds of facilities who prior to 1980, i.e. before the implementation of Forest Conservation Act, had been living either in Forest Land, Reserve Forest land or anywhere else.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (REWA) : It is not happening in our state.

SHRI JUAL ORAM : It is the job of the State Government to implement it. We have already given the direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member intends to know whether any monitoring network has been set up in this regard or not? Whether the State Government coordinate from time to time?

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Monitoring is done. Whenever I visit any state, I call on the Minister and the Secretary there. There is a provision that change should occur in Forest Act and no alienation should take place in land Act. We review whether or not this provision is being implemented. Many State Governments have tried to identify the van gram villages for converting them into

revenue villages. I can say something about Orissa that some work has started there.

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA: Madhya Pradesh is not following your directions.

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Rawatji has asked as to what the government has been doing for tribal culture. I would like to say that it is a rich culture. TRYSEM is working for the development of the culture. Through it, we had organised a seven day's exhibition cum sale involving three to four states at 9, Mahadev, Road. A tribal show was held during this fair. Many hon. Ministers were invited for the show. We had also held a tribal Members fair on the lines of one held in Pragati Maidan. Participants took part in it in large number including the tribal group from each state.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : You don't call them forest dwellers, say them primitive tribes.

SHRI JUAL ORAM : We held programmes for the tribals. I have told about the special drive. Increase in budgetary allocation has been made and we will continue to enhance it further. A light was thrown on eating habits of tribals.

[English]

People are eating bamboo and things like that.

[Translation]

Tribals use the wild herbs as eatable. They use some herb by preparing its pickle. Though it is not harmful if properly made, however sometimes it proves harmful if not prepared properly.

SHRI PAWAN SINGH GHATOWAR (DIBRUGARH): It was reported in newspapers that many people have died due to eating it in Orissa.

SHRI JUAL ORAM : The intention of the Government is very clear. Had it been not so, there was no need to form this Ministry. This Ministry has been formed after 53 years. You can easily assess as to what is the thinking of this Government in this regard. The Government has an open thinking and a lot of concentrated efforts are being made in this sector. The Government is committed

for the timebound upliftment and welfare of tribals. I once again thank you.

SHRI K. A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND) : I should also be given time to speak on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't give prior notice for it and are never alert.

[English]

How can I allow you?

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Sir, through you, can I ask one question to the hon. Minister?

You have formulated a programme for the tribals wherein 50 per cent of the contribution will be shared by the centre as well as the State Government each.

North eastern states will face a lot of problems to contribute their share for want of economic developments. I would submit that this share of state should be made 25% instead of 50% and the centre's share should be enhanced to 75%. You must ensure to make this procedure simple, else it will remain on papers alone.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I am not allowing. The House now stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, August 20, 2001 at 11 A.M.

18.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, August 20, 2001/Sravana 29, 1923 (Saka)

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and Printed at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
