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Friday, December 20, 2002
Agrahayana 29, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

3

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 20, 2002/Agrahayana 29, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh are being lathicharged *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no one to pay attention towards the problems of the sugarcane growers, today they are being lathicharged. It is a very serious matter *...(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Harish Chandra Heda.

Shri Harish Chandra Heda was a member of provisional Parliament and First to Third Lok Sabha from 1950 to 1967 representing erstwhile Hyderabad State and Nizamabad Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Heda was an able parliamentarian. He served as member of the Panel of Chairmen from 1960 to 1962. He was member of the General Purposes Committee and Committee on Estimates from 1960 to 1962; Joint Committee on Offices of Profit during 1962 and 1967 and Committee on Subordinate Legislation from 1963 to 1967.

He also served as member of Labour Investigation Committee during 1948-49, Employment Exchange Advisory Committee and Labour Control Food Advisory Committee Hyderabad State from 1948 to 1950. He was also a member of Land Reforms Sub-committee to report on the progress of land legislation in the country.

Shri Heda was a well known and a selfless social worker in the true Gandhian spirit. He evinced keen interest in tribal welfare and Community Development Projects. He was instrumental in setting up libraries, night schools, study circles and federation of debating societies. He was actively associated with the promotion and sale of khadi. He served as President, International Cultural Exchange Organisation (India) and Lok Shiksha Association of India. He was founder member and treasurer of Foreign Affairs Association of India, New Delhi. He was founder President of Hyderabad Branch of Indian National Trade Union Congress.

Shri Heada was a veteran freedom fighter and was drawn to the India's freedom struggle inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. He took active part in Quit India Movement in 1942 and suffered imprisonment.

Shri Heda wrote articles on Gandhism and Marxism. He had to his credit three book namely "Gandhiji's Noakhali Pad Yatra, 1946", "On the High Seas, 1958" and "Election in Britain 1960".

A widely travelled person, Shri Heda was a member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Tokyo during 1960. He visited USA at the invitation of "Friends of India Society" in 1962.

In his death, the country has lost true Gandhian who dedicated his entire life to selfless social service.

Shri Harish Chandra Heda passed away on 28th August, 2002 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 90.

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.

11.04 hrs

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

11.05 hrs.

RE: REPORTED LATHI CHARGE ON SUGARCANE GROWERS IN UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Today, the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh are being detained in the police stations *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): It is a very serious matter, sugarcane growers are being harassed *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayamji, please speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion is going on the House on the issue of sugarcane growers. It is a separate thing that the House was adjourned due to lack of quorum yesterday but the discussion is on today itself. The sugarcane growers have staged a peaceful 'dharna' in front of the sugar mills regarding remunerative price of sugarcane and the payment of their dues. Raids were conducted during the whole night. You can ascertain about it, thousands of farmers were detained in the police stations. They were insulted. Not only pushing and jostling took place but they were lathicharged also. Now, the farmers have no other option except staging dharna and demonstration. Therefore, you should take this matter seriously. Our responsibility is not only to raise question in the House. If our stand is right, it is necessary to struggle for it at every forum. The Government is compelling us to do so. The hon. Minister is present in the House. If you give the permission, he will give his clarification. I would like that the hon. Minister should reply. There should not be any delay. The discussion is going on and it would be shameful if further atrocities are committed on the farmers. It is an act of national dishonour by the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): The police have inflicted severe injuries to the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is our compulsion, therefore, we have raised this issue in the House. Our responsibility is not only to raise the issue but to struggle for it also.

MR SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is present in the House, he can give reply. The hon. Minister will give reply after the discussion is over on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The government is not serious on this issue. The Government has connived with the sugar mill owners...*(Interruptions)* . The farmers are being killed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, please take your seat.

[English]

I have received three notices for Adjournment Motion on different issues. On the problem being faced by the sugarcane growers, the Members were agitated. The notice for Adjournment Motion was given by Shri Akhilesh Singh. Since his leader, Shri Mulayam Singh spoke on this issue, I would request the hon. Minister to take serious cognizance of this. When there is going to be a reply, which was not completed yesterday during the discussion, I have requested the Minister to take this matter also seriously and give the reply on behalf of the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The next notice for Adjournment Motion is from Shri E. Ahamed, which is on Tehelka Inquiry. The next notice for Adjournment Motion is from Shri Ramdas Athawale on the privatisation of Centaur Hotel, Mumbai. All these notices, for Adjournment Motions, I have disallowed. But I have permitted the Members to speak.

There is also a notice from Shri Dasmunsi regarding the JPC Report. He has suggested for suspension of Question Hour. For this, why Question Hour be suspended? You are allowed to speak.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have also given a notice for suspension of 'Question Hour' to discuss the problems being faced by the sugarcane growers.

MR. SPEAKER: I will also allow you to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: The farmers of Madhya Pradesh are starving. I may please be allowed to speak on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received your notice.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: I have given notice to raise my issue during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: Then speak during 'Zero Hour'. I will allow you to speak during 'Zero Hour'. Now, I am not allowing you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. We have to start the question hour shortly.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, if you permit, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar may please be allowed to speak on my behalf.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Dasmunsiji has requested that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar may please be allowed to speak on his behalf. How can

the Speaker transfer the turn? He has asked to suspend the question hour, tell us why question hour should be suspended...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

How can he transfer his request?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know it cannot be transferred. This is the last day. Therefore, I am treating this differently.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a Member of the JPC, I am shocked that without any authorisation from the JPC, the Chairman has claimed that the Report presented yesterday has given a clean chit to the former Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Singh....*(Interruptions)* The JPC had done nothing of that kind. The Report is replete with indictments of various sins, of omission and commission, on the part of the Ministry of Finance. There can be no Ministry without the Minister. Moreover, it is the Minister, not the officials of the Ministry or the Regulatory Agencies who are responsible to and are accountable to Parliament. We underline that the JPC have deplored the culture of governance which shifts the blame elsewhere. Shri Yaswant Sinha must accept the blame for the protracted, repeated, and diverse lapses of those who reported to him.

Moreover, the JPC had detailed how Shri Yaswant Sinha misled the Parliament, both with respect to the payments exchanged in the Kolkatta stock exchange as well as with regard to his claims about the Chairman of UTI, having kept him deliberately in the dark and repeatedly said that everything was chunky dory.

In view of the fact that the Chairman of the JPC is a Member of this House, that the former Minister of Finance is also a Member of this House, and that the privileges of the House have been abused by the mis-interpretation, given in the Report by the Chairman of the JPC, we move for suspension of the Question Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only a member who has given the notice will be allowed. I am sorry the rules of the House cannot be flouted by anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: On the day when the Report was Tabled, I only expected to uphold the rich tradition of the House that Shri Yaswant Sinha would resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the Ruling Party I allow Prof. V.K. Malhotra to make it clear whether the Question Hour should be suspended or not.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking on behalf of the Ruling party.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am opposing the suspension of the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking whether the Question Hour be suspended or not. He is not talking on the merits of the case. I am not stopping any discussion on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you during the Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The thing is not that I will listen to the views of the Members of the opposition only.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Pravin Rashtrapal who are the Members of the JPC, be given an opportunity to explain the abuse of our privileges for which we demand that the Question Hour should be suspended ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of suspension of question hour does not

arise. The Members of the JPC belonging to Congress Party have not uttered even a single word about the hon. Minister. They have not given a note of dissent or anything in writing about the hon. Minister.

[English]

It is immoral on their part. It is not only immoral but also illegal on their part now to come out and say that the Minister should own the responsibility.

[Translation]

They are making mockery of the democracy *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, three farmers have been killed in Mundreva area of Basti district in Uttar Pradesh and even today the murderers getting off Scot free. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has also given a notice for suspension of question hour, therefore, I am allowing him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji has said.

Sir, three farmers have been killed in police firing in Mundreva area of Basti district in Uttar Pradesh and even today the murderers are getting off scot free. Discussion on the problems being faced by the farmers was going on in the House yesterday, even the Prime Minister himself came in the House and make an announcement that the Government have increased the minimum support price of the sugarcane by five rupees. By doing so he has made a mockery of the farmers. The farmers had got Rs. 95 and 100 as the minimum support price of sugarcane last year. The sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh got Rs. two per quintal more than Haryana when Shri Mulayam Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Today, the farmers of Haryana are getting more price of sugarcane *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak on this issue when the house will discuss the said issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Both the notices of the suspension of Question Hour have been rejected by me. I go to the Question Hour now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ask the hon. Minister go give reply in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I will certainly ask the hon. Minister to give reply in this regard. You will get the reply of this question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that the hon. Minister should give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to say something?

[Translation]

Mulayam Singhji, please take your seat, the hon. Minister has stood up to give the reply.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the debate was going on, on this issue yesterday but later on due to lack of quorum the debate could not be completed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You should give the reply only *...(Interruptions)*. The debate was held or not, you should give reply *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The debate would take place at 6.00 p.m. today.

MR. SPEAKER: You should give reply after collecting all the informations.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do more than this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Enough is enough, please take your seat. I request you that I have given opportunity to speak to all of you. You have done your duty by raising

questions. The hon. Minister will give the reply. Please now all of you take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is your ruling on our notice?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling. The Question Hour cannot be suspended.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: During Zero Hour I am allowing. At that time you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the question of the dignity of the Committee *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

I request all the hon. Members to please take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit this much only that necessary instructions should be issued to release the farmers *...(Interruptions)* My question is that why a case has not been filed against the murderers of the farmers under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code till now *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you please give reply after conducting an inquiry into the case.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Why the persons responsible for it have not been arrested under Section 302 and why the FIR has not been filed against them? *...(Interruptions).* If this happens then what will we do here in the House? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, this matter is not related to my Ministry. I do not look after the law and order situation. Therefore, the hon. Home Minister can give reply in this regard *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You please ask the hon. Home Minister to come to the House *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: When I was replying the hon. Members belonging to your party said that there is lack of quorum.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: At that time you were not present in the House. You came later on.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I had gone out for drinking water. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proceeding of the House should continue as per the rules and regulations. If the quorum is not there, how can the proceeding continue? It is the responsiblity of the Government. The problem of quorum would have not been raised if the hon. Members of your party had been present in the House *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the quorum was made when the debate was going on yesterday. What should we do in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: You are not at fault in this regard.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When the hon. Prime Minister left the House, many hon. Members also followed him *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, please take your seat. Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has raised a question and the hon. Minister has replied that this question is relate to the department of Home Affairs. It is a fact that the hon. Minister can ask the department of Home Affairs as to what action has been taken in this regard? The information in this regard can be made available to the House. Before you give a reply, please get this matter enquired into and then apprise the House of the outcome. Now I come to the Question Hour. Please ask question number 442.

11.20 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

+

*442. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government have made efforts for setting up of Free Trade Zone in association with the ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far in this regard; and

(c) the short-term and long-term benefits likely to accrue to India after joining the above organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In the first ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)—India Consultations held on 15th September, 2002 in Brunei Darussalam, the Ministers agreed to establish an ASEAN-India Economic Linkages Task Force (AIELTF) to prepare a draft Framework Agreement to enhance ASEAN-India trade and economic cooperation and recommend measures for integration towards closer economic partnership. The First Meeting of the Task Force is being held on 20-21 December 2002 in New Delhi.

A joint study on AFTA India Linkages for the Enhancement of Trade & Investment undertaken by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research has proposed for Regional Trade & Investment Area (RTIA) between India and ASEAN in the long term. The study has highlighted that ASEAN and India offer a large market with a combined population of 1.485 billion people and therefore, there is a great potential to enhance trade & investment flows between India and ASEAN countries. As per the joint study, based on the UNCTAD methodology, the aggregate trade between India and ASEAN-5 is estimated to increase three folds from the present level of trade. On the short term benefits, India and ASEAN seek to deepen cooperation in the areas of Trade Facilitation, Science & Technology, Human Resources Development, Information and Communication Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Tourism, etc. besides promoting people to people linkages.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for the declaration he has made in the ASEAN Conference. Certainly this House knows that the Government have taken many decisions in the interest of the country but our Prime Minister deserves congratulations for the ASEAN agreement. Our Minister would give a reply in the House. The Minister has given many suggestions in his reply, he is making a study in this matter. But among the ASEAN countries the density of population in India is the highest. I would like to know the areas in which India is going to get benefit by this agreement? I request the hon. Minister to give a detailed reply in this regard. I would like to know about the long term and short term benefits which the nation would get.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister had participated in the summit level conference of the ASEAN on 5 November, 2002. There were two issues before the task force. One was the report of the joint commission on the basis of that a task force had to be constituted and its terms of reference had to be chalked out. First of all these two things were vetted in that agreement so that further action could be taken and the task force could submit its report in the year 2003. Besides, the hon. Prime Minister made a declaration that we would set up a free-trade zone amongst the ASEAN countries within the next ten years. Further more a declaration to this effect was also made that the undeveloped countries would get declaration to this effect was also made that the undeveloped countries would get special and preferential treatment so that smaller countries could also be benefitted.

The hon. Member has asked as to which are the areas going to get benefit from this agreement. Basically in the areas of information technology, environment, science and technology, pharma and bio-technology, human resources and business visa establishment would be benefitted. Besides, benefits would accrue in respect of standardisation of custom as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of the ASEAN countries which are party to the trade agreement including India is about one and a half billion. It is our effort to reach an agreement with ASEAN as the ASEAN and other three countries China, Korea and Japan want to reach a free-trade agreement. China has got a proposal for a duty free trade with the ASEAN countries from the year 2003 to 2013. It wants to set up a zero-duty free trade regime. However, Japan has not so far signed any Memorandum of Understanding or any such protocol to set up a duty free regime. Similarly, Korea has also not

signed any such MoU but has maintained the MSN status. The relationship between ASEAN and these three countries has been established in this way. Our Prime Minister has played most effective role after China in this regard. Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Philippine, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Combodia and Brunei are included in the ASEAN. We would be able to establish closer ties with these countries.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all want benefits from the agreement, be it the business section or the industry sector. The hon. Minister has said that help should be given to the poor countries. This is appropriate. But India has got such a position in the world that it does not enter into any agreement just for the sake of getting benefit. The density of population in India is highest in comparison to other countries. I would like to know about the man-power? Whether India will get any special benefit on the basis of the barter system prevailing earlier in the trade. As is the case of China and Japan where the population density is too much. If free trade is introduced we will have to face stiff competition. In such a situation whether India would be able to get the benefit of its talent or whether it would be able to get more benefit in comparison to other countries? I do not want to begin my speech with criticism. I intend to say that I have not received reply of my original question in Hindi that I had asked. I want your protection in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Replies must have been sent in Hindi. Perhaps the hon. Member might have faced problems in getting it in Hindi from where he has collected it. I would certainly and personally arrange for Hindi version of the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Its reply is in Hindi.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has raised the question about economic and business matters. As per the report the prospective trade between India and the ASEAN is approximately 12.9 billion dollars. About 10.2. billion dollars of trade can be made with 10 countries out of which 2.7 billion dollars of trade can be made with India. So far as the question of the ten countries is concerned, they are mainly interested in setting up a mutual free trade zone. A number of countries among them are under-developed. At the global level 7 per cent business is carried out under the regional trading agreement, local business relationships. Most of the countries try to set up regional trading agreement. Today there is RTA as well. Ours free trade agreement is with Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Our position is strong in these areas. So we have set up such a regime. In the same way we have preferential trade agreement under the Bangkok and SAFTA agreements with the SAARC countries. We try to establish economic relationship also with our neighbouring countries along with the traditional relationship. In this agreement major issue is of investment. Besides the mutual agreements reached at with the other countries, there is the proposal of investment which is the additional issue brought under the Prime Minister's declaration. In addition service sector has also been mentioned in it.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, the hon. Minister has agreed that the Task Force has already been set up. If so, has the Task Force submitted its recommendation to enhance trade and economic cooperation? The more specific question is whether the Task Force would also include members of the private sector. If so, how many private sector people are coming forward and what are the projects offered to the private sector people in this regard?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The best and the most important aspect today is that the meeting of the Joint Task Force is really being held today. That is the date proposed. So, it is a very fortunate thing that it is asked ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: It has appeared in the newspapers that even private sector people are included in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I cannot tell about the modalities and the aspects being considered in the meeting which is held by the Joint Task Force.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not asking that. He wants to know whether the private sector people have been included in that or not. You can say either "yes" or "no".

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The modalities and everything is being discussed there. So, I cannot commit myself because the meeting is taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not asking about the commitment. He wants to know whether they are there today or not. That is the question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The modalities have to be finalised in that meeting only. When the consultations are going on, it will not be appropriate for me if I make a statement here. But certainly as the world economy is growing, private sector participation is

always there. It cannot be considered out of it. But I would like to say that certain commitments are to be made and the modalities have to be discussed. Myanmar is heading the Chair from the other side. It is a Joint Secretary level delegation which is holding the talks. So, when the talks are going on outside, it will not be appropriate for me if I make a statement in Parliament. All these factors which are important for economic growth and the building up of bilateral relationship would definitely be considered. So, I think the House will agree with me on this point.

Development of Handloom Industries

*443. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering any proposal for development of Handloom Industries in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide assistance for development of Handloom industry in the country, particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years, years-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal)]: (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No new proposal for the development of handloom sector is presently under consideration of the Union Government. However, the schemes already under implementation for the development of Handloom industry are as detailed below:-

(i) **Deendayal Hathkaragha Protsahan Yajana:** With a view to improving the infrastructure facility for product diversification and quality up-gradation as well as supporting the efforts of marketing, design, consultancy etc., a comprehensive scheme called Deendayal Hatkargha Protsahan Yojana has been introduced by the Government of India w.e.f. 1.4.2000. The scheme envisages product development, infrastructural support, institutional support, training to the weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support etc. both at macro and micro levels in an integrated and co-ordinated manner for an overall development of the handloom sector and the weavers.

(ii) **Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme:** This scheme was introduced during the year 1996-97 with the objective of giving substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country. Under the scheme, assistance was being provided for infrastructure development including engagement of designers for development of designs to suit the international market thereby enhancing the export of handloom apparels from the country.

(iii) **Mill Gate Price Scheme:** This scheme was introduced during the year 1992-93 in order to ensure adequate supply of all types of yarn to the weavers required for production of handloom items at prices prevailing at the Mill Gate, through the National Handloom Development Corporation.

(iv) **Design Development and Training Programmee (DDTP):** The Design Development and Training Programme is a Scheme providing for upgradation of skills of weavers through a variety of training programmes, workshops and exhibitions, and for development of design inputs to the disseminated to weavers, collection of traditional designs, and the provision of linkages between various agencies in the handloom sector for coordinating the designs, technological and skill based factors for developing products to meet market demand and improve productivity of the handloom weavers. The Scheme comprises the components like; Strengthening of Weavers' Service Centres (WSC) and Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHT) and Grant to IIHTs, Decentralized Training Programme for Weavers, National Centre for Textile Design, Research and Development and Cooperative Training.

(v) **Marketing Promotion Programme:** Marketing Promotion Programme (MPP) is an integrated Scheme including components for Publicity and Awareness, setting up of Marketing Complexes and organization of Exhibitions and Fairs through various agencies to promote the marketing of handlooms in the country and to improve levels of awareness among handloom weavers and the general public in the interest of overall development of the handloom sector.

(vi) **Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme:** This Scheme was introduced in 1985-86 with the objective of providing a dwelling unit and suitable work place

for weavers so as to improve their productivity, quality of life and earnings. The Central assistance under the Scheme is provided for the construction of Rural/Urban Worksheds/ Workshed-cum-Houses.

(c) The Government of India has been providing assistance to various State Government including the State of Rajasthan under its developmental schemes. The State-wise, year-wise releases made under these schemes during the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise assistance released under developmental schemes during the last three years (1999-2002)

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	*MDA Scheme			*Janata Cloth Scheme			Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protshan Yojana			Development of Exportable Products & their Marketing		
		99-00	00-1	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	156.04	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	451.31	295.95	70.07	—	—	—	—	—	1,176.82	14.72	5.00	6.00
3.	Assam	50.22	40.04	10.26	14.60	—	—	—	424.10	866.07	4..40	12.85	9.56
4.	Bihar	5.76	—	—	9.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.58	—	4.25	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	21.04	117.60	0.87	—	—	—	—	212.50	212.50	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	116.59	16.46	16..98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15.50	8.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	42.14	32.24	—	—	—	—	—	6.98	24.23	56.25	53.97	44.00
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	34.94	12.00	—	—	—	—	—	44.54	—	2.64	—	—
12.	Karnataka	102.52	193.12	—	—	—	—	—	—	298.50	—	—	7.95
13.	Kerala	308.49	110.77	43.44	—	—	—	—	—	225.00	—	8.90	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	99.69	21.85	—	—	—	—	—	32.71	9.34	7.50	—	16.25
15.	Maharashtra	—	46.97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Manipur	0.74	—	—	—	—	—	—	143.51	—	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.48	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	0.28	—	—	—	—	6.00	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33.10	346.50	—	12.25	18.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20.	Orissa	223.47	107.59	12.45	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.50	—	—
21.	Pondicherry	57.80	28.37	—	5.90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Punjab	—	130.98	0.52	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.25	4.25	28.50
23.	Rajasthan	11.99	37.63	18.02	6.93	0.05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Sikkim												
25.	Tamil Nadu	700.00	921.62	—	—	—	—	—	677.05	1,662.37	13.13	5.25	—
26.	Tripura	18.02	6.06	5.15	—	—	—	—	33.14	3.92	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	125.66	233.40	31.22	1.63	—	—	—	54.15	643.25	37.75	14.25	44.75
28.	Uttaranchal	—	7.38	—	—	—	—	—	40.25	—	—	—	—
29.	West Bengal	400.00	110.08	—	97.29	—	—	—	28.15	27.69	36.00	16.25	4.20
30.	Delhi	135.09	220.63	3.33	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.25	5.00	8.75
	Total	2,905.37	2,690.74	212.59	135.35	0.05	—	—	1,695.84	5725.06	208.87	157.72	202.96

State-wise assistance released under developmental schemes during the last three years (1999-2002)

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme			*Project Package Scheme			Publicity & Exhibitions			Margin Money for Destitute Weavers*		
		99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	72.08	129.33	320.00	39.90	55.55	12.12	1.00	2.31	10.51	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	340.20	119.59	253.96	420.09	307.01	31.88	15.50	66.25	52.47	26.50	—	—
3.	Assam	59.18	—	—	546.72	513.43	—	27.80	67.48	64.96	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	8.85	3.25	—	5.82	21.94	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	19.82	—	—	9.00	—	—	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34.27	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	230.00	—	18.65	7.35	4.29	9.50	—	19.00	0.70	—	—
8.	Haryana	—	—	—	4.00	—	6.56	12.61	—	12.00	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	22.93	—	2.21	34.16	10.47	19.17	1.00	12.39	10.17	—	—	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	28.55	47.83	—	13.98	25.89	65.78	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	57.07	113.10	20.95	18.16	20.27	6.51	1.00	6.70	—	4.50	—
13.	Kerala	—	—	90.00	68.80	283.45	486.30	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	29.50	16.02	1.25	29.13	25.30	64.98	—	—	—
15.	Maharashtra	0.95	8.42	50.00	5..03	89.87	2.00	59.96	38.93	40.00	—	—	—
16.	Manipur	127.50	188.75	—	180.80	236.24	19.04	8.58	9.34	6.00	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	10.25	—	7.50	—	—	—	1.00	9.00	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	20.76	10.53	—	—	—	1.00	1.08	1.93	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	150.00	136.96	—	189.14	127.08	—	1.00	7.84	12.70	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	180.00	45.00	—	154.53	1.38	—	5.00	16.90	45.34	—	—	—
21.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Punjab	—	—	—	8.90	3.40	—	1.00	2.00	0.36	0.50	—	—
23.	Rajasthan	92.24	—	26.61	92.99	—	—	2.77	22.00	16.00	—	—	—
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.99	4.97	3.99	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	199.92	181.46	114.13	121.38	141.76	11.96	4.51	29.15	—	—	—	—
26.	Tripura	—	14.05	—	24.00	4.54	—	4.63	4.19	5.76	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	644.51	314.84	—	6.89	30.72	43.64	—	0.86	1.00
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	West Bengal	—	358.45	—	144.52	73.85	—	28.63	23.15	34.52	—	0.50	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.00	19.73	9.00	—	—	—
	Total	1,245.00	1,499.99	980.54	2,793.47	2,255.48	634.66	252.81	467.83	543.81	27.70	5.86	1.00

State-wise assistance released under developmental schemes during the last three years (1999-2002)

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	IHVD Scheme*			HDC/QDU Scheme*		
		99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	33.00	129.00	—	13.69	27.89	—
3.	Assam	44.75	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	2.84	5.10	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Kerala	—	—	71.07	15.99	—	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48.90	10.00	—	—	—	—
15.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Manipur	57.15	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	—	2.00	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	61.39	78.84	—
20.	Orissa	44.00	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	1.78
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	63.00	—	290.09	—	—
26.	Tripura	42.75	—	10.50	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	6.00	12.19	—	—
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	West Bengal	6.00	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	276.55	202.00	89.57	396.19	111.83	1.78

*These schemes have been discontinued and releases have been made in respect of past liabilities.

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very disappointed with the reply of the hon. Minister that no new proposal is under consideration at present with respect to the development of the handloom sector. I would like to tell you that today this is the only industry in the country which provide direct employment to the villagers. Today 65 to 70 lakh labourers in our country earn their livelihood from the handloom industries and out of the total textile produced in the country, almost 19 per cent is produced through handloom. In this scenario with the rising unemployment their condition is also deteriorating day by day. The intermediaries also exploit them. The infrastructure is also not complete there. The Government has formulated some policy but they are not getting any benefit even from the exports the Government do. At many places these people

have also committed suicide also. You know that last year 25-30 people had also committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. Workers of handloom industries do not even get raw material. The first point of my question is whether you have formulated any policy for giving them protection. Handloom can not compete with power-loom and mill sector therefore, whether the reservation policy would be maintained for that sector. If such a policy does not exist then I request you to kindly formulate such a policy so that the handloom sector which is deteriorating day by day could survive and could compete with the power-loom and mill sector.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have launched many schemes for the welfare of the handloom weavers and they are still in vogue. So far as the information regarding handloom reservation has been sought by the hon. Member, I would like to say that the Handloom Reservation Act would remain in force. We are not going to make any change in that.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member has mentioned about Rajasthan. We have got a Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Scheme. However, there are a number of schemes. But through you I would like to inform the hon. Member that this scheme is so good that the whole country is getting benefit from it. But the Union Government has not received any such scheme about the handloom sector either from the Government of Rajasthan or from any NGO. If you would kindly get such a scheme sent to us then many weavers could be benefitted in Rajasthan.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: I do not know whether Rajasthan Government has sent it or not. But the Barmer area I belong to has got famine and drought and there is no industry there. But the artisans of that area manufacture good quality of handicrafts. They are not only very famous in the country but in the world as well. But due to their very poor economic condition they are not able to run their business. Therefore, my question is that irrespective of whether Rajasthan Government has sent any proposal or not, if we send a proposal for such a scheme then whether you would give an assurance in the House to help the artisans of our desert area where the situation is very serious due to famine.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the policy of the Government to implement schemes for the employment of such people wherever necessary. For example you have just mentioned about the famine that has griped that area. When such a situation had arisen in Sirsilla in Andhra Pradesh, there also we had implemented the scheme in respect of handloom. If we receive any scheme from Barmer and that conforms to our norms, we would not make any delay in approving that scheme.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the programmes that are envisaged for the development of handloom industries in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. In Gujarat, particularly in my constituency there are thousands of artisans who are solely dependent on the handloom sector. So, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether any programme has been envisaged by the Government in the Tenth Five-Year Plan for their development. The hon. Minister may kindly throw some light on this.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the allocation during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period has been Rs. 625 crore. During the Ninth Five-Year Plan period, it was Rs. 473 crore. So, more amount to the extent of Rs. 150 crore has been allotted in the Tenth Plan.

So far as Kutch district is concerned, we are all aware that our weavers are making very well known items of embroidery and handicraft. There are two or three schemes under my Ministry. We are implementing them in the district of Kutch for providing employment to our very poor people. In case there is still some requirement, my Ministry will definitely try to meet it immediately.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Textiles is from Gujarat. He is supposed to know the ground realities in Gujarat. Before putting my question, I want to invite his attention to the reply given by him. In the first statement regarding State-wise assistance released under developmental schemes during the last three years, not a single naya paisa has been given to Gujarat for development and marketing of products in bulk.

For the benefit of Minister of Textiles, Shri Kanshiram Rana, I am referring to the other statement regarding developmental scheme. In that statement, during the last three years, for publicity and exhibitions, they have spent Rs. 9,50,000 during 1999-2000, and Rs. 19 lakh during 2001-2002. But the margin money paid to the destitute weavers is only Rs. 70,000. We know where the money goes when we spend it on the so-called exhibitions and publicity.

Coming back to the last statement regarding State-wise assistance released under developmental schemes during the last three years, again there is a grave injustice to the State of Gujarat from which he hails. Not a single naya paisa has been given during the period from 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

In Gujarat, we have two types of weavers. One type of weavers are those who are professionally doing the work of weaving. But among the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes in Gujarat, there is a community known as 'Vankar'. They are traditionally and hereditarily doing the working of weaving in their homes, that is, either in the front side or in the backyard of their homes. They run not less than 14 to 15 lakh handlooms. The entire district of Surindernagar and, as very rightly admitted by my colleague, Shri P.S. Gadhavi, the people in the entire Kutch and Bhuj depend only on handloom industry. Even in Surat town, the handloom industry is in doldrums.

In view of that, I want to have information from the hon. Minister. On the one side, he has admitted that there is no new proposal for development of handlooms. The Government of India has admitted it. On the other side, in Gujarat, there was the Handloom Development Corporation started by the Congress Government in the good olden days. The BJP Government three years back has closed that. There is no scheme from the Central Government. The Handloom Development Corporation is not functioning in Gujarat. There is no money given to Gujarat. How will he be able to provide employment to the people belonging to the poor sections, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the State of Gujarat who are depending on handloom industry?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I have already stated that there are so many schemes for upliftment and welfare of our poor weavers. I would like to give the names of those schemes. One is Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned it in the Statement.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Now, there is no new scheme under consideration.

So far as the allocation to Gujarat and its weavers is concerned, it depends on the proposals that are submitted by the Government of Gujarat or the NGOs. But till now no proposal has been received by my Ministry. There is no problem with regard to disbursement of funds, particularly, for the weavers. This is the position. But suppose if we receive some schemes from Surendernagar District or other Districts of Gujarat, we will definitely take action and release whatever amount is required for the implementation of those schemes.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, on behalf of the Government of Gujarat, if I send a scheme to the Central Government, will the hon. Minister approve it?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, pertinent, important suggestions and recommendations on all the issues facing the handloom sector, after a comprehensive study conducted by a committee—I was a member of the Committee—at the behest of the Planning Commission, which conducted its work throughout the country, are available with the hon. Minister for the last few years, I want to know from the hon. Minister how many of them he has taken up for consideration and implementation. I would also like to know what is the status in regard to the progress that he has made in this matter.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: As far as the suggestions or the views given by the hon. Member are concerned, I will definitely go through the report given by the concerned Committee and my Ministry will try to implement it.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: That was a very important Committee set up by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask the question, do not give a speech. I want that a reply from the hon. Minister comes at the earliest.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking question only. This matter pertains to the 30 crore people of this country. I would like to know whether you have implemented the Satyam Committee report in this regard, if not, the reason of not implementing that report so far? The second thing I want to ask is that how many weavers have committed suicide and the reasons therefor?

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a very good question. You have completed your question. Now, you may please take your seat.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to ask the hon. Minister about the NTC mills if he could reply because today the session is going to

end. Whether the hon. Minister would make a provision oi VRS for the workers employed in the NTC mills?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is completely different from the original question. This question does not arise from the original one.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question regarding the suicide of the weavers is concerned, I want to submit that the question of suicide by the weavers does not arise as no such incident has occurred and no weaver has commited suicide.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second question is not connected with it. But since he has asked about the workers of the NTC mills I want to inform the hon. Member that the BIFR has fixed some priorities for the workers of the NTC mills who want to take VRS and VRS would be first given to the workers of the unviable mills and closed down mills and thereafter VRS would be given to the workers of the viable mills who would ask for it.

[English]

Elimination of Tariff on Consumer and Industrial Goods

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

(a) whether US has put forward a proposal before the WTO to eliminate all tariffs on consumer and industrial goods by 2015;

(b) if so, whether WTO has fixed a time limit of 2005 for elimination of all tariffs by all the countries;

(c) if so, whether keeping in view of the WTO decision, India and other developing countries have decided to oppose the move of US Government to eliminate tariffs by 2015; and

(d) if so, the plan being formulated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No time limit has been fixed by the WTO for the elimination of all tariffs by all countries. However, the negotiations on non-agricultural market access (also commonly referred to as industrial tariff), are scheduled to be completed by 1 January 2005 along with other negotiations mandated by the Doha Ministerial Declaration, as part of the single undertaking.

India has in its initial reaction to the US proposal said that the radical initiative for eliminating all tariffs by 2015 could perhaps be undertaken by the developed countries. We have also pointed to the absence of any provisions in the proposal with regard to special and differential treatment for developing countries. A number of other developing countries have also indicated the difficulties they may have in accepting the US proposal.

The US proposal is but one of several proposals submitted by different countries at the ongoing negotiations in WTO on market access for non-agricultural products. India is also planning to submit certain specific proposals shortly in this regard.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Sir, all the WTO activities are being controlled by developed countries like the US, EU and Japan. These countries are bringing proposals to WTO of their own choice and for their own benefits.

In the Doha Conference, there was a general agreement to eliminate all the restrictions on textile and clothing. But USA has not accepted that decision and it imposed high tariff on the import of Indian textile and steel. As a result of which our industry is facing a lot of problems. I would like to bring this problem to the notice of the hon. Minister that the US is pressing the developing countries to bring all tariff rates up to zero level to give maximum benefits to its consumers and industry.

It also wants to capture the entire market of the developing countries like India.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you developing your question so much?

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: As the entire House knows, we have lost a lot of money by removing quantitative restrictions because the Indian markets have been flooded with foreign goods which are much cheaper than the domestic goods. Also, the developed countries are providing subsidies to their industries.

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete your question.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: As a result of that, the Indian industries are unable to compete with the foreign goods and they are on the verge of closure.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude your question. Otherwise, I will have to go to the next Question.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: The present proposal of the USA is not in favour of the developing countries like India. This proposal has no provision which is beneficial to the developing countries. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has examined this proposal. If so, is there any provision which is beneficial to India? Has there any negotiation been held with the domestic industry and other developing countries for preparing a draft to be put forth before the WTO in this regard? Which countries have supported India on this point?

MR SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can give the shortest possible reply.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: What are the specific plans being formulated by the Government so that India's view would be accepted in the WTO negotiations, particularly on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Your questions include the Supplementary Question also.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, he has raised almost all the issues. So, if the House permits, I would like to reply some of them. I would suggest that in times to come these issues are so important that these could be considered as a debate under rule 193 and other rule which is appropriate because this is not one single issue which he has asked. I think the hon. Member has tried to raise many issues. He has asked about anti-dumping, but I will confine myself to the main question which has been raised here, that is, regarding the US proposal as far as the non-agricultural products are concerned.

It is a fact that USA has submitted a proposal to bring a zero duty regime, a duty free regime, by 2015. The first stage proposal which has been given by the US is that between 2005 and 2010 all the duty tariffs up to five per cent should be eliminated and above five per cent should be brought down to eight per cent. The second stage proposal is to bring all these duty levels to zero level from 2010 to 2015.

The hon. Member had asked which were the countries in favour of it and which were the countries which are supporting India. I would just like to quote here. As far as India's position is concerned, the WTO Ambassador at Geneva has made it clear that he finds no provision with regard to special and differential treatment for developing countries which include India. Sir, as you know, in the Doha mandate, it was well defined that there would be an attempt to reduce or to eliminate tariff peaks, high tariffs, tariff escalation and NTVs, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries.

The second mandate which was there in the Doha Agreement was that the special needs and interests of the LDCs and developing countries would be accounted for. The third was, there shall be no less than full reciprocity in reduction commitment, and the fourth was that studies on capacity building should be done for the developing countries. What the proposal here is to eliminate all the tariffs by 2015. You will appreciate that at present the developed countries have a duty level at around 3.8 per cent. This proposal is not going to affect them much, but it is going to have an adverse effect on us. So, that proposal is not acceptable to us in this situation.

As far as other countries are concerned, they have made it clear. The countries which share similar opinion to India are Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Nigeria, Kenya and Brazil. These are the countries which share our view which is common to us.

As far as the view of Japan is concerned, it has said that the proposal of the US is idealistic but not realistic.

The countries that are for the US proposal at the moment are Uruguay, Chile, New Zealand, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Columbia and Australia but it cannot be said in finality whether the stand of these countries would remain the same because negotiations are being carried on and the countries keep on shifting positions. The agreements have to come up as a single undertaking and it would not be possible to confine and say at exactly what stage which country would stand where because the process of negotiations are going on.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Sir, what about my second supplementary?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you a second supplementary. You take a long time. You do not want to observe the discipline of the House.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Sir, this is a very simple question.

MR. SPEAKER: I would permit it only if you would be very brief and very short.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: It is direct question.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a direct question, all right.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the hon. Minister's reply, all negotiations on agricultural market access are scheduled to be completed by the 1st January, 2005. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what specific steps have been taken by the Government to protect our industrial products in the global market and ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking another question.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: I would also like to know what has India got from the rounds of WTO negotiations. I would also like to know whether the domestic industries have been taken into confidence before putting proposals at the WTO to protect our industry and what were those proposals. ...*(Interruptions)* Has any research been conducted in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may reply only to the first question. You need not reply to the other questions. Other hon. Members also have to ask questions.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, as far as the modalities are concerned, they have to be submitted to the WTO by the 31st December, 2002 and the finalisation of the modalities would take place by the 31st May, 2002. However, the negotiations have to be completed by 1.1.2005. As far as these things are concerned, in the consultation process, we are in regular consultation with all the industries, associations, chambers of commerce, NGOs, research scientists in this field and with members of political parties and organisations. This is a continuous process. There is a continuous dialogue in the build up to what we are going to submit as modalities.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trend of discussion in the WTO is totally unfavourable to the developing countries. The US's proposal for abolishing or eliminating tariffs is only going to help the developed countries. Certain developing countries have also put up their proposals. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether India would take a lead to have a consensus among developing countries and put up a proposal jointly so that the pressure of the developed countries could be stopped and our joint proposal could be accepted by the WTO.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: There is nothing called a joint proposal. Every country, as per its own requirements and interests, puts forward its proposals. It depends on other countries that have similar issues on which they can come and join but there is no question of submitting a joint proposal. It is not the proper process of doing this because each country has its own interest pocket and in the process of negotiations countries can also interact bilaterally to bring in proposals.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: There are certain common interests before the developing countries. Why can we not have a joint effort?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It always a joint effort between countries that show an inclination but it is not a one to one single agreement. There are several agreements like those on agriculture, TRIPS and TRIMS. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you have made it clear.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It is after all is single undertaking that is required to be done in a consortium but it has to be in the interests of the affected countries. There are times when single countries are removed from the whole process. It is not a very simple process to say that we can combine the proposals. ...*(Interruptions)*

Creamy Layer

*445. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have given their suggestions and views on the issue of 'creamy layer' amongst the backward classes with regard to the reservation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand taken by each State Government on the issue; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to arrive at a decision?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India appointed an Expert Committee in 1993 to specify the requisite criteria to determine persons/sections who constitute the creamy layer in Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The Expert Committee has submitted its report. On that basis the Government of India issued an Office Memorandum on 8th September, 1993 specifying the criteria for determining the creamy layer among OBCs.

The Government of India has decided to constitute a Review Committee and its constitution is in process.

MR. SPEAKER: You should say this much only that all this has been printed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his way of replying is not proper. *...(Interruptions).* It has been asked in the question whether all the states have given suggestions and views in this regard, but the Hon'ble Minister is giving reply in negative. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, this is skirting the issue. The hon. Minister should come out with a clear and forthright reply to the question. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I may be allowed to ask my question. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We have to formulate it like this. On the one hand we are passing the Freedom of Information Bill and on the other hand they are also refusing to replying in Parliament. *...(Interruptions)* Please go through the question. Is it proper to reply by saying 'No, see' *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see whether this is the same question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am drawing your attention to the basic thing.

MR. SPEAKER: The question which you have asked.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am talking about a basic thing. You will allow everyone to ask on such an important question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I understand that. But the member want to ask the same question, let him ask that question.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, the framers of the Constitution thought it fit to give reservation to the most backward classes. Gradually amongst the backward classes, certain sections of people have achieved advanced stage in the fields of economy and education. Amongst the backward classes, still more than 80 per cent have remained much backward. To bring this section into the mainstream, it is desirable to exclude the 20 per cent economically and educationally advanced section. For deciding such type of creamy layer class, one Committee was appointed which gave its report in 1993. However, the Government desires to review the decision of that Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the decision of constituting the Review Committee was taken and since when the process of constitution of such Review Committee was started and finally how much time will it take to complete this process.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has asked, whether the work of constituting the committee had been completed in the year 1993 itself and thereafter, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Ramnandan Prasad, who have been justice of Patna High Court and included social scientists, M.L. Sahare and former secretary of welfare P.M. Krishna. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GATHAVI: It is not my question. my question pertains to the Constitution of Committee.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am telling that the Committee was constituted and it has submitted its report. On the basis of that report, the persons whose income is more than rupees one lakh come under creamy layer and those who do not should be given the reservation facility. On the basis of what was suggested therein and on the basis of conclusions, they got 27 percent reservation in the existing vacancies as also in the future vacancies. It has also been decided to uplift them economically, educationally and by means of scholarships, who do not come under the creamy layer and accordingly programmes were implemented. From this angle also, after setting up of the Committee, all the suggestions, which were given by them were considered by due to dissolution of Lok Sabha and to charge of Minister, the problems persisted. However we are going to review all these things very soon.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government of India would like to follow or not the directions given by the hon. Supreme Court in the judgment delivered on 16th November, 1992 in Indira Sawhney and others vs. Union of India and others case.

[Translation]

DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: Certainly, we will follow those directions.

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdas ji, since the time is very short, Please ask the question directly.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister through your goodself is that creamy layer cannot be introduced in S.C., S.T., as they have got reservation on basis of social justice and therefore, creamy layer should not be introduced for SC, ST. I want to know from the hon. Minister in this regard.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: This question is in the context of backward classes. There has been relation between backward class and creamy layer. This question is not related to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from peon to all the category, the salaries have been increased after implementation of recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission Report. But this limit of rupees one lakh, which came into effect in 1993, was not changed even after the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report was implemented.

12.00 hrs.

I, therefore, would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what extent Government are considering to enhance, five lakh or ten lakhs for this section.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Certainly, there is a proposal of the Union Government to constitute a committee to reconsider it. It is being finalised. At the same time, every State Government determine the reservation ceiling for backward classes independently.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, all the benefits go to those who are forward and well-placed-economically and educationally—among the Scheduled Castes. The ninety per cent of people among the Scheduled Castes are not able to get benefits. Communities among the Scheduled Castes, which are comparatively forward economically, are getting the benefits. Would the Minister have any programme or form any committee to save these people and to see that the benefit is taken by the weaker section of the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and minorities, eradicating these things? These are the problems faced by the people.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: This question is limited to backward class. There is no such ceiling regarding the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Steps to Export Agricultural Produce

*446. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN.
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government to export surplus agriculture produce during the last three years;

(b) whether any monitoring is being done to assess the agriculture production likely to be grown in advance so as to prepare grounds for export;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures adopted to educate the farmers on the export potentials of their produces;

(e) the extent to which the target set for export of agricultural products during the Ninth Plan has been achieved, year-wise;

(f) the target set for export of agro products during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(g) the number of applications for export licences pending with the Union Government as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (g) Government has emphasized the importance of agricultural exports most recently in Exim Policy 2002-07. Most of agricultural products are now allowed to be freely exported. Exports have multifarious beneficial impact on the economy and are undertaken on the basis of factors such as competitiveness, marketing opportunities etc. It is not the case that exports are undertaken only when there is an exportable surplus. Department of Agriculture monitors likely agricultural produce in advance for various purposes of Planning and Policy.

International trade in agricultural commodities depends on various domestic and international factors. Projections of performance are made based on past trends which are in the nature of estimates. Exports of agricultural products is continually reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Government through its agencies. In order to encourage agricultural exports, Government through its agencies implements a verity of schemes aimed at increasing export competitiveness as well as bringing the farmers closer to the market. A recent initiative in this regard is the concept of Agricultural Export Zones. Till date 40 such Zones have been approved.

The agricultural exports (excluding marine, tea, coffee, cotton and castor oil) during the last 3 years are as given below:

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1999-2000	14812.61
2000-2001	16,773.00
2001-2002 (P)	18,667.00

(P): Provisional

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta (DGCI &S).

[Translation]

WTO Meeting on Anti-Dumping and Subsidy

*447. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

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

(a) whether meetings of WTO were held in the months of October and November, 2002, for discussing the issues concerning anti-dumping and subsidy;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard and the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether a consensus has been arrived at on the issues of anti-dumping and subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Doha Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in November, 2001 has provided for negotiations aimed at clarifying and improving disciplines under the Agreements on Anti Dumping and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, while preserving the basic concepts, principles and effectiveness of these Agreements. In the initial phase of the negotiations, participants are to indicate the provisions, including disciplines on trade distorting practices that they seek to clarify and improve in the subsequent phase. These negotiations are currently being undertaken in the Negotiating Group on Rules (NG Rules). Four meetings of NG Rules have so far been held on 6-8 May, 2002, 8-10 July 2002, 16-18 October 2002 and 25-27 November 2002. India has participated in these meetings. The meetings of the NG Rules would be an on-going process till the completion of the negotiations.

India has made two submissions to the NG Rules. The first submission which was made in April 2002, sought increased flexibility for developing countries during anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations. During the meeting of NG Rules held on 16-18 October 2002, India submitted a second proposal seeking improvements and clarifications of some of the provisions of the Anti-Dumping Agreement.

During the first phase of the negotiations, which is presently under way, countries are required to indicate the provisions that would be the subject of negotiations in the subsequent phase. In the discussions held so far, countries have expressed differing views on the various negotiating proposals that have been submitted.

The Doha Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization also mandated examination by the Anti-dumping Committee and the Subsidies Committee of certain Implementation Issues for recommendations. India submitted detailed proposals on some of these Implementation Issues and actively participated in the deliberations of the two committees. While no recommendation could be agreed to in respect of the issue relating to countervailing duty investigation and operationalising Article 15 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement, indications are that recommendations have been agreed to introspect of the following two Implementation Issues relating to the Anti-Dumping Agreement: (a) time frame for considering the volume of dumped imports during anti-

dumping investigation and (b) making the annual review of operation and implementation of the Anti-Dumping Agreement more meaningful.

The regular meetings of the Committee on Anti-dumping Practices and the Subsidies Committee were also held in October-November 2002. These meetings are of routine nature and are held every six months for reviewing applicable legislation and the anti-dumping/ countervailing duty action by various countries.

[English]

Sale of Tea

*448. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) the system presently being adopted in selling of tea;

(b) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of M/s A.F. Ferguson and Co. commissioned by the Government to undertake a study on the primary marketing of tea in the country;

(c) if so, the action taken on those recommendations;

(d) whether the recommendations of working group appointed by RBI to enhance the credit limit and other relief package for tea growers have also been accepted by the Government;

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing those recommendations; and

(f) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Producers/manufacturers of tea in India have the following three options to sell their tea:—

(1) Sale through tea auction centers recognized by Tea Board under the provisions of Tea (Marketing) Control Order in bulk packages.

(2) Direct export to overseas countries in bulk and/ or consumer packs.

(3) Sale to Indian buyers privately in bulk and/or consumer packs.

Buyers of tea in India subsequently sell teas to wholesaler/retailers etc., which ultimately reach the consumers.

(b and (c) A study of the primary marketing system for tea was conducted through M/s. A.F. Ferguson & Co. The study recommended reforms in auction rules with respect to minimum lot size, divisibility of lots, proxy bidding, catalogue closing time, drawing of sample quantity, ex-estate sales etc. in order to provide a fair price discovery mechanism for tea. The recommendations of M/s. A.F. Ferguson & Co. have been considered by the Government in consultation with the representatives of tea industry and trade. Government has since accepted the proposals of the Tea Board to introduce the Tea Marketing Control Order (TMCO) 2002 in suppression of TMCO 1984 and to effect certain changes in the existing auction rules, based on the recommendations of the Ferguson Report.

(d) to (f) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, the Reserve Bank of India has announced, in August 2002, a relief package which provides for restructuring/reschedulement of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc. There was some initial delay in the implementation of the guidelines by the banks at the regional and zonal levels because the individual banks had to obtain the approval of their respective Boards to implement the relief package.

a review of the progress of implementation of the relief package has revealed that most banks, which have major exposure to tea sector, have started implementing the relief package. Government and Tea Board are closely monitoring the implementation of the relief package so as to ensure that the industry actually derives the intended benefits at the earliest.

Revision of Crop Size of Tobacco

*449. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether about 13 million kgs. of unauthorized tobacco crop size has been permitted without imposing any penalty by relaxing the rules;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any provision in the Tobacco Board Rules to relax/revise the crop size without amending Rules in the mid-season;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for revising the crop size in the mid season;

(f) whether these steps are not going to give remunerative price to authorized growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) The crop size of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco of Karnataka was fixed at 42.08 M. Kg in March-April, 2002. This has subsequently been revised to 50 M. Kg with allowance for an additional 10%. This has been done in accordance with tobacco Board Rules. This has been done in response to a detailed estimation in the Inter Agency report of a crop size of 58.7 M. Kg, revised demand projected by Indian Tobacco association and demands from growers of Karnataka supported by Government of Karnataka.

(f) to (g) Till 9.12.2002, 26.86 M. Kgs of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco has been auctioned at an average price of Rs. 41.86.

N.B.: M. Kg is Million Kg.

Rice Export Policy

*450. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice export policy has been changed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of processed broken rice allowed in exports; and

(c) the action taken to make our rice competitive for export?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the Exim Policy, the export of basmati rice is free, subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. The export of non-basmati rice is entirely free.

In view of the surplus stocks of rice in the Central Pool, the available rice is being supplied through the Food Corporation of India to Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters for purpose of export. For the rice offered from the Central Pool stocks, the exporters are allowed operational allowance of 2% on Bill of Lading in rice shipment and are required to submit export documents for the remaining 98% of the quantity lifted from the FCI. Indian exporters (who lift stocks from the FCI) are exploring the overseas markets and competing with others. Appropriate steps are taken to facilitate Indian exports, from time to time, depending upon the prevailing circumstances.

Transfer of Liabilities of Firms

*451. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Govt. have laid down a policy on transfer of liability of firms including transfer of companies to foreign hands, by way of sale or otherwise, with respect to damage to life, property or environment caused by the company before such transfer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Govt. in respect to Bhopal Gas Leakage (1984) victims and environmental degradation and contamination caused thereby following transfer of Union Carbide to M/s. Dow Chemicals of America?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the Supreme Court orders Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) paid a sum of US$ 470 million to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all civil claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. In addition on the directions of Supreme Court, UCC have also financed a hospital for the gas victims in Bhopal.

The Government is aware of the problems of Bhopal gas tragedy victims and is committed to provide all possible help to them. It has created an office of the Welfare Commissioner under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 to adjudicate and disburse compensation to Bhopal Gas victims. In all 10, 29, 431 cases were filed amount of Rs. 1521.56 crore has been disbursed as compensation. Further, Central Government approved an Action Plan of the State Government with a total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore for the medical, economic, social and environmental rehabilitation of the Bhopal gas tragedy victims. This outlay

was increased in stages to Rs. 258 crore. This outlay was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs. 193.50 crore. The State Government is implementing the Action Plan.

Procurement of Jute

*452. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the request of Government of Maharashtra, the Union Government have extended the Raw Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme for a period of five years beyond June 2001 upto June 2006;

(b) if so, whether any request from the West Bengal Government has been received for extending the same benefit for procurement of raw jute; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Government of India gave its consent to the Government of Maharashtra for extension of the Raw Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme for a period of five years beyond 30.06.2001 i.e. upto 30.06.2006.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Indian Rubber Expo, 2003

*453. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Rubber Board for financial assistance for organizing Indian Rubber Expo, 2002;

(b) if so, the decision of the Government in the matter; and

(c) the extent to which the participation of Rubber Board in such Expo would help in developing India's future in marketing of its rubber products world over?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), a private organisation has approached Rubber Board for financial assistance for organising 'India Rubber Expo, 2003'. The Board has decided to support the holding of Expo and will provide financial assistance as a one time grant to the AIRIA for organising Rubber India Expo on a regular basis.

The Expo will provide an opportunity to the growers of Natural Rubber, manufacturers and exporters of rubber products to come to a common platform and to get first hand information about the development in the rubber industry world over. The Expo will also enable the rubber goods manufacturers to exhibit their rubber products to the domestic as well as international buyers which in turn will help increase the consumption of Natural Rubber and benefit the rubber growers.

Value Added Tax

*454. SHRI K.E. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to compensate up to 75 percent of revenue loss due to Value Added Tax (VAT) System;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments have asked Centre to compensate the total revenue loss;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have taken any step in regard to shifting of some specified services to the States for taxation purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the working group set up for demarcation of services between Centre and States has submitted its report; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c): Experience demonstrates that with proper implementation, introduction of VAT does not lead to loss of revenue. However, in order to allay apprehensions of the States, regarding a possible loss of revenue in the initial period after introduction of VAT, the Union Government has decided to compensate the States on the basis of a formula which

has been discussed in the High Level Committee of Finance Ministers of States. Details will be announced upon finalization.

(d) to (g) The States have taken a unanimous decision to replace their existing sales tax system with a Value Added Tax system from 01 April, 2003. In this context and also to widen their tax base, the States have suggested that they should be enabled to collect and appropriate the proceeds of tax on some services. Appropriate action in this regard too, has been initiated by the Central Government.

Wilful Defaulters

*455. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has examined the report of the working Group headed by S.S. Kohli on wilful defaulters;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in the report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Major recommendations of the Working Group headed by Shri S.S. Kohli cover definition of wilful default, siphoning of funds, diversion of funds, measures for ensuring 'end use of funds', penal measures against wilful defaulters and fixation of liabilities of the auditors.

(c) The recommendations of the Working Group have been examined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government. Accordingly, RBI have issued a circular to all scheduled commercial banks and notified all-India financial institutions of 30th May, 2002 advising them for implementation of these recommendations.

State Financial Corporations

*456. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to allow State Financial Corporations (SFCs) to do banking business to generate low cost funds in order to increase its profitability and to meet the challenges of present business environment;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow SFCs to extend 'Working Capital' finance to its borrowers without cap to check born sickness of industrial units;

(c) if so, the steps taken to allow the SFCs to be managed by professionals like banks and other Financial Institutions to avoid political interference; and

(d) the steps taken for increase in the "Supplementary Budgetary Allocation of Fund" during the year 2002-2003 for all SFCs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Financial Corporations (SFCs) are providing assistance to industrial concerns in the small-scale sector to part finance the working capital to enable the units to commence operations immediately after implementation of the project. The working capital term loan is in the nature of start up and is extended by SFCs till the unit arranges for regular tie-up with the commercial bank for working capital finance.

(c) The provisions in the SFCs Act, 1951 relating to composition of Board of Directors of SFCs were amended in the year 2000 which provided for a maximum of 12 directors, out of which 2 directors each would be nominated by the State Government, SIDBI, Public Sector Banks, Life Insurance Corporation of India etc., One of the Directors to be nominated by the State Government shall be a person who has special knowledge of or experience in small scale industry. The Act also provides for election of upto 4 Directors by shareholders. The amended Act also facilities SFCs to broad base their Boards by co-opting upto 4 Directors, if the number of Directors elected by the shareholders are less than four.

(d) SFCs being State entities, no provision has been made for SFCs in the Union Budget for the year 2002-03.

SEBI Action against Intermediaries

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

(a) whether the SEBI has decided to take action against intermediaries who have violated the code of ethics announced by the regulator;

(b) if so, the details of the intermediaries who have been found violating the code of ethics in the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such intermediaries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that all the regulations pertaining to intermediaries have a separate section on Code of Conduct, which contains clauses regarding professional conduct, due diligence, honesty, avoidance of unethical soliciting of business etc. In case of violation by intermediaries of any of the provisions of the code of conduct, action is taken against the intermediary in terms of provisions of the relevant regulations which include warning, suspension or cancellation of registration.

SEBI has formulated a code of ethics for directors and functionaries of stock exchanges vide its circular dated May 18, 2001, which the exchanges were required to implement the same by August 2001.

(b) and (c) The details of action taken against the intermediaries for non compliance with the regulations including non compliance with code of conduct for specific intermediaries, is given in the Statement enclosed.

As the code of ethics was to be implemented by exchanges from August 2001, breach of the code of ethics for earlier periods does not arise.

Statement

Period	Sl No.	Action against	Nature of intermediary	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5
2001-2002	1.	Giltedge Investment Banking Services Ltd.	Merchant Banker	Suspended
	2.	Giltedge Portfolio Management Services Ltd.	Portfolio Manager	Suspended
	3.	IL & FS	Merchant Banker	Warning
	4.	J M Morgan Stanley Ltd.	Merchant Banker	Warning
	5.	Triumph Leasing & finance Ltd.	Merchant Banker	Warning
	6.	SRG Infotech	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Cancellation
	7.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	Banker to Issue	Suspension of registration
	8.	State Bank of Indore	Merchant Banker	Warning
	9.	Vysya Bank, H.B. Sarani Branch, Calcutta	Banker to Issue	Warning
	10.	Punjab National Bank	Banker to Issue	Warning
	11.	Central Bank of India	Merchant Banker	Warning
	12.	Canara Bank, Bhadra Branch	Banker to an Issue	Suspension
	13.	Karvy Consultants Ltd.	Registrar & Share Transfer Agents	Warning
	14.	ICICI Bank (formerly Bank of Madura), Bhadra Branch	Banker to an Issue	Warning
	15.	Ashika Credit Capital Limited	Merchant Banker	Warning
	16.	Aryaman Financial Services Limited	Merchant Banker	Warning
	17.	Systematic Corporate Services Limited	Merchant Banker	Warning

1	2	3	4	5
2000-2001				
	18.	Sindhu Corporate Services	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Warning
	19.	Maheswari Datamatics Private Limited	—	Warning
	20.	Cameo Share Registry	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Warning
	21.	Premium Capital Market & Investment Ltd.	Merchant Banker	Suspension
	22.	Indian Overseas Bank	Merchant Banker	Warning
	23.	XL Sufteeli Systems Ltd. (formerly X L Softech Constancy) P. Ltd.)	Registrar to Issue	Warning
	24.	Ikon Visions Pvt. Ltd.	Registrar to issue	Suspension
	25.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Mandivi Branch	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	26.	Bank of India, Cumballa Hill Branch	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	27.	United Western Bank, Prabhadevi Branch	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	28.	R&D Consultants P Ltd.	Registrar & Share Transfer Agents	Suspension
	29.	PCS Industries Ltd.	Registrar & Share Transfer Agents	Suspension
	30.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	31.	Ankit Consultancy Ltd.	Registrar to issue	Suspension
	32.	Dena Bank	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	33.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	34.	Akshar Share Services Pvt. Ltd.	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Suspended
1999-2000				
	35.	ABS Consultant Pvt. Ltd.	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Warning Letter
	36.	AMI Computers Ltd.		
	37.	Canara Bank (Bhadra Branch)	Bankers to Issue	Suspension
	38.	Canara Bank (Thousand Lights Branch)	Bankers to Issue	Suspension
	39.	Computech International Limited		Warning Letter
	40.	Hi Tech Share Registry Pvt. Ltd.	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Warning Letter

1	2	3	4	5
	41.	Integrated Enterprises India Ltd.	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Warning Letter
	42.	M N Dastur & Co. Ltd.	Registrar to issue	Warning
	43.	M/s. Choksh Securities Ltd. (presently Choksh Infotech Ltd.	Registrar to issue	Suspension
	44.	Punjab National Bank	Debenture Trustee	Warning Letter
	45.	Punjab National Bank (new cloth market branch)	Bankers to Issue	Suspension
	46.	Punjab National Bank (Raopur Branch)	Bankers to Issue	Suspension
	47.	S B & T International Ltd. (presently known as Nigam Finvest Ltd.)	Merchant Banker	Warning
	48.	SMIFS Capital Markets Ltd.	Merchant Banker	Warning
	49.	State Bank of Hyderbad	Bankers to Issue	Warning
	50.	State Bank of Saurashtra, Shahibaugh branch	Bankers to Issue	Suspension
	51.	Wisec Global Ltd.	Registrars to Issue & Share Transfer Agent	Warning Letter

Separate Regulatory Authority For Non-Banking Financial Companies

*458. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently mooted a proposal to set up separate regulatory authority for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tighten norms and guidelines for granting permission for setting up of NBFCs; and

(d) the other safeguards taken to protect small investors who invest money in NBFCs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) and (d): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that no Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) engaged in financial business can carry on/commence business of a non-banking financial institution without a Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank. The requirement of minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) has been raised to Rs. 200 lakh effective from April 21, 1999. New companies registered with the Reserve Bank as NBFCs are not allowed to accept public deposits for two years from the commencement of their business.

Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes, inter-alia, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and Directions issued thereunder. Government has introduced Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Indo-US Trade Relation

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

(a) the areas in which India and United States trade relations have been established;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of trade relation with United States;

(c) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The United States of America (USA) is India's largest trading partner and foremost export destination. The two-way trade structure compress a large number of traditional and manufactured goods, which has also undergone changes over the years. The major items of India's export to USA include diamond and gold jewellery, textiles and readymade garments, machinery, carpets, footwear and leather products, dyes, iron and steel products, chemicals and marine products. The major items of India's import from USA include machinery including project items, fertilizers, aircraft and aeronautical equipment, medical equipment and organic chemicals. Besides, the merchandise trade, there is substantial bilateral trade in services.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government's efforts to expand Indo—US trade are a sustained and continuous process. Besides promoting India's exports to USA in general and identifying products with good export potential and targeting these sectors, efforts are made to break into new areas to exploit untapped potential. Special emphasis is given to developing new and fact growing areas, such as information technology and biotechnology promoting exports through participation in major trade shows and specific trade promotion events, apart from streamlining the information and data base of the Indian Embassy in USA to enable it to respond to trade enquiries in a timely and effective manner. Close monitoring takes place of important bilateral trade related issues in liaison with U.S. authorities. To further buttress these efforts, the two sides agreed to set up on 23.3.2000 the India-US Commercial Dialogue. The framework aims to facilitate trade and to maximize investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors, including information technology, infrastructure, biotechnology and services.

High Cost Foreign Exchange Debt

*460 PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to retire high-cost foreign exchange debt;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also advised corporates to try to replace high-cost debt with cheaper credit and loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to take advantage of high fluidity and surplus funds available abroad at low rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As part of prudent debt management policy, the Government undertakes premature payment of high cost external debt from time to time. An adhoc Group on prepayment of high cost external debt was set up in January, 2002 with members from Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs and Reserve Bank of India to look into the premature payment proposals and provide guidelines on procedure.

(b) to (d) This ad-hoc Group has recommended to encourage the Public Sector Undertakings/Corporates to prepay their high cost loans, if the prepayment is made from their own sources. In view of the comfortable foreign exchange reserve levels, the rules for prepayment of external debt by the corporates have been simplified. The early retirement of External Commercial Borrowings are allowed without any limit in cases where the amount of prepayment is fully matched by way of inflow of foreign exchange in the form of foreign investment and out of balances held in Exchange Earner's foreign currency account of the borrower. The borrower is allowed to pay before the due date an External Commercial Borrowing to the extent of 10 per cent of the outstanding loan up to US Dollar 50 million and where residual maturity of the loan does not exceed one year. In order to permit the corporates to take advantage of low interest rates, automatic route for prepayment is allowed to all category of borrowers irrespective of the residual maturity or percentage of outstanding loan as long as the amount does not exceed US Dollar 100 million. Further liberalisation measures are being considered.

Industrial Tariff Reductions

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

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to recommend for industrial tariff reductions to the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to take up the issue of peak tariffs in developed country markets and non-tariff barriers that Indian exports have to face in the negotiation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) The reduction of tariffs on non-agricultural products is a subject for negotiations mandated by the Doha Ministerial declaration of the WTO. Several WTO Members have already submitted proposals on modalities for negotiation on this issue and some other have indicated their intention to do so before the deadline of 31 December, 2002.

India has already submitted an initial paper on 18th October, 2002 outlining India's expectations from the negotiations and suggesting a broad approach that would carry forward the Doha mandate. The paper also *inter alia* underlined that it would be important from a developing country perspective to ensure that tariff peaks and non tariff measures are effectively dealt with in products of particular export interest to developing countries. India is also proposing to submit a more specific proposal on modalities before the deadline, i.e., 31 December 2002 for which necessary preparations are underway.

[English]

Decline in Export due to Lack of Containerisation

4873. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite huge potential, country's export trade is suffering due to lack of containerization as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated November 8, 2002;

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

(c) the plans formulated by the Government to meet this serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The Government has been making sustained efforts to improve containerisation of export cargo and the share of such cargo in total exports has gone up from 11.46% in 2000-01 to 12.94% in 2001-02. Department of Commerce interacts on a regular basis with Ministries of Shipping, Railways, Finance, and Container Corporation of India as well as with the freight forwarders, shippers and shipping lines to facilitate containerisation of exports and imports. Boost to containersation has also been provided with the establishment of more Container Freight Stations (CFSs)/ Inland Container Deposit (ICDs). 113 ICDs/CFSs are working all over India and another 33 are under various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

Funds for Disabled People

4874. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has not been able to utilize even 50 per cent of allocated funds for disabled people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of funds allocated under this account during the last three years and funds utilized out of it;

(c) whether unutilized funds have been directed to/ are being used for some other purposes;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it;

(e) whether the Government propose to formulate a contingency plan for the maximum utilization of funds for the disabled people;

(f) is so, by when, alongwith the details of plan thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Budget allocation and expenditure in disability sector by this Ministry during the last three years is as under:-

Year	B.E.	Expenditure
1999-2000	204.69	164.09
2000-2001	261.66	246.64
2001-2002	261.89	272.25

(c) and (d) Re-appropriation of funds from one budget head to another is done on the basis of actual needs.

(e) to (g) Pace of expenditure is regularly monitored to ensure maximum utilisation of funds.

[English]

Indian Direct Selling Association

4875. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Indian Direct Selling Association to enact legislation to weed out fraudulent elements from direct sellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to save the interest of consumers?

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

Proposals were received from the Indian Direct Selling Association as well as M/s. Frontier Trading etc., requesting to enact a separate legislation to cover direct selling/multi-level marketing/network marketing. The main contention of the representation was that members of Direct Selling Association are being targeted due to the vagueness of the "Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978", in distinguishing between Prize Chits Funds, and genuine agencies involved in direct marketing.

This matter was examined in detail in consultation with concerned Ministries. The need for a separate legislation was not felt in view of the fact that there are adequate provisions available in the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, (for regulating the sale of goods); the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (for the sale of services) and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (to promote and protect the rights of the consumers). The provisions of the Prize Chits and Money circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978 seek to ban the promotion or conduct of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes. The provisions of this Act had come up for scrutiny before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India who have ruled that the "Network Marketing Plan" and direct sale of goods and services by the direct selling companies do not fall within the mischief of the aforesaid Act.

Programme for Children

4876. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any programmes for children in conflict with law and in need of protection and care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any awareness programmes for the community at large are developed for realizing the rights of the child enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The programmes for children in conflict with law and in need of care and protection being dealt with by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment are detailed thereunder:

(i) A programme for Juvenile Justice: This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which matching financial assistance is provided to the State Government/Union territories for rehabilitation of children in conflict with law and in need of care and protection.

(ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children: This is a Central Sector Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to the Non-Governmental Organizations running projects for children without home and family ties in need of care and protection.

(c) and (d) For realizing the rights of child enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has initiated a compaign namely, 'The National Initiative for Child Protection' (NICP) through the National Institute of Social Defiance (NISD) and Childline India Foundation (CIF). NICP aims at building partnership with allied systems

such as the Police, health care system, the judicial system especially juvenile justice system, the education system, the transport system the Labour Department, the media and the Department of Telecommunications. The NICP aims at sensitizing and training people who work within the allied systems for creating awareness regarding special needs of children.

City Bank Group

4877. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note that City Bank Group is bypassing guidelines regarding FIPB and take over code of SEBI to acquire Sriram Transport Ltd. and Sriram Investment Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the RBI, SEBI and FIPB in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have intimated that a reference was received by them regarding acquisition of 14.99% of Shriram Transport Finance Co. Ltd. and Shriam Investment Ltd. by Citibank to bypass open offer and other conditions. SEBI has sought relevant details from Shriram Transport Finance Co. Ltd. and Shriram Investment Ltd. on December 9, 2002 to examine the extent of compliance with the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 by Citi Group.

NTC Sale Centres

4878. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sales centres of the National Textile Corporation alongwith their locations in the State of Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to establish more sales centres of NTC in Karnataka during the Tenth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) There are 21 showrooms of NTC in the State of Karnataka. The locations of the showrooms are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to establish more sales centres of NTC in Karnataka.

Statement

List of Sales Centres in Karnataka

S.No.	Location	Address
1.	Bangalore	33, P-U-Bldg., MG Rd.
2.	Bangalore	125/2, Dispensary Rd.
3.	Bangalore	40/1, Geeta Mension, KG Rd.
4.	Bangalore	Eastern Block, Copn. Shopp. Comp. Jayangr.
5.	Bangalore	No. 7, 8th Cross Maleshvaram.
6.	Bangalore	1-B, Main Rd., 2nd Stage, Raja Ji Ngr.
7.	Bangalore	498, 54th Cross, 12th Main, 3rd Block R.Ji Ngr.
8.	Mysore	Mysore Mill Compound.
9.	Belgaum	3108, Khade Bazar.
10.	Chckmagalur	4892, M.G. Rd.
11.	Davangere	Chigateri Merc. Bldg. Binny Co. Rd.
12.	Dharwar	L.EA Shopp. Comp. Belgaum.
13.	Hassan	B.H. Rd. Opp. Bus Stand.
14.	Mysore	Mysore-II, Kuvempunagar.
15.	Mandya	1042, Jain Street
16.	Mangalore	K.S. Rao Rd., Ganpati Temple.
17.	Tumkur	Opp. Jai Dev Hostal, Bang. Rd.
18.	Bidar	Municipal Comp. Dr. Ambedkar Circle.
19.	Gulbarga	5, Super Mkt.
20.	Raichur	15, Beroon Quila, Raichur.
21.	Bangalore	Extn. Sales Counter.

Import of Wood Logs

4879. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of wood logs are being imported by India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where these wood logs are being imported;

(c) the quantity thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether many countries, importing the wood logs, allow a zero custom duty;

(e) whether the Indian timber importers have requested for the rationalization of customs duty on imported wood logs;

(f) the existing rate of customs duty and the one demanded by importers; and

(g) the reaction of the Government to the demand for rationalization of duty on the import of wood logs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The details of country-wise data on import of log woods as made by India are contained in the publication "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number" published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(d) to (g) The present customs duty on wood logs is 5% basic customs duty and 4% Special Additional Duty (SAD). The rates of customs duty as applicable in the case of other countries varies from zero and upwards. In a Pre-budget, 2003-2004 Memorandum submitted to the Government by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), withdrawal of the 4% SAD applicable on wood logs in case of wood based industry has been suggested. The said request will be examined as a part of the Budget 2003-2004 deliberations by the Government.

Persons with Disability

4880. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed projects recommended by the State Government of Kerala under the scheme of assistance to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities during the year 2001-2002;

(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 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, all the projects recommended by the State Governments including that of Kerala are evaluated with reference to the compliance of requirements of the scheme, guidelines and extant instructions. Availability of funds and need for balanced regional and spatial development are also kept in view. During the year 2001-02, 62 organizations have been assisted in Kerala and an amount of Rs. 5.40 crores has been sanctioned under the scheme.

Yarn Banks

4881. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of yarn banks for handloom weavers presently working in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to set up new yarn banks; and

(c) the strategy adopted by the Government to ensure regular and full supply of yarn to the weavers through the network of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Government of India has been implementing the Mill Gate Price Scheme under which the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) has been arranging supplies of yarn to handloom organizations at the prices at which the yarn is available at Mill gate. There is a provision in this Scheme for opening of yarn depots by handloom organizations for supplying yarn to the weavers. At present there are 83 such depots in the country. The location-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme, yarn depots can be opened by the handloom weavers' organizations, which have sufficient working capital and infrastructure facilities. Proposals for opening of yarn depots are considered by the Government of India/NHDC on merit and on the recommendation of the Director-in-charge of Handlooms of the respective States. Supply of yarn to these depots is made by NHDC on the basis of the indents received from the organizations running the depots.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Places of Depot
1	2	3 4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Bhimavaram
		2. Velpur
		3. Chirala (2 Nos.)
		4. Angara
		5. K.J. Puram
		6. Hasanabada
		7. Kothawada
		8. Anantpur
		9. Koyallagudam
		10. Pochampally
		11. Huzurabad
		12. Hyderabad (3 Nos.)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Doimukh
3.	Assam	1. Sualkuchi (2 Nos.)
		2. Karimgunj
4.	Bihar	1. Manpur, Gaya
5.	Chhattisgarh	1. Sauser (2 Nos.)
6.	Gujarat	1. Bhujodital, Kachchh
7.	Karnataka	1. Ramdurga
		2. Banhatti
		3. Ranebennur
		4. Gulbarga
		5. Ilkal
8.	Kerala	1. Kannur
		2. Thiruvananthapuram
		3. Kozhikode
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Gwalior
		2. Newbari
		3. Sarangpur
		4. Chanderi, Gunagarh
10.	Manipur	1. Imphal (2 Nos.)
11.	Meghalaya	1. Tura
12.	Tamil Nadu	1. Kancheepuram
		2. Vellore
		3. Cuddalore
		4. Karur
		5. Jayankondam
		6. Trichy
		7. Dharmapuri
		8. Salem
		9. Tiruchiengode
		10. Erode
		11. Chennimalai (2 Nos.)
		12. Gobichettypalayam
		13. Coimbatore
		14. Gudiyatham
		15. Nagerkoil
		16. Tirunelveli
		17. Arupukkotai
		18. Srivilliputhur
		19. Madurai
		20. Arakkonam
13.	Tripura	1. Agartala (2 Nos.)
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Aligarh
		2. Gorakhpur
		3. Maunathbhanjan
		4. Tanda
		5. Jalalpur
		6. Khairabad
		7. Etawa
		8. Varanasi
		9. Khalilabad
		10. Nehtore

1	2	3	4
15.	Rajasthan	1.	Jaipur
16.	Nagaland	1.	Dimapur (2 Nos.)
		2.	Kohima
17.	West Bengal	1.	Bidyanagar
		2.	Singhari
		3.	Madhaipur
		4.	Hatsimla-Samundragarh
		5.	Shyambati
		6.	Ghoshhat
		7.	Nastratpur
		8.	Jukhia, Midnapur

BPL and APL Families in Assam

4882. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons included in the Above Poverty Line and Below Poverty Line category in Assam; and

(b) the number of persons working in tea gardens in Assam who have been covered under BPL category for Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The number of APL and BPL families in Assam as on 1.3.2000 is 26.57 lakh and 15.55 lakh respectively.

(b) The figures relating to number of BPL persons working in tea gardens in Assam is not maintained by the Government of India.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Development of Child and Women

4883. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial grant/assistance received from World Bank for the implementation of projects linked with development of women and children in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have fully utilised the funds provided by World Bank for child and women development in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There are three World Bank (IDA) funded projects, i.e. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)-II, ICDS-III including ICDS Training Programme (UDISHA) and Swa-Shakti (Rural Women's Development and Empowerment) Project, which have been under implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last two years. Details of disbursement against these projects during the last two years, including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are as follows:

(US $ Million)

Scheme	2000-01	2001-02
ICDS-II	46.17	32.93
ICDS-III (including Training)	24.79	33.31
		(Rs. in Million)
Swa-Shakti	34.32	78.78

(b) to (d) ICDS II Project has ended on 30-9-2002. Since ICDS-III and Swa-Shakti Projects will close in 2004, the funds earmarked for these projects are yet to be fully utilized.

[English]

Wage Structure in FCI

4884. SHRI HASSAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present wage structure of the permanent labourers working with Food Corporation of India in the country; and

(b) the details of the welfare schemes formulated by the Government in the interest of these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The wage structure of the Departmental labourers working with the Food Corporation of India is as under:—

Category of Labour	Scales of Pay
Godown Mazdoor	Rs. 3700-060-4180-075-5830
Ancillary Labour	Rs. 3840-080-4320-100-6720
Handling Labour	Rs. 3900-090-4260-100-6860
Mandal	Rs. 4000-100-4800-115-7330
Sardar	Rs. 4160-115-5195-125-7820

Besides basic pay in the respective pay scales, these labourers are paid House Rent Allowance, Dearness Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance as applicable to the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern.

The labourers working under the Direct Payment System (DPS) are also on regular rolls of the FCI. They are paid wages on piece rate basis. In case the piece rate wages fall short of minimum guaranteed wages with reference to the work done by them, they are paid the minimum guaranteed wages as under:-

Handling Labour	Rs. 116/- per day
Mondal	Rs. 119/- per day
Sardar	Rs. 126/- per day

The Ancillary labourers working under the Direct Payment System in the FCI are paid on time rate basis@ Rs. 97/- per day.

(b) Besides the benefits available under the Workmen Compensation Act, Payment of Gratuity Act, Schemes under Employees Provident Fund and Ex-Gratia in lieu of Bonus, the following Welfare Schemes are applicable to the departmental labourers:-

(i) Indoor/outdoor medical facility for the labourers and their dependent family members.

(ii) Special Disability Leave to the labourers who sustain injury in the course of employment.

(iii) Lunch Subsidy.

(iv) Provision of uniform.

(v) Washing allowance.

(vi) Ex-gratia relief for suffering prolonged disease.

(vii) Transport reimbursement.

(viii) Children Education Allowance, Tution Fees, Science Fees, Allowance for mentally retarded and handicapped children.

(ix) Leave Travel Concession (Bharat Darshan/Home Town) or Encashment of LTC and encashment of Earned Leave.

(x) Benovelent Fund.

(xi) House Building Advance, Conveyance Advance, Festival Advance.

(xii) Momento Gift on superannuation.

(xiii) Compassionate appointment of kith and kin of the deceased/medically retired labour.

(xiv) Privilege/Sick Leave.

(xv) Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme.

Besides the statutory benefits applicable to the Direct Payment System labourers under Workmen Compensation Act, Payment of Gratuity Act, schemes framed under Employees Provident fund Act and Ex-gratia in lieu of Bonus @ 8.33%, they are also entitled for Sick Leave, Productivity Linked Incentive, Festival Advance and appointment of next kith and kin on compassionate ground.

Commemorative Coins and Notes

4885. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian currency notes and coins depicting the photographs of Mahatma Gandhiji have been issued in recognition of his services in the freedom struggle of India;

(b) whether on some of the denominations of Indian currency notes and coins the photos of Pt. Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose have also been depicted;

(c) if so, the detail thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to depict the photos of Shaeed Bhagat Singh and Vallabhbhai Patel in recognition of their services to the freedom struggle;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian currency notes do not depict the photos of Pt. Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra

Bose. However, commemorative coins with images of Pt. Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose have been issued. Commemorative coins on Pt. Nehru were issued in 1964 and 1989 in the denominations of Re. 1, 50 paise and Rs. 100, Rs. 20, Rs. 5 and Re. 1 respectively. Commemorative coins on Netaji Subhas Chandra bose were issued in 1997 in the denominations of Rs. 100, Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 2.

(d) and (e) Commemorative coins on Vallabhbhai Patel were issued in 1996 in the denominations of Rs. 100, Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 2. There is, at present, no proposal to issue commemorative coins in respect of Shaeed Shri Bhagat Singh.

(f) India Government Mints with their limited capacity are not in a position, at present, to undertake additional commemorative coins.

[Translation]

Seizure Made by Customs

4886. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs and Excise Department has seized goods worth Rs. 6.45 crore at Kandla Port recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to check the illegal activities in Ports/Airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the total value of seized goods at Kandla Port during the current financial year is Rs. 25.92 crores.

(c) and (d) There is no specific scheme to check the illegal activities in Ports/Airports. The Customs officers posted at various ports/airports are alert and they thoroughly examine the import/export consignments and baggage with due care. The goods are being assessed and examined carefully under the existing EXIM Policy and the Customs Rules. Appropriate action is taken under the relevant rules whenever any discrepancy is noticed.

Welfare of Orphans

4887. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of non-governmental organizations working for the welfare of orphans, State-wise;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to each of these NGOs during the last three years;

(c) whether some of these NGOs have misappropriated this financial assistance;

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

(e) the action taken against these NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of non-governmental organizations working for the welfare of orphans and receiving grant-in-aid from the Ministry under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for Home (Sishu Grehs) for infants for promoting in-country adoption as well as the details of financial assistance provided to each of these NGOs during the last three years are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of such NGOs who have misappropriated the financial assistance provided by this Ministry and the action taken against these NGOs are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise details of NGOs working for welfare of orphans and receiving grant under Sishu Greh Scheme as well as details of financial assistance received by them during the last three years

(In Rupees)

S. No.	Name of the Organisation	Financial Years		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
	Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Indian Council of Social Welfare, Hyderabad	740,400.00	550,800.00	—
2.	Priyadarshini Service Organisation, Visakhapatnam	975,300.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Social Action for Social Development, Mahabub Nagar	432,900.00	321,450.00 (cancelled)	—
	Sub Total	2,148,600.00	872,250.00	0.00
	Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	Oju Welfare Association, Ita Nagar	600,000.00	583,200.00	533,700.00
	Sub Total	600,000.00	583,200.00	533,700.00
	Assam			
1.	Sreemanta Sankar Mission, Nagaon	—	—	172,125.00
2.	Halal Sangha Community Centre, Karimganj	—	—	151,686.00
	Sub Total	0.00	0.00	323,811.00
	Delhi			
1.	Welfare Home for Children, Sarita Vihar	600,000.00	—	—
2.	Sewa Bharti, Jhandewalan	464,400.00	177,314.00	466,650.00
	Sub Total	1,064,400.00	177,314.00	466,650.00
	Gujarat			
1.	Shri Khatiawar Nirashrit Balashram, Rajkot	353,700.00	—	—
	Sub Total	353,700.00	—	—
	Haryana			
1.	Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Chandigarh	447,030.00	347,276.00	223,650.00
2.	SOS Children's Villages Association, Panchkula	—	—	54,452.00
	Sub Total	447,030.00	347,276.00	578,102.00
	Himachal Pradesh			
1.	H.P. State Council for Child Welfare, Shimla	—	78,763.00	191,803.00
	Sub Total	0.00	78,763.00	191,803.00
	Karnataka			
1.	Jayanthi Gram Women & Children Welfare Association, Bizapur	496,800.00	496,800.00	252,000.00
	Sub Total	496,800.00	496,800.00	252,000.00
	Kerala			
1.	Dinasevanasabha, Patturvam, Kannur	464,400.00	449,072.00	232,200.00
2.	Kerala State Council for Child Welfare Theycaud, Thiruvananthapuram	234,000.00	—	278,290.00
3.	Holy Angel's Founding Home, Thrissur	—	—	161,325.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Ananda Bhavan (Founding Home), Palakkad	—	—	198,598.00
	Sub Total	698,400.00	449,072.00	870,413.00
	Madhya Pradesh			
1.	Shri Banke Bihari Kunj Bahuddeshiya Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Bhind	600,000.00	600,000.00	518,850.00
	Sub Total	600,000.00	600,000.00	518,850.00
	Maharashtra			
1.	Adharashram, Nashik	766,800.00	600,000.00	707,100.00
2.	Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal, Latur	600,000.00	594,000.00	512,100.00
3.	People's Education Society, Buldana	712,800.00	243,600.00	—
4.	Dnyan Gangotri Education Society, Latur	600,000.00	594,000.00	516,150.00
5.	Pankaj Bahuddeshiya Shikshan Sanstha, Bhandara	—	—	933,300.00
6.	District Probation and After Care Association Kolhapur	138,186.00	—	496,800.00
7.	Vatsalya Trust, Mumbai	—	1,166,400.00	453,533.00
8.	Sandhi Niketan Shikshan Sansthan, Nanded	745,200.00	494,100.000	493,900.00
9.	Patel Bahuudheshya Shikshan Sansthan, Nagpur	248,400.00	248,400.00	—
10.	Smt. Narsabai Mahila Mandal, Nanded	—	1,020,600.00	452,700.00
11.	Priyadarshini Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Chandrapur	606,750.00	410,400.00	—
12.	District Probation & After Care Association Ahmed Nagar	498,809.00	496,800.00	513,337.00
13.	Jyotiba Phule Seva Trust, Nanded	496,800.00	518,400.00	526,950.00
14.	Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasaarak Mandal, Latur	—	1,004,400.00	497,250.00
15.	Unatisheel Mahila Mandal, Bhandara	297,900.00	—	—
16.	Jaishree Sushikshit Berojgar Mahila Mandal	—	—	172,125.00
17.	Rohini Kalyankari Mahila Mandal, Bhandara	—	—	329,719.00
18.	Gramin Shikshanik Va Sanskrutik Vikas Mandal Garhchirali	—	237,800.00	—
19.	SAKAR (Society for Adoption Knowledge, Awareness & Resource), Aurangabad	—	—	69,398.00
	Sub Total	5,711,645.00	7,628,700.00	6,674,362.00
	Manipur			
1.	Social Reformation & Development Organisations Laikai, Imphal (East)	49,500.00	356,400.00	479,700.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Community Development Programme Centre Thoubal	49,500.00	99,900.00	479,700.00
3.	Tear Fund India Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation Service, Churachandpur	—	—	172,125.00
4.	Integrated Women and Children Development Centre (IWCDC), Imphal	—	—	172,125.00
	Sub Total	99,000.00	456,300.00	1,303,650.00
	Mizoram			
1.	International Poor Children, Aizawl	49,500.00	496,800.00	525,600.00
	Sub Total	49,500.00	496,800.00	525,600.00
	Orissa			
1.	Subhadra Mehtab Seva Sadan, Khurda	—	1,171,800.00	241,200.00
2.	Basundhara, Basundhara Nagar	—	1,150,800.00	—
3.	Nilachal Sea Pratisthan, Puri	600,000.00	—	—
4.	Banabasi Seva Samiti, Kandhamal (Phulbani)	248,400.00	761,400.00	512,100.00
5.	Vikas Parishad, Cuttack	745,200.00 **(cancelled)	—	—
6.	Lutheran Mahila Samity, Kendrapara	243,000.00	496,800.00	504,000.00
7.	Community Legal Action and Research Centre Dhenkanal	243,000.00	—	—
8.	Maharshi Dayananda Service Mission Dhenkanal	49,500.00	496,800.00	229,050.00
9.	Anatha Parityakta Baleshram, Nayagarh	—	—	418,725.00
	Sub Total	2,129,100.00	4,077,600.00	1,905,075.00
	Rajasthan			
1.	Shri Karni Nagar Vikas Samiti, Kota	248,400.00	891,000.00	547.200.00
2.	Madhu Samiti Mahila and Bal Kalyan Utthan Sansthan, Kota	243,000.00	496,800.00	493,200.00
	Sub Total	491,400.00	1,387,800.00	1,040,400.00
	Tamil Nadu			
1.	Guild of Service (Central), Chennai	248,400.00	—	—
2.	Madras Social Service Guild (MASOS Guild) Chennai	220,050.00	—	—
3.	Malayslam Social Services, Chennai	248,400.00	583,200.00	291,600.00
	Sub Total	716,850.00	583,200.00	291,600.00

1	2	3	4	5
	Tripura			
1.	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare Agartala	599,400.00	583,200.00	266,850.00
2.	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare Nutan Nagar Agartala (west)	—	—	69,038.00
	Sub Total	599,400.00	583,200.00	335,838.00
	West Bengal			
1.	Scottiane Poverty Eradication Centre, Kolkata	—	—	169,425.00 ***(cancelled)
2.	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore	—	—	161,325.00
3.	Vivekananda Welfare and Development Society	—	—	69,488.00
	Sub Total	0.00	0.00	230,813.00
	Grand Total	16,205,825.00	18,818,275.00	16,042,717.00

* Due to action taken against the NGO for Irregularities.

** Due to action taken against the NGO for Irregularities.

*** Due to non-submission of in-country Adotpion Licence.

Statement II

Action Taken against the NGOs for irregularities under the Shishu Greh Scheme

S. No.	Name of the Organisation	w.e.f.	Action taken
1.	Indian Council of Social Welfare Hyderabad	25/05/2001	Grant withdrawn
2.	Priyadarshini Service Organisation Hyderabad	25/05/2001	Grant withdrawn
3.	Social Action for Social Development, Mahabub Nagar	25/06/2001	Grant withdrawn
4.	Vikas Parishad, Cuttack	10/04/2001	Grant withdrawn
5.	Community Legal Action, Dhenkanal	14/03/2002	Grant withdrawn
6.	Malaysian Social Services, Chennai	03/04/2002	Grant withdrawn
7.	Jayanthi Gram Women & Children Welfare Association, Bizapur	13/05/2002	Grant stopped; Matter sub-judice in Karnataka High Court
8.	Priyadarshini Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Chandrapur	01/09/2000	Grant withdrawn
9.	Madras Social Service Guild, Chennai	18/06/1999	Grant withdrawn

On-Line Banking

4888. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the banks which have provided on-line banking network facility in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim; and

(b) the names of the States out of the above which have been deprived of the said facility alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) RBI has reported that they have approved 19 banks to offer on-line banking services to the customers through Internet. The names of the banks are given below:

1. ABN Amro Bank
2. BNP Paribas
3. Citi Bank
4. Corporation Bank
5. Deutsche Bank
6. Federal Bank Ltd.
7. Global Trust Bank
8. HDFC Bank Ltd.
9. IDBI Bank Ltd.
10. Indusind Bank
11. Punjab National Bank
12. Standard Chartered Bank
13. UTI Bank Ltd.
14. Vysya Bank Ltd.
15. State Bank of India
16. Centurion Bank
17. ICICI Bank Ltd.
18. Syndicate Bank
19. Credit Lyonnais

These facilities can be accessed by customers of respective banks from anywhere without any geographical limitation.

RBI action against AMWAY India

4889. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether any observations has been passed by RBI against AMWAY India and its promoter's company;

(b) if so, the details of observation passed by the RBI against this company;

(c) whether the said company is involved in violation of various rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some Members of Parliament and Investors Association brought to the notice of RBI and Government regarding the violations committed by the said company; and

(f) if so, the details of action taken by the Government against this company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had examined the scheme of M/s. Amway India Enterprises (AMWAY) in March 2001 and again in May 2002 aiming at creating a chain of distributors and taken a view that the said scheme appears to be a prize chit or money circulation scheme as defined in and prohibited under Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978. The offences under the said Act are congizable and the police authorities of the concerned State Government have to investigate and take a view whether the scheme of Amway India attract the prohibition under the said Act.

(e) and (f) Amway had made representation to the Minister (Economic), Embassy of India in Washington DC that its schemes are not covered under the Act. RBI had once again examined the matter and it had advised to the Embassy that the Amway's activities appear to attract the provisions of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. RBI has forwarded a report in this regard to the police authorities who are empowered under the Act for taking necessary action.

[English]

MNC's in Construction Industry

4890. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of multinational/transnational companies that are operating in construction industry in India at present;

(b) the details of the projects under the control of these MNCs/TNCs and the terms and conditions they are allowed to operate;

(c) the names of the major countries from which plants and machineries for the construction projects have been imported during the last three years; and

(d) the total value of the import during the said period and the forex paid therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) As per the extant policy, FDI upto 100% is permitted in construction industry. A total number of 102 proposals for foreign direct investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 1,337.68 crore have been granted approval for construction activities in the last three financial years.

(b) Details of the approvals are published in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and is widely circulated to various establishments, including the Parliament Library. The information is also posted on the SIA Website (http://www.dipp.nic.in). All approvals for FDI are subject to Indian Laws. The import of plant and machinery are governed by the EXIM policy in force.

(c) and (d) As per the figures reported by DGFT, the import of machinery for public works, building etc. was of a value of around Rs. 110.70 crore during the corresponding period. However, the value of imports, as reported, are not limited to the FDI approvals. The major imports are from countries like Australia, Denmark France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherland, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Landless Tribals

4891. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landless tribals in each State of the country;

(b) whether steps are being taken to allot land to these tribals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) 'Land' being a State subject, its management is the responsibility of the State Governments. Hence, the relevant information is not available with this Ministry.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme under the Ministry to allot land to the landless tribals.

Withdrawal of Public Financial Institution Status accorded to IFCI

4892. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to withdraw the public financial institution status accorded to the IFCI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Overseas Scholarship Scheme for STs

4893. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who were provided financial assistance under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes during each of the last three years upto September 2002 State-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme to provide suitable job for such students who return after achieving degrees or expertise; and

(c) if so, the number of students provided job during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Financial assistance under the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes is not provided state wise. Candidates are selected by a Selection Committee on merit, on an All India basis. The number of students who were provided financial assistance

under the scheme during the last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of Students
2000-2001	4
2001-2002	6
2002-2003 (upto September, 2002)	2

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Winding up of SEZ Scheme

4894. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to wind up the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated September 14, 2002 and

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

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government had announced a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) scheme in April 2000. Based on detailed projects reports submitted by the State Governments/private promoters, 3 new SEZs have been formally approved. In addition, 'in principle' approval has been granted for setting up of 14 new SEZs. Substantial area of land is already in possession of the implementing agencies of Navi-Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Nangunery and Indore SEZs. Further the implementing agencies of Navi Mumbai and Visakhapatnam SEZs are on the look out for strategic partners.

The Greenfield SEZs are being set up largely in the private sector in association with the State Governments and are in nature of large infrastructure projects with long gestation period.

[English]

Insurance of Doctors Handling HIV and Hepatitis-B Cases

4895. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether insurance companies have refused to provide insurance cover to doctors and practitioners of private and Government medical hospitals who are handling cases of HIV, Hepatitis-B;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the positive measures being taken by the Government to provide insurance cover to such professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) have informed that they have not refused to provide insurance cover to doctors and practitioners of private and Government medical hospitals who are handling cases of HIV, Hepatitis-B.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cadre Restructuring of Customs and Central Excise

4896. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some requests from Members of Parliament about review of the posts allocated as a result of the cadre restructuring of Customs and Central Excise;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued certain direction in violation of earlier direction dated July 19, 2001 regarding the filling of vacancies as a result of restructuring of Customs and Central Excise;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies immediately; and

(d) the time by which the process to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) There are no direction issued in violation of the earlier directions dated 19.07.2001. However certain instructions regarding methodology of filling up of vacancies as well as structural adjustments of posts between the various field formation of Customs and Central Excise have been issued keeping in mind the practical exigencies. The Recruitment rules for the newly created cadres have been finalized and steps to fill these vacancies have been initiated.

NCCF

4897. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1462 on March 8, 2002 regarding sale of Computer at higher price by NCCF and state:

(a) whether the enquiry has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken on the enquiry report; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the rates of stationery stores, computers, photocopiers, air-conditioners, furniture etc. are lower than the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The NCCF is a Multi State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to deal with the business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that oral enquiry by the concerned Enquiry Officer has since been completed. The report of the Enquiry Officer is to be received shortly and placed before the Disciplinary Authority of the NCCF for consideration and necessary action.

(d) The NCCF has informed that as per their revised purchase policy, the branded and high value items are procured directly from the manufacturers. Where the manufacturer declines to deal with NCCF directly, the products/items are procured through their authorised distributors. The un-branded and low value items are procured from the registered suppliers of the NCCF, after comparing the rates in the local market, so as to ensure the competitiveness of the NCCF's rates. The NCCF supplies the items below the MRP and also provides additional facilities like door delivery, credit facility for 30 days and gurantees warranty and provide after sales services, wherever applicable. The NCCF monitors the prices periodically and ensure that these are lower than the open market.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

4898. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has taken a position that it was within its rights to retain the funds collected from insurers as renewal and other fees and penalties;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance after seeking opinion of Ministry of Law, directed the IRDA to deposit the funds in the public account; and

(c) the present status of the situation and how the deadlock is proposed to be resolve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has proposed that it should retain the funds collected by it. However, Ministry of Law has advised that Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Fund is to be housed in the Public Account of India. This has been conveyed to the IRDA for follow up action.

Issuance of Yellow Cards to Poor People

4899. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target is issuing yellow cards to the poor people in the country during each of the last three years and the number of cards issued till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated and monitored the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether cases of irregularities in issuing the cards have come to light;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the above period;

(f) the action taken in this regard; and

(g) the target fixed for issuance of yellow cards to States during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (g) As per the provisions of PDS Control Order 2001 State Governments are required to issue distinctive ration cards to APL, BPL and Antodaya families. Different State Governments/UTs are issuing ration cards of different colours to the APL, BPL and Antyodaya families.

No targets are required to be fixed for next two years. State Governments have also not reported any cases of irregularities in the issue of cards.

Excess Expenditure of Budgetary Grants of States

4900. SHRI K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided not to regularise the excess expenditure of budgetary grants incurred by various States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States which have incurred excess grants and the quantum of excess expenditure by each of them;

(d) whether the State Government have strongly protested such a policy of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Expenditure incurred by States under various grants are available in the Budget documents of the State Governments and are governed by the budgetary limits provisioned for, by the respective State Governments. Government of India releases to States grants-in-aid, such as Local Bodies grants, Non-Plan Revenue Deficit grants, CRF and Upgradation grants to supplement the efforts of States thereto.

The releases made by the Government of India are guided by the respective guidelines governing the releases of these grants-in-aid to States. Therefore the entire expenditure incurred by the States may not be eligible to be met fully by the Government of India from under its allocations for these grants-in-aid.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of rice by STC

4901. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the rice being given to State Trading Corporation (STC) through FCI for the export purpose, is being sold in the country in blackmarketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the responsible persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No Sir. The stocks of rice are taken by STC from FCI against export contracts. After taking delivery as per the policy of FCI issued from time to time, stocks are exported as it is or by upgrading to meet the buyers' requirement. As per the procedure laid down by FCI from time to time, the relevant supporting documents are submitted to FCI as proof for exports. No quantity is being sold in the country in the black market.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

C&AG Report on Acceptance of Tenders

4902. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its Report No. 4 of 2002 (Civil) on page 139 in para 9.12 brought out the fact of incurring extra expenditure on Rs. 2.32 crore by accepting revised higher offer of second lowest tenderer after negotiations;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into;

(c) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof; and

(d) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Selling of LIC's Stakes in Aluminium Company

4903. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Corporation of India wants to sell its 5.64% stake in Indian Aluminium Company to Hindalco Industries of the A.V. Birla Group; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that in response to the open offer, they have decided to offer their holding of 40,20,559 equity shares (5.64%) in the Indian Aluminium Company Ltd. to Hindalco Industries Ltd. at a cash offer price of Rs. 120 per share. LIC has informed that the open offer is in accordance with the SEBI Regulations and if the open offer is not accepted, there is possibility of de-listing the Company which would result in denying them any exist option. The Corporation would book a profit of Rs. 30.20 crores out of this transaction.

Crop Loan

4904. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the crop loan provided by cooperative, commercial and regional rural banks in the various States of the country during 2000-2001;

(b) whether the co-operative banks provide 73 per cent of the total crop loans; and

(c) if so, the action/steps being taken by the Government to increase the share of commercial, regional and rural banks in the field of agriculture credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The details of the percentage of crop loan provided by co-operative, commercial and regional rural banks in the country during the year 2000-2001 are given below:

S. No.	Agency	Amount (Rs. crore)	Percentage (Approx.)
1.	Co-operative Banks	16564	50%
2.	Commercial Banks	13480	40%
3.	Regional Rural Banks	3239	10%
	Total	33283	100%

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken various steps for increasing the share of commercial/Regional Rural Banks in the flow of agriculture credit. Some of these are:

- Adopting the Kisan Credit Card Scheme to facilitate easy flow of credit to farmers;
- Depositing the shortfall in the agricultural credit percentage in Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained by NABARD;
- Monitoring the performance of banks in State and District Level Meetings and taking flow-up action for increasing their flow of credit for agriculture;
- Widening the number of activities and increasing the ceilings for lending to be covered under agriculture to enable increase in agricultural lending;
- Preparing Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP) by commercial banks on an annual basis;
- Providing of refinance by NABARD to banks at concessional rate of interest;
- Opening of specialized agriculture finance branches by commercial banks;
- Starting a scheme to finance agri-clinics and agri-business centers.

[English]

Credit to Farmers

4905. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the flow of credit to agriculture has increased during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Kisan Credit Cards have been issued so far, State-wise;

(d) the amount of loan given to farmers through these cards so far, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to link personal insurance and crop insurance with Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs); and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that data regarding the flow of credit to agriculture for the year 2002-2003 is not available at present. However, the outstanding advances by Public Sector Banks to agriculture stood at Rs. 53,685.36 crores and Rs. 63,082.99 crores at the end of March, 2001 and March, 2002 respectively, showing an increase of about 18%.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued and the amount of loan disbursed through these cards to farmers are indicated in Statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) In pursuance to Finance Minister's announcement in the Budget Speech for the year 2001-02, a Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for KCC holders to cover them against accidental death or permanent disability/partial disability upto a maximum amount of Rs. 50,000/- and Rs. 25,000/- respectively has been introduced in July, 2001. Loans issued through KCCs are already covered under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) since inception of the scheme.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued and the amount disbursed through them by the banking sector since inception (as on 31st March, 2002)

(Rs. Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Cards Issued	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4
1.	A & N Island	1151	122.50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4754002	629602.39
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	451	93.91
4.	Assam	12684	2078.79
5.	Bihar	533008	80889.61
6.	Chandigarh	5	1.24
7.	Chhattisgarh	160833	23160.55
8.	D & N Haveli	1	1.00
9.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00
10.	Goa	2258	4896.84
11.	Gujarat	944475	312939.10
12.	Haryana	852155	404814.35
13.	Himachal Pradesh	63629	12960.89
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	25879	3359.04
15.	Jharkhand	133124	10722.68
16.	Karnataka	1515387	439938.84
17.	Kerala	746399	128807.39
18.	Lakshadweep	98	23.85
19.	Madhya Pradesh	778558	254595.79
20.	Maharashtra	2663050	631775.14
21.	Manipur	459	47.48
22.	Meghalaya	3101	276.39
23.	Mizoram	1102	57.22
24.	Nagaland	26	0.65
25.	NCT of Delhi	2011	827.48
26.	Orissa	1245526	224296.10
27.	Pondicherry	11407	2936.44
28.	Punjab	1082370	456204.24
29.	Rajasthan	1825487	465406.89
30.	Sikkim	774	73.65
31.	Tamil Nadu	1725778	310624.82
32.	Tripura	3144	386.18
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3611227	614864.41
34.	Uttaranchal	136715	16090.66
35.	West Bengal	432963	61455.54
	Total	23269237	5094331.75

Procurement of Paddy by FCI

4906. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India did not procure any common variety of paddy from the local farmers of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands under Minimum Support Price till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by when the procurement is likely to be commenced; and

(d) the alternative arrangement being worked out by the Government for the above said procurement if FCI fails to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) The FCI has not procured any common variety of paddy in Andaman and Nicobar Islands till date. Paddy cultivation is limited to six scattered islands only, located for away from Port Blair. The varieties are below the prescribed FAQ specifications. Hence, no procurement is expected in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Production of Wool

4907. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wool produced in the country particularly in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years and till date;

(b) the details of such wool exported to the various foreign countries during this period and foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the details of incentives being given by the Government to the Wool producers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The production of wool in India and Rajasthan during the last three years and till date is as follows:—

Year	Wool Production (in '000 kg)	
	India	Rajasthan
1999-2000*	47911	19202
2000-2001*	49167	19411
2001-2002@	50709	20060
2002-2003(T)	52107	20470

*Provisional
@Anticipated achievement
T-Target
Source: Ministry of Agriculture

(b) The details of wool exported to various foreign countries are as follows:—

Year	Wool Export	
	Qty (in '000 kg)	Value (Rs. lakh)
1999-2000	1517.69	1163
2000-2001	1584.58	2191
2001-2002	904.65	1689

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

(c) The Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur administers the Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project through State Government Department/ Corporations/Boards. The following incentives are given to the wool producers of the country under the above Project:—

(50,000 sheep are covered under each Project) (Rs. lakh)

S. No.	Particulars	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Health Care @Rs. 8/- per sheep	4.00	4.00	4.00	12.00
2.	Breed Improvement (500 Rams per Project @ Rs. 1,500/-)	3.75	3.75	—	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Product Development (Package of practices) (Rs. 4.50 per sheep per year)	2.25	2.25	2.25	6.75
4.	Marketing Assistance (Re.1/- per sheep per year)	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50
5.	Training (10 Camps per Project @Rs. 3,000/- per Camps)	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.90
	Total	10.80	10.80	07.05	28.65

NCM Visit to Jammu and Kashmir

4908. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities had to visit Jammu and Kashmir State during August, 2002 in connection with the return of Kashmiri Pandits who left the valley 13 years back as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated August 19, 2002;

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

(c) the further steps taken by the Government/State Government to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits;

(d) whether the J&K Government had urged the National Commission for Minorities to seek permission of the Election Commission before the proposed visit; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a), (b), (d) and (e) No, Sir. The National Commission for Minorities did not visit Jammu & Kashmir during August, 2002. Although the National Commission for Minorities had written to the Chief Secretary vide d.o. letter No. 8/12/37/1/2000-NCM dated 12th August, 2002 on the proposed visit to Jammu & Kashmir with a group of Kashmiri Pandits who wanted to get back to their homes in the valley, the Chief Secretary of the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir vide his d.o. letter No. PS/CS-10/2002 dated 14.08.2002 however advised the National Commission for Minorities to seek clearance from the Election Commission for the proposed visit to the State in view of the elections to the State Assembly and the applicable of Model Code of Conduct.

The National Commission for Minorities being a statutory body, *suo motu* decided not to visit the State during this period.

(c) In October 2000, Government of Jammu & Kashmir submitted an Action Plan for the Return and Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants involving a total amount of Rs. 2589.73 crores to enable 52,689 families of Kashmiri migrants comprising about 1.25 lakhs people, at present residing in Jammu, Delhi and other States/UTs, to return to the Valley. The Action Plan is to be implemented in phases, which envisages return and rehabilitation of migrant families in areas where clusters of migrant houses are available and in villages/mohallas in the Kashmir Valley districts with sizeable Kashmir Pandit population and where security is already provided. To begin with, 166 houses forming 156 clusters had been identified by the State Government in Srinagar and Badgam district, which are considered safe for the return of owners of these houses. The list of these clusters was published in the newspapers and steps were taken to identify the families and find out their willingness to return to their homes. About 50 families, which were registered with Relief Organization, Jammu. were contacted personally to give their consent for return to the valley on the basis of the package announced by the Government. Interactive sessions with some of these families have been held but none of the families have agreed to return to the Valley so far.

Amendments in Disability Act, 1995

4909. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to amend Persons with Disability (Equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995 is pending with the Government for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to amend Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. No specific time limit can be given for amendment of the Act.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Loans to States

4910. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines for loans, financial assistance and grants-in-aid for different projects/schemes to Bihar and other general category States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Financial assistance is extended to States by the Government of India for Plan and Non-Plan purposes in the form of loans and/or grants. Central Plan assistance for financing of Annual Plans of States is released to the non-special category States (including Bihar) in the form of 70% loan and 30% grant. The interest rates and other terms and conditions of loans and advances are guided by the lending rates prescribed from time to time by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Apart from the Central Plan Assistance, non-Plan grants as recommended by the successive Finance Commissions for various purposes such as natural calamity relief, local bodies, upgradation and special problem, non-Plan revenue deficit and medium-term fiscal reforms are also released to the States in the form of grants-in-aid. Guidelines for implementation of these schemes have been issued by the Ministry of Finance in accordance with the recommendations of the Eleventh Commission (EFC).

Loan to Uttar Pradesh

4911. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme-wise loan granted to Uttar Pradesh by the Union Government during the current Five Year Plan period so far;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued any direction for re-payment of loan in instalment by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh as per the terms and conditions; and

(c) if so, the details of annual interest accrued on the entire loan raised by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The item wise, loan component, of Central assistance for financing of Annual Plan 2002-03, released from the Ministry of Finance, to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the current year (so far) is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

	Item	Loan
Normal Central Assistance		1227.05
Addl. Central Assistance for		
(a)	Externally Aided Projects	459.10
(b)	Accelerated Power Dev. Projects.	15.06
(c)	Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme	194.97
(d)	Slum Dev. Scheme	14.03
(e)	Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna	129.80
(f)	Rural Electricity Pro.	75.00
(g)	Addl. Central Assistance	1.74

(b) and (c) Repayment of loans under State Plan and Ways & Means advances are guided by the terms and conditions laid down for such loans. Currently, w.e.f. 1.04.2002, the rate of interest on Ways & Means Advance is 8% per annum which is recoverable within the year, while rate of interest on loans to State Governments under the financing their plan, is 11.50% per annum.

These loans when drawn in instalments, will be consolidated and deemed to have been drawn as on 1st October in each year. The maturity period of the loans sanctioned for State plans from 1990-91 onwards is 20 years, repayments being made in 20 annual equal instalments together with interest on the outstanding balance commencing from the following year.

However, 50% of these loans will enjoy a five year initial grace period, after which repayment of these loans will be affected in 15 annual equal stalment. The amounts annually payable (by way of principal and interest) would be recovered in 10 equal monthly instalments commencing 15th June.

[English]

Special Jute Development Programme

4912. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central grants are being released to Andhra Pradesh under the Union Government's Special Jute Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the results achieved in production of Jute in the State during the said period year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The Central Grants under Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP) has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh upto 2000-01 for the development of Mesta. However, since October, 2000, the SJDP has been subsumed under Macro-Management Mode of Agriculture along with other 26 schemes to give more flexibility to states and implement the programmes on the basis of State's priorities and requirements. Funds are allocated and released to States in lump sum for Macro-Management-Mode of Agriculture and not provided on the basis of individual crop.

The year-wise position regarding release of funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under SJDP are as under:

Year	Release (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	23.4
2000-2001	9.0 (upto September, 2000)
2001-2002	Subsumed under Macro Management

(c) Since the scheme provided funds for the development of Mesta, Question does not arise.

Non Banking Financial Companies

4913. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that repayment to the small depositors, investors are not done according to the Company Law Board Orders by the Non Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the names of the defaulting Non Banking Financial Companies, State-wise;

(c) whether Sanchayani Savings & Investment (P) Ltd. is not repaying small depositors as per Company Law Board Orders;

(d) the action taken by the Govemment in this regard;

(e) whether the Department of Company Affairs has investigated Sanchayani Savings Siphoning their assets to other groups of companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Backward Classes

4914. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes implemented by the Ministry under the "Welfare Schemes for the backward classes" and Grants-in-aid schemes for the voluntary organizations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes;

(b) the formula adopted by the Government for providing loans/grants and other financial assistance for these schemes alongwith the details of contribution made by the State Government for these schemes State-wise;

(c) the schemes being implemented by the State Government or any other voluntary organization in Rajasthan during the last three years i.e. from April 1, 1999 in till date under the Grant-in-aid scheme for the voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes; and

(d) the funds provided by the Union Government in the form of loans/grants/and other means

during the above period year-wise, scheme-wise and agency-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The details are given in Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The details are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

The programmes/schemes being implemented by this Ministry for the welfare of Backward Classes and grant-in-aid scheme for the organizations engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the formula adopted for providing grants/loans under these schemes are as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes/Programmes	Formula adopted for providing Grant-in-Aid/Loans
1	2	3
1.	Assistance to Voluntary Organization working for the Welfare of Other Backward Class (OBCs)	Under the scheme, the Government of India meet 90% of the approved expenditure. The remaining expenditure is to be met by the concerned Voluntary Organization from its own source. The financial contribution of State Government under the scheme is NIL.
2.	Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs since revised as Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Minorities	Under the scheme, assistance to NGOs, Universities and Institutions running coaching programs is borne on 90:10 basis, with the Centre bearing 90% of the expenditure and concerned States/UT bearing the remaining 10%.
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarships for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	The expenditure is borne on 50:50 basis, with the Centre and State Government bearing 50% each.
4.	Post-Matric Scholarships to the OBC students for studies in India	100% Central assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations.
5.	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	Under the scheme, 50% Central Assistance is provided to State Government and 100% to UT Administrations for construction of Hostels. The State Government concerned is required to contribute 50% of the construction cost of proposed Hostel(s).
6.	National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)	The financial assistance is provided through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) wherein the pattern of finance is generally adopted as under: **A. Term Loan:** (i) NBCFDC Loan: 90% of the total project cost (ii) SCA contribution: 5% of the total project cost (iii) Beneficiary Contribution: 5% of the total project cost. **B. Margin Money Loan** (i) NBCFDC Loan: 40% of the total project cost (ii) SCA contribution: 5% of the total project cost

1	2	3
		(iii) Bank Contribution: 50% of the total project cost (iv) Beneficiary Contribution: 5% of the total project cost
7.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the Scheduled Castes (SCs)	Under the scheme, the Government of India meet 90% of the approved expenditure. The remaining expenditure is to be met by the concerned Voluntary Organization from its own source. The financial contribution of State Government under the scheme is NIL.

Statement II

List of Voluntary Organisations receiving grant-in-aid in Rajasthan during the last three years i.e., from April 1, 1999 till date alongwith activities (type of Projects) and the amount released

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation with address	Name of the Project	Amount released (Amount in rupees) 1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (as on (15.12.02)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Name of the Scheme: Scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs)					
1.	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, B-33, Ranjee Nagar, Bharatpur-321001	Typing Centre	54637	0	0	—
2.	Madhusmriti Evam Bal Kalyan Uthan Sansthan, Bo Rangbadi Kota	Non Residential School	124020	0	0	—
3.	Sri Ravindranath Tagore Vidyalaya Samiti, Ward No. 10 Rawatsar	Craft Centre	140490	495270	0	—
4.	Shetriya Gramin Vikas Samiti, Mahiyanwali, Distt. Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Type and Short-hand Training Centre	—	—	74984	—
5.	Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Gandhi Colony, Pilibanga, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	80370	—
6.	Gopal Shiksha Avam Seva Samiti, 2/284, Housing Board Colony, Dholpur, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	83730	152580
7.	Shri Krishan Vidyalaya Prabandh Samiti, Padamur, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	84420	—
8.	S. Lala Ram Welfare Society, 180, Mukherjee Nagar, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	84690	310950
9.	Seemavarti Mahila Kalyan Society, Ward No. 8 Purani Abadi, Distt. Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	84870	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Ankita Bal Vidya Mandir Shikshan Samiti, Shri B.C. Jain Ka Makan, Hanuman Mandir Ke Pichhe, Bajrangdal Mill Road, Kotari, Kota, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	85140	310950
11.	Navodaya Bal Vidyalaya Samiti, Mahavir Nagar Vistar Yojana Kota Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	85140	308700
12.	Jack & Jill Society, H.No. 5/276, SFS, Aggarwal Farm, Mansarovar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School & Residential Primary School	—	—	85590	549090
13.	Chambal Vikas Sansthan, 64, Dulcot Road, Dholpur, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	87300	314100
14.	Gyandeep Public School Samiti, Ward No. 13, Pilibanga, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	87480	—
15.	Ashapala Shiksha Samiti, Baroda House, Surajpole, Kota, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	169589
16.	Excellent Children Public School Society, 4-S-17, Dadabari, Ext., Uriya Basti Chauraha, Kota-9, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	148889
17.	Helping Hands Society, 7C/31 Mahaver Nagar-Iii, Kota, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	—
18.	Indira Gandhi Swarojgar Prashikshan Samiti, Prem Nagar, Kota, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	169589
19.	Manjit Vikas Avam Prashikshan Samiti, Near Gurudwara, Bhim Ganjmandi Kota Jn. Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	—
20.	New Vir Sawarker Vidyalaya Samiti, Chander Bhavan, Gumanpura, Kota, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	—
21.	Rani Laxmi Shikshan Sansthan, Behind Adarsh Nagar Petrol Pump Rawat Bhata, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	166079
22.	Vidhya Mandir Shiksha Samiti, 3 G-20 Jawahar Nagar, Sri Ganganagar Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	169589
23.	Vikas Model School Prabandh Samiti, Ward No. 12, Pilibanga, Distt. Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	—
24.	Youvan Sansthan, 3/25, Housing Board, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	88230	—
25.	Adarsh Bal Vatika Vidyalaya Samiti, Ward No. 5. Rawatsar, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	88245	—
26.	Prasasvi Sansthan, Geeta Bhawan, Vivekanand Colony, Distt. Dausa, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	88920	—
27.	Shishu Niketan Prathmik Patshala Samiti, Suratgarh, Distt. Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	—	—	88920	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	Shanti Public School Samiti, Prem Nagar Colony, Shri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	89190	316350
29.	Jai Bhawani Public School Samiti, Ward No. 7, Purani Abadi, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	—	—	89312	316350
30.	B.S. Public School Samiti, V.O.P. Mahiyanwali Distt. Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	—	—	89370	—
31.	Bright Future Institute Sanstha, Ward No. 2 Padampur-335041, Distt. Shri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	89370	—
32.	Mahavir Bal Shiksha Avam Vikas Samiti, Near Saini Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Hodayali Bhawan	Non Residential Primary School	—	—	93640	—
33.	Shradhalaya Ashram, Surajple, Distt. Kota, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	—	—	105840	310950
34.	Tagore Gramin Uthan Samiti, Vigyan Nagar, Distt. Kota, Rajasthan	Craft Centre	—	—	115410	168712
35.	Adarsh Vidya Niketan Sansthan, Kund Road, Behror, Distt. Alwar, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	—	—	122580	—
36.	Adarsh Shiksha Samiti, 117, H-Block, Shriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School	—	—	133335	—
37.	Greenwel Children Society, Rathori Kuan, Distt. Nagaur-341001, Rajasthan	Non Res. School & Typing and Shorthand Training Centre	152280	152280	152280	76140
38.	Jack & Jill Prabandh Samiti, 7 E, Chhoti, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential School	—	—	173475	549090
39.	Sumit Bal Vidhyalaya Shiksha Vikas Samiti, 11/B/3, Mahavir Nagar-Iii, Kota, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School	—	—	177570	511200
40.	Manohar Bal Mandir Samiti, 5-D-Block, Sriganganagar-335001, Rajasthan	Craft Centre and Non Residential School	—	—	189030	471990
41.	4 L.L. Public School Samiti, Chandni Chowk, Purani Abadi, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School	—	—	191520	549090
42.	Balram Adarsh Vidyalaya Samiti, Meera Chowk, Shri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential School & Craft	—	—	198210	169589
43.	Suhit Jan Kalyan Samiti, Surajple, Distt. Kota, Rajasthan	Craft Centre & Non Residential School	—	—	220665	456239
44.	Nehru Model Kalyan Samiti, 108-109, Setia Colony, Distt. Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Craft Centre & Non Residential Primary School	—	—	271880	471990
45.	Grameen Bal Vikas Sanstha, Pipar City-342601, Distt. Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	344880	664920	292050	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	Radha Bal Mandir Vidhyalay Academy, Bus Stand, Pipar City-342601, Distt. Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	490140	693180	316350	—
47.	Nirashrit Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodyog Shiksha Samiti, Pai Bagh, Distt. Bharatpur-320001 Rajasthan	Craft Centre	_	176860	344579	172289
48.	National Public School Samiti, Purani Abadi, Chandni Chowk, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Typing & Shorthand Centre	299548	—	362055	102870
49.	Dayanand Public School Samiti, Gandhi Colony Pilibanga, Ii Strict, Distt. Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Dari Making Training Centre	209398	123899	384300	—
50.	Adarsh Shiksha Sadan Samiti, Prem Nagar Colony Behind Payal Talkies Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Res. & Non Residential School	504900	504900	504900	310950
51.	Tagore Bal Bhawan Shiksha Samiti, Indra Colony Gali No. 4, Ward No. 24, Hanumangarh Town, Distt. Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Non Residential School	295500	602358	515097	316350
52.	S.K. Public School Samiti, Chandni Chowk Purani Awadi Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Residential School & Res. School	561017	499427	634176	1063890
53.	Public Seva Society, 1-A, Chhoti S. Balwant Singh Ki Dhani, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Non Res. & Residential Primary School	504900	504900	663570	1053990
54.	Jan Kalyan Shikshan Samiti, 528, Main Road, Agarsain Nagar, Distt. Sri Ganganagar-335001, Rajasthan	Res & Non Residential School, Non-residential Primary School	—	967860	675180	1053990
55.	Md. Public School Samiti, Rathori Kunwa, Distt. Nagaur, Rajasthan	Residential School	1121160	964980	901800	540990
56.	Summer Hill Vidyalaya Samiti, Kesrisinghpur-335027, Distt. Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential School	549090	1413270	981180	535590
57.	Bal Bodh Vidya Peeth Sanstha, Mahajan Tehsil Looukaransar, Distt. Bikaner, Rajasthan	Non & Residential School	1253025	1639980	1459080	846540
58.	Social Welfare Charitable Trust, 638A Barkat Nagar, Tonk Phatak, Jaipur	Typing Centre	—	114422	—	—
59.	Jak & Jil Prabandh Samiti, 7E, Chhoti, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School	—	—	173475	549090
60.	Vidya Mandir Shiksha Samiti, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Craft Training	—	—	—	169589
61.	Adarsh Shikshan Samiti, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential School	—	—	—	549090

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of the Scheme: **Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for SCs** since revised as Centrally Sponsored **Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Minorities**						
63.	Udaipur Study Circle, Udaipur	PEC for SCs	—	394000		

APPENDIX I

State-wise details of provision made in the State Budget to meet the matching expenditure under the scheme of pre-matric scholarships for obc students during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1999-2000 Matching provision	2000-01 Matching provision	2001-02 Matching provision
1.	Andhra Pradesh	325.00	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	62.5	Nil
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	20.00
4.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	31.45
5.	Karnataka	Nil	425.71	278.15
6.	Manipur	Nil	16	Nil
7.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	5
8.	Tripura	100.00	95.79	110.04
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	1222.21
10.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	73.19

APPENDIX II

State-wise details of provision made in the State Budget to meet the matching expenditure under the scheme of hostels for obc boys & girls during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1999-2000 Matching provision	2000-01 Matching provision	2001-02 Matching provision
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	144.26	Nil	188.74
2.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	149.58
3.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	147.28

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Karnataka	78.26	183.23	216.99
5.	Manipur	Nil	46.91	Nil
6.	Rajasthan	57.48	Nil	Nil
7.	Sikkim	20	Nil	20
8.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	259.86	157.28
9.	Tripura	Nil	10	Nil
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	265.13

Foreign Goods Seized by Customs

4915. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of foreign goods seized by the Department of Customs during the last three years till 30.11.02 alongwith the locations from where these foreign goods were seized;

(b) the manner in which these foreign goods have been finally disposed by the Government during the last two years; and

(c) the criteria adopted for fixing the prices of the seized goods alongwith the amount received therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The value of foreign goods seized by the Customs field formations throughout the country during last three financial years and current financial year ending 30.11.2002, location-wise is given in the statement.

(b) As per the existing policy, the foreign goods seized/confiscated have been disposed of by means of:—

(i) Sale proceeds-through Govt. agencies like National Consumers Cooperative Federations;

(ii) Public auction

(iii) destruction if the goods are hazardous drugs

(iv) releasing the goods to the party on payment of redemption fine, penalty and duty, as imposed by the adjourning authority;

(v) gold is sold through the authorized bank viz State Bank of India.

(c) Fixation of selling price is done by Joint Pricing Committee headed by Senior Custom Officers in cases where no selling price of any confiscated goods is available. The quality, condition and prevailing market rate etc. of the confiscated goods forms the basis of price fixation. The amount received from the sale proceeds of seized/confiscated goods for last two financial years are as under:—

Year	Sale Proceeds (Rs. in crores)
2000-2001	336.33
2001-2002	490.56
Total	826.89

Statement

Value of Foreign Goods seized by Customs Department: State-wise

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the States	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto 30.11.2002)
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	0.91	1.52	2.53	0.96
DRI	0.04	0.06	0.51	0.73

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh (DRI)	27.12	42.68	0.13	4.94
Hyderabad	4.11	1.19	12.39	1.97
Bihar	25.29	21.16	23.53	9.96
DRI	9.46	7.04	3.82	2.16
Chhattisgarh	0.01	0.09	0.03	0.00
Delhi	75.44	39.07	58.19	10.95
DRI	11.50	17.51	10.96	5.88
Goa (DRI)	0.85	5.09	0.00	0.00
Goa	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	85.39	44.37	210.26	55.39
DRI	704.66	14.12	14.51	2.89
Haryana (DRI)	11.20	6.02	0.00	0.00
Jharkhand	20.59	20.40	10.20	4.44
Karnataka (DRI)	26.65	25.42	0.39	28.11
Karnataka	3.96	1.42	1.49	3.42
Kerala (DRI)	11.34	8.78	2.76	5.16
Kerala	1.97	2.00	2.81	1.87
Calicut	1.48	0.85	2.92	0.53
Trivandrum	6.69	2.33	2.06	1.56
Madhya Pradesh	1.32	0.38	0.12	0.12
Maharashtra	136.87	85.26	314.25	38.68
DRI	72.10	29.27	52.52	5.60
Pune	0.01	0.02	0.00	122.88
Manipur	3.18	3.87	3.61	0.53
Meghalaya	0.63	0.23	0.83	0.48
DRI	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.78	0.96	1.32	1.38
Nagaland	0.47	0.80	0.44	0.28
Pondicherry	0.65	2.25	1.54	0.19
Punjab (DRI)	1.85	12.92	53.85	0.04
Rajasthan	0.74	3.97	0.45	0.08

1	2	3	4	5
Tamilnadu	45.11	43.15	29.47	10.43
DRI	148.29	24.29	16.50	25.11
Tripura	1.08	1.09	1.33	0.59
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DRI	5.36	6.82	2.90	3.70
Allahabad	0.01	0.04	0.16	0.04
Kanpur	0.54	0.19	0.36	0.27
West Bengal	39.57	34.59	38.71	16.85
DRI	59.81	38.47	3.07	30.46
Total Rs.	1547.09	549.71	880.82	389.63

Export of Textiles of Saudi Arabia

4916. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is exporting textiles to Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, details thereof for each of the last three years;

(c) the quantum of Foreign Exchange earned from this export;

(d) whether the export of textiles has increased during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The value of textiles exports to Saudi Arabia during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given below:—

(In US$ Million)

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Textile Exports	173.95	195.94	200.32

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

(d) and (e) As per the latest available DGCI&S data, the textile exports to Saudi Arabia during the period April-August, 2002 amounted to US$ 103.8 million as compared to export of US$ 83.7 million during the corresponding period of 2001, recording a growth of 24.0%.

India's Rank in the World

4917. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Institute of Management Development, Switzerland rankings for the year 2002, of the most competitive economies of the world reveals that India has slipped to 42nd from 38th in 1998;

(b) if so, the main reasons put forward by them in the report;

(c) whether the Government efficiency, which reflects the extent to which Government policies are conducive to competitiveness, is also taken into consideration;

(d) if so, whether the Government has examined the report; and

(e) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) According to the World Competitiveness Year book (2002) of the International Institute for Management Development Switzerland, India has been ranked 42. India was ranked at 41 and 38 in the years 2001 and 1998 respectively. However, it was ranked 42 in 1999 also.

(b) India's rank in the current year (2002) has reduced by one place compared to the previous year (2001) because of lower scores attained by the country in the competitiveness criteria of infrastructure, business efficiency and government efficiency. However, India's performance has improved considerably in the criterion of economic performance.

(c) Government efficiency was one of the criteria for assessing competitiveness, apart from economic performance, business efficiency and infrastructure. The criterion of government efficiency includes public finance, fiscal policy, institutional framework, business legislation and education.

(d) and (e) Various assessments of the Indian economy undertaken by different organizations and institutions are taken into consideration while framing policies. Several measures have already been initiated for enhancing fiscal consolidation, which include rationalisation of the tax system, tax administration and government expenditure. Efforts are on to streamline the institutional framework.

Share of Agriculture, Industry and Service Sector In GDP

4918. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the share of agriculture, industry and service sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) if so, the value of share of agriculture, industry and service sector in the GDP during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) whether constant slide has been registered in the above areas; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the areas which are likely to contribute to rise in the GDP in future alongwith the quantum of contribution likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

As per the latest data available from the Central Statistical Organisation, the shares of agriculture and allied sector, industry and services sectors in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at 1993-94 prices during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are as follows:

Item	GDP at factor cost in Rs. crore (at 1993-94 prices) and Percentage Shares in GDP		
	1999-2000	2000-01 (Q)	2001-02 (R)
I. Agriculture and Allied sector	289842 (25.2)	289194 (24.2)	305818 (24.3)
II. Industry (comprising Mining and Quarrying; Manufacturing; Electricity, Gas and Water Supply; and Construction)	306764 (26.7)	326223 (27.3)	336210 (26.7)
III. Services (comprising Trade, Hotels, Transport & Communications; Financial Services; and Community, Social & Personal Services)	551894 (48.1)	578505 (48.5)	616203 (49.0)
IV. Total GDP at Factor Cost	1148500 (100.0)	1193922 (100.0)	1258231 (100.0)

(Figures in parentheses are percentage share to total GDP.)
Q-Quick Estimate; R-Revised Estimate

As the economy is growing, the share of agriculture and allied sector has been declining and share of services sector has been increasing over the years. The contribution of services sector is likely to increase in future.

[English]

Mediclaims

4919. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are facing great difficulties in the settlement of their Mediclaims promptly by the General Insurance Companies putting the clients to financial difficulties;

(b) whether the large number of claims remain pending with the companies for settlement;

(c) if so, the number of such claims pending with the General Insurance Companies in the public sector for over six months;

(d) whether the companies have also refused to provide mediclaims coverage to the persons above 50 years of age;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the concrete steps taken to streamline the procedure for the settlement of these claims promptly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Seizure of Gold by Income Tax Department

4920. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Chhape mae mili dhai kilo sone ki eint gayab" appearing in *Rashtriya Sahara* dated November 21, 2002;

(b) if so, the fact of the case; and

(c) the details of persons who have embezzled biscuit and the action taken against them?

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

(b) The said 'new item' is factually incorrect.

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

[English]

World Bank Aided Projects in West Bengal

4921. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance received by the State Government of West Bengal from the World Bank for literacy, welfare of Anganwadis and development work during the last three years;

(b) the conditions on which the assistance has been received;

(c) the details of the works commenced with the amount received so far by the West Bengal Government; and

(d) the time by which the works commenced are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There is no World Bank funded literacy programme in West Bengal. Under World Bank (IDA) funded Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rs. 4.75 crores was released to West Bengal Government for welfare of Anganwadis and development works during the last three years.

(b) Assistance has been received in accordance with the standard terms and conditions as applicable to IDA credit.

(c) 10161 ICDS functionaries have been trained under ICDS Training Programme project 'Udisha' during last 3 years.

(d) The project is scheduled to close on 30.9.2004.

World Bank Assistance for Economic Reforms

4922. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he World Bank has extended technical assistance to the Government for economic reforms; and

(b) if so, the details of the technical assistance obtained by the Government so far or likely to be obtained during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India has entered into agreement with World Bank for US $ 45 million for Technical Assistance for Economic Reforms of which US $ 19.15 million have been committed and US $ 12.21 million utilized as on 31.10.2002. A total of five Sub-projects have been taken up and eight are under consideration or appraisal.

[Translation]

Bank Losses

4923. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the names of the public sector banks running in losses alongwith the loss suffered by them during the last three years, bankwise;

(b) the names of the banks which earned profits during the last three years along with the profit earned by them, bankwise;

(c) whether the loss suffered by these banks is attributed to wasteful expenditure and corruption; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The details of losses suffered and profits made by the public sector banks during the last three years, bank-wise, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. The introduction of prudential norms on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning, high operating expenses without commensurate increase in non-operative income and large expenditure on account of Voluntary Retirement Scheme were the main reason for loss suffered by the two banks during 2000-2001.

(d) The public sector banks have been advised to take steps to improve their performance and profitability by rationalization of branch network, abolition of zonal offices, reduction of non-performing assets, lowering of cost of deposits and increase in efficiency and productivity etc.

Statement

Public Sector Banks—Net Profits/Loss

(Amount in Rs. crore)

A. Bank which suffered losses

Bank Name	Net Loss (Profit After Tax Negative)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Dena Bank	—	-266.12	—
Indian Bank	-426.96	-274.00	—

B. Bank which made profits

Bank Name	Net Profit (Profit After Tax)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Allahabad Bank	69.33	39.91	80.21
Andhra Bank	120.59	121.19	202.27
Bank of Baroda	502.77	274.66	545.93
Bank of India	173.60	251.88	505.23

1	2	3	4
Bank of Maharashtra	90.14	45.19	145.41
Canara Bank	236.05	285.10	741.40
Central Bank of India	150.69	46.46	163.30
Corporation Bank	232.44	261.84	308.10
Dena Bank	62.87	—	11.36
Indian Bank	—	—	33.22
Indian Overseas Bank	40.34	115.93	230.21
Oriental Bank of Commerce	278.63	202.88	320.55
Punjab & Sind Bank	61.44	13.26	23.04
Punjab National Bank	408.14	463.64	562.39
Syndicate Bank	215.65	234.94	250.55
UCO Bank	36.65	33.000	164.52
Union Bank of India	101.00	155.47	314.13
United Bank of India	31.00	19.00	119.04
Vijaya Bank	52.84	70.73	130.90
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	120.42	105.37	164.50
State Bank of Hyderabad	127.80	150.22	226.48
State Bank of India	2052.00	1604.26	2431.62
State Bank of Indore	45.25	64.19	125.10
State Bank of Mysore	48.24	25.72	65.90
State Bank of Patiala	130.00	161.10	232.94
State Bank of Saurashtra	88.79	15.53	82.01
State Bank of Travancore	66.44	97.49	120.93

Schemes for STs

4924. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide economic package for development of tribal areas of some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the provision made in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the implementation of schemes formulated for Adivasi Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No Sir, there is no such proposal before this Ministry. However, there are schemes being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of tribals, the details of which are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2001-02.

(c) The Constitution of India provides a list of Scheduled Tribes. A sum of Rs. 1754 crores has been

provided for the Tenth Five Year Plan for the schemes being implemented for Scheduled Tribes by this Ministry. (This excludes the allocation for two Schemes i.e. (i) Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan and (ii) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which are made to the states every year).

[English]

Prices Charged by Food Stall in ITPO

4925. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the Trade Fair held in November in Delhi, the visitors were fleeced by the stalls selling food and cold drinks in the Pragati Maidan;

(b) whether malpractices indulged in by the stall owners were also brought to the notice of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) officials;

(c) if so, the action ITPO took to ensure that the visitors are not overcharged;

(d) whether at the time of signing the contract with stall owners the ITPO laid down certain conditions regarding prices to be charged by them during the course of the fair; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) A few instances of overcharging came to notice of ITPO following which surprise checks were conducted to ensure that no incidence of overcharging by the owners of stalls/vending points takes place. Regular announcements were also made over the public address system to the fact that no extra money is payable over and above the prescribed rates of eatables.

(d) and (e) The agreement entered between the ITPO and the stall owners inter alia provided that the rates of food and beverages will be fixed in consultation with the ITPO and displayed at prominent places in the restaurant/ stall and the same was duly enforced.

[Translation]

Priority Sector Lending

4926. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to include other industries in the list of priority lending sector for providing loans from the public and private sector banks;

(b) if so, the names of such industries and the percentage of loan proposed to be provided to them separately; and

(c) the names of the new industries included by the Government in the list of priority lending sector during the last three years and percentage of loan provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at this stage to include other industries in the list of priority sector lending. However, Food and agro-based proceeding units of small and medium size with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5 crore were included under priority sector lending in January, 1999. The following specified industries in the food and agro-processing were included in the priority sector in August 2001:

(i) Fruit and vegetable processing industry

(ii) Food grain milling industry

(iii) Dairy products

(iv) Processing of poultry and eggs, meat products

(v) Fish processing

(vi) Bread, oilseeds, meals (edible), breakfast foods, biscuits, confectionery (including cocoa processing and chocolate), malt extract, protein isolate, high protein food, weaning food and extruded/over ready to eat food products.

(vii) Aerated water/soft drinks and other processed foods

(viii) Special packaging for food processing industries

(ix) Technical assistance and advice to food processing industry.

The total target set for public sector and private sector banks under priority sector advances is 40% of Net Bank Credit (NBC). The target for agricultural advances is 18%.

[English]

Production-cum-Export Ban on Sea Food

4927. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed production-cum-export ban on sea food exporting units involved in exporting consignments with antibiotic residues, which were rejected by the Spanish buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Seafood Exporters Association of India has represented for lifting of the ban, as there are no facilities available in the country to detect presence of antibiotic residues in seafood consignments;

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

(e) whether in response to a similar ban imposed by European Union in 1996 on seafood exports from India the Government had undertaken that it would improve the quality testing infrastructure within three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government of India had suspended the production and export of seafood from three seafood processing and exporting units in September, 2002 on the receipt of reports of multiple contamination in respect of each unit due to detection of antibiotics and other substances from Spain. These units are (i) Hindustan Lever Ltd., Gujarat; (ii) International Creative Foods Ltd., Mumbai; and (iii) Choice Canning Co. Ltd., Cochin.

(c) and (d) The seafood exporters had represented to the Government for revoking of the suspension orders. The said units were inspected by the Government agencies and advised to take effective steps, wherever necessary, to ensure quality control and standard as per norms prescribed. On the basis of satisfactory test reports of these units by a team of experts, the said suspension orders were revoked in October 2002.

(e) in the context of a ban imposed by European Union during the year 1997 on the exports of seafood from India, Government of India through Export Inspection Council of India had given guarantees to the European Commission, inter-alia, that only the units, who fully conform to the EU requirements of infrastructure, food hygiene and safety, would be allowed to export to the EU countries.

(f) Government have taken a number of steps to eliminate the incidence of rejection of consignments of seafood on account of micro biological & chemical contamination, which include, laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of seafood at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards; prescribing the maximum permissible level of chemicals and heavy metals; monitoring by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) of the processing units to ensure that required standards are followed; campaign by MPEDA and other Government agencies in all seafood producing areas to bring quality awareness among the exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, etc. and to dissuade them not to use the banned chemicals at any stage; and setting up/upgradation of laboratories for the purpose of testing of seafood at major production centers etc.

Import of Tea and Coffee for Re-export

4928. SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether duty-free imports of tea and coffee are allowed for re-exports;

(b) if so, the minimum value-addition norm for such re-exports as per EXIM Policy;

(c) the value of imports during the last three financial year under this scheme in respect of tea and coffee; and

(d) the value of re-export of such imports and the additional foreign exchange earned during the last three financial years?

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

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Plight of Adivasis in Non-ITDA Blocks

4929. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of plights of tribals living in non-ITDA blocks in Orissa due to the failure of the dispersed tribals development programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to educate them and provide them with minimum needs in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has no specific programme/scheme like a "dispersed tribals development programme". The grants released to State Governments/UT Administrations as Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan are utilized for the welfare of dispersed tribals also, through the Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) pockets, and for a cluster of tribal pockets. The Ministry are aware of the conditions of tribals living in all the areas within the country, including Orissa.

(c) All tribals, including the dispersed tribals, can avail of the benefits of the programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as listed in the statement. These schemes over educational and other socio-economic development programmes.

Statement

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
2. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
3. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
4. Boys Hostels of Scheduled Tribes
5. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas.
6. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs
7. Research & Training.
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce.
9. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas.
10. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
11. Village Grain Bank Scheme
12. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
13. Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students
14. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for STs
15. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs
16. Upgradation of Merit of ST Students
17. Book Bank Scheme for ST Students
18. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation
19. Exchange of Visits by Tribals

[Translation]

Structural Reforms in Banks and Financial Institutions

4930. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to carry out reforms in banks and financial institutions by effecting infrastructural changes therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when these reforms are likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee II) has provided a road map for future reforms in the financial/banking sector which is as follows:—

- Deregulation of the financial sector with greater autonomy in operations,
- Consolidation of banking system and convergence to universal banking,
- Restructuring of weak public sector banks,
- Dilution of government equity in public sector banks to 33%,
- Adoption of scientific tools for management of risks,

- Further enhancement of Capital Adequacy,
- Capital for market risk and adoption of scientific tools for management of risks,
- Tightening of prudential norms,
- Greater disclosures,
- Technology improvements to modernise Indian banking system,
- Further legal reforms to expedite recovery of banks' dues.

In this regard, a Bill to amend Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80 has already been introduced in the Parliament in December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

[English]

Mauritious Route Companies

4931. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of Mauritious route companies;

(b) the number of such companies under investigation by D/o Company Affairs, SEBI, RBI and other agencies for their fraudulent actions; and

(c) the number of cases in which action has been initiated along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Penalty Collected from Tobacco Farmers

4932. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected by Tobacco Board by way of penalty from the tobacco growers for the excess tobacco grown during 2001-2002 in Karnataka;

(b) the number of cases have been filed against the tobacco growers of Karnataka by the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether the permission of the Union Government was obtained before filing cases against the tobacco growers of Karnataka;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have received representatives from tobacco growers to withdraw the cases and return the amount collected by way of penalties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Government had notified penalty of Rs 2 per kg plus 15% service charge on the unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced by unregistered growers and Rs 2 per kg plus 5% service charges on the excess tobacco produced by the registered growers of Karnataka in the year 2001-02, while permitting the auction of such tobacco. Accordingly, the Tobacco Board collected Rs. 13.26 crores by way of penalty on the sale of the excess and unauthorised tobacco during the year.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of Tobacco Board Act, 1975, the prior sanction of the Central Government in necessary for initiation of prosecution action for offences punishable under the Act. In the year 2001-02, the Tobacco Board has not initiated any such criminal action against the tobacco growers of Karnataka.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government had received representations in this regard on behalf of tobacco growers. Government took the decision to reduce the penalty from Rs 2/- per kilogram plus 20% service charges to Rs 2/- per kilogram plus 15% service charges on the unauthorised FCV tobacco produced by the unregistered growers. The penalty on the excess crop produced by the registered growers remained unchanged at Rs 2/- per kilogram plus 5% service charges.

[Translation]

Non-Compliance of Norms by EOUs

4933. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether certain export oriented units have not complied with the terms and conditions of the export oriented units after availing facilities meant for these units;

(b) if so, the cases in this regard that came to the notices of the Government during the last three years;

(c) the number and names of those units against which the Government have taken action for non-compliance of the laid down terms and conditions during the above period; and

(d) the penalty imposed on such export-oriented units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Condition of Handicraftsmen

4934. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the miserable condition of handicraftsmen in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated or proposed to be formulated by the Government to improve their condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the government provide loans at lower rates of interest to encourage the handicrafts reflecting Indian culture; and

(e) if so, the number of persons benefited therefrom during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) No instance has been brought to the notice of the Government to suggest that the condition of handicraftsmen in the country is miserable.

However for socio-economic development of the handicraftpersons a number of schemes are being implemented e.g. AHVY, training & extension, design and technical upgradation; marketing support and services; group/health insurance; worksheds; pension to mastercraftpersons under indigent circumstances; conferring of National Award to outstanding craftspersons/ weavers. The recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the sector.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

4935. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched "Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana" to assist the Handloom activities;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the scheme envisages availability of raw material at subsidised rates in adequate quantity to the artisans;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the scheme also provides marketing support to the artisans for selling their products; and

(f) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) has been launched with effect from 1.4.2000 and will continue to be in operation till 31.3.2007. This is a comprehensive scheme for the Handloom sector, to take care of a wide gamut of activities such as product development, infrastructure support, institutional support, training to weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support etc. both at macro and micro level in an integrated and coordinated manner for an overall development of the sector and benefit to handloom weavers both within the cooperative fold as well as those outside.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. The scheme has a provision for grant of market incentive assistance to National level Handloom Organisations/State Handloom Corporations/Apex Weavers Cooperative Societies@8% in first 2 years (2000-01 and 2001-02), 6% in the next 2 years (2002-03 and 2003-04), 4% in the subsequent 2 years (2004-05 and 2005-06) and 2% in the seventh year (2006-07), of their average sales turnover of handloom fabrics, made-ups and garments for the 3 years preceding the financial year. As far as Primary Weavers Cooperatives are

concerned, the phasing out of marketing incentive is 10% in the first 2 years, 8% in the next 2 years, 6% in the subsequent 2 years and 4% in the seventh year.

(f) A sum of Rs. 14696.94 lakh has been sanctioned and Rs. 9660.04 lakh has so far been released under the scheme since its inception.

National Savings Organisation

4936. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

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

(a) whether under overall restructuring of the National Saving Organisation some regional offices have been replaced by regional centres;

(b) if so, the parameters that were followed for such restructuring;

(c) the reasons for exclusion of the Ahmedabad Regional Centre in the new set up;

(d) whether the Union Government are considering the request of Gujarat Government for reopening of the Ahmedabad Regional Office; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, the Government has decided to restructure the National Savings Organisation into a National Savings Institute (NSI) with headquarters at Nagpur and 10 regional centres at Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur & Jaipur. The locations of these offices have been decided on the basis of small savings collections, concentration of agents in different states and even distribution of these centres in the country. Gujarat would be covered by the regional centre of NSI at Jaipur.

Purity of Gold

4937. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a law thereby selling the gold with Bureau of Indian Standards Certification; and

(b) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not possible for the Government to make the sale of Gold with Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark compulsory at this stage due to unorganized sector of jewellers spread all over the country. Besides, the existing infrastructure of the Hallmarking Centres for gold Jewellery is not adequate to cater to the demand of compulsory certification.

Special Economic Package to Industries

4938. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted a special economic package for industries in the States of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the Punjab Government to accord same facilities on the same lines for three border districts of the State, namely Amritsar, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Union Government have granted a Special Economic Package for industries for the state of Jammu and Kashmir vide O.M. No. 1(13)/2000-NER dated 14th June, 2002. The salient features of package are given in the Statement enclosed. Consequent to the announcement made by the Prime Minister, a package for providing various fiscal incentives for the special category states of Himachal Pradesh and the state of Uttaranchal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) A proposal for extending incentives for industries in the border districts of Punjab namely Amritsar, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur received from the Government of Punjab, was examined but it was not found feasible to accede to the same as special packages are being provided to special category states, which are hilly, remote and inaccessible.

Statement

Introduction: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir requested for a special package for development of industries in the state on the lines for the North East Industrial Policy. Keeping in view the fact that the State of Jammu & Kashmir lags behind in industrial development, need has been felt for structured interventionist strategies to accelerate industrial development of the state and boost investors' confidence.

Salient features of the package: New Industrial policy and other concessions for the state of J&K was issued on vide OM dated 14th June, 2002. The salient features of the package are:

- 100% excise duty exemption for a period of 10 years from commencement of commercial production to New Industrial Units and existing units on their substantial expansion. The Notification regarding the Excise exemptions has been issued by the Ministry of Finance on 14th November, 2002.
- Capital Investment Subsidy @15% for investment in plant & machinery subject to maximum of Rs. 30 lakhs would be provided to all new units and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, 2002 notified on 22nd October, 2002.
- Interest subsidy of 3% on working capital loan would be allowed to all new units and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, 2002 notified on 22nd October, 2002.
- The insurance premium to the extent of 100% on capital investment would be available to all new units and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Comprehensive Scheme, 2002 notified on 22.10.2002.
- The Income tax exemption would continue as per existing dispensation applicable to Jammu & Kashmir.
- The financing pattern of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres between Govt. of India and SIDBI will change from 2:3 to 4:1.
- Design-cum Resource Centre for footwear and leather industry would be set up with the initial contribution of Govt. amounting to Rs. 1.00 crore.
- Ministry of Textile will extend their package of assistance as applicable to NER, to the State of J&K also.

Industries ineligible for concession under the package are cigarettes/cigars of tobacco, manufactured tobacco and substitutes, distillation/brewing of alcoholic drinks and manufacture of branded soft drinks.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Additional Water Resources

4939. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for utilization of additional water resources at lower levels in tribal sub-plan area of the country is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the above project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Ministry of Water Resources, 62 new irrigation project proposals benefiting Tribal sub-Plan areas (33 major and 29 medium) have been received in that Ministry from various States, out of which 35 projects (17 major and 18 medium) are under different stages of appraisal and the remaining 27 projects (16 major and 11 medium) have received techno economic approval from the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, subject to compliance of a few points by the States concerned. Appraisal/clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the project authorities arrange compliance on the observations of the Central Water Commission/Technical Advisory Committee/Planning Commission and obtain necessary clearances from the forest and environmental angles, and of the rehabilitation and resettlement plan for the tribal and other outstees from the concerned Ministries, wherever applicable.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

4940. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey of the number of scavengers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any reduction in the number of scavengers after the introduction of preventive measures taken by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the government to increase the cost of rehabilitation amount per person, so that their problem is solved permanently; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by State Governments/UT Administrations, the number of identified scavengers is 6,76,009. Against which, 4,08,644 scavengers have been rehabilitated under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS). A statement showing State-wise number of identified scavengers and beneficiaries covered under NSLRS is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The suggestion of the Government of Karnataka is under consideration.

Statement

State-wise Number of identified Scavengers and Beneficiaries covered under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scanvengers and their dependents (NSLRS)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Scaven-gers	Total	
			Trained	Rehabili-tated
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39021	8056	28167
2.	Assam	40413	3091	1594
3.	Bihar	12226	425	285
4.	Gujarat	641195	965	11653
5.	Haryana	36362	5571	15558
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4757	3195	2023
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	4150	936	211
8.	Karnataka	14555	635	11847
9.	Kerala	1339	156	141
10.	Madhya Pradesh	80072	48441	80755
11.	Maharashtra	64785	10982	19086
12.	Orissa	35049	5979	10681
13.	Punjab	531	4523	2988
14.	Rajasthan	57736	11152	14169
15.	Tamil Nadu	35561	9583	23687
16.	Uttar Pradesh	149202	41891	180391
17.	West Bengal	23852	489	2338
18.	Delhi	17420	400	2941
19.	Nagaland	1800	0	0
20.	Meghalaya	607	0	0
21.	Pondicherry	476	18	129
	Total	676009	156488	408644

[Translation]

Inclusion of Noniya and Mallah Castes in SC List

4941. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to remove the Noniya and Mallah castes of Bihar from the category of most backward classes and put them in the category of Scheduled Castes is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether these two castes have already been included in the List of Scheduled Castes in other States;

(c) if so, whether institutions for social studies have also sent their recommendations in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Presently Nunia, Nonia (not Noniya) and Mallah (Surhia) are listed in the Central list of Other Backward Classes in Bihar. Government of Bihar

had recommended inclusion of Nonia community in the list of Scheduled Castes. As the proposal lacked requisite ethonographic details, it has been referred back to the State Government for furnishing such details. Government of Bihar, however, did not recommend inclusion of Mallah community in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(b) Mallah community has been specified as Scheduled Castes in West Bengal and Delhi and Nuniya (not Noniya) community has been specified as Scheduled Caste in West Bengal and Delhi and Nuniya (not Noniya) community has been specified as Scheduled Caste in West Bengal.

(c) and (d) Government of Bihar, based on the report of the Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi, and sent their recommendation for inclusion of Nonia community in the list of Scheduled Castes but since the proposal lacked requisite ethnographic details, the State Government has been requested to furnish such details for further examination of the proposal as per approved modalities.

[English]

Indo-Brazil Trade Relation

4942. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote trade relations with Brazil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed for export/import in fiscal and monitory terms during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has launched a programme Focus: LAC under which following type of activities are organised for trade promotion to Brazil:—

(i) Mounting of trade delegation to Brazil and invitation of trade delegation from Brazil, and organization of Buyer-Seller Meets.

(ii) Encouragement to exporters through Export Promotion Councils/Apex Trade Organizations for participation in exhibitions/fairs in Brazil.

(iii) Organization of product-specific and multi-products exhibitions in Brazil through Export Promotion Councils/Apex Trade Organizations.

(iv) Invitation of buyers from Brazil to India to attend the fairs/exhibitions being organized in India.

(v) Training in Portuguese language to Indian exporters.

Recently a combined Indian textile exhibition was held in Brazil in November 2002. An Indiatech exhibition is scheduled to be held at Sao Paulo, Brazil in March/April 2003.

(c) A tentative export target of US $ 800 millions has been fixed during 2002-03. However, no target for imports from Brazil has been fixed.

Tax Evaders

4943. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "I-T Dept. not wired to net tax evaders" appearing in the *Times of India*, New Delhi dated September 2, 2002;

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

(c) the reasons for the delay in processing the huge outstanding Income Tax returns electronically; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to wipe out the arrears?

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

(b) Out of 478 cities in which the Income Tax Department has offices, 60 major cities have already been brought on the network in the first two phases of the computerisation programme. These cities cater to over 70% of the tax payers and generate 75% of tax revenues. Permanent Account Number has been allotted to over 2.5 crore tax payers. Networking of remaining 418 cities is included in phase III of computerisation programme which has received financial sanction recently.

Further, out of total 5905 Lower Division Clerks (LDCs) 5840 LDCs have received training and 3715 LDCs have passed the eligibility test. Most of the remaining LDCs are promotees from Group 'D' cadres, who are being provided facilities for re-training and extra practice.

(c) Over 25 lakh Income Tax Returns have been processed electronically till 30.11.2002. Lack of available

resources in terms of manpower and infrastructure resulted in delay of electronic processing of returns.

(d) Liquidation of tax arrears is an ongoing process under which old demands are liquidated and new demands are added on a continuous basis. Therefore, the entire tax arrears cannot be wiped out. The Government have been necessary legal and administrative measures for the reduction and collection of tax arrears.

Weights & Measures Certificate for Oil PSU's

4944. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil Public Sector Undertaking's are the owner of all the dispensing units installed on their retail outlets;

(b) if so, whether all these dispensing units are required to be verified and stamped by the department of Weights and Measures;

(c) if so, in whose name a certificate of verification is issued;

(d) whether the above rules are being violated by the oil PSU's and the certificate of verification is not obtained by these companies in their own name; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found responsible for this said violation?

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

(b) All dispensing units of petrol and diesel fuel are required to be verified and stamped by the department of Weights and Measures.

(c) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985 requires that every person having any weight or measure in his possession, custody or control in circumstances indicating that such weight or measure is being, or is intended or likely to be, used by him in any transaction or for industrial production or for protection, shall, before putting such weight or measure into such use, have such weight or measure verified and after verification the Inspector shall grant a verification certificate to him. Hence the verification certificate are issued in the name of Petrol Pump dealer/outlets.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

SBI Action against Intermediaries

4945. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of intermediaries who have violated code of ethics during the last three years;

(b) whether SBI propose to take action against intermediaries who have violated the code of ethics announced by the regulator and engaged in selling various investment products; and

(c) the further steps taken by the Government against such intermediaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it does not employ intermediaries to sell any investment product. The Bank has further reported that some agents mobilize small deposits under Janata Deposit Scheme and no case of violation of code of ethics has been reported during the last three years.

Shifting of CCI Office

4946. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have shifted the Regional Cotton Corporation of India's Office at Raichur to Hubli; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No Sir, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has not shifted its branch office at Raichur to Hubli.

(b) Does not arise.

Customs Tariff

4947. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has rejected the move of the developed economics led by US, European Union and

Japan at World Trade Organisation for customs tariff harmonization and zero to zero rate regime;

(b) whether India has also initiated a campaign for elimination of non-tariff barriers put up by these three major industrialised countries and blocks to prevent market access for products and services from developed; and

(c) if so, the response received for the campaign initiated by India from developing nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) US, EC and Japan along with other WTO Members have submitted proposals in the WTO negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products. These proposals include suggestions for harmonization of tariffs or for "zero for zero" initiatives in certain sectors. Since at this stage of the negotiations Members are submitting proposals, no decision on acceptance or otherwise of the same has been taken in the WTO. However, India in its initial submission to the Negotiating Group as also in its interventions during the discussions has flagged its concern regarding the "zero for zero" or "tariff harmonization" proposals.

Non-tariff barriers are also be addressed in these negotiations. India will appropriately take up the removal or elimination of the particular non-tariff barriers affecting its exports.

Expansion of GIC Business

4948. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation is considering to expand re-insurance business abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by General Insurance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to emerge as an international reinsurer, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has prepared an action plan focusing on thrust areas/ regions, such as, Far East Asia, South East Asia, the Middle East and Africa for re-insurance business, acquiring lead in reinsurance arrangements in markets of neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Kenya and Mauritius and entering into strategic arrangements with large insurance companies in the targetted regions/markets.

World Bank Assistance for Karnataka

4949. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka have submitted any concept paper seeking financial assistance from World Bank for various departments in that state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Projects/Proposals received from Government of Karnataka for seeking World Bank assistance

S. No.	Name of the Project	Objective	Cost estimate	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Karnataka Water Supply Management and Municipal Strengthening Project	To improve the capacity of Urban local bodies and to manage the delivery of	The project cost is yet to be finalized by State Government.	State Government preparing the proposal through Project preparation facility (PPF) of the World Bank

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Karnataka Municipal Reform Project	Aims to support comprehensive municipal reforms by covering 50 cities of Karnataka State local urban bodies	Rs. 980 crores	Posed to World Bank on 10.4.2002.
3.	Community Heralded Empowerment Transformation and New Awakening (CHETNA)	To reduce poverty	Rs. 1170 crores	Posed to World Bank on 13.8.2002
4.	Karnataka Water Resources Consolidation Project	To improve the performance, productivity and sustainability of State's Water Resources Sector	Rs. 2103 crores	State Government is yet to submit a formal proposal for seeking World Bank assistance.
5.	Karnataka Structural Adjustment Programme	Fiscal reforms and governance reforms	Rs. 1250 crores	State has been requested requested to reformulate the project in accordance with guidelines recently issued.

[Translation]

Cotton Technology Mission

4950. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the activities being undertaken under the Centrally sponsored intensive Cotton Development Programme/Cotton Technology Mission in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of the districts where cotton technology mission is in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is being implemented in 13 cotton growing States including Maharashtra. The funding pattern under the scheme is mostly 75:25 sharing basis between the Government of India and the implementing States. The basic objective of the scheme is to increase production and productivity of cotton through 'Transfer of Technology to farmers', 'Integrated Pest Management', 'Popularizing newer varieties', 'Encouraging farmers to use water saving devices' etc. Assistance for following components is provided under the scheme:

(i) Production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds

(ii) Distribution of certified seeds and setting up of seed delinting machines.

(iii) Demonstration on production technology etc.

(iv) Integrated Pest Management, demonstration cum training and related activities.

(v) Distribution of plant protection equipment and setting up of bio-agent production units.

(vi) Training of farmers, extension worker

(vii) Water saving devices like sprinkler/drip.

(viii) Contingency for monitoring etc.

(b) Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton is in operation in following districts of Maharashtra:

Ahmednagar	Dhule	Nanded	Satara
Akola	Hingoli	Nandurbar	Solapur
Amravati	Jalgaon	Nasik	Wardha
Aurangabad	Jalna	Osmanabad	Wasim
Beed	Kolhapur	Parbani	Yavatmal
Buldhana	Latur	Pune	
Chandrapur	Nagpur	Sangli	

[English]

Assistance for Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre

4951. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the financial assistance sought by the Keltron to accelerate functioning of KIPRO Keltron Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which decision on this report is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is presently no scheme in this Department to provide financial assistance in the form sought by the applicant. As a part of awareness creation activities and outreach initiatives, this Department, assists organizations in developing awareness about intellectual property rights, including patents. The assistance is in the form of faculty support and information material available.

Loss suffered by LIC

4952. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation has lost about seven per cent of the insurance market since April, 2002;

(b) if so, the areas of business where LIC has suffered this decline in market share; and

(c) the strategies LIC has adopted to meet the challenge from private insurance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) they continue to enjoy the highest market share in the New Business during the current year. LIC's market share as on 30.10.2002 is 95.68% of the number of Policies with Sum Assured of 88.97% and First Premium Income 90.66%.

(c) LIC has taken various measures to meet the challenge from private insurance companies such as increase in the agency force, alternate channels of distribution like Corporate Agents & Bancassurance, regular training of agency force at Branch level, Divisional level and other training institutions, design and introduction of various innovative products in the market and aggressive publicity campaigns in respect of products and services rendered by the Corporation.

Inclusion of Santhali Language

4953. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have not yet included the Santhali Language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether the Government of India have not yet constituted a separate Santhali Language Committee for protection and promotion of Santhali Language;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) As no parameters have been laid down for inclusion of more languages including the Santhali Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, the

Government have decided to constitute a High Powered Body for laying down such criteria. Action to constitute the proposed Body has already been initiated and the question of inclusion of more languages, including the Santhali Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, would be considered in accordance with the criteria so evolved.

(d) to (f) As per information received from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Government of India have not so far constitute a separate Santhali Language Committee for protection and promotion of the Santhali Language, and no such proposal is under consideration at present.

Reforms In Labour Laws

4954. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the Ministry of Labour to make labour law flexible according to the international standard;

(b) if so, the response of the Labour Ministry thereon;

(c) the parameters fixed by the WTO for labour reforms;

(d) whether the Government have identified the factors responsible for India slipping eighth position to fifteenth position;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the corrective steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Promotion of Textile Industry

4955. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any effective scheme to promote textile industry in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) The Union Government have been taking various steps to boost production and export of textiles all over the country including West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir. For sectors such as handloom, handicrafts, sericulture and wool, which are mainly in the village and small scale sector, financial assistance is provided to States, agencies and beneficiaries under various schemes to enable inputs critical to increase in quality, productivity and production and access to forward and backward linkages for increased incomes or value addition to artisans, weavers, farmers or producers. In addition, new schemes have been launched such as Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Cotton Technology Mission Scheme, setting up of Apparel Parks, Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme and various other measures taken, including liberalization of rules and regulations governing exports, that are aimed at promoting growth and investment in the textile sector. A special package for the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been announced by Prime Minister involving financial implications of approximately Rs. 70.00 crores for 10th Five Year Plan.

[English]

FCI Storages In Orissa

4956. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Corporation of India godowns for storage of foodgrains set up in Orissa, at present, capacity-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity of these storages;

(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 KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) During the Xth Five Year Plan the FCI has planned to construct owned capacity of 15,000 MTs in Orissa State, viz Angul (5,000 MTs), Dhenkanal (2,500 MTs) Keonjhar (2,500 MTs) Nowrangpur (2,500 MTs), and Pulbani (2,500 MTs).

In addition to the above, storage capacity to the tune of 2.4 lac MTs (2.00 lac MTs construction by State Warehousing Corporation + 0.50 lac MTs by Central Warehousing Corporation) is under construction under the Seven Year Guarantee Scheme.

Statement

Details relating to the Number of Godowns (Covered/CAP/Owned/Hired) of Food Corporation of India in Orissa, District-wise alongwith Storage capacity

As on 31.10.2002

(Capacity in '000' Tonnes)

Name of the Revenue District	No. of Godowns (Covered)			No. of Godowns CAP (Covered & Plinth)			Total Storage Capacity (Covered/CAP/ Owned/Hired)
	Owned	Hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balasore	2	—	2	—	—	—	15.00
Bhadrak	1	1	2	1	—	1	26.00
Keonjhar	2	—	2	—	—	—	10.00
Mayurbanj	1	—	1	—	—	—	10.00
Cuttack	—	3	3	—	—	—	51.10
Jaipur	—	1	1	—	—	—	0.20
Dhenkanal	1	—	1	—	—	—	10.00
Angul	1	1	2	—	—	—	5.10
Khurda	2	3	5	1	—	1	45.50
Puri	—	1	1	—	—	—	0.90
Ganjam	1	2	3	—	—	—	37.40
Gajpati	1	1	2	—	—	—	12.20
Khandhamal	1	—	1	—	—	—	5.00
Boudh	—	1	1	—	—	—	0.20
Koraput	1	1	2	1	—	1	29.20
Rayaguda	1	1	2	—	—	—	11.30
Nowrangpur	1	1	2	—	—	—	8.50
Malkangiri	—	1	1	—	—	—	2.00
Bolangir	—	4	4	—	—	—	22.20
Kalahandi	1	5	6	—	—	—	42.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nuapada	—	2	2	—	—	—	10.60
Sonepur	1	—	1	—	—	—	15.00
Sambalpur	1	3	4	—	—	—	33.50
Baragarh	1	5	6	—	—	—	62.50
Jharasguda	3	—	3	3	—	3	84.70
Grand Total	23	37	60	6	—	6	550.40

[Translation]

Cartel Formation by Big Cement Producers

4957. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the big cement producers have formed a Cartel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the prices of cement in the market;

(c) whether the Monopoly and Restricted Trade Practices Commission has not taken any action to liquidated the above Cartel;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the small and medium cement producers and also the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The MRTP Commission, which is a quasi-judicial body, has received complaints alleging formation of a cartel by cement manufacturers. The matter is *sub-judice* before the Commission.

Assistance to Backward Classes

4958. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government are providing financial assistance to the backward class people through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of beneficiaries alongwith the details of funds provided to them during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the criteria being adopted to select the persons for providing of such assistance;

(e) the number of applications received in this regard, State-wise; and

(f) the details of the assistance provided by the Corporation under various schemes alongwith the names of these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)is providing loan to the students of backward classes living below double the poverty line (i.e. annual family income of Rs. 55,000/- in urban areas and Rs. 40,000/- in rural areas) for pursuing a general/ professional/technical courses at graduate at higher levels.

Those students of backward classes who have obtained admission for a course in the institute recognized by AICTE, Medical Council of India, as the case may be, are eligible for the loan. Maximum loan limit per student is Rs. 75,000/- per annual subject to maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs or actual expenses for the entire course, whichever is less. 90% of the expenditure is provided by the Corporation and balance 10% is contributed by the SCA & beneficiary. Rate of interest is 4.0% p.a. to the beneficiaries. Recovery of loan will commence after six

months of completion of course or getting employment/ self employment whichever is earlier.

(c) A statement showing the State-wise details of funds provided and number of beneficiaries covered under NBCFDC's Education Loan Scheme during last three years is enclosed.

(d) The criteria for selection of eligible beneficiaries under the scheme is as under:—

(i) The beneficiaries should belong to Backward Classes as notified by Central Government/State Government from time to time;

(ii) The annual family income of the beneficiary should be below double the poverty line;

(iii) The applicant should have obtained admission to approved professional course.

(e) The applications are received directly by the SCAs who in turn take the lump-sum loan amount from the NBCFDC.

(f) The details of assistance provided by the Corporation under various schemes are as follows:—

Name of Scheme	Amount released (Rs. in crores)		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Term Loan/Margin Money Loan	75.28	87.01	119.36
Micro Finance	0.40	1.29	12.59

Statement

State-wise details of funds provided and number of beneficiaries covered under NBCFDC Education Scheme during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Year					
		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Amount released	No. of students covered	Amount released	No. of students covered	Amount released	No. of students covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	328.18	1172
2.	Bihar	0.55	1	0.31	1	Nil	Nil
3.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.68	7
4.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	0.75	1	27.19	125
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.33	1	0.15	1	Nil	Nil
6.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.20	3
7.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.51	21
8.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.00	1
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.72	8	0.48	8	Nil	Nil
10.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.28	2
	Total	1.60	10	1.69	11	372.04	1331

[English]

Export Target and Achievement

4959. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have fixed export target after extensive consultation with various Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the export target fixed and achieved during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 till date in each sector;

(d) the growth rate of exports during the above period year-wise;

(e) whether the export growth has been declined after the implementation of WTO agreement particularly in agriculture sector; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export particularly in agriculture goods and seafood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Export targets are fixed after extensive consultations with various Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards. The export targets in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 were 18%, 3% & 12% respectively. The actual achievements of export growth for these years were 21%, -1.65% and 13.67% (upto April-October 2002-03) respectively. The export growth rate of major sectors in Dollars terms in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given below:

Sectors	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
Textiles	16.62	-10.07	13.33
Gems & jewellery	-1.58	-1.06	31.93
Chemicals and related products	25.75	1.97	15.11
Engineering goods	29.34	0.08	21.91
Agriculture & allied products	5.88	4.24	9.10
Marine products	17.85	-12.90	1.42
Ores & minerals	25.86	4.97	58.88
Electronic goods	54.12	5.27	-4.27

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

*pertains to April-August

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The export growth has not declined on account of WTO Agreements. The growth rate of exports in dollars terms in general has been positive and increasing since the Uruguay Round Agreement except for the two years due to South East Asian crisis and global recession. Similar is the case with Agriculture and Marine Sector. However, export promotion being a constant endeavour, various initiatives have been taken by the Govt. to boost exports. The specific initiatives taken to boost export of agricultural products include freeing almost all agricultural products for exports, setting up of Agri Export Zones aimed at removing the constraints to agricultural exports in a focused manner, grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernisation of processing units and providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination and ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

In the case of marine products the steps taken to boost the exports are conducting Overseas market surveys in USA, South Africa, Middle East countries, China, Taiwan, Korea and seven selected East European countries in order to penetrate these markets. Plan Schemes are being implemented through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to promote coastal aquaculture and financial assistance is extended to sea food processing units for modernisation of the processing units and for technological upgradation. A core group of experts have also been formed to identify and develop new and value added products for exports.

Norms for Unlisted Companies

4960. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has prepared guidelines and norms for unlisted Indian Companies on issues like preferential allotment, sweat equity and employee stock purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which said guidelines is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government have set up a panal for new norms of unlisted Indian firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee headed by Shri J.R. Verma, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad was set up by Department of Company Affairs, in August, 2002, to consider issues relating to sweat equity shares, Employee Stock Option Schemes (ESOPs) and preferential allotment.

Collection of Central Tax

4961. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments who have prepared their budgets on the basis of Central budget estimates and on the basis of share in the central taxes have been put on a critical situation due to heavy shortfall in the collection of central taxes;

(b) if so, the total shortfall in the collection of central taxes during the last three years, year-wise till date;

(c) the share of each State in the central taxes collected;

(d) whether any State Government have requested the Union Government to sanction plan assistance as an interim measure to partially make up for reduction in tax devolution;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Budget of State Governments would include in its revenue receipts, amounts projected as its share in Central taxes.

(b) The amount of Central Excise, Customs and Direct Taxes collected by the Central Government, during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	BE	Actuals
1999-2000	176860	171752
2000-2001	200288	188603
2001-2002	226649	187000

(c) Share of each state in Central tax collected is based on recommendations of Finance Commission. The Eleventh Finance Commission, on the basis of whose recommendations the current devolutions, including inter-se allocation for States are being made submitted its report on 7th July, 2000. This report was placed in both the House of Parliament on 27th July, 2000.

(d) to (f) With a view to partially offset the reduction in State share, it was decided by the Central Government to allow additional market borrowings to States.

[Translation]

Allotment of Schools to NGOs

4962. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary and secondary schools allotted to Non-Government Organizations for development of tribal areas in the country during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 so far alongwith the details of the actual provisions made therefor, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government are trying to take immediate action for sanctioning these schools;

(c) the total allocation likely to be made for these schools; and

(d) the number of such schools functioning in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry has sanctioned grants-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organizations to run as many as 132 and 79 primary and secondary schools respectively during the year 2001-02 & 2002-03 (as on 30.11.02). The state-wise details of schools sanctioned to NGOs is given in statement enclosed. The Ministry sanctions Residential as well as Non-Residential Schools. The extent of grants provided by the Ministry for setting up and running of the school of a unit of 100 students is given below:

Type of School	Extent of grants in aid (Rs. in lakhs approx.)	
	Non Recurring (Once in five years)	Non Recurring (Annual)
(A) Residential Schools		
(i) Primary	1.75	11.43
(ii) Secondary	2.75	13.13

(B)	Non Residential School		
	(i) Primary	0.60	07.89
	(ii) Secondary	1.10	9.53

The Non Governmental Organizations running Schools in areas outside the scheduled areas are to meet ten percent of the expenses from their own resources.

(b) The Ministry has recently constituted a Project Screening Committee to examine the proposals of Non-Governmental Organizations and to identify the proposals for sanction of grants-in-aid during the current year, in respect of new institutions.

(c) There is no pre-fixed allocation for setting up of the schools under the scheme of "Grants-in-aid to NGOs working for the welfare of scheduled tribes". The allocation of the scheme for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 30.50 crores. The schools sanctioned by the Ministry are released grants-in-aid as per the approved norms of the Ministry.

(d) Grants-in-aid were sanctioned for one residential school functioning in the state of Maharashtra during the year 2001-02.

Statement

State-wise number of schools (primary/secondary) run by Non Governmental Organisations with grants-in-aid sanctioned during 2001-02 & 2002-03 (As on 30.11.2002)

Name of the State	Number of Schools	
	2001-02	2002-03 (As on 30.11.02)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	17	3
Arunachal Pradesh	5	2
Assam	4	3
Chhattisgarh	1	1
Bihar	—	—
Gujarat	1	1
Himachal Pradesh	3	3
Jammu & Kashmir	6	—
Jharkhand	4	1
Karnataka	7	3
Kerala	1	—
Madhya Pradesh	1	—
Maharashtra	1	—
Manipur	3	—
Meghalaya	52	52
Mizoram	1	1
Nagaland	—	1
Orissa	11	—
Rajasthan	—	1
Sikkim	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—
Tripura	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—
Uttaranchal	3	1
West Bengal	10	5
Delhi	1	1
Total	132	79

[English]

Setting up of Research and Post Graduate Teaching Unit

4963. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Design proposes to set up a research and post graduate teaching unit in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the total amount likely to be spent on this project; and

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

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

to (c) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Design (NID) has submitted a proposal to set up a Research and Post Graduate Centre at Bangalore under the Tenth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 crores. In the meanwhile, NID proposes to start two post-graduate programmes from available premises in Bangalore in respect of (i) Software & User Interface Design and (ii) Information and Digital Design from the academic year 2003-04.

Storage Capacity for Paddy in AP

4964. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether paddy farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other States have been asked not to grow paddy, in view of the overflowing godowns and lack of storage capacity;

(b) if so, the details of such States and extent of paddy storage capacity available and the quantity of paddy stored therein, State-wise;

(c) whether the farmers have been claiming that the stores are filled with paddy obtained under Food for Work Programme forcing them to resort to distress sale; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to intervene and resolve the problems to the benefit and advantages of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. As on 12.12.2002, vacant storage capacity to the tune of 16 Lakh MTs is available in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Does not arise.

SEZ in Nagpur, Maharashtra

4965. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has submitted a proposal seeking approval for setting up a Special Economic Zone in Butibori Industrial estate near Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government on that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Creches for the Children of Weaker Section

4966. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide financial assistance to set up creches for the children of working and sick mothers belonging to weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the number of organizations which were provided assistance for the purpose during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of such organizations functioning in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The number of organizations which were provided assistance for the purpose during each of the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of Organizations
1999-2000	528
2000-2001	528
2001-2002	591
2002-2003 (upto 30-11-2002)	381

(c) A Statement giving the requisite information is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise number of organizations running creches and getting grant from the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resources Development in the year 2002-03 (upto 30.11.2002)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	No. of Organisation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	123
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	11
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	2
5.	Delhi	4
6.	Goa	,
7.	Gujarat	9
8.	Haryana	15
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—
10.	Karnataka	18
11.	Kerala	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	27
13.	Maharashtra	36
14.	Manipur	7
15.	Meghalaya	—
16.	Mizoram	—
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	10
19.	Punjab	—
20.	Rajasthan	2
21.	Sikkim	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	56
23.	Tripura	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	45
25.	Uttaranchal	2
26.	West Bengal	14
27.	A & N Islands	—
28.	Chandigarh	—
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—
30.	Daman & Diu	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Pondicherry	—
	Total	381

[English]

Debenture Trustees

4967. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SBI has asked debenture trustees to abide by the guidelines and take upon the responsibility of debenture trustees;

(b) whether debenture trustees have failed in their duties;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) the number of debenture trustees who have been registered with SEBI;

(e) the details of debentures alongwith the amount handled by them;

(f) the details of the number which are public listed and those who are defaulters; and

(g) the action proposed by SEBI to protect the small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have intimated that debenture trustees registered with SEBI are required to abide by the rules, regulations and circulars issued by SEBI. The responsibilities of the debenture trustees are defined as per regulation 15 of the SEBI (Debenture Trustees) Rules and Regulations, 1993. These include the duty to call for periodic reports from the company, take possession of the trust property according to the trust deed, enforce security, ensure payment of interest and redemption amounts due etc.

(b) and (c) Debenture trustees have informed SEBI that they are taking all possible action against defaulting companies, including calling for information on a periodic basis, calling for meetings of debenture holders, filing of suits for winding up of the company in extreme cases, etc.

(d) As on date, 37 debenture trustees are registered with SEBI.

(e) This information is not readily available with SEBI.

(f) SEBI has intimated that as on 31.3.2002, 61 companies which have made public issues following the SEBI (DIP) Guidelines, have defaulted in their obligations such as interest/redemption payments.

(g) As per SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000, all companies raising resources through issue of debentures should appoint debenture trustees. The trustees are regulated under SEBI (Debenture Trustees) Rules and Regulations, 1993. SEBI has also been impressing upon the debenture trustees to take suitable action as per the terms of the offer document and the trust deed in order to ensure that the rights of the small investors are protected at all times.

As per information submitted by the debentures trustees to SEBI, of the 61 defaulting cases, suits have been filed in 18 cases; 14 are making payments in a phased manner; 15 have been referred to BIFR and 9 have restructured/rescheduled their debts. The debenture trustees have further informed SEBI that they are in the process of initiating legal action in some cases.

Rules for open offer to buy Shares

4968. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has evolved a policy to ensure that large companies follow certain rules when they make open offers to buy shares of other companies;

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

(c) whether the representatives of the industry have opposed the SEBI's recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some companies are violating these rules;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has framed the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997, for regulating takeover of management/ substantial acquisition of shares/voting rights of an Indian listed company. The regulations were notified on February 20, 1997 and amended subsequently, from time to time.

(c) and (d) SEBI has intimated that representatives of industry have not opposed the said regulations. Public comments/suggestions which are received on various provisions of the regulations from time to time are examined on an ongoing basis.

(e) to (g) The companies/acquirers which do not comply with the requirements of the Takeover Regulations are liable for action under section 15A/15H of SEBI Act, 1992 and directions under section 11B of the Act, depending upon the nature of the violation.

Prices of Newsprint

4969. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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

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

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Company-wise/quality-wise prices of indigenous newsprint are not maintained centrally. However, the approximate price-range of different qualities of newsprint during the last three years was as under:—

Year	Domestic Newsprint Price-Range (Approx.) (Rs. per M.T.)
1999-2000	14000-22000
2000-2001	24000-30450
2001-2002	20000-22000

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

Year	Production (in Lakh M.T.)
2000-2001	6.34
2001-2002	6.20
2002-2003 (upto October, 2002)	3.34

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

Centrally Cottage Industries Corporation

4970. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. in promoting the cottage industries/handicrafts of the country in the world market;

(b) the achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether the turnover of the corporation has declined during the year 2001-2002 as compared to 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the decline in turnover; and

(e) the efforts being made to improve the situation including product development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIC) is engaged in marketing of high quality handicrafts and handlooms produced by craftsmen located in various parts of the country through its various emporia in the country visited by a large number of foreign tourists. The Corporation also exports handicrafts and handloom items against orders.

(b) Projection of arts, culture and traditions of the country by CCIC has earned a name for India and a high reputation in the world market.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Corporation registered a turnover of Rs. 53.30 crores in the financial year 2001-2002 against a turnover of Rs. 57.41 crores in the financial year 2000-2001 showing a decline of Rs. 4.11 crores over a previous year. The decline was due to recession in the world and Indian economies and a substantial fall in foreign tourist arrivals in India especially after 11th September, 2001.

(e) In order to improve the profitability of the Corporations, a number of exhibitions in its showroom as in other locations in the country are being held for enhancing customer exposure to the premium Indian handlooms and handicrafts products. Product development is also being undertaken by involving leading designers in the field as also sourcing more products from award winning craftsmen.

[Translation]

Decline In Traders Visited In IITF 2002

4971. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of traders visiting the Twenty Second India International Trade Fair held in the Pragati Maidan this year has reduced to nearly half of the number of compared to the last year;

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

(c) whether the India Trade Promotion Organisation has taken any concrete steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether fees was charged from the visitors for making announcement in regard to the lost children and relatives and exorbitant rates were charged from the consumers for eatables sold at the stalls; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2002 was visited by more than 2 lakh traders

including foreign delegates as compared to 1.5 lakh such visitors during IITF 2001.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No fee is charged for making the following types of announcements:

(i) Cases of missing school children coming in a group.

(ii) Children separated from families.

(iii) Announcements requested by senior citizens/ handicapped persons.

(iv) Cases of items lost and found.

(v) Emergency announcements like death or mishap etc. in the family of any visitors, information of which is received in the Central Control Room.

As regard exorbitant rates charged for eatables, a few instances of overcharging came to notice following which all the owners of stalls were directed to ensure display of their rates at prominent places in the restaurants/vending points. They were also informed that a serious view will be taken if any further complaint relating to overcharging is received from a customer.

[English]

Empowerment of Tribals

4972. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to implement a programme in Orissa for the empowerment of tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the districts proposed to be covered under the programmes;

(c) whether the scheduled districts sundergarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj are included under the programme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several programmes/schemes for the socio-economic empowerment of tribals in all the States/UTs., including Orissa. The list of programmes/schemes is given in the statement.

(c) The programmes/schemes of the Ministry are not district-specific, as the funds are released to State/UT Government. The programmes/schemes of the Ministry cover Sundergarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts of Orissa alongwith such other districts.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Welfare and Development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
2. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
3. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
4. Boys Hostels of Scheduled Tribes
5. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas
6. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs
7. Research & Training
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce
9. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas
10. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
11. Village Grain Bank Scheme
12. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
13. Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students
14. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for STs
15. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs
16. Upgradation of Merit of ST Students
17. Book Bank Scheme for ST Students
18. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation
19. Exchange of Visits by Tribals

Iodised Salt in the Market

4973. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of brand names of iodised salt are available in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken measures to check the quality of these brands of iodised salt and inform the general public;

(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 V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Vaccum Iodised Salt is marketed in the brand names of Tata Salt and Nirma Shudh. Refined Iodised Salt is marketed in the brand names of Surya, Double Tota, Total, Annapurna, Nirala, Dandi, Bharat, Prime Ankur, Captain Cook, Sea Gold, Trupthi, Sprinkle, Golden and Kristal. In addition, there are about 100 brands of non-refined Iodised Salt available in the market.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The quality of Iodised Salt is test checked by Office of Salt Commissioner at production level. At the retail level, the Health Department of the State Governments check the quality under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Bureau of Indian Standards has also laid down the quality specifications for Iodised Salt.

(e) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance for Destitute Children

4974. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any financial assistance to the State Governments/NGOs for the welfare of destitute children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to NGOs working in the State of Tamil Nadu for this purpose during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have made any review on the implementation of the scheme and utilisation of Central funds; and

(e) if so, the outcome/shortcomings noticed during the above period in respect of each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is providing financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations for the welfare of destitute children under the scheme, 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children.' This Ministry is also providing financial assistance to State Governments under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice' for setting up and running of homes for children including those in need for care and protection.

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

(d) The Ministry periodically reviews the scheme for its improvement. The last such review of the scheme, then called "Scheme for the Welfare of Street Children," was carried out in the year 1998-99 and the Scheme was revised and renamed as "An Integrated Programme for Street Children". Further grant-in-aid to a Non-Governmental Organization is sanctioned only after ensuring the utilization of funds released to it for the previous year. Proper utilization is also ensured by regular inspection.

(e) During the last review of the Scheme in 1998-99, it was noticed that the pre-revised Scheme had the following shortcomings:—

(1) It catered to very few initiatives for child welfare.

(2) The main beneficiaries of the Scheme were mostly Slum Children in every State.

(3) The Scheme was not flexible as it prescribed strict norms for every component including the minimum number of children to be covered under the project to be 300.

(4) There was a restriction on number of cities to be covered under the Scheme.

(5) Only Non Governmental Organizations were eligible to get grants under the Scheme.

All these shortcomings were removed in the revised Scheme.

Statement

Details of Financial Assistance provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations working in the state of Tamil Nadu for the welfare for Destitute Children during last three years under the Scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children'

S. No.	Name & Address	Grant-in-Aid Released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Indian Council for Child Welfare, No. 5, 3rd Main Road West Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-600030.	6.28	7.88	0
2.	Marialaya Mazzarello Magalir Nalvazhvu Malyam Social Service Society, 29, Pedariar Koil Street, Chennai-600001.	8.21	8.50	8.40
3.	Asha Nivas Social Service Centre, 9, Rutland Gate, V Street, Chennai-600008.	9.37	8.47	8.06
4.	Asian Youth Centre, L-8, 26th Street, Anna Nagar, East, Chennai-600102.	3.89	2.44	2.44
5.	Street Elfins Education and Development Society (SEEDS), 6 First Cross Street, Lake Area Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.	15.50	8.43	0
6.	Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society, 16, Manalapan Street Mannady, Chennai.	8.94	10.10	8.98
7.	Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society, 38, G.M. Nagar, Post Box No. 409, Bypass Road, Ukkadam, Coimbatore-641001.	16.56	8.94	8.52
8.	Madurai Non-Formal Education Society, Education Centre, 15, Fatima Nagar, near First Assembly of God, By Pass Road, Madurai-625016.	4.46	1.31	0
9.	Tiruchirapalli Multipurpose Social Service Society, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu.	0	0	0.74

G-20 Meeting

4975. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether a meeting of Finance Ministers and the Governors of Central Banks of 20 countries of the world was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during this meeting;

(c) the details of the opinion expressed by the participants;

(d) whether the issues like reduction in taxes and economic package for developing countries were also raised during this meeting; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The fourth meeting of Group-20 (G-20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held at New Delhi during 22-23 November, 2002.

The membership of G-20 comprises nineteen countries and four institutional members.

(b) The meeting reviewed the global economic situation and deliberated on matters concerning crisis prevention and resolution, globalization, the challenge of achieving sustained growth and development and combating the financing of terror.

(c) to (e) The participants expressed their agreement on the need for sound national financial systems, effective supervision, and healthy corporate governance in line with evolving global best practices, and also on furthering capital account liberalization in an appropriately sequenced manner. They supported further work by the international community, in consultation with debtors and creditors, on comprehensive and market compatible approaches to crisis resolution.

While noting that globalization has been delivering rising living standards generally, it was felt that it had not yet delivered its potential in reducing poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. The participants felt that reduction of the remaining trade and related barriers and phasing-out of trade-distorting subsidies would contribute to spreading further the benefits of globalization, including to the poorest developing countries. The participants also reaffirmed their shared commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They acknowledged that development assistance can play a valuable catalytic role and welcomed the increase in official development assistance recently announced by some countries.

On combating the financing of terrorism, the participants reviewed the progress made in implementing G-20 Action Plan and agreed to continue efforts to eliminate other abuses of the financial system, particularly money laundering.

Loans taken by Mangalore Refineries

4976. SHRI C.K SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) whether Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd. owe a substantial amount to financial institutions and banks;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to recover dues from Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(c) Decisions for extending financial assistance, restructuring of loans or related aspects/issues are taken by the concerned Financial Institutions and banks based on their own assessment and commercial judgement of the proposals.

High Corporate Tax Rate in India

4977. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some study reveals that there is high corporate tax rate in India compared with China, U.K., Australia, Indonesia South Africa and Malaysia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The basic federal corporate tax rate in China, U.K., Australia, Indonesia, South Africa and Malaysia is 30%, 30%, 30%, 30%, 30% and 28% respectively which is lower than the basic federal Indian corporate tax rate of 35%. However, the effective corporate rate of taxation in India is much lower on account of various exemptions and deductions.

[Translation]

Export of Carpets

4978. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the world famous Banarsi Sarees are woven by the weavers of Mubarakpur and world famous carpets woven by the weavers of Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to export the Sarees and Carpets woven by these weavers and to encourage weavers of these areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The Government is aware that Banarsi Sarees are woven by the weavers of Mubarakpur among others, and world famous carpets are woven by the weavers of Bhadohi.

(b) and (c) In order to give impetus to the export of handloom products, including Banarsi Sarees, from all over the country, including Mubarakpur, a Scheme for Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM) has been in operation since 1996-97. The Scheme envisages provision of assistance to the handloom agencies for building up, developing and marketing of exportable handloom, products. Further, assistance under the Scheme is also provided to organisations like Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH), Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd., (HHEC) etc. for participation in international fairs/exhibitions/Buyer-Seller Meets etc.

Details of funds provided under the DEPM Scheme in general, and to Uttar Pradesh, in particular, during the last two years are as under:—

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Uttar Pradesh	Other States	For participation in international trade events	Total
2000-01	14.25	190.46	195.29	400.00
2001-02	44.75	158.21	122.06	325.02

The Exporters of silk textiles, including fabrics for furnishing, sarees and other finished made-up items such as curtains, cushions etc. are encouraged to participate in international fairs as well as in Tex-Styles India Fair in New Delhi. Although the scope of export of sarees as such to USA or EU is very limited, the exporters from Varanasi are participating in significant numbers in different international events to sell those items as fabrics for different end uses. In the Heimtextil (Frankfurt) Fair 2002 and TIP (Brussels) Fair 2002, significant number of participants were from Varanasi. In the Tex-styles India 2002, three exporters from Varanasi participated. The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council keeps the exporters/ weavers informed about the latest fashion/colour trends through SILKNET & other publications and conducts seminars to inform latest export trends, Market Development Assistance (MDA) facilities, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) formalities etc.

The carpets woven by weavers of Bhadohi have a good demand in the International market. The total export of carpets, including those manufactured in Bhadohi has been to the tune of Rs. 2436.13 crore during 2001-02 compared to Rs. 2315.15 crore registered during 2000-01. To boost further exports of carpets and to encourage artisans/weavers in the country, including those of Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh, the Government of India has been taking following steps:—

1. Organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets;
2. Overseas publicity;
3. Organisation of workshops on design development;
4. Participation in International fairs;
5. Sponsoring of Sales-cum-study teams abroad;
6. Organisation of Indian Carpet Expo through Carpet Export Promotion Council annually at New Delhi;
7. Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana;
8. Training & extension;
9. Design and technical upgradation.

(d) Does not arise.

Outstanding Income Tax

4979. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of income-tax is outstanding against big industrial houses like Tata group, Birla group, Modi group, Essar, Hindustan Lever, ITC, etc.;

(b) if so, names of industrial houses alongwith the income-tax arrears against each of them during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for not recovering this huge arrears of income-tax;

(d) whether the Government have taken any remedial measures in this regard, so far;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Income Tax Department does not maintain details of Income Tax Arrear Demands on the basis of categories such as 'Big Industrial Houses'.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) to (f) Recovery of Income Tax is being effected through the machinery as provided under Chapter XVII and Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961. The measures include, inter-alia, issuance, of statutory notice U/s 220(2), charging of Interest and levy of Penalty for non-payment of dues, Attachment of Bank Account of the defaulter and Amounts owed by Debtor(s) to such a Defaulter, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties of the defaulter, arrest of the defaulter, appointing a receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties, etc.

Permission to MNCs to Sell Nutritious Animal Food

4980. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to some foreign multinational companies to sell their products related to nutritious animals food in India;

(b) if so, the details of these companies;

(c) whether these multinational companies have procured shares of some Indian companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Government has granted four (4) foreign collaboration approvals for production and sale of animal feed during the last three years (1999-2001). Details of the approvals are given below:

S. No.	Approval No.	Name of the foreign company	Name of the Indian company	Permission granted
1.	SIA approval No. FC.II. 348(99)/ 385(99) dt. 9.8.99	M/s Provimi Holding BV, France	M/s Vetcare Allech Pvt. Ltd.	Acquisition of 51% equity stake in the Indian company.
2.	SIA approval No. FC.II. 349(99)/ 386(99) dt. 9.8.99	M/s Provimi Holding BV, France	M/s Tetragon Chemie Ltd.	Acquisition of 51% equity stake in the Indian company.
3.	RBI approval No. 6141 dt. 1.12.2000	M/s Kemin Industries Inc., USA	M/s Kemin Nutritional Technolgoies (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Permission for Technology Agreement
4.	RBI approval No. 6187 dt. 1.1.2001	M/s Kemin Industries Inc., USA	M/s Kemin Nutritional Technologies India Ltd.	Permission for Technology Agreement

Permissions for acquisition of shares by multinational/ foreign companies in Indian companies are granted as per the extant policy based on the Board Resolution of the Indian company supporting such acquisition and Declaration by the investors regarding their previous/ existing ventures in the same or allied field in India. Such approvals are also subject to SEBI/RBI pricing norms and SEBI's take over code, wherever applicable.

[English]

Welfare Scheme for OBC

4981. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for increase in Special Central Assistance under Special Component Plan and cent-per-cent Central Assistance for operating the schemes for the welfare of Other Backward Classes in the State;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal for release of Rs. 70.00 crores under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes. The proposal has been examined as per the criteria under the scheme and Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 15.13 crores has been released to the State Government as first installment during the financial year 2002-2003.

Regarding release of 100% Central Assistance under the Schemes for welfare of OBCs, a proposal for release of Central Assistance under the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarships to OBC Students has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan. 100% Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 1.99 crores has been released to the Government of Rajasthan during 2002-2003.

Cement Plants/Factories

4982. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) the number of cement plants/factories functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the present average production capacity of these plants/factories;

(c) the number of plants/factories out of these which have been closed and those which are on the verge of closure alongwith reasons for closure of those plants;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for revival of such plants/factories;

(e) whether there is any proposal to sell some cement plants which are running at losses; and

(f) if so, the norms laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) There are 124 large cement plants functioning in the country. The details of average production capacity of these plants in given in the statement.

(c) Seventeen large cement plants are reported to be not in production due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence and economic non-viability.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units including those reported on the verge of closure. These, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act.

(e) and (f) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is the only cement company in the Public Sector. It has been recurring losses and was referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has declared CCI as sick under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA), 1985. The BIFR, which is a Quasi Judicial body, has already directed for sale of CCI as a whole, or its plants individually or collectively.

Statement

S. No.	Cement Company	Average Production Capacity (in tonnes)
1	2	3
Northern Region		
Haryana		
1.	Charkhi Dadri	172000
Haryana Total		172000
Punjab		
2.	Grasim-Bhatinda (G)	1000000

1	2	3
3.	Ambuja Cement-Ropar (G)	1340000
4.	Ambuja Cement-Bhatinda (G)	500000
	Punjab Total	284000
Rajasthan		
5.	ACC-Lakheri	600000
6.	Birla Cement	720000
7.	Birla-Chittor Cement	1280000
8.	J.K. Nimbahera	2400000
9.	J.K. Mangrol	600000
10.	Lakshmi Cement	2230000
11.	J.K. Udaipur Udyog	900000
12.	Grasim-Aditya Cement	1750000
13.	Ambuja Cement Rajasthan Ltd.	1500000
14.	Mangalam Cement	400000
15.	Neer Shree Cement	600000
16.	Shree Cement	2600000
17.	Binani Cement	1650000
18.	Shriram Cement	200000
	Rajasthan Total	17430000
Himachal Pradesh		
19.	ACC-Gagal-I	1060000
	Gagal-II	1640000
20.	CCI-Rajban	200000
21.	Ambuja Cement-H.P.	1160000
	Himachal Pradesh Total	4060000
Delhi		
22.	Delhi (G)	500000
	Delhi Total	500000
Jammu & Kashmir		
23.	J&K Ltd.	200000
	Jammu & Kashmir-Total	200000
	Northern Region Total	25202000
Eastern Region		
Assam		
24.	CCI—Bokajan	200000
	Assam Total	200000
Meghalaya		
25.	Mawmluh Cherra	200000
	Meghalaya Total	200000
Bihar		
26.	Kalyanpur Cement	1000000
	Bihar Total	1000000
Jharkhand		
27.	ACC-Chaibasa	612000
28.	ACC-Sindri	600000
29.	Lafarge-Jojobera (G)	1900000
30.	Lemos Cement	109000
31.	Sone Valley	254000
	Jharkhand Total	3475000
Orissa		
32.	L&T-JCW (G)	800000
33.	OCL India Ltd.	1001000
34.	IDCOL Cement	960000
	Orissa Total	2761000
West Bengal		
35.	Damodhar Cmt. & Slag (G)	525000
36.	Birla-Durapur (G)	600000
37.	L&T-WBCW (G)	1000000
38.	Ambuja Eastern-WB (G)	1000000
	West Bengal Total	3125000
Chhattisgarh		
39.	ACC-Jamul	1584000
40.	CCI-Akaltara	400000
41.	CCI-Mandhar	380000

1	2	3
42.	Century Cement	1200000
43.	Grasim Cement-Raipur	1900000
44.	L&T-Hirmi Cement Works	1900000
45.	Ambuja Eastern-CTG	1000000
46.	Lafarge-Arsameta Plant	2240000
47.	Lafarge-Sonadih	350000
	Chhattisgarh Total	10954000
	Eastern Region Total	21715000
Southern Region		
Andhra Pradesh		
48.	ACC-Mancherial	331000
49.	CCI-Adilabad	400000
50.	CCI-Tandur	1000000
51.	Andhra Cmt-Vijayawada (G)	240000
52.	Andhra Cement-Vizag (G)	500000
53.	Andhra Cement-Nadikude	500000
54.	India Cement-Chilamkur	1300000
55.	India Cement (Visaka Cement Works)	1120000
56.	India Cement-Yerraguntla	520000
57.	India Cement-Raasi Cement	2300000
58.	Madras Cement-Jayantipuram	1100000
59.	L&T-A.P.	2600000
60.	Kesoram Cement	900000
61.	Orient Cement	1300000
62.	Zuari Cement	2200000
63.	Sri Vishnu Cement	1200000
64.	Priyadarshini Cement	600000
65.	KCP Ltd.	575000
66.	Panyam Cement	531000
67.	Penna Cement	1000000
68.	Kistna	214000
	Andhra Pradesh Total	20431000
Tamil Nadu		
69.	ACC-Madukkarai	960000
70.	India Cement-Sankarnagar	1550000
71.	India Cement-Sankaridurg	720000
72.	India Cement-Dalavoi	1300000
73.	Grasim South	1030000
74.	Tamil Nadu Cement - Alangulam	400000
75.	Tamil Nadu Cement - Ariyalur	500000
76.	Madras Cement-Ramasamyraja Ngr.	750000
	Madras Cement-Alathiyur Works-I	1360000
77.	Madras Cement-Althiyur Works-II	1760000
78.	L&T-ARCW (G)	1000000
79.	Dalmia Cement	1034000
80.	Chettinad Cement-Karur	600000
81.	Chettinad Cement-Karikkali	1200000
	Tamil Nadu Total	14164000
Karnataka		
82.	ACC-Wadi	2110000
83.	ACC-New Wadi	2600000
84.	CCI-Kurkunta	200000
85.	Rajashree-Malkhed	2300000
86.	HMP Cements Ltd., Shahabad	476000
87.	Vasavadatta Cement	1200000
88.	Mysore Cement	570000
89.	Kanoria Industries	330000
	Karnataka Total	9786000
Kerala		
90.	Malabar Cement	420000
	Kerala Total	420000
	Southern Region Total	44801000
Western Region		
Gujarat		
91.	Grasim Inds., Sikka	1075000

1	2	3
92.	Saurashtra Cement	1164000
93.	Gujarat Sidhee	1200000
94.	HMP Cements Ltd., Porbandar	198000
95.	L&T-Gujarat	4200000
96.	L&T-Jafrabad	400000
97.	L&T, Magdalla (G)	700000
98.	Ambuja Cement	1500000
99.	Gajambja Cement	2500000
100.	Tata Chemicals	440000
	Gujarat Total	13377000
Maharashtra		
101.	ACC-Chanda	1000000
102.	Manikgarh Cement	1500000
103.	Rajashree-Hotgi (G)	1350000
104.	L&T-Awarpur Cement Works	3000000
105.	L&T-Ratnagiri (G)	400000
106.	Orient Cmt-Jalgaon (G)	700000
107.	Indo Rama Cement (G)	1000000
	Maharashtra Total	8950000
Western Region Total		22327000
Central Region		
Uttar Pradesh		
108.	ACC-Tikaria (G)	750000
109.	Birla Cmt.-Raebareli (G)	360000
110.	U.P. State Cmt, Churk	475000
111.	U.P. State Cmt-Dalla	432000
112.	U.P. State Cmt-Chunar (G)	1680000
113.	Jaypee Cement Ltd. Sadva Khurd (G)	600000
114.	Diamond Cement-Jhansi (G)	500000
	Uttar Pradesh Total	4797000
Madhya Pradesh		
115.	ACC, Kymore	1700000
116.	Birla Bikas	800000
117.	Satna Cement	750000
118.	CCI-Neemuch	400000
119.	Maihar Cement	2000000
120.	Vikaram Cement	3000000
121.	Jaypee Rewa	2500000
122.	Jaypee Bela	1500000
123.	Diamond Cement-I	525000
	Diamond Cement-II	500000
124.	Prism Cement	2510000
	Madhya Pradesh Total	16185000
	Central Region Total	20982000
	Grand Total	135027000

[Translation]

Strike by Bank Employees

4983. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the bank employees have been on strike on August 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of their demands/grievances;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues with the bank employees unions;

(d) the number of times the bank employees have gone on strike during the last three years; and

(e) the loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that some officers' associations of Public Sector Banks had given a call for strike on 29.8.2002. The demands were regarding improvement of service conditions. The strike, however,

was deferred after holding conciliation proceedings on 26.8.2002 before the Dy. Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Mumbai.

(d) and (e) The bank employees have gone on strike nine times during the last three years. It is not possible to quantify the loss suffered out of such strikes.

[English]

Assistance to Kerala SCDC

4984. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance of Rs. 968.51 lakhs is due to the State Government of Kerala in respect of the nine schemes being implemented by the Scheduled Castes Development Department in the State for the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether the payment has not been made yet;

(c) the total amount due from the Union Government to the various States for similar schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, State-wise;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the time by which these amounts are likely to be disbursed to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Total central assistance of Rs. 1612.19 lakhs was due to the State Government of Kerala out of which Rs. 1052.31 lakhs was released.

(c) to (e) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Assistance released under Post Matric Scholarship to SC students

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	State/UT	2001-02
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6426.72
2.	Assam	272.31
3.	Bihar	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	229.97
5.	Gujarat	60.14
6.	Haryana	275.61
7.	Himachal Pradesh	21.84
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	85.36
9.	Karnataka	732.13
10.	Kerala	938.16
11.	Madhya Pradesh	490.53
12.	Maharashtra	658.33
13.	Manipur	48.15
14.	Meghalaya	5.47
15.	Orissa	0.00
16.	Punjab	239.90
17.	Rajasthan	470.13
18.	Sikkim	Nil
19.	Tamil Nadu	1168.95
20.	Tripura	138.71
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2304.94
22.	Uttaranchal	411.74
23.	West Bengal	911.06
24.	Daman & Diu	2.50
25.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil
26.	Pondicherry	35.00
	Total	15927.65

Assistance released under Pre-Matric Scholarship

1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.94
2.	Bihar	15.47
3.	Goa	0.72
4.	Gujarat	510.07
5.	Haryana	38.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil

1	2	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
8.	Karnataka	3.36
9.	Kerala	Nil
10.	Madhya Pradesh	70.15
11.	Maharashtra	154.41
12.	Orissa	4.00
13.	Punjab	Nil
14.	Rajasthan	59.69
15.	Sikkim	Nil
16.	Tamil Nadu	49.72
17.	Tripura	3.08
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil
19.	West Bengal	2.81
20.	Delhi	Nil
21.	Pondicherry	Nil
22.	Chhattisgarh	2.24
23.	Jharkhand	30.20
24.	Uttaranchal	2.21
	Total	1004.27

Assistance released under Book Banks for Scheduled Castes

1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil
4.	Goa	Nil
5.	Gujarat	Nil
6.	Haryana	Nil
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
9.	Karnataka	33.27
10.	Kerala	40
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
12.	Maharashtra	85.79
13.	Manipur	Nil
14.	Mizoram	Nil
15.	Orissa	Nil
16.	Punjab	Nil
17.	Rajasthan	9.4
18.	Tamil Nadu	13.38
19.	Tripura	1.86
20.	Uttar Pradesh	103.16
21.	Chandigarh	Nil
22.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil
23.	Daman & Diu	Nil
24.	Delhi	12
25.	Pondicherry	Nil
	Total	298.86

Assistance released under Construction of Hostels for SC Boys

1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Gujarat	Nil
4.	Haryana	2.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	60.13
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
7.	Jharkhand	245.80
8.	Karnataka	563.19
9.	Kerala	4.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	284.38
11.	Orissa	21.12
12.	Punjab	11.57
13.	Rajasthan	Nil
14.	Tamil Nadu	182.59
15.	Tripura	18.58
16.	Uttar Pradesh	155.64
17.	Chandigarh	50.18
	Total	1599.18

1	2	3
	Assistance released under construction of Hostels for SC Girls	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Haryana	Nil
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
5.	Jharkhand	245.80
6.	Karnataka	207.42
7.	Kerala	45.50
8.	Madhya Pradesh	665.74
9.	Orissa	25.00
10.	Rajasthan	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	43.50
12	Tripura	9.48
13.	Uttar Pradesh	196.04
	Total	1438.48
	Assistance released under Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Haryana	Nil
3.	Karnataka	Nil
4.	Kerala	21.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
6.	Meghalaya	Nil
7.	Orissa	2.00
8.	Punjab	Nil
9.	Rajasthan	Nil
10.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
11.	Tripura	Nil
12.	And. & Nico. Islands	Nil
13.	Delhi	2.00
	Total	25.00

1	2	3
	Assistance released under National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	225.00
2.	Assam	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00
4.	Gujarat	0.00
5.	Karnataka	695.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00
7.	Maharashtra	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00
9.	Rajasthan	0.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	0.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00
12.	Chhattisgarh	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	0.00
14.	Uttaranchal	0.00
	Total	920.00
	Assistance released under SCDCs	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil
4.	Daman & Diu	Nil
5.	Delhi	Nil
6.	Goa	Nil
7.	Gujarat	48.79
8.	Haryana	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
11.	Karnataka	391.00
12.	Kerala	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
14.	Maharashtra	1191.47

1	2	3
15.	Punjab	Nil
16.	Rajasthan	118.74
17.	Sikkim	Nil
18.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
19.	Tripura	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	350.00
21.	West Bengal	Nil
	Total	2100.00

Assistance released under PCR Act, 1955 & SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	165.01
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil
4.	Goa	Nil
5.	Gujarat	178.20
6.	Haryana	13.78
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
8.	Karnataka	174.59
9.	Kerala	44.15
10.	Madhya Pradesh	812.86
11.	Maharashtra	6.48
12.	Orissa	0.97
13.	Punjab	33.10
14.	Rajasthan	317.38
15.	Sikkim	Nil
16.	Tamil Nadu	502.48
17.	Uttar Pradesh	700.00
18.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Nil
19.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	25.00
20.	Daman & Diu	Nil
21.	Delhi	Nil
22.	Pondicherry	31.50
	Total	3005.50

Due amount towards central Share of Equity to the various States Scheduled Castes Development Corporations under the Scheme of Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) for the year 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	Due Central Share	Reasons	Time by which funds are likely to be released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	295.70		
2.	Chhattisgarh	299.85		
3.	Himachal Pradesh	15.25		
4.	Karnataka	95.56	Constraint of Fund	After adequate funds are allowed
5.	Kerala	25.94		
6.	Tamil Nadu	318.00		
7.	Uttar Pradesh	188.34		
8.	Uttaranchal	26.60		

The amount due under the scheme of Book Bank for SC for the year 2001-2002.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount due	Reasons for not releasing the funds	Time by which funds are likely to be released
1.	Haryana	1.53		
2.	Karnataka	8.00	Constraint of Fund	After adequate funds are allowed
3.	Madhya Pradesh	15.00		

Amount due for the year 2001-2002 under the Scheme of Protection of Civil Right Act

Sl.No.	State	Central Assistance due for 2001-2002, but not released during 2001-2002	Reasons for non-release of Central assistance during 2001-2002.
1.	Haryana	Central Assistance of Rs. 13.781 lakhs was though sanctioned during 2001-02, but no Central assistance was released towards proposed expenditure of Rs. 1.00 lakhs for debates and seminars, out of which the central share of the recommended expenditure would have been 50%.	No central assistance for debates and seminars was released to Government of Haryana during 2001-02 since the expenditure under this sub-head during 2000-01 was 'nil', though assistance of Rs. 0.365 lakhs had been sanctioned during 2000-2001.
2.	Maharashtra	Central Assistance of Rs. 6.48 lakhs had been sanctioned during 2001-02 to Social Welfare Department of the State Government, but central assistance of Rs. 688.67 lakhs (including arrears of previous years), could not be sanctioned to Home Department of the State Government.	The central assistance of Rs. 688.87 lakhs of Rs. 688.67 lakhs could not be sanctioned to Home Department, Government of Maharashtra during 2001-2002, due to paucity of available funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Implementation of PCR and POA Acts.
3.	Tamil Nadu	Central assistance of Rs. 502.478 lakhs was sanctioned to State of Tamil Nadu under the scheme during 2001-2002. However, further central assistance of Rs. 208.32 lakhs being due could not be sanctioned.	Central assistance of Rs. 208.32 lakhs could not be sanctioned during 2001-2002 due to paucity of available funds. Nevertheless this amount has been sanctioned to the State Government during 2002-03.

The details of SCA due for 2001-02 & reasons for not releasing the fund:

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount due (Rs. in lakh)	Reason for not releasing the funds	Time by which funds are likely to be released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	1747.89	Government of Bihar is having an unspent balance of Rs. 5090.511 lakhs of SCA released during Ninth Plan Period.	No funds for the year 2001-2002 will be released
2.	Goa	3.65	Government of Goa is having an unspent balance of Rs. 13.55 lakhs of SCA released during Ninth Plan Period.	No funds for the year 2001-2002 will be released

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Punjab	774.01	Government of Punjab is having an unspent balance of Rs. 3235.86 lakhs of SCA released during Ninth Plan Period.	No funds for the year 2001-2002 will be released
4.	Delhi	92.25	Government of NCT of Delhi is having an unspent balance of Rs. 312.16 lakhs of SCA released during Ninth Plan Period.	No funds for the year 2001-2002 will be released
5.	Kerala	533.44	This amount has been released to the Government of Kerala.	No funds for the year 2001-2002 will be released

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Unemployed Educated Youth

4985. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

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

(a) the State-wise target fixed by public sector banks for providing loans to educated unemployed youth under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Swarnajayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana and P.M.R.Y. during each of the last three years;

(b) the loan provided by these banks during above period under these schemes, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria followed by public sector banks for sanctioning of these loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the State-wise targets and loans disbursed by the Scheduled Commercial Banks under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) Swarnajayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) & Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 are given in Statement-I.

(c) The criteria prescribed by Government of India for sanctioning of loans under the schemes of SGSY, SJSRY & PMRY are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise Target and Loan provided by Scheduled Commercial Banks under Swarnjayanati Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) during the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Total Loans disbursed to individuals					
	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Annual Financial Target	Out Standing	Annual Financial Target	Out Standing	Annual Financial Target	Out Standing
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	3832.97	882.91	2476.45	3698.78	3035.32	4063.77
Himachal Pradesh	1081.04	413.88	1259.94	2164.32	1274.94	2704.59
Jammu & Kashmir	749.03	0.01	1031.55	228.54	789.92	311.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	442.91	1129.62	1966.97	3372.27	778.29	3390.70
Rajasthan	5994.38	2139.25	7781.29	11509.88	6935.20	12395.22
Chandigarh	5.00	—	138.15	103.67	—	0.52
Delhi	—	14.00	—	0.36	—	0.41
Assam	2662.82	223.73	1860.66	946.43	4997.10	1736.19
Manipur	108.00	—	26.39	84.24	—	3.89
Meghalaya	508.70	2.54	494.8	59.5	4.35	17.22
Nagaland	238.00	—	238.00	33.97	57.30	20.61
Tripura	1080.00	393.00	1279.00	1962.19	1865.29	1420.00
Arunachal Pradesh	792.00	—	792.00	21.00	312.00	—
Mizoram	41.00	—	41.00	—	—	—
Sikkim	109.00	2.95	201.00	157	203.12	189.63
Bihar	23970.00	1695.94	27014.94	9240.87	21451.88	12537.05
Jharkhand	—	—	6824.43	708.57	8607.19	3803.61
Orissa	8012.25	1464.46	15374.71	13118.89	12538.92	15909.76
West Bengal	6979.40	2377.37	33393.74	5785.03	12851.30	3990.80
Andaman & Nicobar Island	89.00	2.47	54.00	15.00	—	24.00
Madhya Pradesh	14657.09	7366.65	10459.02	7724.19	11489.91	10219.82
Chhattisgarh	—	—	3312.47	1711.5	4694.11	952.08
Uttar Pradesh	18191.94	1919.14	26112.54	6195.27	25728.56	13071.28
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	28.89	491.50	904.03
Gujarat	6912.95	10319.51	5506.51	13076.33	11800.28	12522.02
Maharashtra	11018.55	7814.54	17062.89	13497.2	16269.01	16968.89
Daman & Diu	29.00	4.00	33.00	2.00	1.10	1.73
Goa	277.51	30.78	184.28	1882.84	120.35	167.59
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	28.90	35.00	28.9	87.00	31.00	27.97
Andhra Pradesh	12430.31	3727.71	13762.43	7709.24	13403.51	14588.23
Karnataka	3606.67	2584.08	3609.93	4009.16	2136.00	6183.09
Kerala	1363.16	1161.32	2147.92	1680.07	1859.05	4757.71
Tamil Nadu	6305.38	1754.41	9652.52	24880.31	5926.76	27575.43
Lakshadweep	—	—	125.00	3.35	—	3.65
Pondicherry	97.90	38.82	59.88	7911.99	79.00	8005.17
Not Specified	—	—	1264.48	621.08	—	—
All India	133014.61	47499.08	175983.58	144230.93	169742.3	178353.73

State-wise Target and Loan provided by Scheduled Commercial Banks under Swarnjayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Loans disbursed								
	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
	Target	No.	Amount	Target	No.	Amount	Target	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Haryana	2001	1374	345.2	1751	1337	478.62	1347	1151	394.49
Himachal Pradesh	476	309	89.46	335	298	96.3	1682	219	77.33
Jammu & Kashmir	2137	575	230.68	2195	411	148.98	7687	408	200.87
Punjab	1396	2251	711.67	864	1844	516.82	1054	2191	686.92
Rajasthan	11531	4349	902.84	13905	3479	688.65	12736	5884	1258.54
Chandigarh	328	182	50.66	117	51	16.69	101	31	12.73
Delhi	2962	71	9.26	3745	159	38.94	5474	116	23.91
Assam	215	156	24.13	2035	972	322.05	2900	1513	1044.89
Manipur	—	11	2.2	10	32	10.14	33	9	3.36
Meghalaya	104	45	8.65	438	300	92.13	476	264	213.36
Nagaland	15	6	2.85	166	149	69.57	316	319	125.6
Tripura	—	46	7.5	725	285	98.79	1048	366	226.27
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	390	277	231.71	150	110	110.17
Sikkim	2	21	5.04	—	25	7.05	87	19	6.03
Bihar	560	1322	204.39	1693	2791	707.72	2064	1730	532.7
Jharkhand	—	—	—	65	93	16.61	675	221	55.21
Orissa	3821	2506	427.70	7200	2114	372.6	6759	3057	493.05
West Bengal	5156	924	104.18	2980	3504	306.33	2500	1668	235.7
Andaman & Nicobar Island	—	5	0.65	4	6	1.3	31	5	0.87
Madhya Pradesh	24548	10532	2661.63	20398	6698	1894.41	15429	7495	2477.15
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	1534	591	166.16	2389	1426	345.88
Uttar Pradesh	42095	16753	5483.14	34740	14807	5029.5	43578	15369	5462.21
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	1766	680	210.77	1162	340	122.67
Gujarat	10990	3672	905.98	13597	2826	703.62	15894	2946	822.15
Maharashtra	13832	8574	1667.32	15735	4941	1143.16	12675	4997	1372.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daman & Diu	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	79	179	52.27	198	147	58.39	111	202	81.18
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	1	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	1843	2360	506.56	1778	1635	387.71	1883	2242	545.89
Karnataka	5459	4004	611.51	6836	4034	836.17	5583	3756	997.61
Kerala	997	1679	280.74	506	3159	652.35	1176	2954	571.58
Tamil Nadu	1393	2988	353.3	1252	2746	380.17	1445	1981	355.37
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	32	85	5.98	87	121	14.37	110	91	11.44
Not Specified	—	—	—	—	1499	363.19	—	—	—
All India	131994	64980	15655.69	137045	62011	16060.97	148590	63080	18827.87

State-wise Target and Loan Provided by Scheduled Commercial Banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Loans disbursed								
	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
	Target	No.	Amount	Target	No.	Amount	Target	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Haryana	7500	5856	3466.39	8600	6109	3758.99	8800	5796	3291.79
Himachal Pradesh	2500	2011	1361.89	2500	1962	1307.96	3000	2342	1528.51
Jammu & Kashmir	4000	871	734.06	4000	669	511.59	1300	806	695.49
Punjab	9000	8519	5507.67	9000	7811	5103.45	9000	7489	4699.19
Rajasthan	16100	11089	6003.06	16600	11884	6692.93	16400	10094	5484.52
Chandigarh	100	51	39.87	100	49	36.13	100	124	86.40
Delhi	4800	614	389.57	5000	769	529.12	4600	606	455.36
Assam	12800	5850	4570.46	6600	3510	2764.81	6600	1682	1143.10
Manipur	1350	310	238.01	1100	25	24.00	1100	102	57.63
Meghalaya	550	356	263.63	600	220	154.93	2000	133	95.67
Nagaland	200	73	76.52	200	29	36.21	500	35	41.53
Tripura	1300	244	133.82	1300	350	183.71	3000	487	283.95
Arunachal Pradesh	500	215	248.89	500	265	222.15	400	275	193.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mizoram	350	84	59.88	250	75	57.70	250	27	14.40
Sikkim	150	43	24.88	50	44	22.54	50	37	18.37
Bihar	21800	9159	7598.12	21900	8964	7622.48	18000	6023	4576.90
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	9000	2752	2148.46
Orissa	12150	6731	4680.62	15500	6900	4658.71	12050	1750	1099.46
West Bengal	22800	2910	1852.21	22500	2213	1515.93	22000	1867	1240.33
Andaman & Nicobar Island	200	128	94.60	150	115	92.34	200	103	79.11
Madhya Pradesh	31600	21207	14865.66	32400	20156	13337.78	28000	10740	6858.71
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	2500	1232	772.78
Uttar Pradesh	52000	36919	23924.00	52200	36556	24317.74	50200	32320	20996.17
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	50000	3163	1812.61
Gujarat	14600	10085	4720.54	14700	8051	4071.16	16250	6645	3356.50
Maharashtra	43600	26202	14892.43	45000	23250	13294.02	27900	15850	8880.89
Daman & Diu	50	17	9.41	150	19	13.37	50	8	5.88
Goa	600	382	359.43	625	282	217.70	500	154	109.52
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	25	19.12	50	22	17.60	50	10	8.55
Andhra Pradesh	33600	13309	7862.76	33800	12270	7381.65	33000	8270	4879.67
Karnataka	22200	15255	9434.29	22000	11544	7608.48	18700	7823	4786.75
Kerala	24000	12500	7064.14	23700	10634	6046.98	22000	8419	4295.53
Tamil Nadu	15000	12154	63091.40	18500	9709	5006.83	20000	8137	3650.18
Lakshadweep	50	33	22.89	50	16	11.76	50	23	13.85
Pondicherry	550	252	96.00	625	212	89.46	450	161	68.56
Not Specified	—	—	—	1327	77	40.23	1356	37	20.93
	356050	203454	126916.22	360050	184761	116750.44	343000	145522	87750.87

Statement II

The Criteria prescribed under the Schemes of SGSY, SJSRY & PMRY

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has replaced IRDP and its allied Schemes. The Scheme aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in the rural areas of the Country.

- Eligibility: Rural poor such as the landless labour, small and marginal farmers, those with marginal land, rural artisans and educated un-employed enlisted in the BPL list up to an age limit of 60 years.
- Reservation: 50% for SC/ST, 40% for women and 3% for handicapped. 50% of SHGs in a block should be for women.
- Activities: Identified key/cluster activities with emphasis on group activities. SGH membership

within a range of 10-20; for minor irrigation minimum of 5 members.

- Project cost: No ceiling. Every SHG in existence for at least 6 months and which is viable will receive a revolving fund of Rs. 25000 from banks as cash credit facility of which Rs. 10000 will be given by DRDA. Banks to charge interest only on the sums exceeding Rs. 10000.
- Subsidy: Back and subsidy/General-30% of the project cost-max. 7500, SC/ST-50% of the project cost-max. 10000, Group-50% of the project cost subject to per capita subsidy of Rs. 10000/- or 1.25 lakhs whichever is less and irrigation-30% or 50% as the case may be without monetary ceiling.
- Security: For individuals-up to Rs. 5000 and for Group up to Rs. 5 lakhs-Assets created out of bank loan. Mortgage of land, if assets are not created as in the case of land based activities or third party guarantee. For individuals loans above Rs. 50000 and group loans above Rs. 5 lakhs, in addition to primary security, suitable margin money/other collateral security may be obtained at banks discretion.
- Repayment: Minimum 5 years, instalments as per approved unit cost of NABARD/Dist. SGSY committee. Subsidy eligible only after completion of lock in period.
- Refinance: Banks are eligible for refinance from NABARD for loans disbursed under SGSY.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

The SJSRY Scheme is in operation from 1.12.1997 in all Urban and semi Urban Towns of India. Among other components, the scheme has two sub-schemes where bank credit is involved namely Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and Development of Women & Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA).

- The beneficiaries are identified by the Urban local bodies on the basis of house-to-house survey.
- Under the scheme, women are to be assisted to the extent of not less than 30% disabled at 3% and SC/STs at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the local population.
- Under USEP, under employed and unemployed urban youth whose annual family income is below the poverty line and who are educated upto ninth standard and who have been included in ULB list are to be assisted with bank loans.
- Projects costing upto 50,000/- are to be financed by banks.
- Subsidy would be provided by Government at 15% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500/-.
- 5% of project cost as margin money.
- Interest will be charged as per directives issued by RBI from time to time.
- Under DWCUA, women beneficiaries may take up self employment ventures in group. DWCUA group should consist of at least 10 urban poor women. The group is entitled to a subsidy of Rs. 1,25,000/- or 50% of the project cost whichever is less.
- The repayment schedule may range 3 to 7 years after initial moratorium of 6 to 18 months as decided by the banks.

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana loans are sanctioned to educated unemployed youth satisfying the eligibility criteria. The Scheme is implemented in both urban as well rural areas of the country.

- Age: 18 to 35 years for all educated unemployed, 18 to 40 for all educated unemployed in North-East States and 18 to 45 years for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Ex-servicemen, Physically Disabled and Women.
- Education Qualification: VIII pass. Preference will be given to those who have been trained for any trade in Government recognized/approved institutions for duration of at least six months.
- Family Income: Family income of the beneficiaries shall not exceed Rs. 40,000/- per annum and income of parents of beneficiary also shall not exceed Rs. 40,000/-.
- Activities Covered: All economically viable activities including agricultural and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising of crops/purchase of manure etc.
- Residence: Permanent resident of the area for atleast 3 years. (Relaxed for married women. In case of married women the residency criteria applies to her husband or in laws).

[English]

Disabled Population

4986. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted a house to house survey in many States to ascertain the exact number of people with disability and the specific services required to be rendered to them;

(b) whether the number of people with disability has been increased during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to provide the required assistance to the disabled people and also to check the further rise in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) had earlier conducted a survey on disability in 1991. Based on the sample survey of NSSO carried out in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability. Recently, NSSO has conducted a survey on disability through 58th round during the period July-December, 2002. Data regarding this is under compilation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 enforced since February, 1996, provides for affirmative action and protective provisions aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. This requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all Ministers of the Union Government, the State Government and other appropriate authorities. Action to implement various provisions of the Act has been initiated in right earnest since its adoption. Existing institutions have been strengthened, new institutions/organizations have been set up and the annual outlay for the disability sector has been increased substantially since 1995-96.

Institutional services are provided by the six National Institutes/Apex Institutions, Composite Regional Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities, District Rehabilitation Centres, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, etc. These organization inter-alia, disseminate information on prevention of causes of disabilities.

The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India provides quality aids the appliance for persons with disabilities at reasonable prices. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation provides concessional financial assistance to persons with disabilities through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). The Government also supports over 800 NGOs working in the field of disabilities. The National Programmes for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is under implementation in the State Sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/ Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled persons. The Government has taken various steps towards ensuring education of children with disabilities through their programmes like Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), Sarv Shikshya Abhiyan (SSA) and District Primary Education Programmes (DPEP).

[Translation]

Conservation of Limited Companies into Pvt. Ltd. Companies

4987. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the companies which have been converted into private limited companies from public limited companies during the financial year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether some public limited companies are being converted into private limited companies so as to conceal important information relating to their loss and profit accounts and their income;

(c) if so, the losses suffered to Central revenue due to such conservation during the above period;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to make auditing of profit and loss accounts of each company mandatory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) 332 in 2000-2001 and 604 in 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) Conservation of a company from public to private does not entail any refunded of registration fee

or any education in filling fees. The conservation also does not reduce the filling requirement of statutory returns such as Annual Returns and Balance Sheet, which are opened to public inspection. Income is to be reported, and determined by, the Income Tax authorities who are entitled to call for information with regard to profit and loss account of even private limited companies.

(d) It is already mandatory for every company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, to get its annually accounts audited.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Purchase of Foodgrains Directly from Cultivators

4988. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Food Corporation of India to purchase paddy and other crops directly from the cultivators in Orissa like Haryana and Punjab;

(b) if so, the date from which such purchase will be made by FCI;

(c) whether increase of Rs. 20.00 per quintal in paddy prices decided by the Government for drought areas will also be applicable to Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to give wide publicity to the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Paddy will be procured by the FCI in Orissa under price support scheme. The FCI has opened 20 paddy purchase centres in 6 Revenue Districts of Orissa from 1.11.2002 for procurement of paddy from farmers.

(c) Yes, Sir. The special drought relief price of Rs. 20/- per quintal for paddy over and above the MSP is payable to the farmers in the State.

(d) Wide publicity has been given in the local newspapers and leaflets in local Oriya language distributed in different areas where FCI has opened direct paddy purchase centers.

Commission for OBC

4989. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted the Andaman and Nicobar Commission for OBC for identification of OBC in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated November 16, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outlay and actual expenditure incurred during the Ninth Five Year Plan for identification of OBC;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted for identification of OBCs and if so, since when;

(e) whether the report of the OBC Commission has since been published;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be published?

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

(b) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has constituted a permanent body known as "A&N Commission for OBCs" vide Administration's Notification N. 12/Fno. 1-611/93 W dated 23-02-1994 for identification of OBCs.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 35.00 lakhs was provided in the Ninth Five Year Plan against which an expenditure of Rs. 36.05 lakhs was incurred.

(d) The A&N Commission for OBCs decided to carry out survey of the OBCs communities in A&N Islands in 1997. The survey commenced in May, 1998.

(e) and (f) The Commission has submitted its report on 19-07-2001. The same is under consideration. As per the rules framed vide Administration's Notification No. 12/F. No. 1-611/93 dated 23-02-1994, there is no provision to publish the report of the OBC Commission.

(g) Does not arise.

Loss of WTO Case against EU

4990. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India losses WTO case against European Union" appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated November 6, 2002;

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

(c) the methods proposed to be adopted by the Government concerning such WTO related cases in future;

(d) whether any detailed study has been undertaken in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) India had resorted to World Trade Organization's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Mechanism and challenged the anti dumping duty imposed by European Communities (EC) on imports of bed linen from India. On 12 March 2001 the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) adopted the Appellate body Report and the panel Report as modified by the Appellate Body, in this dispute. These Reports conclude that the EC's imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India had been inconsistent with the Anti-dumping Agreement. Pursuant to the recommendations of these Reports, the DSB requested the European Communities to bring its measure into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-dumping Agreement. Subsequently EC undertook a review of the anti-dumping measure and re-determined the level of anti-dumping duty. However, the application of the duty was suspended. India strongly disagreed with the re-determination and at its request a Compliance Panel had been constituted to examine the consistency of measures taken by EC in compliance with the decision of the DSB in the original bed linen dispute. The Compliance Panel Report would be adopted by the DSB unless a party to the dispute decides to appeal the report or the DSB decides by consensus not to adopt the Report. The Government is considering the future course of action in this dispute in accordance with the rules of the WTO.

In respect of the disputes in which the DSB has adopted the panel and Appellate Body reports, India has won 5 cases and also lost 5 cases. In one case India requested termination of the panel proceedings in light of the removal by the United States of the disputed safeguard measure. Government has been pursuing WTO cases in coordination with concerned administrative Ministries, Department of Legal Affairs and the legal experts engaged for the disputes. For each dispute a lawyer is appointed with the prior approval of Department of Legal Affairs. Where necessary an experienced foreign lawyer is also appointed with the approval of the Department of Legal Affairs.

Powerloom Workers

4991. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers engaged in powerloom industry, state-wise;

(b) the percentage of the cloth being manufactured through power-loom out of the total cloth manufactured in the country;

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided by the government power-loom industry in the country during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise; and

(d) details of the schemes being implemented by the government for welfare of the workers engaged in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) As on October 31, 2002, estimated number of workers engaged in powerlooms in the states/union territories having significant powerlooms concentrations is as follows:—

Sr. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of workers as at the end of the month
1	2	3
	(I) State	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	109808
2.	Assam	6315
3.	Bihar	7235
4.	Gujarat	795658
5.	Haryana	24705
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3653
7.	Karnataka	204580
8.	Kerala	6758
9.	Madhya Pradesh	109662
10.	Maharashtra	1792100

1	2	3
11.	Orissa	8298
12.	Punjab	59535
13.	Rajasthan	79875
14.	Tamil Nadu	800490
15.	Uttar Pradesh	164835
16.	West Bengal	10903
	(ii) Union Territory	
17.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2325
18.	Pondicherry	2075

(b) It is estimated that about 59-60% of the total cloth produced in the country is being manufactured in the decentralised powerloom sector.

(c) and (d) Government is implementing various schemes and providing financial assistance to encourage the decentralised powerloom industry. These include:

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives are available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) where the powerloom owner can either avail 12% upfront credit Linked capital subsidy or reduce the cost of borrowing the capital by interest reimbursement of 5%. As on October 31, 2002, proposals of 169 project of decentralised weaving sector were received under TUFS. Of these, 113 project requiring Rs. 94 crores were sanctioned Rs. 59 crores, of which Rs. 40 crore had been disbursed. The state-wise information is given below:

Rs. in crores

Sr. No.	State/UT	No. of applications	Project Cost	Amount Sanctioned	Amount disbursed
1.	Delhi	1	0.72	0.45	0.45
2.	Gujarat	47	19.17	11.00	9.94
3.	Haryana	14	16.95	7.28	6.15
4.	Karnataka	2	3.26	2.38	0.28
5.	Maharashtra	9	22.42	19.03	8.89
6.	Nagaland	1	1.57	1.41	0.43
7.	Punjab	5	3.31	2.36	2.04
8.	Rajasthan	11	9.92	4.49	4.19
9.	Tamil Nadu	19	11.69	6.92	4.29
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1.27	0.38	0.32
11.	West Bengal	3	3.60	3.24	3.24
	Total	113	93.86	58.92	40.24

(ii) In forty-four major Powerloom clusters in the country Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) have been established to provide various service including designs, training, a skills upgradation and the testing facilities etc. to the powerloom weavers. The powerlooms at the PSCs have been upgraded so that powerloom weavers can be trained to operate modern looms. The Government of India modernised 21 PSCs during 9th Five Year Plan period at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 12.23 crore.

(iii) Seventeen Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers have been established to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

(iv) Powerloom workers aged between 18 to 60 years and earning a minimum average pay of Rs. 700/- per month can join the group Insurance scheme, which provides for Rs. 10,000 on natural death and Rs. 20,000/- for accidental deaths alongwith accumulated amounts. Since inception of the scheme 19,424 persons have availed this facility and Rs. 7,76,960 have been spent for this purpose. During last three years the state-wise and year-wise amount spent is given below:

S. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Rajasthan	Rs. 80,280	No claims received	Rs. 7,720
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 96,800	Rs. 36,800	Rs. 11,680
3.	West Bengal	Rs. 68,000	No claims received	No claims received
4.	Kerala	Rs. 45,320	Rs. 29,320	No claims received
	Total	Rs. 2,90,400	Rs. 66,120	Rs. 19,400

[Translation]

Illegal Money Laundering

4992. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several multinational companies including American companies are sending crores of rupees abroad through E-Commerce in illegal manner;

(b) if so, the number of such companies the countries to which they belong to and time since when such practice is continuing;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any concrete and immediate action to check such illegal practices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Tenth Finance Commission

4993. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission recommended grant of Rs. 81.31 crore for the year 1996-1997 to 2000-01 for upgradation of Standards of Administration to the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the total amount released to the State Government so far;

(c) whether the Union Government received several requests from State Government for releasing the fund; and

(d) if so, the action have been taken by the Government releasing the remaining funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 52.33 crores have been released to State of Punjab so far for upgradation of Standards of Administration under the recommendation of Tenth Finance Commission (TFC).

(c) and (d) TFC had recommended grants for upgradation of Standards of Administration for its award period 1995-2000. However, to enable the States to complete ongoing capital works, extension of one year up to 31.3.2001 was granted to States. The balance of the upgradation grant could not be released to the State of Punjab due to non completion of some of the schemes even by the end of 31.3.2001.

DFID Assistance to Orissa

4994. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have received assistance from the Department for International Development (DFID) during the last three years;

(b) whether the State of Orissa is also a recipient of DFID assistance;

(c) if so, the total amount of DFID assistance received by the Government of Orissa during the last three years;

(d) whether the amount so allocated to the State Government has been properly utilized;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) DFID has been providing assistance for implementing projects in various States, including Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

(c) to (f) DFID assistance of Pound 6.96 million has been received during the last three financial years for projects implemented by the Government of Orissa. DFID assistance is received as reimbursement of the expenditure already incurred by the State Government for implementing projects. The donor agency reimburses the amount after satisfying itself of the reasonableness of the utilization. A list of the projects and utilisation of funds is as per the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of DFID assisted projects in Orissa and utilization of funds implemented by Government of Orissa

S.No.	Name of Project	Utilisation in £ million during		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Orissa Power Sector Reforms Grant 1996	3.354	0.00	0.00
2.	Cuttack Urban Services Improvement Project	0.828	0.00	0.545
3.	Orissa Health & Family Welfare Project Phase III	0.135	0.413	0.289
4.	Orissa District Primary Education Project	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Orissa Cyclone Damaged Lift Irrigation Point Project	0.00	0.00	1.403
6.	Orissa Post Cyclone Reconstruction of Primary Schools	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	4.317	0.413	2.237

Grand Total £ 6.96 min.

Adoption of Destitute Children

4995. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding adoption of destitute children;

(b) the rate of adoption during each of the last three years from the North Eastern States;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for the adoption of destitute children from the North Eastern States during 2002-2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Government considers adoption as one of the appropriate means of rehabilitation of destitute children who have no family support.

(b) The following number of children have been placed in adoption through Non-Governmental Organizations running Sishu Greh Scheme in the North Eastern States.

1999-2000	:	21
2000-2001		40
2001-2002	:	36

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No target can be fixed for adoption of destitute children as the number of adoption depends upon availability of adoptive parents and children to be adopted.

Silk Export

4996. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silk Export Promotion Council (SEPC) has predicted that Silk Export will rise by 15% over the next 5 years;

(b) whether the SEPC has made any recommendations to meet this increased demand for silk from foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have initiated steps to implement the suggestions of the SEPC to meet the projects high demand for Indian silk;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) is entrusted with the responsibility for export promotion activities in respect of Silk goods for the country, and has the autonomy to implement its own suggestions in this regard, subject to guidelines and the policies of Govt. of India. However, the Government is taking several steps to increase the exports of silk products:—

(i) The Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organizing generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, Publicity in foreign trade magazines, publication of magazine "Silk India" and colour forecast card for domestic silk manufacturers, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc.

(ii) Government has rationalized value addition/Input-output norms specified under the EXIM Policy extended to exporters, the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products.

(iii) Government has set up a Core Group for developing silk exports to advise and monitor on the planning and execution of an export promotion strategy involving market research studies, product development and diversification, encouragement to R&D, participation in fair and exhibitions, brand promotion for non-mulbery silks, expansion of production of Indian raw silk etc.

(iv) For Technological up-gradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available inter alia to the silk sector.

(v) Govt. have initiated a production programme of high quality of biovoltine silk to improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity & cost competitiveness. Programmes are being implemented to improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development, and diversify products with inputs for improvement of looms and designs such that they may expand the export share of the country.

(vi) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

Review of SICA

4997. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIFR has stressed the need for a comprehensive review of the Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA);

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the rising NPAs would have any impact on the SICA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Taking into consideration the problems noticed during the course of implementation of BIFR Mechanism, Government has been considering various alternatives to address the problems of industrial sickness more effectively. On 31st March 2000, BIFR also made several suggestions to improve the functioning of BIFR. Prior to that the Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice V. Balakrishana Eradi consisting of experts to examine the existing laws relating to winding up proceedings of companies in order to remodel it in the line with the latest developments and innovations in the corporate law and governance and to suggest reforms in the procedure at various stages followed in the insolvency proceedings of companies to avoid unnecessary delay in tune with the international practice in this field. The Committee also studied the BIFR Mechanism with a view to creating confidence among various stakeholders. The Committee in its report dated 31st July 2000 inter-alia suggested repeal of SICA 1985 and amendment of the Companies Act, 1956 for setting up the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The powers and jurisdiction presently being exercised by various bodies viz. Company Law Board, or BIFR or AAIFR or High Courts will be consolidated and entrusted to NCLT to avoid multiplicity of litigations before various courts or quasi judicial bodies regarding revival or rehabilitation or merger or amalgamation or winding up of companies. The Company Law Amendment Bill, 2002 for the purpose has already been approved by both the Houses of Parliament. Another Bill introduced simultaneously to repeal SICA 1985, is yet to receive consideration.

Import of Rubber

4998. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rubber import allowed on advance licence" appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated November 20, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government have allowed further import of natural rubber on advance licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith purpose for which rubber import has allowed; and

(e) its likely impact on domestic rubber industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the contents of the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated November 20, 2002. The Bombay High Court in its Judgement dated 31st October, 2002 in the Writ Petition No. 808/2002 has quashed and set aside the Circulars and the Public Notice purporting to prohibit duty free import of natural rubber under advance licence. The Government decided to appeal against this Judgement.

External Assistance to Rajasthan

4999. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes have been undertaken in the State of Rajasthan with the help of World Bank and other International Financial Institutions during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of targets fixed for the purpose; and

(d) the targets achieved under the aforesaid schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Projects undertaken during last three years in Rajasthan with Assistance from International Financial Institutions

Amounts in Million

S. No.	Name of the Project	Donor	Currency	Agreement Date	Terminal date of Disbursement	Loan amount	Disbursement during			Cumulative Disbursement
							1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	As on 31.3.2002
1.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Projects	ADB	US $	1-12-1999	30-6-2005	250.00	0.000	0.297	0.983	1.280
2.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring	IBRD	US $	27-2-2001	30-6-2005	180.00	0.000	18.396	2.599	20.995
3.	Agricultural Development (Rajasthan)	IDA	SDR	17-12-1992	30-9-2000	67.580	6.246	5.170	0.000	67.580
4.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives	IDA	SDR	12-5-2000	31-12-2005	75.000	0.000	2.878	0.647	3.525
5.	Rajasthan Second District Primary Education	IDA	SDR	27-7-2001	31-12-2006	58.500	0.000	0.000	3.504	3.504
6.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring	IDA	SDR	15-3-2002	31-3-2008	110.00	0.000	0.000	4.004	4.004

Problems of Handlooms/Powerlooms in A.P.

5000. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted to the Union Government to consider proposals to support the handloom and powerloom sector to tide over the crisis of the weavers in Andhra Pradesh which is passing through a difficult phase; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The proposals received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of Handlooms and Powerlooms sectors have been examined and eligible financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 812.25 lakh as detailed below has been released to the State Government during 2002-03.

Basic input component under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana for 25 Projects	Rs. 404.75 lakh
Marketing incentive under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana	Rs. 365.25 lakh
2nd instalment under Intensive Handloom Village Development Scheme (one Project)	Rs. 12.50 lakh
Organizing of one National Handloom Expo and 6 District level exhibitions	Rs. 29.75 lakh

Insurance of Co-Operative Banks Deposit

5001. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend DICGC Act, 1961 in order to increase the limit of insurance coverage of depositors of co-operative banks from one lakh to ten lakhs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Technology Mission on Wool

5002. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Technology Mission on Wool;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the establishment of the Technology Mission; and

(c) the name of the State where the Technology Mission will be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives of the establishment of a Technology Mission for Wool are:—

- Domestic wool producers can get better returns for their product, by intensifying inputs and organizational effort for improvement of the quality of their wool and its reach to the user.
- To upgrade apparel and carpet industry in terms of quality of product for a larger international market by accessing technology and recent technological advances.

(c) The proposed Technology Mission for Wool will be implemented in the major wool producing states and clusters of the woolen industry.

[Translation]

Restructuring of IFCI

5003. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of outside consultant agencies appointed by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) to make recommendations for future business policy and restructuring during the last three years;

(b) the payment made towards consultations fees and other items to such agencies; and

(c) the benefits accrued to the Corporation from their reports or recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) IFCI has reported that in August, 2001, M/s. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) was commissioned to carry out a review of existing asset portfolio of IFCI focussed on an independent liquidity and solvency assessment in order to assist IFCI's principal shareholders in deciding on its capital infusion requirements. As the next steps, in March, 2002, M/s. Mckinsey & Co. was appointed with the mandate of evolving a long term strategy and business plan for IFCI.

(b) The fees and other expenses paid were, Rs. 0.97 crores to M/s. PwC and Rs. 1.52 crores to M/s. Mckinsey & Co.

(c) The assessment and recommendations of M/s Price Waterhouse Coopers and M/s Mcknsey & Co. formed the basis of IFCI's restructuring proposal/support for capital infusion.

[English]

Interest Rate on KVP/NSC

5004. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investments made by the Co-operative Societies at Karad (Maharashtra) in KVP/NSCs are denied interest by the Post Offices and asked to take away only principle amount after certain period;

(b) whether these investments were made under Small Savings Drive launched by the Government and the post offices accepted and issue the certificates on these investments;

(c) if so, the reasons for denial of interest; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Institutions, including co-operative societies, are not eligible to invest in small savings schemes of the central Government. Thus, amounts irregularly deposited in small savings instruments by co-operative societies have been refunded without interest.

Expansion of Handicrafts Industry

5005. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand the handicrafts industry in the country with the assistance of UNDP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For development of handicrafts industry, the Government is implementing Cane & Bamboo and Carpet Projects since December, 1999 with the assistance of UNDP. The total outlay of these projects is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Project	UNDP	Government of India	Total
Cane & Bamboo Project	465.00	450.00	915.00
Carpet Project	505.86	485.00	990.86

Cane & Camboo project aims for identification of suitable species for handicraft sector, its conservation, propagation and cultivation to ensure availability of right type of raw material for this sector. Design & technology upgradation, training of artisans, institutional capacity building and promoting marketing for income generation and employment opportunities are other components of the projects.

Carpet project aims for design intervention for creating a unique Indian Identity, infusion of technology, training, institutional capacity building and promoting marketing and export for income generation and creation of employment opportunities.

Cane & Bamboo Project is under implementation in all the states of North East, whereas Carpet project covers all the carpet belts.

Violation of WTO Provisions by Developed Countries

5006. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the developing countries have evolved a common stand to take on the developed countries which blatantly violated the provisions of the World Trade Organisations Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to publish white paper on the issue;

(e) if so, the reaction of the other developing countries in this regard; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to deal with the developed countries which have blatantly violated the provisions of the World Trade Organisation treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) For any violation of the provisions of the Agreement under the World Trade Organization (WTO), steps under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism can be taken by any WTO Member country as per the "Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU)". The DSU is the central pillar of the WTO system and provides for settlement of the disputes that arise between the Members in a time bound manner. The DSU provides for consultations among Members initially before bringing up the disputes before the Dispute Settlement Body for consideration by a Dispute Settlement Panel or Appellate Body. The DSU system provides for the reports of the Dispute Settlement Panels and the Appellate Body being adopted automatically by the Dispute Settlement Body. The Reports could be rejected only by consensus at the time of their consideration by the Dispute Settlement Body, meaning thereby that the losing WTO Member cannot block consensus for adoption of the reports.

India, like other WTO Member has used the provisions of the DSU to raise disputes with other WTO Members when it perceived violation of its rights under the various multilateral Agreements annexed to the WTO Agreement. A list of disputes raised by India with other WTO Members including the Developed country Members since the inception of the WTO in January 1995 is enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Subject of the Dispute Raised by India	Against
1	2	3
1.	Quantitative restrictions on imports of textile and clothing products	Turkey
2.	Ban on importation of shrimp and shrimp products from these countries imposed by the US	United States

1	2	3
3.	Measures affecting imports of Women's and girl's wool coats	United States
4.	Transitional safeguard measures affecting imports of woven wool shirts and blouses.	United States
5.	Import regime on Automobiles	Poland
6.	Application of Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) for India's export of rice.	European Communities
7.	Anti-Dumping actions on unbleached cotton fabrics (UCF	European Communities
8.	Anti-Dumping proceeding against import of Cotton type Bed-linen	European Communities
9.	Anti-dumping duties imosed by South Africa Authorities on imports of anti-biotics from India	South Africa
10.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by US on CTL Steel Plate imports from India	United States
11.	Anti dumping duties imosed by Brazil on Jute bag imports from India.	Brazil
12.	Argentina Drugs Dispute	Argentina
13.	US legislation on dumping and subsidy offset (Byrd Amendment)	United States
14.	Textiles Rules of Origin.	United States

Steps to make PDS Effective

5007. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the Approach paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan in regard to Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has suggested radical changes in the food policy and advocated greater role for the private sector and immediate co-operation in the distorted PDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make PDS more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Approach Paper has suggested changes in food policy which inter-alia include an enhanced role of private sector in the field of storage, foodgrain marketing and transportation of foodgrains.

(e) With a view to maintaining supplies, securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under the PDS, the PDS Control Order, 2001 was issued on 31.8.2001.

Electronic Data Interface

5008. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have designed an Electronic Data interface (EDI) which will reduce interaction between traders and officials and simplify the cumbersome procedure of obtaining custom clearance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the EDI will start its operation in various cities?

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

(b) The Government have designed Indian Custom EDI System (ICES-I) for imports and Indian Customs EDI System (ICES-E) for exports. EDI is already operational at 23 major Customs locations in India.

Under these systems, the importers and exporters are required to file their goods declaration electronically which are processed by the Customs officials on computer screen. There is no interaction with the officials except at the point of delivery of goods in case of imports and for obtaining Let Export Order in case of exports. Filing of separate claim for availing of drawback has also been abolished and on the basis of a single electronic declaration for export shipping bill, the drawback amount is being credited automatically to the account of exporter maintained in designated banks.

Cotton Technology Mission

5009. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to revamp technology mission on cotton;

(b) whether the Government have been releasing upto Rs. 25 lakhs subsidy for ginning and processing factories under the Technology Mission for Cotton; and

(c) if so, the number of ginning and processing factories in Karnataka which have been sanctioned this subsidy during 2001-02 and 2002-03 with respective details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission consists of four mini missions, with objectives of 'Research under Mini Mission-I', 'Dissemination of Technology under Mini Mission-II', 'Improvement of market infrastructure under Mini Mission III' and 'Modernisation of ginning and pressing factories under Mini Mission IV'. While various components of the scheme are generally the same, based on the experience gained during the implementation of the scheme in IX Five Year Plan, certain modifications such as providing assistance to some new items and discontinuing some items have been mooted. These include new items such as 'Seed treatment with insecticides', 'Season long training of facilitators', 'National Level Training of Trainers', 'Installation of new bale press and testing laboratories by ginning & pressing factories' etc. and discontinuing 'Incentive for breeder Seed', 'Field Demonstration' and 'Activation of Dormant yard' etc.

(b) Under Mini Mission-IV of the TMC, capital incentive @25% of cost of modernisation of ginning & pressing factories subject to a limit of Rs. 20 lakh is given to the entrepreneur.

(c) Four (04) ginning & pressing factories, in the State of Karnataka, have been sanctioned for modernisation during 2001-02 & 2002-03. Detail are as under:

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the factory	Date of approval	Project cost	TMC Share
1.	BCN Cotton Industries, Luxmeshwar Pest, Dist. Gadag.	18.10.2000	125.82	20.00
2.	Jitesh Cotton Enterprises, Mudhol, Dist. Bagalkot	19.12.2000	123.53	20.00
3.	Vora Textiles (P) Ltd., Modhol, Dist. Bagalkot	19.12.2000	116.53	20.00
4.	Cotgin & Cotpress, Tarihal Road, Hubli	22.10.2002	139.76	20.00

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes under Infrastructure Development

5010. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes being run by his Ministry under the "Infrastructure Development Scheme" under the "Welfare Schemes for other";

(b) the formula adopted by the Government for providing loans/grants and other financial assistance for these schemes alongwith the details of contribution provided by the State Government for these schemes;

(c) the schemes being implemented directly by the Central Government, State Government and other voluntary organisations separately in Rajasthan since 1.4.1998 under the "Infrastructure Development"; and

(d) the funds provided by the Union Government in the form of loans/grants/and other means year-wise, scheme-wise and agency-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry is running the following Infrastructure Development Schemes:

(1) *Growth Centre Scheme*: Under this scheme growth centres are proposed to be developed throughout the country which would be provided with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication, sewage, effluent

disposal etc. enabling them to attract industries. The growth centres approved by the Government of India are to be developed by the State Governments with Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores per centre (Rs. 15 crores in the case of North Eastern region). A token amount of Rs. 50 lakh is released at the time of sanction of the Growth Centre. Subsequent Central Assistance is released in instalments based on the progress demonstrated by the individual Growth Centre.

(2) *Industrial Parks Scheme* is for setting up of Industrial Park/Industrial Model Town/Growth Centre for development of Infrastructure facilities including common facilities. The scheme provides tax incentives. No loans/grants are provided under the scheme.

(3) *Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities (ASIDE Scheme):* The Scheme aims at providing assistance to States for creating appropriate infrastructure for development and growth of exports.

(c) and (d) The following schemes are being implemented by Central Government in Rajasthan:

(i) Growth Centre Scheme

(ii) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme

(iii) Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme

(iv) Export Promotion Industrial Park

(v) Assistance to State for Developing Export Infrastructure and allied activities (ASIDE). Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme and Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme have been merged with ASIDE Scheme from the year 2002-03.

The year wise fund release to the above schemes is as follows:

Central Government Grants/Loans since 1.4.1998

Year	Growth Centre (Equity)	IID Centre (Grant)	CIB Scheme (Grant)	EPIP (Grant)	ASIDE (Grant)
1998-99	100	248.50	350	—	—
1999-00	250	—	200	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—	—	—
2001-02	—	25.00	—	—	—
2002-03	—	—	239.15*	Rs. 600* lakh provided out of ASIDE scheme	Rs. 600 lakh has been released to RIICO for EPIP Boranada through State Govt.

*These two schemes have been merged in ASIDE Scheme with effect from 2002-03.

[English]

Contra-Trade Barter Trade

5011. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for International Trade in Agro-based Industries (CITA) has proposed contra-trade/barter trade with Russia which is a major sugar importer;

(b) whether India had entered into such arrangements with Malaysia earlier to provide technical aid for establishment of railway network in exchange of crude palm oil to be imported from Malaysia;

(c) if so, whether the arrangement is working well;

(d) whether such agreements are likely to be entered into with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Government has not received any proposal from the Center for International Trade in Agro based Industries (CITA) regarding counter trade/barter trading in sugar with Russia.

(b) and (c) An Indian company, Indian Railways Construction Co. Ltd. (IRCON) secured a contract in 1999 for construction of 31 Kms rail-link between Senai Station and Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) in Malaysia. This project was awarded to IRCON against counter trade in Palm Oil. This arrangement has worked well.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Patent Offices

5012. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Patent Offices functioning in the country as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether in view of the ever increasing innovative measures taken by the companies to establish themselves through their specialized products, faster need for patenting of these products have been felt;

(c) if so, whether many States, where patent offices are not established have requested the Union Government to establish patent offices in their respective State capitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to establish atleast a patent office in each State capital to enable Indian companies to face patent war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Patent Offices are functioning in Kolkata (Head Office), Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi and have territorial jurisdiction.

(b) Major legislative and administrative initiatives have been taken to revamp the intellectual property framework, including those relating to patents. Government has taken up comprehensive modernization of all its Patent offices. Additional staff having adequate technical qualifications has already been sanctioned to cater to the increasing work-load in Patent Offices. Further, comprehensive computerization of operations in the Patent Offices has also been undertaken in order to link up all the offices electronically, thereby enabling them to exchange information/data. A Manual of Patent Practice and Procedure has also been issued and put up on website to ensure uniformity and transparency in the procedure for grant of patents. The objective is to provide a modernized, responsive, efficient and user-friendly patent granting system.

(c) to (e) A request was received from the State Government of Karnataka for opening a patent office in Bangalore. It was noted that the filing of applications for patents from Karnataka was less than 2% of the total applications filed over he last five years and does not justify opening of a separate office in Bangalore. The modernisation initiatives in respect of the patent offices have been undertaken to develop them as IT enabled offices, to link up all the offices electronically and to provide the facility of filling patent applications on-line electronically thereby obviating the need for establishing patent offices at each State capital.

[Translation]

Reservation in Disinvested PSU

5013. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made for giving the reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes in those public sector enterprises which have been recently privatised by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to make provisions for giving reservation to these persons by way of fulfilling its social responsibility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government is committed to protect the interests of all the workers including those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the case of strategic sales, the interests of the workers are protected by incorporating suitable provisions in the Transaction Agreements, signed at the time of disinvestments. The Recital of the Agreement state that the strategic partner recognizes that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members

of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged sections of the society and that the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons.

[English]

Budgetary Deficit of Andhra Pradesh

5014. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the State Governments including State Government of Andhra Pradesh have received financial assistance from British Government to fill the budgetary deficit for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 with the consent of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details and the amount received;

(c) the date on which the permission/consent was granted by the Union Government;

(d) if not, the action intended to be taken by the Government;

(e) whether the States are entitled under the Constitution to receive such kind of financial assistance from foreign Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) State Governments are not entitled to receive financial assistance directly from foreign Governments. No State Government, including the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, has received any financial assistance from the Government of United Kingdom directly during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Government of India had received a grant of Pound 65 Million (equivalent to Rs. 450 Crores approximately) from DFID as a part of co-financing package with a World Bank loan of $ 250 Million for implementing the Structural Adjustment Programme by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The entire amount of the DFID grant was released by the Government of India to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in a single tranche in March 2001.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Intoxicated Drugs

5015. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau have recently unearthed an illegal intoxicating pills manufacturing factory in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether these pills are being exported to other countries also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of arrests made in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Zonal Unit, Mumbai of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence [DRI] (and not the Narcotics Control Bureau) unearthed an illegal Methaqualone manufacturing unit in Rajasthan on 11-12th April. 2002.

(b) Apart from plant and machinery, 26 grams of Methaqualone were seized. In the subsequent follow-up action about 222.699 kgs of Methaqualone were recovered on 24th April, 2002 at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

(c) and (d) Investigations do not show that these drugs were meant for export.

(e) Five persons involved in the case were arrested.

(f) Complaints under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances [NDPS] Act, 1985 have been filed against the persons involved in the appropriate Court at Mumbai and Jodhpur.

[English]

Export of Herbal Products

5016. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent studies have revealed a vast potential for exports of herbal products;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the countries and markets for export of such products;

(c) the total quantum and value of exports of such products during the last three years and the current year so far; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to exploit such export potential?

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

(b) East European countries, CIS and Far East Countries.

(c) The total quantum and value of exports of herbal products during the last three years and the current year upto July are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

1999-2000 (in million/kg)		2000-2001 (in million/kg)		2001-2002 (in million/kg)		April, 2002 to July, 2002 (in million/kg)	
Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
39.45	195.49	47.48	315.77	49.55	432.85	20.30	246.07

(d) Government of India on its part is extending financial assistance under Market Development Assistance Scheme to the exporters including ayurvedic and herbal exporters for competing in foreign markets through participation in international fairs and exhibitions, for mounting trade delegations and for conducting market surveys in foreign countries. Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy exclusively concentrates on all aspects of herbal industry to redress various problems faced by the industry and has also constituted a 'National Medicinal Plants Board' for ensuring development and sustainable use of medicinal plants and to deal with various issues relating to medicinal plants.

Violation of Take over Code

5017. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has agreed to review their earlier position regarding Gujarat Ambuja ACC's violation of take over case;

(b) if so, whether the Securities Appellate Tribunal has also passed stricture against SEBI in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the SEBI with the further action taken or likely to be taken by SEBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) vide its order dated 25.10.2002 has directed SEBI to investigate whether the Ambujas acquired control over ACC as a result of acquisition of shares held by Tata Group companies and to decide the further course of action required, if any, in the light of the investigation.

Accordingly, SEBI is conducting investigation in the matter of acquisition of shares of ACC by Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd. The investigation is in progress. Appropriate action will be taken depending on the outcome of investigation.

Customs Duty on Life Saving Drugs

5018. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exempted all the life-saving medicines currently under zero customs duty from payment of excise duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that this benefit is passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The life saving drugs and medicines covered under List 4 of notification No. 21/2002-Customs dated 1.3.2002, are fully exempted from all import duties. In terms of note 5 to Chapter 30 of

Central Excise Tariff, the activity of labeling/re-labelling amounts to manufacture. As such these imported drugs were liable to excise duty of 16% when labeled or relabeled so as to comply with the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. To remove this anomaly, these life saving drugs or medicines which are fully exempt from customs duty, when labeled or relabeled so as to comply with the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, have been exempted from central excise duty vide notification No. 55/2002-Central Excise dated 7.11.2002.

(c) The prices charged to the consumers are determined by market forces of demand and supply and depend on various factors like cost of inputs, R&D costs, product quality, sales promotion cost, trade commission, freight charges and taxes. There is no specific provision in excise law for passing on the reduction in duty to the consumers.

Economic Reforms

5019. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sent out a fresh message to India to accelerate its economic reforms in order to improve its overall growth and sustain the gains that have been made on poverty reduction as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 7, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this issue was highlighted in a meeting held at Washington to review India's performance in terms of the bank's country assistance strategy parameters for 2001-2004;

(c) if so, the other issues highlighted in the meeting in regard to the economic policy of India; and

(d) the reaction of the Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The World Board discussed the India Country Assistance Strategy Progress Report on 5.12.2002. The Directors did agree that substantial progress in fiscal consolidation and faster structural reforms will be critical for India to achieve its growth objective and to improve key social indicators more quickly. Directors commenced India's progress in poverty reduction in last decade, noted that accelerated efforts would be needed for India to meet Millennium Development Goals, stressed the need to engage additional states in reform dialogue and supported planned investment lending, including for Railways.

(d) The Government is generally in agreement with the contents of country Assistance Strategy Update and the conclusions reached in Directors' meeting.

Empanelment of Advocates in FCI

5020. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for appointment/empanelled as an advocate in Food Corporation of India;

(b) the total number of advocates appointed/ empanelled in Food Corporation of India;

(c) whether the proposal for appointment as FCI's advocate before Hon'ble Delhi High Court is pending for about eight months in Food Corporation of India;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The existing norms for empanelment by FCI as an advocate for the Hon'ble Supreme Court are: (i) he/she should have 15 years of standing as an advocate-on-record, (ii) he/she shall be an Income-Tax assessee and (iii) he/she should have had at least 25 appearances in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the preceding year in which the empanelment is sought.

The existing norms for empanelment by FCI as an advocate for an Hon'ble High Court are: (i) he/she should have ten years of standing at the Bar and (ii) he/she shall be an Income-Tax assessee.

(b) So far, 4 advocates for the Hon'ble Supreme Court and 165 advocates for different High Courts have been empanelled.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Integrated Development Project for TSP Area

5021. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals for Integrated Development Project for Saharia and irrigation Project in Tribal sub plan area and expansion of Tribal Sub plan area from the Government of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received the following proposals from Govt. of Rajasthan:

(i) Integrated Development Projects for the Saharia Primitive Tribe Group (PTG)

(ii) Irrigation Project Proposals in the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Area

(a) Water Harvesting Structures and Community Lift Irrigations.

(b) Strengthening of Existing Minor Irrigation Schemes.

(c) Construction of Anicuts.

(iii) Expansion of the Tribal Sub Plan Area for inclusion of areas under ITDP/MADA Pockets.

(c) All the proposals have been examined & the Govt. of Rajasthan has been requested to submit additional information in respect of each proposal.

Foodgrains to BPL Families in Gujarat

5022. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government are allotting BPL quota (Wheat plus rice) on the basis of 21.20 lakh BPL families instead of about 35 lakh BPL families in Gujarat state;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposal to increase the monthly quota of BPL wheat and rice against Gujarat State's demand; and

(d) if so, the details and actual allocation made for each month during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Targeted Public Distribution allocation of foodgrains to all States/UTs is being made as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-1994), updated on the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2002 without exception. It is not possible to revise the allocation by making an exception. The monthly allocation of wheat and rice during the current year to the State of Gujarat is 46396 tonnes and 16433 tonnes respectively.

[Translation]

Vacant post in Income Tax

5023. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the number of vacant posts of officers and employees in the Income Tax Department at present and the time since when these posts are vacant;

(b) the impact of these vacancies on the efficiency of the department;

(c) whether the Government propose to fill up these vacant posts;

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be filled; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The present position of Group 'A' vacant posts is as under:—

(i) *Commissioners of Income Tax-45* (vacant since April 2002 on account of promotion of CIT to the next higher grade, retirement and deputation)

(ii) *Additional/Joint Commissioners of Income Tax-*290 (vacant since April 2001 due to pending cases in Central Administrative Tribunals)

Information in respect of Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Arrangement have been made to deploy the existing available working strength judiciously so that there is no adverse impact on the efficiency of the Department.

(c) to (e) Steps have been taken to fill up all vacant posts with the exception of three categories, for which recruitment rules are being framed.

Income Tax Offices In Country

5024. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of income tax offices in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of Income Tax Offices at present?

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

(b) The number of Income Tax Offices in the country has been increased so as to widen the tax base, enhance the revenue collection and to provide better services to the taxpayers.

(c) The Income Tax Offices are located, at present, at 488 places. Further, in 13 cases, approvals for opening new Income Tax Offices have been granted in the year 2002.

[English]

Chief Executives of Banks

5025. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review its policy of making appointments of Chief Executives of Banks and Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the revised policy formulated in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which it will make the accountability of the executives more transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Appointments Board, constituted for advising Government on appointment of whole-time directors in Banks and Financial Institutions, in its meeting held on 25th November, 2002 reviewed he existing policy for appointment of Chief Executives of public sector banks and recommended a selection system based on interaction/interview with the existing Executive Directors of nationalised banks and suitably qualified persons and outside Government for appointment as chief executives of the public sector banks.

The recommendation of the Appointments Board is under consideration of the Government.

Memorandum from Zinc Producing Units

5026. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has received any Memorandum from some Zinc metal producing units;

(b) if so, the names of such Zinc producing units both in the public as well as private sector;

(c) the main problems mentioned in Memorandum; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto with the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The names of zinc metal producing units are as under:-

1. Hindustan Zinc Limited, a joint venture company of Government of India and M/s Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Limited.
2. Binani Industries Limited (a unit in private sector).

(c) In their representations, the Zinc metal producing units have requested for reduction of import duty on zinc. In their post-budget (2002-03) representations, restoration of the basic customs duty on Zinc to the pre-budget level of 35% and reduction of the customs duty on zinc concentrates to 0% have been requested.

(d) The representations are dealt with the existing instructions and policies of the Government. During the Budget 2002-03, basic customs duty on non-ferrous metals was reduced, as per Government's policy, to attain a two rate custom duty structure (10% and 20%) by 2004-05 and basic custom duty on zinc was reduced from 35% to 25%. The import duty on zinc concentrate of 5% is the lowest non-zero rate and no change is considered due to large duty differential between the zinc metal and zinc concentrate.

Modification of ST List

5027. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have laid down a specific procedure in 1999 for modification in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any representations against this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The modalities approved by the Government in June, 1999 lay down that amending legislation would be proposed to the Parliament in all cases in which the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Registrar General of India as well as the State Governments/Union territory Administrations have favoured modifications.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

External Assistance for Orissa

5028. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal for assistance from World Bank and Department for International Development (DFID) for financial restructuring and budgetary reforms in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether there is any proposal for allotting 850 crores as first instalment out of the 3000 crores sanctioned assistance to be made available to the State Government during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The proposal has been posed to the World Bank. Detailed programme is under preparation currently by the State Government in consultation with Ministry of Finance and World Bank.

Prosecution against Companies

5029. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was reported recently in the press that Department of Company Affairs has ordered prosecution against 13 companies for non-compoundable offences in the stock market scam;

(b) if so, the details of the offences committed by these companies;

(c) the names of the companies and the amount involved against each company;

(d) the major recommendations of the Joshi Commission in this regard; and

(e) the recommendations implemented or proposed to be implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Based on inspections under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956, Department of Company Affairs ordered prosecutions for offences that carry terms of imprisonment or are non-compoundable in respect of 13 companies for violation of provisions of Section 68, 209A(8), 372A and 628/211 of the Act. The names of said 13 companies are as under:—

(1) M/s Cyberspace Ltd;

(2) M/s First Global Stock Broking (P) Ltd;

(3) M/s First Global Finance Ltd;

(4) M/s Vruddhi Confinvest India Pvt Ltd;

(5) M/s Pentamedia Graphics Ltd.;

(6) M/s Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Ltd;

(7) M/s Goldfish Computers Ltd;

(8) M/s Nakshatra Software (P) Ltd;

(9) M/s DSQ Software Ltd;

(10) M/s Dolat Capital Market Ltd;

(11) M/s Shailesh Shah Securities Ltd;

(12) M/s Adani Exports Ltd; and

(13) M/s Rathi Global Finance Ltd.

(d) and (e) The Joshi Committee has not given any recommendations in respect of the above matter.

Serious Fraud Office

5030. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up serious frauds office to limit corporate frauds on cheating of shareholders, depositors and investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of cases with the Government for investigation of frauds committed by corporates involving Rs. 10 crore and more; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government to book the guilty?

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

(b) Detailed provisions are still being finalised.

(c) and (d) In the financial year 2002-03, investigation under section 235/237 of the Companies Act has been ordered in respect of 3 companies. Further, prosecution under section 63, 68 & 628 has been ordered against more than 100 companies.

[Translation]

Foreign Loans for Textiles Industry

5031. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to simplify the rules relating to borrowing of commercial loan from foreign countries by the textile units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the year-wise, benefits likely to accrue to the textile units in Maharashtra and Gujarat as a result of simplifications of rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) At present External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) in foreign exchange upto US $ 50 million or its equivalent by an Indian entity for general corporate purposes with average maturity of not less than 3 years is permissible under automatic route with the stipulation that such funds should not be used for investment in stock market or in real estate business. As such the textile units can resort to ECG upto US$ 50 million.

(c) State-wise analysis of the impact of such borrowings is not maintained centrally.

Assistance to Disabled

5032. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of the Government to provide assistance to disabled persons;

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose in the budget 2002-2003;

(c) the amount of funds utilized out of this till date; and

(d) the amount of funds earmarked for hilly, backward and bordering States specially Himachal Pradesh and the amount disbursed out of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are also assisted under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). Soft loans are also provided by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self-employment ventures.

(b) and (c) Rs. 136.30 crore has been released so far out of the total budget allocation of Rs. 237.33 crores for 2002-2003.

(d) Funds are not allocated State-wise.

[English]

State SC/ST Commission in AP

5033. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal for setting up State Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Commission in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be approved?

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

(b) The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2002, reserved by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, for President's consideration under Article 254(2) of the Constitution of India was received in Ministry of Home Affairs on 26-4-2002. The same is being referred to Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Legal Affairs) for advice by MHA.

Investor Education Programmes by SEBI

5034. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has taken any steps to start "investor education" for more alertness amongst the investing public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SEBI has retained the services of any institutions or university to start educating the investing public; and

(d) if so, the details of such steps initiated by SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has in the past issued advertisements in newspapers informing investors, inter-alia, about their rights, responsibilities and key terms used in capital markets. Messages in the interests of investors have been telecast on national and regional channels of Doordarshan.

A booklet titled "A Quick Reference Guide for Investors" has been published by SEBI and also made available to investors through its web-site (www.sebi.gov.in). Other information for investors is also provided on the SEBI website.

Investors' Associations registered with SEBI are extended financial support to SEBI to organise seminars related to securities market for educating investors and also for publication and circulation of investor education material.

SEBI proposes to launch a Securities Market Awareness Campaign shortly. State level seminars/ workshops are to be conducted across the country.

(c) SEBI has intimated that they have not retained the services of any institution or university in this regard.

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

NPAs of Banks

5035. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has ruled out any involvement of officials of nationalised banks in cases of NPAs;

(b) if so, whether any indepth study/investigations have been conducted by RBI;

(c) if so, the reports of the investigating team; and

(d) the reasons for failure of the nationalised banks to recover NPAs timely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines to the banks advising them to examine staff accountability in the case of compromise or negotiated settlement of their Non-Performing Accounts expeditiously within a time frame.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The major reason for the failure of the nationalized banks to recover NPAs is that mortgage backed loans extended by the banks are governed by the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1862. Under the Act banks' power to sell the property in case of loan defaults without

the intervention of courts is available only in certain specified cases. Taking possession of the property by the mortgagee (banks) in such cases also involves long drawn litigation. Hence, realization of security in the case of mortgage backed loans has not been easy under the legal system which existed prior to the promulgation of the "Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interests Ordinance, 2002". The Bill to replace the said Ordinance has been passed by both Houses of Parliament recently. The new legislation will facilitate faster recovery of NPAs by banks.

Disclosure Norms for Companies

5036. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the market regulator SEBI has decided for strict disclosure norms for the companies;

(b) if so, whether in an effort to bring in transparency for the common investors SEBI is launching an electronic data filing system for 200 companies;

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

(d) to what extent they have been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has prescribed strict disclosure norms, for example, in the SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 for companies making public issues; in the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 and as part of corporate governance requirements. Further, SEBI has recently advised exchanges to amend the listing agreement requiring companies to disclose, inter-alia, audit qualifications and matters regarding buy back of securities.

(b) and (c) On 5th July 2002, SEBI launched an Electronic Data Information Filing and Retrieval System (EDIFAR) to facilitate Electronic filing of information by listed companies, including financial statements, corporate governance reports, share holding pattern statement, action taken against the company by any regulatory agency etc. This is an automated system for filing, retrieval and dissemination of time-sensitive corporate information which is now being filed physically with stock exchanges by listed companies. The system is being introduced in a phased manner and is at present applicable to 700 companies.

(d) This system has been launched recently. It has been effective in enhancing information dissemination; providing easy access to timely and accurate corporate information; and facilitating informed decision making, thereby enhancing transparency and efficiency in the securities markets.

Promotion of Textiles

5037. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established cooperation with Australia to promote trade on natural fibres, textiles and wool; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal mooted in this regard for 2002-2003 financial year.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) An India Australia Joint Business Group on Natural Fibres and Textiles has been established in February, 2000.

(b) The Joint Business Group has considered and agreed that there is need to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas concerning education and training, product development, market access, research and development by taking up the following initiatives:—

(i) Absorptive Capacity Study on the requirement of trained personnel in the Indian Woolen Industry;

(ii) Curriculum Review of training institutes in order to enhance the wool content to meet the requirements of the Indian Woolen industry;

(iii) Collaboration between RMIT (Australia) and NIFT (India) in the area of fashion, design and marketing;

(iv) R&D in the area of blending of natural fibre-cotton, wool, jute and pashmina/cashmere and silk; and

(v) A Study on the Demand & Supply Chain of raw wool from Australia.

Amendments in State Financial Corporation

5038. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for implementation of comprehensive amendments in State

Financial Corporation (SFC) Act, 1951 enacted in the year 2000 with the views to enlarging capital base, allowing functional autonomy and operational flexibility to State Financial Corporations in the country to forge ahead viably to meet the challenges of massive liberalization and globalization; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far for implementation of such amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The State Financial Corporations (SFCs) (Amendment) Act, 2000 inter-alia envisages functional autonomy and operational flexibility of SFCs by enhancing their authorized capital to Rs. 500 crores which can be further enhanced upto Rs. 1000 crores by the State Government on the recommendations of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The Act also provides for issue of share capital upto 49% of the equity capital to the Public. SIDBI has reported that some of the SFCs have already enhanced the authorized share capital and few others have approached the respective State Governments in the matter. Under the Amended Act, all the restrictions on issue of bonds, sale of debentures and borrowing of money including deposits of SFCs stand removed. The Board of SFCs have been given freedom to decide on the borrowing of SFCs from any person and decide on the terms and conditions on which such borrowings are made. SFCs being State entities and the State Governments being major stakeholders, the State Governments and SFCs are reported making use of the amendments carried out in the SFCs Act, 1951.

Artificial Joints

5039. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of artificial joints are imported from abroad, though Government admit that the same are manufactured in the country as per International standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the quality of artificial joints as to reduce the expenditure on their imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) 5756 artificial joints were imported during 2001-02 as per the report of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India' (Annual Number for 2001-02). Aids and appliances for persons with disabilities including joints are being manufactured by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a Corporation under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The Corporation is manufacturing 1,25,000 joints every year in house from stainless steel materials that are of international quality. However, some import of joints takes place as per requirement of individuals.

Dismantling of Multi-Fibre Arrangement

5040. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Multi Fibre Arrangement would be totally dismantled in the year 2005;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the resultant implications for India in the international trade regime and the policy adopted for increasing the global and domestic competitiveness of the Indian textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Till December 31, 1994, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries (e.g. US; member countries of EU; Canada) had been governed by bilateral textile agreements entered into between India and these countries under the aegis of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), outside the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With effect from January 1, 1995, the quantitative restrictions (import quotas) in the bilateral agreements under the MFA, are being governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. Presently, our textiles and clothing items face restraints in USA, European Union and Canada.

As per the ATC, the textile quotas would be phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO by 1st January 2005.

(d) The market access for our products are expected to increase with dismantling of quotas and to that extent the textile industry will have more opportunities to export. The Government has also taken the following steps to make the industry more competitive:—

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/ programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has been launched. A provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(ix) The Textile Export Promotion Councils have been undertakings promotional measures for boosting exports of textiles to various countries including USA and European countries.

Sick Urban Cooperative Banks

5041. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) the total number of urban co-operative banks in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) which have become sick during the last three years;

(c) whether more UCBs are likely to become sick by the end of the current financial year;

(d) if so, whether the Government have made efforts to identify the causes for dismal performance of UCBs all over the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial action taken by the Government to improve the financial health of UCBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there are 2,090 urban co-operative banks (UCBs) in the country as on March 31, 2002. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that the system of classification of UCBs "sick" was introduced from 31st March, 2002. Based on the financial position of UCBs, 26 banks have so far been classified as "sick". The position in regard to more number of UCBs getting classified as sick would be known only after the annual review or statutory inspection of the banks is conducted.

(d) and (e) RBI has identified various, factors leading to sickness in UCBs in the country. These include low entry level capital, deficiencies in management, competition, limited sources for raising funds, low resistance in financial crisis and systemic reaction.

(f) RBI has taken a series of measures to correct the systemic deficiencies and to strengthen the system of supervision on UCBs. These measures inter-alia include putting ceiling on operations in call money market and bank finance against shares and debentures, increase in percentage of SLR investments in Government Securities, restrictions on interest rates on depositors offered by UCBs and investment of funds as deposit with other UCBs, etc.

Statement

State-wise number of Urban Co-operative Banks as on March 31, 2002

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of urban cooperative banks
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	169
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
4.	Assam	13
5.	Bihar	11
6.	Chandigarh	—
7.	Daman & Diu	—
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—
9.	Goa	7
10.	Gujarat	359
11.	Haryana	8
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
14.	Karnataka	321
15.	Kerala	65
16.	Lakshadweep	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	90
18.	Maharashtra	666
19.	Manipur	5
20.	Meghalaya	3
21.	Mizoram	1
22.	Nagaland	1
23.	NCT of Delhi	21
24.	Orissa	14
25.	Pondicherry	2
26.	Punjab	5
27.	Rajasthan	44
28.	Tamil Nadu	136
29.	Tripura	1
30.	Uttar Pradesh	77
31.	Uttaranchal	7
32.	West Bengal	55
	Total	2,090

Welfare Schemes

5042. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes being run by this Ministry under the "Employment for handicapped" scheme under the welfare schemes meant for others;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government to provide loans, grant and the financial assistance under these schemes;

(c) the contribution or financial share of the State Government in these schemes;

(d) the names of the welfare schemes being implemented in Rajasthan directly by the Ministry or by the State Government of Rajasthan or by other voluntary organizations since April, 1998; and

(e) the Scheme-wise and year-wise details of the amount provided by the Union Government in the form of loan, grant or financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Employment of Handicapped", Central assistance is provided to the states for Special Employment Exchanges for persons with disabilities on 80:20 sharing basis between the Central Government and the State Government respectively. 100% Central assistance is given for maintenance of special cells in regular Employment Exchanges. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides soft loans for self-employment ventures to the persons with disabilities whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,00,000/- in urban areas and Rs. 80,000/- in rural areas.

(d) and (e) Financial assistance under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities

(Umbrella Scheme) and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) released directly to organizations in Rajasthan from 1998-99 to 2001-02 is as under:—

Year	Umbrella Scheme	ADIP Scheme
1998-1999	0.30	2.66
1999-2000	0.88	3.49
2000-2001	0.94	3.60
2001-2002	1.56	3.83

[English]

Naresh Chandra Committee Report

5043. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICAI has proposed the Government to make rotation of auditors mandatory as to make the profession above any suspicion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Naresh Chandra Committee set up to examine the issue has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government to the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts in Indian Audit and Accounts Service

5044. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies of Group 'A' are lying vacant in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in each grade as on date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill in these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) 'The number of vacancies existing in different grades of Indian Audit and Accounts Service Group 'A' as on 1.8.2002 are as under:—

1.	Principal Accountant General	-	1
2.	Senior Administrative Grade	-	5
3.	Junior Administrative Grade	-	7
4.	Senior Time Scale	-	70
5.	Junior Time Scale	-	95
	Total	-	178

The vacancies are kept in the higher grades to accommodate the persons to be promoted and who would be reverting from deputation. For the entry grade (Junior Time Scale), the direct recruit vacancies are reported to Union Public Service Commission and the promotion vacancies are filled up by promotion from Group 'B' as per rules.

Tax Exemption on Donation for Cultural Complex

5045. SHRI K. YEERANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh requested to consider 100 percent exemption under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the donations made for the construction of cultural complex at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) Under Section 80G, 100% deduction is only allowed for donations made to funds of national importance or to certain State funds for disaster management and medical relief to the poor. On satisfaction of the stipulated conditions, donations made to the A.P. Cultural Fund would be eligible for 50% deduction.

Action against Directors of Vanishing Companies

5046. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has started criminal proceedings against the Director and management of vanishing companies;

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

(c) the number the details of companies declared vanished during the last three years;

(d) the public money involved therein with the persons affected therefrom; and

(e) the further action plan of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that they have not started criminal proceedings against the directors and management of vanishing companies.

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

(c) Seven Task Forces have been constituted region-wise to identify "vanishing" companies. The Task forces are monitored by a Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee co-chaired by Secretary, Department of Company Affairs and Chairman, SEBI. These Task forces have not identified any company as "vanished" during the last three years.

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

(e) On the basis of certain criteria evolved by the Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee, out of 7050 issues which came during 1992-98, 175 companies have been identified as vanishing companies. The total issue size involved is Rs. 950.41 crores. SEBI and the Department of Company Affairs are taking action against these companies.

In order to ensure that companies do not vanish after raising money from the public, the SEBI-DCA Coordination and Monitoring Committee is examining and exploring various courses of action such as including authenticated photographs, passport numbers, PAN etc. of the promoters/directors at the time of incorporation and in the prospectus while coming out with public/rights issues; monitoring the end use of funds; freezing assets of promoters/directors of defaulting companies and disqualification of persons in default; filing of FIR jointly by DCA and SEBI; and initiation of prosecution proceedings against vanishing companies.

LIC Companies Abroad

5047. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) proposes to set up companies in Oman, Australia, Newzealand and Zanzibar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the formalities in this regard have since been finalised; and

(d) if so, the time by which the LIC is expected to start its operations there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that in pursuance of their strategy for expansion of International Operations, they plan to start operations in Oman, Australia and New Zealand. However, there are no plans to set up a company in Zanzibar.

(b) and (c) LIC (International) E.C., Bahrain a subsidiary company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with North Gulf Insurance Agencies Co. for starting branch operations in the Sultanate of Oman.

As far as Australia and New Zealand are concerned they are still in the market exploratory phase.

(d) The new branch of LIC (International) E.C., Brahrain is expected to commence operations in the Sultanate of Oman by April, 2003.

Working of CBEC

5048. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to expand and strengthen the Central Board of Excise and Customs and the Central Board of Direct Taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in many cases enquiry could not be completed due to the retirement of Chairman and Members of these Boards during the pending of these cases;

(d) if so, the details of such cases for the last two years; and

(e) the specific steps being taken in this direction?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Retirement of Chairmen and Members of the Boards does not affect the process of inquiries, which are conducted and completed in the manner prescribed in the applicable rules.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Dumping of Soda Ash by China

5049. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the adverse effects of soda-ash dumped by China; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes sir. Anti-dumping investigations were initiated by Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties on imports of Soda Ash from China PR vide notification dated 5.7.1999. Based on the recommendations of the Designated Authority, definitive anti-dumping duty in the range of difference between US $ 193.10/MT to US $ 197.10/MT and the landed value of import has been levied by the Government.

Indo-Finnish Joint Commission Meet

5050. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have participated in the 13th meeting of the Indo-Finnish Joint Commission recently;

(b) if so, the decision taken in regard to improving the bilateral trade;

(c) whether any Joint Venture Agreements were signed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which Finland agreed to make efforts to boost the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The 13th Meeting of the Finnish-Indian Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on the 11th November, 2002.

(b) The two sides exchanged views on stepping up bilateral economic cooperation in sectors such as energy, environment, healthcare, information technology, science & technology, air services, ports, shipping, culture, financial cooperation, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It was noted that concessional credits from Finland were available for projects in the public and private sectors mainly in the areas of environment and social development. The Finnish side pointed out that discussions are on between FINNFUND and EXIM Bank of India to catalyse and support commercially oriented research and development as well as client interface ventures involving Indian and Finnish entities in fields such as ICT, bio-technology and pharmaceuticals.

Accounting Firms

5051. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted searches on some accounting firms recently;

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

(c) the outcome of such searches; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure this type of searches be followed at regular intervals in future to keep tab of the accounting firms?

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

(b) During Financial Year 2002-03, a search was conducted at the premises of an accounting firm of Delhi on 6.9.2002. This search was conducted for the reasons given in reply to part (d) below.

(c) Cash of Rs. 2,50,000/- and share certificate of face value of Rs. 17,32,500/- were seized.

(d) The searches can only be conducted if on the basis of information collected by the Department, the Director of Income Tax (investigation) is satisfied that the income, which has not been disclosed or is not likely to be disclosed to the Department can be unearthed by conducting search in that case.

[Translation]

Ashram School for STs

5052. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes in the country;

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

(c) the number of students being benefited from these schools?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas, proposals are received from the State Govts./UTs and sanctioned by the Central Govt. It is a 50:50 scheme and construction cost is sanctioned on demand.

(c) Since the inception of the Scheme in 1990-91 a total of 720 Ashram Schools with 1,00,305 seats have been sanctioned by the Ministry.

[English]

Registration of Analysis in Stock Market

5053. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to register analysts operating in the stock and shares sector;

(b) if so, whether some experts have suggested formulation of some such regulation for Analysts;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the working of analysts in the New York Stock Exchange and other well established stock exchanges;

(d) if so, the findings thereof with the legal position and responsibilities of analysts; and

(e) the steps proposed to bring analysts within some kind of regulation to enhance investor protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the Research Analysts operating in the Stock and shares sector are neither registered nor regulated by SEBI. Further, no such suggestion has been received by SEBI.

(e) Model Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading for various entities set out in the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992, covers analysts also. The code of conduct provides that:

(i) Analysts, if any, employed by any organisation/ firm for preparing a research report shall disclose their shareholding/interest in the company to the compliance officer of that firm/organisation.

(ii) Analysts preparing research reports of listed company shall not trade in securities of that company for 30 days from the date of preparation of such reports.

The SEBI (Investment advice by Intermediaries) Regulations, 2001 also provide that:

(a) An intermediary or any of his employees shall not render, directly or indirectly, any investment advice about any security in the publicly accessible media, whether real-time or non-real time, unless a disclosure of his interest including his long and sort position in the security has been made while rendering such advice.

(b) In case, an employee of the intermediary is rendering such advice, he shall also disclose the interest of his dependent family members and the employer including their long or short position in the said security, while rendering such advice.

Common Legalisation Service Sector Taxation

5054. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduced common legislation service sector taxation, and an amendment to the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also set up a task force on direct taxes for rationalising and simplifying procedures while strengthening enforcement to improve revenue mop up; and

(d) if so, the time by when the task force is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) States have taken a unanimous decision to replace their existing sales tax system with Value Added Tax (VAT) system from 1st April, 2003. In this context and also widen their resource base, the States have requested that they should be enabled to collect and appropriate the proceeds of tax on services. Action has already been initiated on this request of the States.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Task Force has made public on 2nd November, 2002 a consultation paper for wider discussion and comments.

Inferior Quality Rice in Food for Work Programme

5055. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether rice supplied under the 'Food for Work' programme to the State Governments has been found to be of very poor quality;

(b) whether the poor quality of rice was procured from the State of Punjab;

(c) if so, the State Governments which have declined to accept rice procured from Punjab;

(d) whether the quality of rice procured from Punjab was checked before its procurement;

(e) if so, the reasons for the refusal to accept Punjab's rice; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to supply good quality rice to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Procurement of rice during each kharif season is done by technically qualified staff posted at each procurement center who ensure procurement strictly as per the quality specifications laid down by the Government.

(e) No complaint has been received regarding refusal to accept Punjab rice.

(f) The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains including rice are supplied to the States:—

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Government's and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPDs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

Insurance Schemes for Schizophernia and Mentally Afflicted Persons

5056. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether there has been any discussion amongst the insurance Regulatory Development Authority, the Psychiatrists, the Government and a newly formed "Schizophrenia Support Group" for insurance schemes for Schizophrenics and mentally afflicted persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes have been evolved to extend such insurance support; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have informed that there have been no discussions in the matter. The General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) have informed that the four Public Sector General Insurance Companies have no request on the subject from Schizophrenia support group;

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Public Issue of Banks

5057. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the less public issue collections by public sector banks during 2001-2002 than the private banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of public issues floated during 2000-2001 and how much money was collected therefrom by the public sector banks and private banks separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) During the year 2001-2002 one public sector bank viz. Punjab National Bank made Initial Public Offer (IPO) at Rs. 31/- per share (Rs. 10/- per share+premium of Rs. 21/-) and collected Rs. 164.49 crore. No public issue was floated by any private sector bank during the year 2001-02.

(c) During the year 2000-2001 three public sector banks viz. Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank and Andhra Pradesh Bank made IPO at par and collected a total amount of Rs. 361.20 crore. No public issue was floated by any private sector bank during the year 2000-01.

Institute of Actuaries

5058. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up an institute of Actuaries to regulate and develop the profession of actuaries in India;

(b) whether the private players in the insurance field have also agreed to share in the funding of the Actuaries Institute; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by what time the Institute is likely to be set up and started functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) It has been decided by the Government to introduce a Bill for the establishment of an Institute of Actuaries to regulate and develop the profession of actuaries in India.

(b) and (c) The proposed institute is expected to be self-financing and self-supporting.

Micro Projects for Tribals

5059. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the micro projects launched in Orissa; and

(b) the number of tribes benefited under these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Seventeen Micro-Projects have been launched in Orissa for the Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) identified in the state.

(b) As reported by the state government 59,710 tribal beneficiaries of 12 PTGs have been covered under the scheme.

Import of Sensitive Items

5060. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

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

(a) the quantum of sensitive items imported during each of the last two years and the percentage of increased registered over the previous years;

(b) whether imports of sensitive commodities has further increased during April-September, 2002 as compared to the corresponding period of last year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) 300 items were identified as sensitive items following removal of Quantitative Restrictions last year, import of which is being monitored by an Inter-Ministerial group. During 2001-2002 import of these items was Rs. 10,726 crores as compared to Rs. 9,985 crores during 2000-2001 showing a growth of 7.4%.

(b) and (c) As per the provisional estimates, import of these items for the first six months of the current financial year is Rs. 6,487 crores as compared to Rs. 5,854 crores for the corresponding period of last year thereby showing an increase of 11%. The growth of imports in general for the same period is 12%. Detailed analysis of these sensitive items show that the growth is accounted for mainly due to increase of import of crude palm oil.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Board of Directors in Banks

5061. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of posts lying vacant in the Board of Directors of various banks located in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi as on November 30, 2002; and

(b) the time by which all the vacant posts of the Board of Directors are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As on 30.11.2002, no post of whole-time director on the boards of the banks having headquarters in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is lying vacant.

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

[English]

Irregularities in NCCF

5062. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in NCCF who are involved in irregularities and corruption in cases where investigations have been completed so far;

(b) the outcome of the investigations;

(c) the number of cases that are pending investigations and since when giving details of irregularities;

(d) the number of cases referred to CBI giving the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for such large number cases of irregularities;

(f) the steps taken to expedite the finalisation of the case pending departmental proceedings;

(g) whether the rates of low value items are higher by 30% than the open market; and

(h) if so, steps taken to purchase all unbranded and so called how value items on tender or from the manufacturers only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The NCCF of India Ltd. is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to decide about its business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that investigations in respect of four cases related to irregularities involving nine employees have been completed as on 15.12.2002. Minor penalty was imposed in respect of two cases and warning issued in another case; while in respect of the fourth case, the CBI has not recommended any action against any employee of the NCCF.

(c) There are five cases pending as on 5.12.2002, the details of which are given in the Statement.

(d) One case related to irregularities in procurement of wheat from M.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation for onward supply to World Food Programme was taken up for investigation by the CBI. The CBI has not recommended any action against any employee of NCCF, Bhopal Branch.

(e) The NCCF is a commercial organization. Its transactions are undertaken through 31 branches/sub-branches located in different parts of the country. Taking into consideration the above facts, the numbers of cases of irregularities do not seem to be large.

(f) The NCCF is making efforts to expedite the finalisation of the pending cases. It has already introduced preventive vigilance measures, so that the number of irregularities could be further brought down.

(g) and (h) The NCCF has denied the charge that their rates are higher by 30% in respect of the un-branded/low value items. The NCCF has maintained that they procure these items from their registered suppliers at company rates prevailing in the open market, so that their selling rates are competitive. The prices are reviewed periodically by the NCCF depending upon the market conditions.

Statement

Details of the Cases of irregularities committed by the NCCF Employees that are pending as on 5.12.2002

(i) Guwahati Branch	-	The case relates to various irregularities in various business transactions. The case has been put up to competent authority for decision on 16.12.2002.
(ii) Delhi Branch	-	Irregularities in supply of cleaning material to AIIMS, New Delhi. The case has been put up to the disciplinary authority for further action.
(iii) Delhi Branch	-	Irregularities in releasing of security deposit by the Branch Manager, Delhi. The disciplinary authority has advised the concerned official to deposit the amount by 31.12.2002.
(iv) Mumbai Branch	-	Irregularities in sale of confiscated poppy seeds. Regular enquiry is in final stage.
(v) Kolkata Branch	-	Irregularities in direct sale of confiscated goods to the Primary Societies. The matter has been referred to CVC on 16.10.2002 for taking their 1st stage advice.

Purchase of Stationery

5063. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOP&T issued on OM on February 10, 2000 asking the Government offices not to invite quotations from NCCF and Super Bazar but to purchase the stationery and other items from any one of them at the rates prevailing therein without making any comparison of rates and quality of items;

(b) if so, the authority under which the DOP&T issue such an OM and whether the Department of Expenditure was consulted prior to the issue of the said OM;

(c) the action proposed to be taken immediately to withdraw that OM and direct the Government offices to purchase the stationery and other items on competitive rates;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to stop making purchases of furniture, computers, photocopiers, air-conditioners, televisions, overhead projectors etc. from the named agencies but upon open public tenders; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Survey Report on NCCF

5064. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2502 and 2427 on December 5, 2001 regarding supply of stationery and state:

(a) the details of the outcome of the survey report;

(b) the number of complaints received so far in NCCF and how many of those complaints were investigated; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Department of Personnel & Training has clarified that the two Unstarred Question No. 2502 and 2427 replied on 5.12.2001 related to Kendriya Bhandar. The NCCF is a Multi-State Cooperative Society, which has its own Board of Directors to decide about its business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has constituted Monitoring Committees at branch level to undertake periodical survey for ascertaining the level of satisfaction from its customers. The Branch Managers take corrective remedial measures, if found necessary, on the basis of these reports.

(b) The numbers of complaints thus received are being looked into by the NCCF. The status of these complaints are as under:—

Vigilance nature: Nine complaints received during 2002-03 (up to December 2002). This includes four pending complaints for the year 2001-02. Investigation in four complaints was completed.

Administrative nature: NCCF received four cases through the Department of Consumer Affairs. No action was required in one case, which has been filed with the approval of the Board of Directors. Disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the officials in other three cases, of which disciplinary proceedings in one case has since been completed and in the remaining two cases, these are in progress.

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

[Translation]

Seizure of Narcotics

5065. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of narcotic drugs seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau during the last year and the current year till date;

(b) the procedure for the disposal of such narcotic drugs;

(c) whether these drugs can be used for some useful items and if so the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Details of narcotic drugs seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau during the years 2001 and 2002 (upto November) are given in the Statement. In the absence of authentic market rates, valuation of the seized narcotic drugs is not possible.

(b) and (c) Seized narcotic drugs, other than opium, morphine, codeine and thebaine, are liable to be disposed of by destruction through incineration. Seized opium, morphine, codeine and thebaine are utilized for extraction of alkaloids by the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories for medicinal and scientific use.

Statement

Details of narcotic drugs seized by the Narcotic Control Bureau during the last year and the current year upto November

Drugs	2001 Quantity of drugs (in Kg.)	2002 (upto November) Quantity of drugs (in Kg.)
Heroin	206.32	378.96
Hashish/Charas	292	1097.816
Ganja	496,065	970.175
Opium	18	7.75
Methaqualone/Mandrax	1628.28	2967.5

[English]

Indo-Singapore Economic Ties

5066. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Singapore has expressed its keenness to establish better ties with India; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals mooted in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) During the Prime Minister's official visit to Singapore in April, 2002, India and Singapore agreed to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries by setting up a Joint Study Group to explore the feasibility of entering into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). The Joint Study Group has had four meetings and is expected to submit its report in April, 2003. Thereafter the actual negotiations on the CECA are expected to begin.

Medical Policy for Retired Employees of Banks/FI

5067. SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to devise any uniform medical policy for retired employees of banks and Financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Third Party Insurance Cover

5068. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the arbitrary and heavy increase in the premium under the Third Party Insurance Cover, in the Kerala Region, effected by the General Insurance Companies, in gross Violation of the norms set by the Insurance Regulatory Authority and Tariff Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the enhance premium and to take precautionary measures against recurrence of such abnormal increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Premium rates for motor insurance are fixed by the Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC) and not by the Government. TAC is a Statutory Body established under the provisions of Insurance Act, 1938 which functions under the direction charge of Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA). Premium rates for motor third party insurance cover have been increased by the TAC w.e.f. 1.7.2002 on the basis of recommendations made by the Ansari Committee. The IRDA is reported to have received some complaints/ representations, from some areas including Kerala region, that tariff structure has not been adhered to and that there has been high increase in the tariff. The IRDA has since issued instructions to all the general insurance companies to strictly follow the motor tariff approved by the TAC.

Revival of Mills

5069. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to revive Minerva and Yellamma Mills in Davangere in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the revival plan has been prepared; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent for the revival of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revival of these mills is a part of Rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by BIFR for NTC (APKKM) Ltd.

(c) The amount proposed to be spent for revival of these two mills is Rs. 130.7 crores (Rs. 103.19 crores for Minerva Mills and Rs. 27.52 crores for Yellamma Mills).

Funds to NGO of Meghalaya

5070. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NGOs in the State of Meghalaya to whom financial assistance is given by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of activities of such NGOs;

(c) whether some cases of misappropriation of funds by these NGOs have come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of NGOs in the State of Meghalaya who have received grant-in-aid during the last three years alongwith details of activities (projects)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the organisation	Name of the project	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)		
				1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Name of the Scheme: To promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities				
1.	Shillong	Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre, Shillong	Special School for Handicapped	—	—	0.75
2.	Shillong	The Society for the Welfare of the Disabled	Special Schools for Handicapped	—	0.83	6.87
3.	Shillong	The Society for the Welfare of the Disabled	Special School for Handicapped (Mary Rice)	0.58	8.49	7.86
4.	Shillong	Dwar Jingkrymen School for Children in Need of Special Education	Education cum VTC for MR & Spastic Children	3.69	6.10	6.52
5.	Tura	Montford Centre for Education, Tura	Special School and Hostel	7.13	12.44	23.70
6.	West Garo Hills	Bethany Society, West Garo Hills	School/VTC for VH	6.01	18.51	14.40
		Name of the Scheme: Preventoin of Alcoholism and Substance (Druge) Abuse				
7.	Shillong	Khasi Jaintia presbyterian Synod, Church House, Mission Compound, Shilong	De-addiction Centre	2.27	4.20	—
8.	Bandra	Kripa Foundation, Mt. Carmel Church, 81/A, Chapel Road, Bandra, Mumbai	De-addition Centre & Counselling Centre at Shillong	7.70	9.22	9.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Name of the Scheme: Integrated Programme for Street Children & Child Line Projects				
9.	Shillong	Bosco Reach Out, Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong	Child Line Project	—	—	1.88
10.	Shillong	Impulse NGO Network, Lower Luchumiere Near Horse Sgoe Building, Shillong	Child Line Project	—	—	0.16
11.	Shillong	Impulse NGO Network, Lower Luchumiere Near Horse Sgoe Building, Shillong	Street Children Project	—	—	0.25

[Translation]

Non-Plan Expenditure

5071. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Non plan spending on the rise" as reported in the Statesman dated November 14, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the non plan expenditure of various Ministries/Departments have increased which had an adverse impact on our economy;

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

(d) the schemes formulated by the Government to check non-plan expenditure by Ministries/Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Non-Plan expenditure upto October, 2002 was 48.5 per cent of the budgeted provision, which was less than 5 years moving average for the corresponding period (48.8 per cent). The Non-Plan expenditure of the Union Government is, therefore, in line with the trends in the previous years.

[English]

Capital Gain Tax

5072. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Industry Ltd. paid any Capital Gain Tax on the transaction involving sale of its 10% Shares of Larsen & Turbo Ltd. to M/s Grasim Industries;

(b) if so, the total amount paid;

(c) if not, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per return of income filed by Reliance Industry Ltd. for the Assessment Year 2002-03, the company had sold shares of Larsen & Turbo Ltd. for Rs. 911.65 crores during the Financial Year 2001-2002.

(b) This company has paid income tax (inclusive of surcharge) of Rs. 185.82 crores for the Assessment Year 2002-2003, which includes the tax on the profits made on the sale of Shares of Larsen and Turbo Ltd.

(c) The correctness of the return of income will be examined during assessment proceedings.

Incentive Fund

5073. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government created an Incentive Fund at National Level as per the recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the fund and the criteria for the different States to become eligible for grant;

(c) the list of States which have become eligible for these funds and amount due to them; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Union Government to release these funds to different States particularly to Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), Government of India has circulated a scheme called "States' Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05)" and has set up an Incentive Fund of Rs. 10,607.72 crore for five years comprising of 15% of the revenue deficit grant to the States recommended by the EFC in its main report and equal matching contribution by the Government of India. Release from the Incentive Fund to the States is based on the single monitorable fiscal objective i.e. 5 percentage points improvements in revenue deficit as a percentage of revenue receipt in each year till 2004-05. For revenue surplus States, 3 percentage point improvement in the Balance from Current Revenue as percentage of non-plan revenue receipts is the criteria.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme of Fiscal Reforms Facility, States Governments have invited to formulate their Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) aimed at fiscal consolidation.

Based on the finalisation of MTFRP of States, a sum of Rs. 1751.99 crore from Incentive Fund has been released so far. State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Government of Punjab has furnished its MTFRP, which is scheduled to be considered in the meeting of the Monitoring Committee. Since MTFRP of the State of Punjab is yet to be finalised, no fund has been released to State from the Incentive Fund so far. State Governments who are yet to furnish their MTFRP are pursued to expedite their MTFRP for finalisation and to enable this Ministry to consider release of funds to them.

Statement

Release from Incentive Fund to States

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	State	2001-02	2002-03 (so far)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.94	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36.69	—
3.	Himachal Pradesh	161.23	—
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	321.84	—
5.	Karnataka	32.29	—
6.	Kerala	23.52	40.92
7.	Maharashtra	55.55	—
8.	Manipur	54.38	55.32
9.	Nagaland	97.22	102.08
10.	Orissa	77.95	—
11.	Rajasthan	171.68	—
12.	Sikkim	0	51.70
13.	Tamil Nadu	0	45.40
14.	Tripura	73.99	—
15.	West Bengal	302.29	—
	Total	1456.57	295.42
	Grand Total (Col.+Col.3)		1751.99

Provisions of GFR

5074. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per his Ministry's OM dated May 28, 1999 revising the guidelines incorporated in GFR limited tender system is to be adopted in the case of all order the estimated value of which is less than Rs. 2 lakhs, for purchase of value of Rs. 2 lakh and above but less than Rs. 5 lakh tender enquiries are to be issued in the form of classified advertisement in the local newspapers and for purchases of value of Rs. 5 lakhs and above, open tender may be advertised in the National Daily in addition to Indian Trade Journal;

(b) if so, the reasons that the same instructions were not followed by the Ministry of Defence and Central Vigilance Commission who made purchases from the Kendriya Bhandar of the amount above Rs. 20 lakh. 6 lakh and Rs. 54 lakh in September, 1999, and March, 2000, respectively in one bill;

(c) the action propose to take by the Government against the said organisations apart from directing the Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF to follow strictly the revised guidelines incorporated in GFRs; and

(d) the details of OM dated May 28, 1999 and revised guidelines incorporated in the GFRs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) However, Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) in consultation with this Ministry had issued an OM dated 14.7.1981 which made it incumbent on all Central Government Department, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/ or controlled by Government to make all local purchases of stationery and other items only from Kendriya Bhandar in relaxation of the procedure of inviting tenders/quotations prescribed in GFRs. Accordingly, the Ministries/ Departments can make purchases of stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar without inviting tenders/ quotations. In accordance with the DOP&T's OM cited above, Central Vigilance Commission made purchase of 10 PCs of Compaq Presario 7500 model together with 10 HP Deskjet 610 C printers from the Kendriya Bhandar at a total cost of Rs. 6,66,500/- vide bill dated 28th March, 2000. The information from Ministry of Defence is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. These guidelines of DOP&T are currently under review.

Cooperative Bank of Ahmedabad

5075. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Cooperative Bank of Ahmedabad Ltd. (ABAD) has suddenly closed down and withdrawn from participation in the Clearing House;

(b) if so, whether it has affected thousands of depositors and account holders of this bank;

(c) if so, the action and remedial measures the Government have taken to save the depositors; and

(d) the action taken against the bank management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Cooperative Bank of Ahmedabad Ltd., Ahmedabad was having resource crunch since September, 2002 and facing a run for a few days. The members of the Board of the bank resigned on 20th September, 2002 and the bank wrote to the President of Ahmedabad Bankers Clearing House, RBI expressing its inability to participate in the clearing house operations with effect from September 23, 2002.

(c) Considering the situation and to protect the interests of the depositors, RBI has issued directives under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-opeative Societies) to the bank precluding, inter-alia, accepting fresh deposits and making payment in excess of Rs. 1000/- from every deposit account. The Bankers Clearing House, RBI, Ahmedabad has suspended the bank from membership of the Clearing House.

(d) RBI has reported that the deficiencies/irregularities observed in the inspection were discussed with the Chairman, Directors and Chief Executive Officer of the bank for early rectification.

Norms to Declare a Company Sick

5076. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present norms to declare a company sick;

(b) whether the Government proposes to reframe the norms for declaring any company as sick;

(c) if so, the details of changes proposes to be made in the earlier norms alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when these norms are likely to be put into effect?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per Section 3(1)(o) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 a company is declared to be sick only after its net worth is fully eroded and the unit has been a existence for 5 years. Hence to initiate measures under BIFR mechanism, total erosion of net worth of a Company is a prerequisite.

(b) to (d) The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002, passed by the Parliament, defines a sick Company.

Buffer Stock of Sugar

5077. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether funds are likely to be drawn out of Sugar Development Fund for the creation of buffer stock of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is enough storage capacity for stocking this sugar;

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

(e) the extent to which this will solve the problems facing the sugar industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) In order to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane growers, Government has decided to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for a period of one year. This will involve an outgo of Rs. 412 crore from the Sugar Development Fund. An additional amount of Rs. 374 crore would be released by bank on account of the buffer stock. These funds of Rs. 786 crore will be used exclusively by sugar mills for payment of cane price dues to sugarcane growers for which the required legal rules are already in place.

(c) and (d) As per the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983, the buffer stock of sugar is to be stored in separate and distinctively identifiable stocks and lots and in separate godowns within the premises of the sugar undertaking. The sugar mills have enough storage capacity for stocking the buffer stock quantity to be allocated. Information on storage capacity of sugar mills State-wise is not available.

(e) The payment made from the Sugar Development Fund for maintenance of the buffer stock will be used exclusively for payment of the cane price dues to sugarcane growers and will to this extent mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane growers and the problems facing the sugar industry.

NPA of IDBI

5078. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI has received a number of proposals for early settlement of NPAs;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received during the last year and the current year so far; and

(c) the action taken by IDBI on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) IDBI received 135 proposals involving principal dues of Rs. 772 crore in 2000-01 and 163 proposals involving principal dues of Rs. 865 crore in 2001-2002 for early settlement of NPAs by way of One Time Settlements (OTS)/Negotiated Settlements (NS). In most of the cases the principal amount was fully crystallised for recovery and in many cases interest recovery party or fully has also been settled under OTS/ NS. IDBI has recovered Rs. 418 crore in 2000-2001 and Rs. 391 crore in 2001-2002 so far under OTS/NS.

A case by case approach is adopted by IDBI in order to maximize recoveries from defaulting companies approaching the Bank, for settlement of dues through the OTS and NS routes.

Inspection of Cooperative Banks and NABARD

5079. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the NABARD have conducted statutory inspection under Section 35 of the RBI Act, in regard to Central and State Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details of the inspection reports conducted by NABARD

(c) whether the NABARD have taken any further action or propose to take any action in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it had observed irregularities during 2001-02, of which the major ones related to poor recovery performance resulting in high overdues and non-performing assets, non-compliance with the various provisions of Baning Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies), like Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) norms (Sections 18 and 24), etc., as also with Section 11 (1), i.e., maintaining real or exchangeable value of Paid-up Share Capital and

reserves not less than Rs. 1 lakh non-compliance with "income recognition and asset classification and provisioning norms" prescribed with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), poor internal checks and controls, non-reconciliation of inter-branch accounts and absence of periodic balance of books of accounts, lack of professionalism in managing the affairs, non-adherence to the stipulated norms of RBI while trading in government securities, defaults to higher financing agencies, defective loan policy and procedures, defaults in maintenance of norms like minimum involvement, exposure norms, etc.

(c) and (d) NABARD has conveyed the major irregularities to the banks after inspection, and then followed up through a clearly defined process of seeking a compliance report. In addition the inspecting officer holds a meeting with the Board of Directors/Chief Executive Officer of the bank to discuss the major findings and efforts needed on the part of the bank for their rectification. Further, the chief executive of the bank along with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies are invited for discussions on core issues on the inspection findings. The inspection report is also forwarded to the State Government for appropriate action, followed with a special note indicating the areas which require remedial action by the State Government. The on-site inspection is supplemented by off-site surveillance through prescribed returns on an annual/half-yearly basis. NABARD also issues early warning signals to banks wherever required.

Quota for Textile Exporters

5080. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for doing away with the condition of legal undertaking and bank guarantees for making quota allocations under the first-cum-first serve basis for textile exporters;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also looking at ways to deal with Canada's recent announcement of allowing the least developed nations, including Nepal and Bangladesh duty free access to its markets from January next; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Canada has announced some trade concessions to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) but have not extended the same to developing countries like India. The measures taken by Canada are WTO compatible. India would also make efforts to get concessions in the post-Doha market access negotiations.

In addition, Government of India has been taking a number of measures to enhance the competitiveness of India's textile and clothing exports in the international market. Some of the important initiatives are:—

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/ programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre

Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has been launched. A provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(ix) The Textile Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking promotional measures for boosting exports of textiles to various countries including USA and European countries.

Production of NG-Based Explosives

5081. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

(a) the number and details of industrial units in the country producing NG-based explosives, their manufacturing capacity and strength of workers;

(b) the aid or incentives given to help such units to changeover slurry based explosives or otherwise diversify their product lines;

(c) whether NG based and slurry based explosives have the same shelf life and are equally safe during storage or distribution;

(d) if not, the comparative merits and demerits in respect of storage and handling of the above;

(e) whether a representation to constitute a committee representing all interests in explosives industry including NG based manufacturers and workers has been received by the Government; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) There are four industrial units in the country producing NG based explosives:

		Licensed capacity (MT/annum)	Strength of workers
1.	M/s Noble Explo-chem Ltd., Nagpur	15000	478
2.	M/s. Bharat Explosives Limited, Lalitpur	10000	216
3.	M/s Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Ltd., Vellore	9000	200
4.	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	5000	80

(b) At present, the Government does not have any specific scheme to provide aid or incentives to such units.

(c) and (d) NG based explosives have a shelf life of more than one year while slurry explosives have a shelf life limited to six months only. Slurry explosives are safer during storage, handling and distribution etc., while NG based explosives are more sensitive to impact, friction, shock etc. and therefore, need to be handled with greater caution.

(e) and (f) The Government had constituted a Committee comprising the Chairman, Development Council for Explosives Industry and Chief Controller of Explosives to look into the issue of phasing out of NG based explosives. The Committee had wide ranging consultations with manufacturers, users and dealers etc. including NG based explosives manufacturers before submitting its report. The setting up of another Committee is presently not under consideration.

Allocation of Foodgrains to Exporters

5082. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAO:

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

(a) whether no stocks of foodgrains have been allocated to the exporters during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons for not allocating the required quantity of foodgrains to the exporters;

(c) whether the exporters have to sell out a huge amount on account of the demurrage for not loading the ships in ports; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the system so as to ensure the timely release of the foodgrains for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) There is no system of allocating foodgrains to exporters on a monthly basis.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cooperative Banks Entrance Into Insurance Business

5083. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from co-operative banks to enter into insurance business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give any priority to co-operative sector in their entry for insurance business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that they have not received any proposal from any co-operative bank for registration to enter into insurance business.

(c) and (d) A Cooperative Society has to form an Insurance Cooperative Society according to the provisions of the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2002 and IRDA regulations.

Promotion of Trade between Bangladesh and NE States

5084. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the scope to promote trade and investment between Bangladesh and North Eastern States in India;

(b) if so, the possibilities explored in that regard;

(c) whether any joint task force has been constituted to promote bilateral trade between both the countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the action initiated by the joint task force?

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

(b) Central Government has taken specific steps to promote trade and investment in the North Eastern Region with its neighbouring countries by developing infrastructure and facilitating interaction between the business community of the two countries. There are 37 border points developed and open for promotion of border trade with the neighbouring countries through North Eastern Region. Out of these 37 land customs, stations, 14 on the Indo-Bangladesh border are operational. A proposal to operationalise 5 more additional land customs stations on the Indo-Bangladesh border is under consideration. India and Bangladesh have also agreed to activate on priority basis the Agartala-Akhaura land customs stations both by road and rail. Although there is no formal agreement on the opening up of border trade with Bangladesh. Such trade takes place either through authorised customs station or otherwise. Department of Commerce has approved infrastructure development of Old Raghna Bazar Land Customs Station in Tripura for Rs. 896 lakhs, Integrated development at Agartala for Rs. 297 lakhs, Trade center at Sutarkhandi and Mankachar in Assam for Rs. 653 lakhs and Rs. 340 lakhs and weighbridge at Dawki in Meghalaya for Rs. 15.50 lakhs under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme.

(c) and (d) No joint task force has been constituted to promote trade between India and Bangladesh.

[Translation]

Edible Oil Quota to States

5085. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of edible oil released to various States of the country during the last year and till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the entire demand of edible oil has been met through Public Distribution System during the above period; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to meet the demand of edible oils in the ensuing months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No quota of Edible Oil has released to any State during the last year and till date this year under Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) In view of above, no, Sir.

(c) As there is no proposal to import edible oils (RBD Palmolein) on the central account for the PDS, the States/ UTs have been advised to avail of the Tariff Rata Quota as notified by Department of Commerce, for the year 2002-03, for the purpose of importing specified edible oil for the PDS through the designated canalizing agencies, if felt necessary by them.

[English]

Interest Rates of NABARD

5086. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether there is a big difference between the refinance rate of interest charged by the NABARD through cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks and the interest being charged by these banks through actual beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the comparative interest rate charged by NABARD and paid by actual beneficiary for the last three years;

(c) whether the interest rate has come down but it is not beneficial to farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide credit to farmers at lower rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The details of rate of interest on refinance provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for various slabs for the last three years are given in the Statement-I and II respectively. The details regarding the rate of interest charged by cooperatives and RRBs at present as against last year on short term seasonal agricultural operation loan in respect of certain major states are given in Statement-III.

(c) and (d) The rate of interest on refinance available from NABARD has softened during the last three years. However, as the interest rates have been deregulated, cooperative banks and regional rural banks are free to charge rates of interest as per the decisions of the concerned banks. The main reason for relatively higher interest rates in cooperative banks include multi-layer structure of cooperative credit institutions, higher incidence of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), high cost of deposits, etc. Reserve Bank of India and NABARD have taken several steps to reduce the level of NPAs by way of improving recovery management including implementing one-time settlement scheme and have advised these banks to review their deposit rates with an objective to align it with deposit rates offered by commercial banks.

Statement I

NABARD's interest Rates on Refinance for Farm/Non-Farm Sector in respect of Cooperatives

Purpose Minor Irrigation/Wasteland Development

Slab		Date of Revision						
		1.4.2000	1.5.2000	1.7.2001	1.11.2001	14.1.2002	1.2.2002	11.11.2002
I.	(Upto Rs. 25000)	7.50	7,00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.75
II.	(Above Rs. 25000 to 2 lakhs)	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.00	7.50	7.50	6.75
III.	(Above Rs. 2 lakhs)	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.00	7.50	7.50	6.75

For Purpose Other than Minor Irrigation

Slab	1.4.2000	1.5.2000	1.7.2001	1.11.2001	14.1.2002	1.2.2002		11.11.2002	
						Excluding FM/RG/ AB/AC	(FM/RG/ AB/AC)	Excluding FM/RG/ AG/AC	(FM/RG/ AB/AC)
I. (Upto Rs. 25000)	7.50	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.75	6.75
II. (Above Rs. 25000 to 2 lakhs)	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	7.75	7.75
III. (Above Rs. 2 lakhs)	11.00	10.50	10.50	10.00	10.00	10.00$	8.5	9.25	7.75

FM: Farm Mechanisation, AB: Agri-business, AC Agri-clinics, RG: Rural Godowns.

Statement II

NABARD's interest Rates on Refinance for Farm/Non-Farm Sector in respect of Regional Rural Banks

Purpose Minor Irrigation

Slab	Date of Revision						
	1.4.2000	1.5.2000	1.7.2001	1.11.2001	14.1.2002	1.2.2002	11.11.2002
I. (Upto Rs. 25000)	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	6.75
II. (Above Rs. 25000 to 2 lakhs)	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.00	7.50	7.50	6.75
III. (Above Rs. 2 lakhs)	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.00	7.50	7.50	6.75

For Purpose Other than Minor Irrigation

Slab	1.4.2000	1.5.2000	1.7.2001	1.11.2001	14.1.2002	1.2.2002		11.11.2002	
						Excluding FM/RG/ AB/AC	(FM/RG/ AB/AC)	Excluding FM/RG/ AG/AC	(FM/RG/ AB/AC)
I. (Upto Rs. 25000)	7.5	7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6.75	6.75
II. (Above Rs. 25000 to 2 lakhs)	9	9	9.0	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.75	7.75
III. (Above Rs. 2 lakhs)	11	10.5	10.5	10.0	10.0	10.0$	8.5	9.25	7.75

FM: Farm Mechanisation, AB: Agri-business, AC Agri-clinics, RG: Rural Godowns.

Statement III

Name of State	Rates of Interest Charged (% Per Annum)							
	By Cooperatives SAO						By RRBS SAO	
	SCB to DCCB Last Year	SCB to DCCB Current Year	DCCB to PACS Last Year	DCCB to PACS Current Year	PACS to member Last Year	PACS to member Current Year	RRB to borrower Last	RRB to borrower Current Year
Karnataka	6.15-9	6.15-8.65	9.5-15.5	9.5-15.5	11-17	11-16	13-18	13-18
Madhya Pradesh	6.5-10.5	6.5-8.5	11.5-13	10-14	14.5-17.5	13-17.5	12-17	13-16.5
Orissa	6.5-9.5	6.5-9.5	13.5	12-13.5	16.5-18	15-17	14.5-18	11.5-16
Tamil Nadu	6.25-8.25	6.25	9-10	9-10	12-16	12-16	13.5-17	13.5-17
Andhra Pradesh	6.5-9	8	12	10	15	12	13-18.5	13-18.5
Rajasthan	6.5-8	6-9	12	11-13	15.5	15	12-16	12.5-17
West Bengal	7	6.5-8.5	10.5	10	13.5-14.5	13-14	13.5-17	12-16.5
Uttar Pradesh	5.5-7.75	5.5-7.75	7.5-10	7.5-10	12-14.5	12-14.5	12.5-17	11-16.5
Maharashtra	8-10	8-9	10.5	10-12.5	14-15.5	13.5-15	13.5-17	13.5-17

NPA of State Cooperative Banks

5087. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed all State Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks to adopt the 90-day income recognition norms for NPAs by the end of 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present norm for State cooperative Banks for recognizing a NPA in their accounts; and

(d) the manner in which RBI is monitoring the existing practices of State Cooperative Banks to ensure that they are not loaded with NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2002-03 announced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it has been decided to extend the 90 days norm for recognition of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to the State and District Central Co-operative Banks from the year ending March 31, 2006.

(c) As reported by RBI, at present loan other than agricultural loan is classified as non-performing asset if interest or instalment of principal remains overdue for a period of more than 180 days. Agricultural loan is classified as NPA if interest or instalment of principal remains overdue for two harvest seasons but for a period not exceeding 2 half years.

(d) As regards State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been undertaking statutory inspection of co-operative banks once in two years under provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies). It monitors the existing practices of these banks to ensure that they are not loaded with NPAs.

Amendments to Companies Act, 1956

5088. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering to bring certain amendments to the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various amendments made in the Companies Act, 1956 from time to time have not yielded any positive results; and

(d) if so, to what extent the new amendments in the Act are going to put a check on the various irregularities by companies?

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

(b) and (c) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2002, which enables conservation of cooperatives to, and formation of, companies has been passed by the Parliament on 17.12.2002. This is an enabling amendment which will have positive results. Similarly, the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002, which provides for setting up a National Company Law Tribunal that will deal with dispute resolution, revival and rehabilitation, and winding-up of companies has also been passed by the Parliament on 17.12.2002. By bringing together the jurisdictions presently vested in the Company Law Board, the BIFR and the High Courts, respectively, these amendments will provide a common forum to deal with all the issues concerning companies under the Companies Act and will thus be beneficial to that extent.

(d) These amendments are not aimed at checking any particular irregularities, as such.

Budget Deficit

5089. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total budget deficit of Union Government and States has increased from Rs. 87,244 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 2,26,678 crore during 2001-02;

(b) if so, whether the revenue deficit during the above period has risen from Rs. 48,768 crores to Rs. 1,51,152 crores;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce/plug such huge budget deficit in Union Government and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, gross fiscal deficit and revenue deficit have increased due to increase in plan and non-plan expenditure outpacing the increase in revenue receipts.

(d) The Central Government has been following the strategy of fiscal rectitude as outlined in Union Budget 2002-03, which aims at higher tax revenues, improved non-tax receipts and modernisation in the growth of non-plan expenditure, so as to reduce the deficit.

The Central Government has also been working jointly with the State Governments to reduce the deficit of the State Governments.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

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 T.R. Baalu, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6849/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6850/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6851/2002]

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 George Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6852/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 641 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) G.S.R. 545 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 making certain alterations in Schedule VI to the Companies Act, 1956.

(ii) G.S.R. 565 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2002 making certain amendments in Schedule XIII to the Companies Act, 1956.

(iii) G.S.R. 670 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2002 making certain amendments in Schedule XIII to the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6853/2002]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6854/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6855/2002]

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 each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6856/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reaosns for delay in lying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6857/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section (11) of section 31 of the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the High Level Committee on Long-Term Grain Policy—July, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6858/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6859/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6860/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6861/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6862/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Thirteenth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Minorities Commission, for the period from 1st April, 1990 to the 31st March, 1991.

(ii) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) in regard to the above report.

(iii) A copy of the memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of the action taken on the above report.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6863/2002]

(7) (i) A copy of the Fourteenth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Minorities Commission, for the period from 1st April, 1991 to the 31st March, 1992.

(ii) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) in regard to the above report.

(iii) A copy of the memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of the action taken on the above report.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6864/2002]

(9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 9 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992:—

(a) (i) The First Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, for the year 1993-1994.

(ii) The Second Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, for the year 1994-1995.

(iii) The Third Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, for the year 1995-1996.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6865/2002]

(b) (i) The action taken memorandum on the recommendations contained in the first annual report for period from the 1st April, 1993 to 31st March, 1994.

(ii) The action taken memorandum on the recommendations in the second annual report for period from the 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995.

(iii) The action taken memorandum on the recommendations contained in the third report for period from the 1st April, 1995 to 31st March, 1996.

(c) The Explanatory Note of the above reports for the period from 1st April, 1993 to 31st March, 1996.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6866/2002]

(11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 1998-1999.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6867/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) of item No. (11) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6868/2002]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6869/2002]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6870/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6871/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6872/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bombay Textile Research Association Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6873/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6874/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6875/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6876/2002]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6877/2002]

(8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6878/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6879/2002]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6880/2002]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, together with audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6881/2002]

[Translation]

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 Dr. Raman Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller General of Patents Designs and Trade Marks, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, under section 155 of the Patents Act, 1970.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6883/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6884/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6885/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

(i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 4(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2002.

(ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Persons Resident in India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 5(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2001.

(iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 258(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 259(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Investment in Firm or Proprietary concern in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 260(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(vi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 261(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(vii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 262(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(viii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 263(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(ix) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 264(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(x) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer of Issue of any Foreign Security) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 265(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2002.

(xi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 473(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002.

(xii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 474(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002.

(xiii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 475(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002.

(xiv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 476(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002.

(xv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 477(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002.

(xvi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 465(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2th July, 2002.

(xvii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer for Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 574(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002.

(xviii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 575(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002.

(xix) The Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 576(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002.

(xx) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 577(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002.

(xxi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and transfer of immovable property in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 578(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002.

(xxii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange derivative contracts) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 578(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002.

(xxiii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing and Lending in Rupees) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 754(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2002.

(xxiv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 755(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2002.

(xxv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in

India) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 756(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2002.

(xxvi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 442(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2002.

(xxvii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 443(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6886/2002]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

(i) G.S.R. 483(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28h June, 2001 making certain amendments in Notification No. FEMA/16/RB-2000 dated the 3rd May, 2000.

(ii) S.O. 304(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 2002 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 301(E) dated the 30th March, 2001.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) and (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6887/2002]

(4) A copy of consolidated Review (Hindi and English versions) of the working of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6888/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 2001-2002 under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6889/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 2001-2002.

(7) A copy of the 32nd Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31st March, 2002 under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6890/2002]

(8) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2002, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—

(i) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah.

(ii) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi.

(iii) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6891/2002]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

(i) G.S.R. 778(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt levy of duty of excise on recorded video cassettes in U-matic and Betacam formats.

(ii) G.S.R. 791(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE., dated the 16th March, 1995.

(iii) The Consumer Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2002 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 684(E) dated the 8th October, 2002 alongwith an Explanatory memorandum.

(iv) The Central Excise (Advance Rulings) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 594(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2002 together with an Explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6892/2002]

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) S.O. 1232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., dated the 3rd August, 2001.

(ii) S.O. 1234(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.

(iii) S.O. 1235(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.

(iv) S.O. 1260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., dated the 3rd August, 2001.

(v) G.S.R. 792(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

(vi) G.S.R. 807(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

(vii) The Customs (Advance Rulings) Rules, 2002, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 593(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2002 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 798(E) dated the 4th December, 2002 along with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6893/2002]

(11) 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. 786(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite, originating in, or exported from, European Union and Taiwan, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(ii) G.S.R. 804(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Cold Rolled Flat Products of stainless steel, originating in, or exported from, European Union and Japan, Canada and the United States of America at the specified rates as recommended by the designated authority.

(iii) G.S.R. 808(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 132/2001-Cus., dated 28.12.2001.

(iv) G.S.R. 813(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Compact Fluorescent Lamp, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong at specified rates as recommended by the Designated Authority.

(v) G.S.R. 814(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 128/2001-Cus., dated the 21st December, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6894/2002]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

(i) G.S.R. 546(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all the taxable services provided by any person, to the United Nations or an International Organisation from whole of service tax leviable thereon.

(ii) G.S.R. 777(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all the taxable services provided to a developer or units of Special Economic Zone by any service provider for the purposes of development, operation and maintenance of Special Economic Zone, or for the setting up Special Economic Zone unit or for manufacture of goods by the Special Economic Zone unit, from whole of the service tax levible thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6895/2002]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6896/2002]

(14) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6897/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6898/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6899/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6900/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6901/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6902/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6903/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6904/2002]

(7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6905/2002]

(b) (i) A copy of the Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6906/2002]

(c) (i) A copy of the Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6907/2002]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6908/2002]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6909/2002]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6910/2002]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6911/2002]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6912/2002]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6913/2002]

(15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975:—

(i) S.O. 497(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1230(E) dated 18th December, 2001.

(ii) S.O. 496(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 2002 seeking to exempts the export oriented units and units in the Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones from payment of cess on export of tobacco.

(iii) S.O. 531(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2002 seeking to appoint Shri M. Rajasekara Murthy, Member, Rajya Sabha, as Member of the Tobacco Board.

(iv) S.O. 635(E) and S.O. 636(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2002 seeking to permit the sale of excess Flue Cured Virginia tobacco in Andhra Pradesh subject to penalties.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6914/2002]

[Translation]

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 Digvijay Singh I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Haj Committee Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 801(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Haj Committee Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6914A/2002]

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, they should have given notice to you.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

[Translation]

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 Prof. Rita Verma I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion for Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion for Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 2001-2002.

(b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion for Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 2001-2002 together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion for Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6915/2002]

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 Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6916/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6917/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6918/2002]

[English]

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 my colleague, Shri O. Rajagopal, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6882/2002]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): What are the Ministers doing? On behalf of every Minister, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is laying the papers on the Table. We can understand, if he is laying the papers on behalf of one or two Ministers, but he is laying the papers on behalf of all the Ministers. Then, what is the use of this House? Why have they listed in the Business?*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Normally, you have seen that the Ministers are present in the House. Those who are absent today, they have already given a notice to me, and I have authorised Shri Gangwar to lay the papers on their behalf. So, there is nothing to talk about.

...(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2002".

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, one can understand if the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is laying the papers on behalf of one Minister, but he cannot lay papers on behalf of all the Ministers. *...(Interruptions)*

12.05½ hrs.

ASSENT TO BILL

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2002 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 13th December, 2002.

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current Session.

12.06½ hrs.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE INCIDENT OF ASSAULT ON SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV, M.P.

Report

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee to Inquire into the incident of assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, M.P. on 9th December, 2002, in New Delhi.

12.07 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statements

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the statements showing further follow up action taken on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the following reports:—

(1) 8th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1994-95)".

(2) 14th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and charged Appropriations (1996-97)".

12.07½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following statements of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:—

(1) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 3rd report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 14th report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the Ministry of Communications, (Department of Posts).

(2) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 4th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 13th report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the Ministry of Communications, (Department of Telecommunications).

(3) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 7th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 14th report of the Committee (11th Lok Sabha) on "Postal Network", Ministry of Communications, (Department of Posts).

(4) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 8th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 12th report

of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on "Working of Telecom Factories" Ministry of Communications, (Department of Telecommunications).

(5) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 12th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 11th report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on Disinvestment Commission in relation to ITI & HTL, Ministry of Communications, (Department of Telecommunications).

(6) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 14th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 7th report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on the "Working of All India Radio Network" Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(7) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 15th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 9th report of the Committee (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001), Ministry of Communications, (Department of Posts).

(8) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 16th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 8th report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on the "Doordarshan-Production of Programmes in House and by Outside Producers" Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(9) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 20th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 11th report of the Committee (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(10) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 28th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 21st report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, (Department of Posts.)

(11) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 29th report on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 22nd report of the Committee (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, (Department of Telecommunications).

12.08½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Twenty-Eighth Report

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on "Development of Primitive Tribal Groups".

12.09 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Thirty-Third to Thirty-Eighth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals:—

(1) Thirty-third Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals)';

(2) Thirty-fourth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2002-

2003) of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, (Department of Fertilisers)';

(3) Thirty-fifth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas';

(4) Thirty-sixth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Disinvestment in Petroleum and Petrochemicals Sector';

(5) Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on 'Production and Availability of Pesticides'; and

(6) Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on 'Non observance of Guidelines laid down by Government in allotting Retail Outlets/LPG Distributorships by Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs)'.

Several time we present report, but the Government are not ready to take action thereon. The Government want to sell out the entire property of our country.

12.09½ hrs.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF WAKF BOARDS

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Sixth Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards, on Durgah Khwaja Saheb, Ajmer.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have instructed the Government that as far as possible, the Ministers must be present in the House.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Speaker Sir. During Zero Hour some Hon'ble Members of Parliament had raised certain points relating to implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. I would like to mention that the Scheme was launched on December 23, 1993. During the initial years, *i.e.*, from 1994-95 onwards, there was a provision of Rs. 1 crore per annum to the MPs for the development of their areas under the Scheme. Under the Scheme, the Hon'ble MPs can make recommendations in regard to the projects to be taken up to the District Administration.

From 1998-99, the hon. Prime Minister enhanced the annual allocation to Rs. 2 crore, in view of the fact that the people of the area have certain expectations from their elected representative for the development of their area. As the amount is spent through the District Administration, many MPs have experienced problems in regard to the interpretation of scope of the Scheme and also its implementation. It has been endeavour of our Ministry to resolve the problems through administrative mechanism and mutual consultations.

Hon. MP from Etawah, Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya had complained that during the last 3 years, he had recommended 156 proposals, most of which are still pending. Even the new works are not being initiated. I would like to bring it to the kind notice of the hon. Speaker that whenever we have received complaint of such nature from the hon. MPs, we have taken up the issue with the State Administration through the Chief Secretary of the concerned State for suitable action.

We had organized two Workshops involving the hon. MPs on the MPLAD Scheme in the Monsoon Session and the Current Session to listen to their problems. It is a matter of great pleasure and satisfaction that more than 200 MPs attended to this Workshop in each Session.

In the last Workshop, which has just been concluded, Hon. MPs have made many suggestions to further streamline the scope and the direction of the Scheme. I would like to state that the suggestions will be duly

[Shri Vijay Goel]

honoured and necessary amendments in the Scheme will be carried out.

I would also like to bring it to the kind attention of the hon. MPs that our Ministry has made a recommendation for providing an Assistant to the hon. MPs for monitoring the execution of the Scheme and for coordination with the District Administrative.

Hon. Speaker many other hon. MPs like Smt. Hema Gamang, Smt. Renuka Choudhary and Shri C. Kuppuswamy had raised similar problems.

I would like to reiterate and assure the House that our Ministry is proactive and sensitive to the problems and recommendations of the hon. MPs. Whenever we receive any complaint from the Member, it has been our endeavour to address them immediately and effectively. However, as the Scheme is implemented through the State Governments, we have been trying to put effective pressure on them for following the direction of the elected representative for its speedy implementation.

As a Member of Parliament, I am sensitive to the difficulties and aspirations of my dear colleagues for the implementation of this Scheme. We would always be striving towards the effective, transparent and speedy implementation of the Scheme to the satisfaction of the hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak for a minute on this issue. I cannot remain silent ...*(Interruptions)*. Please allow me to speak for a minute ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow discussion on this matter at the moment as I have already 35 notices for 'Zero Hour'. If the House wishes, all Members can get opportunity to speak as it is the last day today ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, since he has mentioned Etawa in his statement, I want to speak on this issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, let me finish, then you can speak. I am thinking myself that all should be allowed to put their problem here. So each of you will express views in just one minute. I have allowed only Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to speak on this issue. Please put your question. You will get the reply if you put your question in brief.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can say about the entire Uttar Pradesh. I can submit the report about Etawah till the day before yesterday. D.M. and the then CDO have openly said that they will not give even a penny; you can do whatever you like. You may confirm from the report not a single penny has been released ...*(Interruptions)*. Shri Ram Gopalji is a Member of Rajya Sabha. Shri Raghunath Singh, Legislator; Akhilesh Yadav M.P, Prajapati, Legislator and other S.P. Legislators have not been able to spend even a single rupee under this scheme ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you conclude, please.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to submit that such is the state of affairs in the Prime Minister's office; the Minister is giving false statement. I myself have raised a point and asked a question, the question is before you I have provided a list, full details have been placed before you. Whether the Minister has asked the District Magistrate in last three days as to why the funds were not released and whether he will be penalised?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mulayam Singh ji, if you are speaking about the entire U.P., I would like to say that different M.P's are facing different problems ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, he is saying something difficult ...*(Interruptions)*. It tantamount to threatening the M.P's ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has only said that the problems are different, he is not threatening.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I have taken action on whatever Shakyaji had said. He has also written a number of letters from time to time raising those problems and we have taken action thereon. You had also raised this matter earlier on 16th. Since then we have been trying to find out as to why the fund was not released. I can assure that I will submit the report on this matter within a week.

MR. SPEAKER: It is right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point is that when the Prime Minister's office is dealing with this matter, whether any District Magistrate has any right to stop release of funds in spite of the recommendation of the Parliament to do so. Can he stop release of fund after recommendations from three-four MPs. I would like to know as to who is that officer who enjoys the right of over ruling the decision of the

Parliament. It is not a matter of any party. Why the Government have become so inactive that a Collector invariably behaves like this. An order in this regard should be issued today itself, otherwise, Mr. Speaker, Sir, summon that Collector to present himself here.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the feelings of the hon. Member. Let me submit that funds have been released even earlier also and development works have also been executed and we also have got with us the lists of the same. One of the problems of the hon. M.P. for whom hon. Mulayam Singhji is pleading is that he wanted to get the works done through some other NGO's to which the D.M. did not agree ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am talking about the flagrant irregularities being committed by the D.M. of Etawah ...*(Interruptions)*. Why are you defending the D.M. ...*(Interruptions)*. What is this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want the 'Zero Hour'. If you want to discuss this issue only it is Okay. What do you want?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my request to you, please. Send any M.P. to Etawah so that he may see whether Member is right or what the Minister says is true.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Firstly, I am not different from you. I am not going to defend a D.M. against an M.P. For me an M.P. comes first. Secondly, I have already informed that I will submit a report in regard to the complaint of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav within a week, otherwise I will write for taking action in consultation with the Hon. Speaker.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6919/2002]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will not allow any of Member to speak on this issue. Every issue is important. I am going to give priority to J.P.C. today but it is not possible that I should do so right now.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, you said that we would be allowed to raise the issue of JPC in the 'Zero Hour'. JPC should get priority in the 'Zero Hour' today ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I can only request you. The issue of JPC is serious. If we do not speak on that subject here is this House, where else will we discuss ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji, do not you want to put your question. Put your question otherwise I will take up other matter.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): You go through the JPC Report. Read what is contained therein ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand that the question of JPC is important. I have already promised that I would be allowing it during the 'Zero Hour'. As a matter of fact, on this particular question, notice of Adjournment Motion was given which I have already refused. Therefore, this question cannot be raised by way of Adjournment Motion. I have also told at that time that during the 'Zero Hour' I would be permitting you.

[Translation]

Today is the last day of the session. Many Hon. Members have placed their request before me. During the 'Zero Hour' I am going to allow you first. It will not do if you do not respect the Chairman.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): I respect you very much ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please listen, at least, what I say.

[English]

I must say that Shri Dasmunsi has already approached me saying that this is an important issue. I have told him that though the Adjournment Motion on this issue has been rejected, I am going to permit the Members to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How can you say like this? Whoever have requested me, they also think that their question is important.

[English]

Let me have some discretion. After Shri Ramji Lal Suman I am going to allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot listen to each and every one. After him, I am going to allow somebody from the Congress to speak. I will give you the time later on.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, inspite of the order of the Supreme Court and the official order of the State Government Supreme Court orders are being set at naught. When Shri Mulayam Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, leases for quarrying sand from the Chambal river were given. This resulted in an annual revenue of Rs. 75 lacs to the Government. On Dec. 12, 1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India banned the quarrying activities going on there on the writ petition on 202/95 T.M. Gonda Burman Versus the Union of India. The State Government declared a tract of 315 Square Kilometer comprising the areas of Itawa, Agra and Bah as wild life sanctuary. Despite the orders of the Supreme Court in this regard, the felling of trees is still continuing there. The order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is being flagrantly violated. The sand Mafia carry out their sand quarrying work daily. The people belonging to the B.J.P. are behind this. It is the business of the B.J.P. leaders *...(Interruptions)* The illegal quarrying of sand in going on there. You can have it enquired by any agency you like. Illegal felling of trees and sand-quarrying has become their business *...(Interruptions)* This activity has not come to an end till now inspite of my repeated requests. We want your protection in this respect. The Government must take it seriously and immediately put to an end all this. Even the Supreme Court order has not changed the attitude of the officers. This activity is being sponsored by the Police officers and the officials of the Forest department in collusion with the people belonging to the BJP *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): This is not proper *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): It is objectionable. It is not a proper way *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You had told me that it was imperative to raise this issue in public interest. I would like to request you, why are you diluting the importance of this issue by bringing in party politics?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am simply stating what is going on there. I want that it should be investigated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring party politics here.

[Translation]

Some solution to this problem could be found.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House by his unfounded statement.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What does he know about that area? That is my constituency. I have been affected with whatever is going on there *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over, please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection as it is a serious matter. You can get it investigated at your own level.

12.20 hrs.

[English]

RE: REPORTED STATEMENT MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON STOCK MARKET SCAM TO THE PRESS

MR. SPEAKER: Who is going to speak on JPC?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am permitting you to speak on behalf of your Party. Everybody cannot speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): There is something in regard to the JPC Report. Such other Members, who are interested in saying something, may be permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted a general debate on this. Whenever there is a general debate, Members can always take part in it. Everybody will not be permitted to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to raise an important issue. It will not be in the fitness of thing to consume entire time of the House by discussing on single issue. It will not be proper if I am not given opportunity to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have also made the same request.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I want to request the Chair that we will listen patiently when they will speak but then they should also listen to us patiently. They just do not listen patiently and disrupt the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Joint Parliamentary Committee has Members from both the Houses and it is constituted by you. It has submitted its report unanimously.

JPC has submitted its unanimous report and there is no mention of Yashwant Sinha in it. Why has the person in question not been punished? No punishment has been prescribed for him in the report. He will not be punished at his behest. Who will be responsible for this if House itself wants to lower its prestige? He is also a Member of the Committee in the same way as he is the Member of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is aware of what you have been laying ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: He should not be allowed to speak. You have not done the right thing by allowing him to speak. It has lowered dignity of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How would I know before he speaks, first let him speak. He can always put his views.

[English]

He can always put his views.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, nobody has given any Note of Dissent. Now, what do they want to say? No notice has been given by them ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me bring it to the notice of the House that notice has been given by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. The notice is regarding the reported statement made by the Chairman of the JPC to the Press. I have already received this notice. Therefore, I have permitted him. This is exactly according to the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Is it according to the rules?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not according to the rules, it is according to conventions. Please sit.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, JPC is not functioning now. It has no Chairman now then why is he raising the issue now ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

He is not the Chairman of the JPC.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The question can still be raised even if there is no Chairman. You have got to give a reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The spokesperson of Congress made a statement yesterday that he Finance Minister should resign. The then Chairman of JPC had said that the name of the Finance Minister is not mentioned at any level ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can not permit everybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: He has also been a Member of JPC. What will he get by speaking here? The same Committee has submitted its report here, he must have spoken in the meetings of the Committee then what is the use of raising the issue here. He has also been a Member of its draft committee ...*(Interruptions)*. What is the use of making comments here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): We have the right to comment on it.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you to an extent. But I will get to know his subject only when he speaks. Please let me listen.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, everybody has got a right to make comment on the Report.

[Translation]

Finance Minister should be held responsible.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Sir, why is he taking up the time of House when he has expressed his views before the Committee. He has been a Member of the JPC. What is the use of raising all the points again when he has expressed his views over there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): This issue should be discussed first and action be taken accordingly.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have not yet read the report ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member, you should not act like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is whether a particular Member who was the Member of the Committee can speak in the House. That is the question raised. Firstly, there is no bar from speaking. Another thing which I thought is that, I must listen to the Member because he has given a notice not on the matters of the Committee but on some statement made by the Chairman of the Committee. Now, whether his issue is proper or not, it can be decided only after I listen to him. If I feel that it is not proper to raise this issue, I can definitely reject it. I have a right to do it if it is not according to the rules. But as long as he want to speak according to the rules, I have to permit him. If the Ruling Party does not agree with him, I will allow one Member to speak and he can oppose it. But the matter before me does not pertain to the JPC. My question is that there are a number of Members who have given notices for 'Zero Hour'. Around 30 to 35 Members have given 'Zero Hour' notices. Today is the last day of this Session. If you all decide that you do not want to raise your questions, I have no objection. But at the same time, everybody should not raise his hand. On JPC, I will allow only one person who has given a notice and thereafter, I will allow one Member from the Ruling Party to reply. After that, we can go to other important questions provided you so desire. If all of you decide to discuss this matter, I have no objection. It is left to the House. They want to do.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to take up the issue of JPC later on. Rest of the work should be done before it. Members of Congress are about to walkout. If they want to leave the House, then they should do so right now. But they want to make news by staging a walkout. That is why I request to take up this issue later on ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Ramji Lal Suman to raise his issue before others as he said he has to go somewhere. Many hon. Members of this side said at that time also that rest of the questions should be taken up first but I did not allow them to do so. Please take your seat.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am only requesting you that a very bad precedent is being created in this House.

[Translation]

The report of the Committee has been submitted unanimously and if they want to discuss it, they can do so, but they started asking for resignation. How can they go back from the statement they made in the report ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have very efficiently replied to them also. Now, let Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar speak and nothing else should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, as a Member of the JPC and several of my colleagues whom I have consulted are utterly shocked that General Prakash Mani Tripathi, in his capacity as the Chairman of the JPC and not in his individual capacity, has given a clean chit to the former Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha when nowhere in the Report.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have said it earlier and I will repeat it again that except the statement of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is my request to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given permission to Shri Malhotra to respond in this regard. You will also get the permission to respond. You please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that nothing should go on record except the statement of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a Member of the JPC myself and in consultation with several of my colleagues, I would like to bring it to your attention that General Prakash Mani Tripathi not in his individual capacity as a Member of the Committee but in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee, without any authorisation from the Committee, has yesterday informed the media that the JPC has given a clean chit to the former Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha.

These words 'a clean chit' appear nowhere in the Report. It is a construction made by the Chairman himself. He is welcome to do so as a member. But, for him to do so as the Chairman is abuse of the privileges of all of us who are members of the Committee *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am listening only to him now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Report contains a large number of indictments both in regard to omissions as well as with regard to sins of commission of the Ministry of Finance. There can be no Ministry without a Minister. In any case, no official of the Ministry of Finance or any official of the regulatory agencies under the Ministry of Finance can come to this House. Only the Minister is responsible to this House. Only the Minister is accountable to this House.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): He is now going into the details of the Report. This cannot be permitted. He is making allegations. Those should be removed *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Anything he has said which is allegatory will be removed from the records.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In view of the fact that the Report itself describes the methodology by which a Minister is held responsible for facts of omission or commission within his Ministry, it is completely wrong of Gen. Tripathi, qua Chairman of the JPC, to say on behalf of the JPC that a clean chit has been given. This is a matter which can be discussed. But this is not a matter on which the Chairman can pronounce.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. I cannot allow a long speech during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Moreover, the JPC has given in great detail how Shri Yashwant Sinha misled the Rajya Sabha when there was a Calling Attention Motion on the 13th March 2001 as well as described in great detail how the Minister did not conform to the truth, the whole truth when it came to keeping the Ministry deliberately in the dark or giving assurances about certain mattes.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go into those matters. You simply speak on the statement of the Chairman.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Since the Report has indicted the Ministry, and through it the Minister, and as the Report has pointed out how the Minister has misled the House, we demand his resignation and we demand an apology from the Chairman for having breached our faith.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I want to say something as a Member of the Committee.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): I may also be allowed to associate myself with what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said.

MR. SPEAKER: You will be associated and he will also be associated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this unanimous report *...(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If the Chairman does not respect our unanimity; if he breaks the unanimity, if he goes before the Press and says things that are not in the Report, how can Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra talk about this being unanimous? It is our privilege that has been breached by the Chairman; the Chairman has breached our faith. The Chairman has to apologise to me. The Chairman should get up and speak *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask them to take their seats *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, only what you speak will go on record and nothing else will go on record. I have permitted only you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): They had asked for the resignation of Shri Narendra Modi also, but rather the people's mandate took their resignations *...(Interruptions)* For eight months at a stretch, you had been demanding the resignation of Shri Narendra Modi *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted the Member and the Member made an argument.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing any discussion on this issue. Only Dr. Malhotra will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If the Chairman wants to reply, I have no objection. But I cannot force him to reply.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, you continue speaking. Your speech will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, whatever you say will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are all hon. Members. I have heard a point of view. I would like to listen to another point of view. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, in his capacity as Member of this House, is speaking.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, if you do not start speaking, I will conclude it.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, when I speak they do not listen and when they speak we listen to them *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will also not speak, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to understand what exactly Members want. The Members want that on this issue also, they would like to express their views. I have no objection to that. But at the same time, you should allow Dr. Malhotra to speak. When Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was speaking, he was allowed to speak. Now, when Dr. Malhotra wants to speak, he should also be allowed to speak. We can stop all these interruptions.

[Translation]

Let him speak.

[English]

Probably what he speaks may be advantageous to you also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am addressing the Chair. My point is that you have ruled that only one Member of the Treasury Benches can speak. Since the

*Not recorded.

charge that I am making is against the Chairman of the Committee, who is the BJP Member and is present here, let the Chairman of the JPC respond. Otherwise, once Dr. Malhotra responded, according to your own ruling, we cannot get another statement. So, if we are going to discuss the issue that I raised, then let it be answered by a responsible person, who can be none other than the Chairman of our JPC, against whom I am making this charge of breach of faith and breach of trust. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has made the point that the Chairman of the Committee should reply. I have permitted Dr. Malhotra to speak. Thereafter, if the Chairman and the House desire that the Chairman should speak, I have no objection to allow him also. Now, Dr. Malhotra, please go ahead. I know the whole house wants this issue to be discussed. I have no problem.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you listen to Dr. Malhotra, I am prepared to allow other Members also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you are prepared to be calm and quiet, to listen to Dr. Malhotra, I am prepared to allow other hon. Members also to speak. If you go on disturbing him, I will not allow you. Please sit down.

[Translation]

Mani Shankarji, you please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: You have decided to allow the other hon. Member also to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot help it. The ruling party and the opposition decide these matters.

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Malhotraji is speaking, you please listen to him. Otherwise it would be a big injustice to him. Otherwise it would be a big injustice to him.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has raised a question about the Chairman of the JPC, the Chairman is answerable to that. I want to put before you the question of the dignity of this House. A unanimous report of the committee has come. I will sit down if anyone could tell that there was any dissent note. There was neither any dissent note nor any explanatory note, nor any clarificatory note. A report was prepared and it was laid on the Table of the House. After the report is laid on the Table of House, no Chairman or Member of that Committee exists. Had they wanted to debate thereon, they could have written a letter to you and thereafter, the Business Advisory Committee would have fixed time for a discussion. In this unanimous report, it seems to them that something ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, it has been decided that nobody would disturb Dr. Malhotra. After his speech, I will allow other hon. Members also to speak.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have told that there is no dissent note as such and if there is one, please tell me whether anyone in the Committee demanded the resignation of the Minister or recorded any dissent note. It appears that when nothing happened, his party asked their Members as to why they did commit the mistake of not recording their dissent note in the report. Now they are raising such questions in the House to hide their embarrassment which sets a very bad precedent. I mean to say that such a wrong precedent should not be set in the House. If one has not recorded one's note of dissent in the report itself and is giving other interpretation outside—it is not correct. Yesterday, I heard a Member saying that they had asked for the resignation of Shri Yashwant Sinha.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not tell about what is being said outside, tell what happened in the House.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There he said that no resignation was asked for. There is nothing wrong in this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Jaipal Reddy to speak.

[Translation]

Please listen. I am going to permit you also. You please sit down. If you want a discussion in this regard then what can I do.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We have given notices for raising other subjects in the 'Zero Hour'. Please give us a chance.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, please listen.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is how they are behaving!

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): I have also given a notice for Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: That notice is with me. I repeat that I have got 35 notices. Just now, it was decided in the House, when Shri Malhotra was making a submission, that if the Congress Party heard him quietly I would permit one more Member. So, I am permitting Shri Jaipal Reddy. Thereafter the Chairman of the Committee would speak. Later on, if there is still some time left in the Zero Hour, I would certainly permit others to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you that on an important issue like this, I have permitted him. Please sit down.

[Translation]

All of you please sit down. Don't you want that the Zero Hour should run full time? Then, why all of you are standing? If I can take up Zero Hour by giving opportunity to two Members, then why are you not allowing me to do that. That's why, I am asking you to sit down, then only your issue can be taken up. I am asking you so that your issue could come up. Shri Shivaji Mane, if you will not sit, this matter will not be taken up. Shri Khaire will also not be table to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Injustice is being done to us. In Madhya Pradesh, people are dying of starvation.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I think that such an issue should not at all be discussed. I would prefer that the discussion be concluded shortly. But you are still continuing. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The Committee have presented its report. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Jaipal Reddyji will speak and it will only go on record and whatever the other hon. Members submit will not go on record.

[English]

Shri Chandrakant Khaire, whatever you say will also not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I have permitted you. You can speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I must clarify that I hold Gen. Tripathi in high personal esteem. I must also state that he conducted the meetings of the JPC with great distinction and dignity. Having said this, I now express my regret over the manner in which he briefed the Press about the contents and implications of the JPC Report.

Sir, the JPC Report contains. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All the queries can be raised and replied to during Zero Hour, and I will try my best in this regard too. I am also giving an opportunity to the Chairman of the Committee to respond to the queries. So, what else do you want? Otherwise, I am of the opinion that the queries could be raised when the issue

*Not recorded.

of JPC is concluded. I want that the discussion be concluded soon, but it is not possible without your cooperation. I am going to adjourn the House at 1.00 p.m. Keep quiet if you like to speak during 'Zero Hour'. If you do not maintain clam, you will not get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

The Chairman of the Committee would also speak. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to listen to anybody else now, excepting Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I crave your indulgence for beginning from the beginning.

At the outset, I must state that I hold Gen. Tripathi, an hon. Member of this House, in very high personal esteem. I must also state on record that I compliment him for the manner in which he conducted himself as the Chairman of the JPC. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is complimenting the Chairman. Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, he conducted the proceedings with great dignity and distinction. He carried all of us with him.

Having said this, I must record my surprise, dismay and regret about the manner in which Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, as the Chairman of the JPC, briefed the Press about the contents and implications of the JPC Report. The JPC Report has documented many lapses of the Ministry and the regulators in a detailed fashion. It would be ridiculous, absurd and preposterous for anybody to propound that there can be a Ministry without a Minister. In the technical, legalistic sense, the Minister alone will represent the Ministry and no official can represent the Ministry. The Minister is the head of the Ministry and the Minister is the sole and unique representative of the Ministry. If all the Members of the BJP and the Treasury Benches were a party to the severe and extensive indictment of the Ministry, how can the Minister escape the responsibility for the Ministry? *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, anybody who has read the Report would testify to the fact that Shri Yashwant Sinha, as the Finance Minister, did not inform Parliament correctly about the UTI crisis, nor did Shri Yashwant Sinha inform Parliament correctly about the payment crisis in the Calcutta Stock Exchange. For the UTI scam, the Ministry is squarely responsible. Twenty million investors have lost their Monies. Tens of thousands of crores have been lost by them and the Government had to provide a bail out package of Rs. 14,000 crore in 2002.

Sir, the JPC was not only asked to look into the stock market scam but also to look into UTI scam. The JPC have found that the Minister because of sins of omission and commission is responsible for both the stock market scam and the UTI scam. *...(Interruptions)* The Minister has no right whatsoever to be in the Ministry even for a single minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Tripathi, Chairman of the Committee will speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Just a minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you to speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I was also a Member of the JPC.

MR. SPEAKER: There are many Members also are present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I was even surprised to listen to the Chairman, who conducted himself in such a dignified manner in the Committee itself. *...(Interruptions)* They have misinterpreted the Report. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted the Chairman to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, you can now go ahead.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You also want to speak. He also wants to speak. I am unable to permit everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On this issue, Mr. Chairman of the Committee will be the last Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): In that way, Dr. Manmohan Singh was also responsible.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He resigned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have got a copy of the Report. I have got a copy of the brief also. Whatever part was required to be read, I have already read it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now let Shri Tripathi speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, I stand here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Please speak in Hindi.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am ready to speak, but not as the Chairman of the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayamji, see how much he respects you.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He has risen in individual capacity. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I will reply to each and every question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I stand here neither to apologize nor to give any explanation in this regard. I stand here to respond to the allegation that it is a breach of faith. All the hon. Members know that we discussed for a period of 360 hours and no breach of faith ever occurred. The question does not arise at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But the breach of faith has occurred now. It occurred after that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: If breach of faith has taken place then all the hon. Members unanimously should have demanded resignation immediately after presentation of the report and not outside the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Report points towards this only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: If breach of faith has occurred, it is from your side and not from ours. ...*(Interruptions)* The Press Conference was held at 5.00 p.m. yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)* You were not even a Member of the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you please listen attentively. It may put you in a spot, but first listen to me. I was to address a press-conference at 5 O'clock and here, I have the press release with me, which I want to give you. Sir, no clean chit has been given to anybody, you can go through that. But before 5 O'clock ...*(Interruptions)* it all started at 2.30 PM and when the report had already been politicised, no other questions were put to me in the press-Conference. It was a big mistake on their part.

13.00 hrs.

It is a very good report running into 450 pages. 30 Hon'ble Members have unanimously given their assent to it. No other questions were put to me during the entire press conference, except the one—Yashwant Sinha, where is Yashwant Sinha? Then, what could I do? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, he is criticising the Press, which is not present in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, I would request all the Members to sit down and listen to me first ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is very nicely explaining the position of the Press Conference, if you listen to him, all of you will be satisfied.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that if he has not given a clean chit, all of you will be satisfied.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Can he just clarify?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, question-answer session now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will not to be in a position to take any other issue on the record, only the speech of Shri Tripathi will go on record. Please cooperate with the Chairman of the Committee, he is replying.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I was asked about these things repeatedly in the press conference at 5 O'clock. I only said that the report was prepared unanimously ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, whatever has been stated in this regard, I have read that out. You also understand English and so do those who have said such things. You please go through that and then ask them to see as to what is contained therein. All Members of the Committee have gone into several aspect. Shri Mani Shankar, Shri Roopchand Pal, Shri Jaipal and all the Hon'ble Members have contributed to it. The responsibility of rejecting such voluminous report lies on these people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matters under rule 377 listed for today be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

(i) Need to provide financial package to re-start closed sugar mills in eastern U.P.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Eastern Uttar Pradesh is the most densely populated region but it is the most economically backward area. The menance of floods visiting there every year make their life hell. Most of the areas fall in Nepal and Bihar border. The only industry set up at Gorakhpur for its industrial development after independence was a fertiliser unit. That too has been closed down in 1990. At present, only a sugar mill forms the basis of industrial development in this area which gives a source of employment to the youth, the farmers and the labourers there. All the Sugar Mills were installed between 1920 and 1932. These mills are also closing down one by one as these were not modernized/expanded with the passage of time. If these mills are closed down, the area, already reeling under the problem of unemployment will reach a situation of starvation and then the anti-national outfits already notorious for their anarchic activities in the region will succeed in misleading the youth there. Industrial development of this region is the need of the hour. An economic package should be worked out so that unemployed youth. Farmers and labourers could get work and the desired real progress of the region could take place.

(ii) Need to open post office in Surajmal Vihar, East Delhi.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Post office was functioning under a tin shed at Surajmal Vihar in my constituency-East Delhi, which has been demolished by the DDA. As a result, the retired people have to cover a long distance which causes great difficulty to them. DDA had decided to give a constructed building to the Department of Posts at Rs. 6000 per month rent. Later on, it was decided to purchase this building for Rs. 10 lacs, the possession of which the DDA is ready to give to the Department of Posts on the undertaking that the payment will be made by them in January from the revised estimated budget. Therefore, I demand from the Government, through you, that this Post Office should be opened at the earliest as the people there are facing problems.

(iii) Need to declare Lumbini-Duddhi road as a national highway and release of funds from Central Road Fund for its repair.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Siddharthnagar district of my parliamentary

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Rampal Singh]
constituency is adjacent to UP-Nepal border. This district has been declared Zero industry district from industrial point of view. The Lucknow-Basti National Highway No. 28, which passes through the district, is being maintained by the Union Government and is in good state. The highway beyond Basti is upto Siddharthanagar and Lumbini. This road is in dilapidated condition and is not fit for traffic. Lumbini, the birth place of Gautam Buddha, is a pilgrimage for the followers of Buddha and therefore the followers of Buddha from Lanka and other country come through road and have to face a lot of difficulties. I had also requested the Minister of Surface. Transport to include the Lumbini-Duddhi road in national highway so that the whole road become fit for traffic but due to some reasons it has not been materialised.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to include it in highway and till it is not included in highway the Government may provide funds from Central Road Fund for the construction of Basti-Siddharthanagar Lumbini road.

(iv) Need to ensure that flow of river Ganga is not interrupted by Tehri Dam

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1914 and 1916, an agreement was signed between kings and Mahatmas representing Hindu Samaj and British Government in the presence of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and Lieutinent-Governor to let the Ganga flow uninterrupted in Haridwar and the holy ghats of Prayag and Kashi. The Hindus of the country want to know whether the flow of Ganga is being interrupted by Tehri dam due to which Ganga will cease to exist. Keeping in view the agreements of 1914 and 1916 and the importance of the Ganga, through this august House, I would like to know from the Union Government the steps being taken to ensure the uninterrupted flow of Ganga from Gomukh-Haridwar to the holy ghats of Prayag and Kashi.

(v) Need to export surplus Sugar

SHRI MANSINH PATEL (Mandvi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of tonnes of sugar stock produced by the Sugar Mills of the country is lying in the godowns of the Sugar Mills due to which the Sugar Mills are facing great difficulty in storing the sugar. Also, the Sugar Mills are paying less amount to the sugarcane farmers. If the sugar, stored in Sugar Mills is exported by giving subsidy then India will get foreign exchange and the sugarcane farmers will also get remunerative price of their crops. Besides, the workers dependent on Sugar Mills, the farmers and traders will be benefitted if sugar is exported. It is also in the interest of farmers. If the sugar stock lying in Sugar Mills is not used at appropriate time it might get spoiled which is not in the interest of the nation.

Therefore, through this House I urge upon the Government to ensure maximum export of sugar lying in the godowns so that the farmers, cooperative Sugar Mills as well the workers may benefit. We will also be able to prevent the closure of Sugar Mills by doing so.

[English]

(vi) Need to implement the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee on extra-departmental postal employees.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): The conditions of 3 lakhs and odd extra departmental postal employees are still deplorable. The extra departmental postal employees are managing the rural Post Offices in 6 lakh rural villages in the country. At their repeated pressure, government has appointed Justice Talwar to recommend the service condition and pensionary benefits to these categories of employees. Though the Government has agreed with the employees to grant them pension and other benefits government has not given them any of these things. The government should come forward to accept the recommendations of the Commission and implement pension and other benefits admissible to other employees on proportionate basis.

(vii) Need to review the decision of bifurcation of Aliporedwar Railway Division in West Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Bifurcation of Aliporedwar Railway Division in N.F. Railway and creating a new Division Rangia has been resented by the people of North Bengal widely being detrimental of their economic and social interest. Inhabited by Tea Garden workers, Rajbansi Scheduled Castes and the refugees without affecting Rangia new Division, Railway Ministry may kindly consider to keep both the boundaries of Aliporedwar Division on one hand upto New Bongaigaon Station and on the other upto New Jalpaiguri. In this event, only New Jalpaiguri shall be brought from within Katihar Division and New Bongaigaon shall remain as it is within Aliporedwar Division without clubbing it in Rangia Division. The goods and freight movement besides other economic activities of Inter-Dwar's shall be adversely affected, if the proposal is not considered to add strength to Aliporedwar Division.

Railway Minister may kindly give cognizance to this proposal and do the needful.

(viii) Need to ensure that the children of repatriates from Sri Lanka get employment reservation in Rehabilitation Plantation Limited, Punalur, Kerala

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): The Rehabilitation Plantation Limited, Punalur, Kerala is an undertaking jointly owned by the Government of India and the Government of Kerala. The company was incorporated on 5th May, 1976 mainly for providing employment opportunities to 675 repatriate families from Sri Lanka as labourers by raising rubber plantations in an areas of 2000 hectares.

The target of settling 675 repatriate families upto 31st March has been achieved satisfactorily. Beside additional 58 repatriates have been provided with clerical and other miscellaneous jobs. 25 additional Sri Lankan repatriate families who were under employed in other plantation scheme in the State have also been absorbed in the company. The total of 700 repatriate families have been settled by the company.

When the accord was signed by India and Sri Lanka, the employment was provided only to the parents who came from Sri Lanka. Now the 700 families having two, three children and they are born in India. But the employment reservation to Indian born children of repatriates is not mentioned in the Accord. Now on account of this the poor repatriates are facing problem. There are a number of vacancies in the company. But the management is not considering repatriates children for employment in the company because they are born in India. Therefore, I request the Govt. of India to amend the Accord and enact the provision of employment reservation for Indian born children from Sri Lankan repatriates.

(ix) Need to protect the interest of silk growers in West Bengal and other parts of the country

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (Jangipur): Silk production in West Bengal especially in Malda and Murshidabad districts in facing acute difficulties. The livelihood of a vast population of this area depends on the cultivation of mulberry and growing of silk worm. The climate of this area specially in Malda is traditionally favourable for the cultivation of Nestari variety of silk. This yellowish coloured silk is unique variety in the world. There should be an intensive Research and Development work in Nestari variety of silk. Mulberry leaves which is he main food for the silk work produced in plenty in the blocks of Sujapur, Kaliachak and Manikchak is now facing a tremendous problem of which fly which damage the leaves of Mulberry plants and causes disease to silk worm. This causes heavy financial loss to the mulberry growers and worm producers. Preventive and curative measures should be taken up on urgent basis to save this traditional and valuable silk industry.

I urge upon the concerned Ministry to direct Indian Silk Board and its R&D Wings to take immediate steps to arrange relief measures for the poor silk worm growers. The government should take necessary steps to safeguard Indian Silk Industry and Silk growers as a whole by curbing illegal import of silk yarn from neighbouring countries and increase the import duty so that thousand of people engaged in this industry may be saved from getting ruined.

(x) Need to impress upon the Govt. of Karnataka to release 25 TMC of water from Almatti Dam for the benefit of the people of Guntur, Krishna, Prakasham and Nalgonda districts of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur): Andhra Pradesh is facing extreme drought situation. The Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam and Nalgonda districts of Andhra Pradesh are in unprecedented drought condition, both for irrigation and drinking water purposes. People and animals are suffering in these districts for drinking water. If the situation continues, the lives of the people in this region will be ruined. For drinking purpose alone, at least 25 TMC's of water is required and if this is not released from Almatti Dam, water will not be available for even drinking purpose.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the release of water from Almatti Dam. However, there are no positive signals from Karnataka so far in this regard. Almatti Dam has water to its full with 110 TMC's. In view of the difficulties faced by the people of Andhra Pradesh, if at least 25 TMC's of water is released, it would meet the drinking water requirement of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources to kindly intervence in the matter and impress upon the Govt. of Karnataka to release at least 25 TMC's of water from Almatti Dam.

(xi) Need for conversion of Aundihar-Jaunpur metre-gauge rail line in Uttar Pradesh into broad-gauge and run a DMU train on this section

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the demand fix conversion of Aundihar-Jaunpur meter-gauge line into broad-gauge line in my parliamentary

[Shri Tufani Saroj]

constituency Saidpur (District Gazipur in Uttar Pradesh) is pending for the last several years. In view of the difficulties of the public my predecessors also had drawn the attention of the Government towards it. I made written request to the Minister of Railways to draw his attention towards this problem. I submitted a petition before the Committee on Petition. The Committee on Petition had reached to this conclusion a year ago gauge conversion of this railway line is very necessary. The officials of Railway Board in the meeting of the Committee had given an assurance that the work in this direction will be undertaken without any delay by getting a survey conducted through the Planning Commission. The Railway Board with a view to redress the problems of the public had given an assurance to introduce DMU train drawing the month of October, but the period of three months has lapsed; no action has been taken to introduction DMU train so far.

Therefore, we request the Government that directions should be issued to Railway Department immediately to introduce a DMU between Aundihar-Jaunpur and to covers this line into broad gauge in view of the difficulties of the people.

(xii) Need to set up software and hardware industries in Hosur, Tamil Nadu

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): There is a need and great demand of setting up of industries especially software and hardware industries at Hosur in Tamil Nadu to generate employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youths. Sir, the unemployment problem in Hosur is increasing manifold day-by-day. By establishment of industries particularly software and hardware, more than 25,000 unemployed youths can get job and unemployment problem can be solved upto some extent. Sir, Hosur has suitable climate, atmosphere and infrastructure for software and hardware industries as it is in Bangalore. But no attention has so far been paid towards this area from the point of establishment of industries. As a result of this, educated unemployed youths have been deprived off the job opportunities.

Therefore, sir, through you, I request the Hon'ble Minister to pay due attention towards this area and take effective steps to establish software, hardware and other big industries at Hosur.

(xiii) Need to open a Central School at Mashrakh, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I urge the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development regarding opening a Cetnral School at my native place Mashrakh. I wrote in detail to the hon. Minister and to the Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangthan regarding justification of the opening of a Central School at this suburb and also almost the favourable conditions for the opening of this school. On the directives of hon. Minister of Human Resource Development. I was informed by the Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangathan in the year 1998 itself that the running of the school will only possible in case the arrangements of 12 rooms and residential facility for its fifty percent employees is made. I made some efforts in this regard and provided suitable building for the running of school and residential accommodation for its fifty percent employees as per the requirements of Kendriaya Vidhayala Sangathan and informed it to this effect to the hon. Minister in March, 1999 itself and again urged him for granting approval to start this school without any delay. The Joint Secretary of the Kendriya Vidhayala Sangthan visited Mashrakh. He not only given his consent for opening of Central School at Mashrakh, but also assured the enrolment of children in the school w.e.f. 2002 by observing the geographical location and other facilities available there. But, despite my constant efforts during the last five years the Central School has not been opened there by the Kendriya Vidhayala Sangathan Organisation so far.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to immediately set up Central School in Mashrakh.

(xiv) Need to start work on N.H. 57 between Muzaffarpur and Purnia via Darbhanga falling under East-West corridor in Bihar

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India have decided that the construction of East-West corridor road will be completed by the year 2007, but the construction work at N.H. 57 between Muzaffarpur via Darbhanga-Farbisganj-Purnia falling under alignment of East-West corridor passing through Bihar State has not so far been started, whereas a big bridge is also to be constructed therein across the Koshi river between Farbisganj-Darbhanga. It does not seem that the construction work will be completed within the prescribed schedule because construction work has not been started so far.

It is requested that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India should issue directives to the N.H.A.I. for starting the construction of the above road to get this work completed within the prescribed time-frame.

[English]

(xv) Need to formulate a comprehensive scheme to combat drought situation in Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore districts of West Bengal

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore districts have been declared drought affected by the Government of West Bengal. The Govt. of West Bengal requested the Central Govt. for sending team to assess the drought situation. But the Central Government has not sent any team till now. Drought is a regular phenomenon of these districts. There is lack of irrigation facility and scarcity of drinking water.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to send to team to assess the drought situation and sanction necessary financial assistance for the drought affected people and formulate a comprehensive plan to combat drought situation permanently in these districts of West Bengal.

14.05 hrs.

ACTUARIES BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating and developing the profession of Actuaries and to provide for matters concerned therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating and developing the profession of Actuaries and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.12.2002

14.06 hrs.

PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND PREVENTION OF MISUSE) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No. 34—Consideration and passing of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Amendment Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA.): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Through this Bill, I purpose to bring in a legislation to make necessary amendments to the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, to bring the techniques of pre-conception sex selection, use of ultrasound machines, etc., within the purview of the Act. The proposed amendment also addresses the difficulties encountered in implementing the Act.

Sex determination techniques are used in India since 1975 primarily for the determination of genetic abnormalities. However, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequent abortions if the foetuses were female. In 1986, the Forum Against Sex Determination and Sex Pre-selection, a social action group based on Mumbai made a systematic attempt to initiate a campaign on this issue, pressuring the Maharashtra Government to enact the first ever law in India. The Maharashtra Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act was enacted in 1988. A Central legislation, based on this very Act, namely, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from the 1st January, 1996. Rules have also been made under the Act.

Under the existing Act, pre-natal diagnostic tests or procedures are followed only for the purposes of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or congenital anomalies or sex-linked diseases, subject to specified conditions. It is illegal to utilise the pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus. However, the

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri A. Raja]

ultrasound machines were being clandestinely used for determination of the sex of the foetus of pregnant women, leading to female foeticide. This resulted in an adverse sex ratio of 927 female children to 1,000 male children in the 0-6 age group, as revealed by the results of Census, 2001.

The pre-natal diagnostic techniques like amniocentesis and sonography are useful for the detection of genetic and chromosomal disorders or genetic malformations or sex-linked disorders, etc. However, this technology is misused on a large scale for sex determination of the foetus and mostly if the foetus is found to be female, it prompts termination of the pregnancy, bringing an abrupt end to the gestation growth of the unborn child.

Simultaneously, techniques are also being developed and refined to select the sex of the child prior to conception. The use of technology for this purpose is wholly discriminatory to the female sex and impacts the status and dignity of women. Large scale dissemination of these technologies may in future precipitate a severe imbalance in the male-female ratio.

Accordingly, it has become necessary to enact and implement a legislation that would ban the use of both sex-selection techniques prior to conception as well as misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex-selective abortions. The use of these techniques needs to be regulated for the appropriate scientific use for which they are intended. It is proposed to ban more explicitly the use of ultrasound machines for detection of the sex of the foetus of pregnant women and to contain the menace of the female foeticide, so that the sex ratio could be improved in view of the adverse male-female ratio in the country, particularly among the children in the 0-6 age group.

The hon. Supreme Court has directed the strict implementation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The hon. Supreme Court has further directed amending the PNDT Act, keeping in view the emerging technologies and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Act.

In terms of the directions of the hon. Supreme Court and the experience gained in the implementation of the PNDT Act, the Central Supervisory Board constituted under the Act has suggested certain amendments to the Act. It is, therefore, proposed to amend Sections 1 to 7, 14 to 18, 22 to 24, 28 and 30 to 31 of this Act. The important amendments include bringing:

- Pre-conception selection of sex within the purview of the Act;
- Use of ultrasound machines more explicitly so as to curb their misuse;
- Sale of ultrasound machines or imaging machines to the bodies which are registered under the Act;
- Introduction of State-level supervisory Board on the lines of Central Supervisory Board for monitoring the implementation of the Act;
- Constitution of a multi-member State-level Appropriate Authority for better implementation;
- Making punishment more stringent so that they serve as a deterrent and minimise violation;
- Conferring more powers to Appropriate Authorities giving powers to them for search and seizure making mandatory the maintenance of records in respect of ultrasound machines and other equipment capable of detection of sex of foetus within the purview of the Act.

Keeping in view these amendments, new definitions and explanations have also been added in different sections of the Act.

It is also proposed to change the title of the Act to "The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act" so that the general public, para-medical and medical personnel comprehend the purpose and message of the Act from reading the title of the Act itself. The experience has shown that persons violating the provisions of the Act escape unpunished because of the collusion between the doctor and the person wanting the conducting of the test.

For these reasons, the proposal is mooted to amend Sections 1 to 7, 14 to 18, 22 to 24, 28 and 30 to 31 of the Act and introducing new sub-sections in the existing Sections, adding new definitions and explanations.

Therefore, Sir, I move that the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amend rent Bill, 2002, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention and Misuse) Act, 1994, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

We have two small Bills to be passed today. So, I request the speakers particularly to be brief so that both the Bills can be passed quickly and maximum time can be given for the discussion under Rule 193 which is a very important subject which will be discussed today. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to speak now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I will be very brief because my colleague Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar will speak for five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Sir, what happened to Matters under Rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have been placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we are fully supporting this Bill brought by the hon. Minister and our Party is in full agreement with the objects and reasons for which the Bill is brought. It is a matter of great shame to us that in the civilised India, mostly among the educated people, we are misusing the provisions of the Act. It is we who feel that the birth of a girl-child is a crime or is a shame to a family. It is unfortunate in the civilised India.

I came to know only recently that the growth of population of the girl-child in the entire North-Eastern Sates, Haryana and Punjab is going down beyond proportion. I am not saying that it is because of this thing. But if it is not implemented rigorously, as the hon. Minister has stated, I am afraid the concept of motherhood will be destroyed. We always call our country as the motherland. We believe first in mother. Now the concept of the very motherhood is being destroyed by ourselves. I am sorry to say that it is not being done mostly by the people who are not sufficiently knowledgeable and literate but it is being done by the literate people in most of the families.

Therefore, we fully support this Bill. We desire and urge upon the Government to implement and execute it not only within the text of the Bill but by a positive motivation campaign by media, television, documentaries, etc. so that there is an awareness in the country not to do this kind of crime and not to kill the motherhood and thereby provide an assault on the entire womanhood of the nation.

We, therefore, feel that this Bill is just and proper and we support the Bill.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): On behalf of DMK Party, I support this Bill. Actually, our dynamic leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi is supporting this Bill. There is a growing menace of female foeticide and misuse of ultrasound machines. Such practices are injust, unethical and illegal. It is being considered by some as mother of all crimes. The foetal sex determination by misuse of ultrasound machines has become very common in our country due to various reasons. Actually, if the high rate of abortion of foetus carrying a female child continues, the consequence will be that there will be a greater demographic imbalance in our country. So, I welcome this measure.

As our friend said, we worship the women folk as mothers and goddesses, but because of the social evils that our system and other systems have, we want to have only boys and not girls. It has resulted in decline of sex ratio in 0-6 age group. According to 1991 Census, there were 944 girls per 1,000 boys. Now it has declined to 927 girls per 1,000 boys. If it continues like this, it will create a great chaos and confusion in the society. For marriage, a person has to seek a bride and if there are only 900 girls per 1,000 boys, what will they do? They will have to fight for the bride. It will create a real confusion and problem in the society itself. I think, some people will have to remain as *sanyasis* or unmarried. It will be an unfortunate situation that may emerge.

In the 1994 Act, only Central Advisory Committee was constituted. Now, in this Bill of 2002, Central and State Committees are proposed to be constituted. We welcome this measure. I would suggest that this must be done at the district and block level also and such committees must be constituted at the district and block levels so as to have a wider perspective and wider scope. It must reach the grass-root level. Only then, it will be very effective. We have all the plans at the higher level. They do not reach the people. Actually, there must be a holistic approach.

At various levels—medical, legal and most importantly social one—the status of women must be improved. There must be political will for empowerment of women. The founders of Dravidian Movement and a social reformer, Shri Thanthai E.V.R. Periyar fought for the empowerment

[Dr. A.D.K. Jayaseelan]

of women. It was followed by his follower and the founder of DMK Party, Shri Arignar C.N. Annaduari. Our dynamic leader and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi made a historic legislation by providing equal rights to property to women in 1989. To further the process of empowerment of women, our DMK Government implemented 33 per cent reservation for women in local bodies. This can be followed by other State Governments also to empower the women. The solution of the problem is to empower the women. I really congratulate the Minister and I fully support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ (Misrikh): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I support the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002. Mr. Bertrand Russel, the British thinker had stated that two kinds of feelings go side by side in all the societies—one which we plead but do not act upon that and the other is which we practice quietly and clandestinely but do not openly advocate that our profession *i.e.* the profession of doctors, is caught in the conflict of such ethics today.

It is a confessional statement of an obstetrician about one's profession and the context is the increasing vogue of female foetcide aided by Ultrasound Scanning technique and the criminal role played by doctors in it. The Medical Sciences and the profession are emerging as a very serious challenge to the existence of the woman itself. I would like to say, whichever part of the country you live in, please bring it to the notice of all of your family members, relatives and friends, some of whom might have bid adieu to their second or third daughter in the womb itself using the technique of Ultrasound Scanning.

Ultrasound technique is a unique boon for the treatment of foetus diseases, malformations and abnormal foetuses but unfortunately, not only in the cities and towns but even in the villages this technique is being used for the termination of female foetuses. Before 1971 the termination of pregnancy used to come under Indian Penal Code. But, under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, some relaxation was allowed in the rules regarding termination of pregnancy. In view of pre-natal sex determination activities the Maharashtra Government enacted the first ever Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique Act in 1988 which held the sex determination as wholly illegal. In 1994 the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Act came into existence which was even more stringent than the act of Maharashtra. This rule had been framed even under the Act way back in January, 1996, but in many of the states these rules were not put into effect. The bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India Comprising Justice Shri M.B. Shah and Justice B.N. Agarwal severely reprimanded the Secretaries of 11 non complying states—Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Tripura and the Union Territories—Andaman Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Lakshdweep as to why they are not submitting confessional statements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the number of women is lesser than men by less than two crores. If we see the data today there are only 933 women per 1000 men in India that is the shortage of 67 women per thousand men. In 1901, there were 972 women per one thousand men, in 1951 there were 972 women per every thousand men in 1981 there were only 933 women an in 1991 the number of women per thousand men was reduced to only 900. It is a grave challenge to the existence of women. If we look at the data of the states, the status of every state is not the same. The number of women per thousand men is 1032 in Kerala, 977 in Andhra Pradesh, 987 in Tamil Nadu, 957 in Karnataka, 988 in Orissa, 870 in Haryana, 879 in Punjab, 885 in Uttar Pradesh, 911 in Rajasthan. Why the number of women in India is so low? The Nature has given more power to the female but in our society daughters have always been neglected. Now-a-days the mortality rate of female children is on the rise. Frankly speaking, the right to life has been snatched away from the female children in many parts of the country. Earlier, daughters were killed at the time of their birth but now they are killed even in womb. It is a crime against female children.

I wonder why such a treatment is meted out to girls? Why are they brought up in scarcity? Why are they kept dependent? Why justice is not done to them even at their own home. Why do the families yearn for sons? Can the country make progress without improving the lost of daughters? Can a country with helpless daughters be prosperous? Can this country dream of advancement after shattering the dreams of daughter? Can the slogans-education to all, health to all, be translated into reality without taking into account the education and health of these daughters? We do not have answers to all these questions.

If boy and girl child are to be made equal, the talent of both with have to be developed. I want to put forth some suggestions in this regard. The parents should also be punished in addition to the doctor for the crime of foeticide. If foeticide becomes unaviodable it should have the consent of two doctors. There is a steep fall in the number of female children in the age group of 0-6 years, therefore a special incentive should be given on the birth

of a female child. The parents of only the girls should be given old age pension. The registration of ultrasound machines installed in the private sector should be made mandatory and it should be made compulsory for the nursing homes to put a signboard with the words- "Sex determination text is not done here" inscribed on it. The cases should be registered by way of sending fake patients and raids be carried out simultaneously against the Hospitals involved in foeticide. The Ministry of Health has constituted official advisory committees at state and district levels to prevent foeticide in the states. I would also like to urge upon the House that the same kind of committees should be constituted and made effective at the village level also. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): I would like to say a few words on behalf of my party while supporting the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002. The Act was first enacted in 1994 in view to stay female foeticide. But from the very beginning, the provisions of this Act were unsatisfactory. The vested interests took advantage of the loopholes in the Act and misused the technique. And a sizable portion of the doctors' community misused the sex determination test and sex technology owing to the lack of will on the part of the Government. Even some lawyers fought in support of the Act. If the Act is not strengthened and not implemented strictly from the day onwards, we believe there will be a serious problem in the ratio of men and women in the future in this country. There has been a decline in the ratio regarding six year old children in our country especially in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Hiamchal Pradesh, Gujarat, Chandigarh and in Maharashtra. One of the reasons for this was the early establishment of private sex determination clinics in these States and abortion of formal foeticide became popular in the later seventies and early eighties. Different women organisations, especially our own AIDWA, a major part of the society and also the judiciary raised protests against such happenings. Supreme Court had also expressed displeasure at the conduct of the Central State Governments. It is saddening that after a gap of eight years, the MCI is still maintaining that unless the doctor's intention is proved, he cannot be held responsible for sex determination tests.

**Sir, there are some other areas also where I have some suggestions to make.

In the present procedure, prior to the action taken, several authorities would have to be consulted and as such this procedure gives rise to the probability of the tampering and destruction of evidence.

Secondly, if sex determination has been declared as a crime like other crimes, then parents should be given the right to go directly to the police or to file a complaint before a court of law against such a crime.

Thirdly, it would be in just to treat the medical practitioners as a privileged class and they are to be governed by the same process of justice as applicable to every other crime.

I also propose that necessary steps should be taken to prevent unnecessary delay in action.

In rural areas, some pregnant mothers are being compelled by their husbands and in-laws to undergo prenatal sex-determination tests. A provision must be made in the present amendment for punishment of such criminals. In such cases, pregnant mothers should not given punishment.

In order to ensure accountability of the Committee and also the Central Supervisory Board, amendment should be made, giving mandate to CSB to submit reports regularly to Parliament and through Parliament to the Standing Committee on Health, Women and Child Development. In this context, I would also propose that all records in respect of registration of clinics as well as action taken against the clinics should be made available for public scrutiny.

The proposed amendment should include setting up of State Advisory Boards. It would be more appropriate to set up multi-member authorities that would function at the District level.

Lastly, mobile vans should be used for pregnancy-related treatment and not for conducting sex-determination tests.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have permitted me to speak on the most significant Bill concerned with the woman since her birth. I support the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Bill brought in by the Government and hope that this will go a long way in protecting the woman, while being in the womb as well as afterwards. Ours is a male dominated society. The women are subject to excesses also owning to the male-dominated society in our country.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

**Original in English.

[Smt. Jas Kaur Meena]

On the one hand it is enshrined in our scriptures that "wherever, women are worshipped, the God reside there" but the conditions are contrary to this adage which is why the Bill has been presented today in the august House of India for enactment. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to why a need for sex determination of the foetus has arisen. At present sons enjoy a status of pre-eminence. The presence of a son is considered indispensable for all rituals. Son is the only proper person to light funeral pyre. If we give a little consideration to all these traditions, we shall get the proof as to why the daughter is held in disfavour. Why the daughter is not allowed to see the light of the day. There are the villages in Rajasthan which have never seen a marriage party (Barat) and the reason cited mainly is that woman is protected by father when she is a daughter and when the becomes a little grown up and attains young age she goes under protection of her brother. She is protected by her husband in her young age and at last she is protected by her son. But why have we turned her enemy just after her arrival in form of embryo in her mother's womb. The conservative, attitude certain dogmas and superstitions, which have taken deep roots in the male dominated society are behind this mentality and despite the spread of education in the society, their hold can still be seen. The lowest male-female ratio in the country is in Punjab. The number of women is very low there. Are the people in Punjab not literate?

I would like to say through you that education has nothing to do with it and neither social awakening is coming in way of such a state of affairs nor the backwardness. We agree that a convert onslaught has started against the women ever since the technique of sex-determination of foetus was introduced. The after effects of it are going to be extremely horrible. For this, I would like to urge upon the Minister to make provisions somewhere in the Bill for empowering the woman socially and legally so that she may secure herself from foetus to youth and old age with this social and legal power. For this we shall have to ensure that those who commit foeticide after the determination of the sex through ultrasound are given the severest punishment whether he be a husband, or the mother-in-law who torments the pregnant woman or sister-in-laws, 'Jethani' or anyone from the maternal side or any other member of the society. Provision of rigorous punishment should be made for them too. When the husband says to his wife that she has not given birth to a son, his behaviour towards her is not appropriate but is rather wrong. Therefore, the husband should also be severely penalised. I am not saying this merely because I also happen to be a woman. I am also a mother, as well as maternal and paternal grandmother. If a woman is measured through the measure stick of all these relations, we too are guilty. Women themselves commit atrocities against the women in this regard and are compelling them to go in for ultrasound. They should also get severe punishment.

I want to say about social security, when only the son is entitled to lit fire to the funeral pyre, it is natural for the parents to yearn for a son in their old age in case they have no son to lit fire to their funeral pyre. I would like to ask whether a daughter cannot lit fire to the funeral pyre of her parents. There should be a legal provision also in this regard. If there are two or four daughter and there is no son in a family the eldest daughter should be entitled like the eldest son to lit fire to the funeral pyre of the parents. Likewise she should also have the right to property. The right to property for a daughter is also essential in our society for her security.

It is a travesty on the part of the Central Government or the State Government when an amount of Rs. 500 is sanctioned to the parents, living Below Poverty Line, on the birth of the first female child in their family. That amount is insignificant in this materialist era of inflation. Apart from it, that amount also does not reach legally the couple belonging to the BPL family. My suggestion regarding such schemes wherein grant of Rs. 500 is given on the birth of a female child is that it should be increased to Rs. 5000 so that it could be sufficient for her upbringing and her parents can provide her with proper education and make her capable. Such an amount may also be granted through deposits and insurance. If it is done, it undoubtedly will bring about awakening the society. The affluent people do not need it, but the poor indeed need it. Neither can the poor afford the education of their daughter nor can they defray marriage exprenses etc.

Similarly, the Raj Lakshmi Scheme has been introduced, we should honour and provide incentive to the couples who go in for fairly planning after birth of one or two daughter and adequate financial assistance should be provided to them for their daughters.

Certain avaricious doctors are responsible for the process of pre-natal diagnostic. They influence the common men by spreading perverse feelings in the society through installing large boards and constructing beautiful clinics. We shall have to propagate family planning at district, village and even at smaller levels. Such awareness related things may also be incorporated within this Bill.

Man or woman in the villages are not able to understand the messages conveyed through TV, internet or the media. In place of this if message is conveyed through plays, puppets and the village assemblies, they

can understand it better. They should be persuaded not to cry on the birth of a female child whether it is second or third, but instead to celebrate their birth. There is an imbalance in male-female ratio and a social awareness is required in this regard and proper attention should be given towards the status of women. Their identity will have to be recognised in order to save their dignity. Laws can be framed while sitting in Delhi. There may be 10-12 children in a family, but I would like to say this with a sense of pride that I have two daughters. That is why it held by matters who will lit fire to the funeral pyre when I will die.

Sir, with these words I conclude and hope that the hon. Minister shall incorporate the suggestions given in this Bill.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): I support the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill. In today's circumstances the enactment of this law is extremely essential, but even after the enactment of the law pre-natal sex-determination is going on. I believe that umpteen laws have been framed in the country in respect of women. As laws are being made, so is their misuse getting increased. Even after the directions of the Supreme Court foeticides are taking place. Somewhere there is something wrong in the society and so it does not recognise women as described in Vedas and Puranas- "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devath." In other words, heaven resides in the laps of the women. In the laps of Mother Mariam Christ played. But girl children are being killed before they take birth. I do not think that women are exclusively guilty for these foeticides because our social framework is such as if a woman has two girl children, the members of her family become cautious before hand and before the child takes birth they try to ascertain through sonography or ultrasound test whether the foetus will be a boy or a girl. If the foetus is ascertained as a girl then foeticide is carried out. The mother can not herself kill her child and at present various techniques have been invented for sex determination. Due to family pressures the mentality of the women gets changed. The woman is tortured too much and a case is presented before the doctor explaining that she is unable to bear her child and the woman loses her mental composure. Foeticides are being carried out under these conditions. If we look at the nomenclature of Gods, names of female deities are written first. Be it Sita-Ram, Radhe-Krishna or Gouri-Shankar everywhere names of ladies come first. They are worshipped. Look at the society. Where do we stand? What is our status and what is our position? We find that our number has decreased to 976 against per one thousand male. Today the situation is deteriorating so much so that the number of women is decreasing day by day. In future it would decrease all the more.

Sir, I have read it in the newspaper that a six year old girl was raped. If the number of women continues to decrease in such a manner men would rape women and girls on roads. The law has been enacted, but only the enactment of laws is not sufficient you have said that the perpetrators of foeticides will be sentenced for a five year term in prison and Rs. 50 thousand would be charged as fine. Have the Government got any such case under this law? Has any woman sent to you any such representation? None will send. Umpteen laws are made. Dowry deaths are taking place, rapes are being committed every day. Women have to face several types of problems, they are not getting justice anywhere. Everywhere unemployment is increasing. Those who have not got themselves registered, purchase ultrasound and sonography machines and start carrying out sex determination and other tests. There it is told whether the foetus is of a girl child and consequent to that knowledge foeticide is carried out.

I want to ask the hon'ble Minister that for making changes in this law what action is being undertaken by the Committee constituted for this purpose. Is this legislation having any impact on blocks or panchayats? Are any proper decisions being taken under this legislation. Nowhere such provisions exist. Have you got any report from the committee you have constituted...*(Interruptions)*

I congratulate you on the introduction of the Bill, but how will you bring to book those who have not got themselves registered. You have carried out raids. Nothing is achieved by simply making a law. The Supreme Court has warned twelve states time and again, but even after that this law is being clearly violated. Our Government make law but what do it do to prevent it's misuse. Can you do justice to the women if you fail to understand their feelings? Can we prevent our mothers and sisters from committing foeticide. Their family members exert pressure upon them. I fully agree with the opinion of Sushila Sarojji. The suggestions she has given...*(Interruptions)* Some facilities should be given to those to whom girls are born.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I am on a Point of Order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under which rule?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Under Rule 372.

Yesterday, when some of us raised the issue about Tehelka, we were assured by the Chair that the Minister would make a statement at 2 p.m. immediately after the Lunch Hour today. It is already 2.50 p.m. We want to know when the statement will be made. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Hon. Speaker asked them to make a statement yesterday itself; but they failed to do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have anything to say, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Where is the Law Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seat. The hon. Minister wants to clarify the position.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through the chair this information was given yesterday that the Finance Minister was also consulted and it was stated that the information to this effect would be provided that day. I too understand it. I am just going to collect the information to submit it in the House.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: This is a Government or a grocery shop being conducted ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, it is violating the direction of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has gone to find out the position. You please wait.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There was a direction from the Chair yesterday. In the Revised List of Business, there is no mention of it. At what time will the Law Minister come and make the statement? Obviously, we are apprehending something wrong. The House will be adjourned today after six o'clock. Still we are not aware at what time the Minister will come and make the statement. Even the Parliamentary Affairs Minister yesterday reconfirmed the direction of the Chair about the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The Law Minister telephoned Mr. Deputy-Speaker and agreed to make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar has gone to find out the position. You please wait.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Chairman, when will it be made? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: None of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. The Law Minister is sitting here, possibly with a brief. I do not know about that. He is entitled to make the statement. Yesterday, Mr. Deputy Speaker made it clear that the Law Minister telephoned him and told him that he will come to the House today and make the statement on Tehelka. It was reconfirmed by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar. But in the Revised List of Business, nothing has been printed. ...*(Interruptions)* We are now passing the time. This is what is happening. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar has to find out the position. You wait for that. In the meanwhile, we can continue with the discussion on the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, give time to the Government. Let them find out. The moment the Bill is passed, have to make the statement. Otherwise, we cannot keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, when are they coming? When will the statement be made? I had asked whether it will be made immediately after the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has gone to find out the position. You wait for him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Today you have got no other subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You wait for some time. Now let the debate on the Bill continue. He will come back to give you information.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, he had promised to give a statement at 2 O'clock, where is the hon'ble Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdasji, you please take your seat.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ask the hon'ble Minister to respond to our demand, then we will sit down.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Dr. Jagannath's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Chairman, Sir, I stand here on my behalf and on my Party's behalf, to support The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002.

Sir, Pre-natal diagnosis is meant for good purposes of knowing the pre-natal diagnosis of conditions associated with chromosomal anomalies and many inborn errors of metabolism.

Usually, these are the methods adopted for medical and academic purposes. The Cytogenetics test, Amniocentesis, Protein Essay and DNA diagnosis is meant for determining bio-chemical disorders. The Ultra-Sonography and Foetoscopy is to know the congenital anomalies, if there is anything, existing in the foetus in the mother's womb. Then, Maternal Serum Alpha Foeto Protein and Chorionic Gandotrophin is to do screening for knowing the neural tube defect and Trisomy from which it is carried to the brain. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, such an important topic is being discussed and the Union Minister is not present here. He may please be called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rajaji is sitting here.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Alright, the Minister of State is sitting here but the Cabinet Minister should also remain here. Why is he not present here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has moved the Bill.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: He should remain present here. Why is he not here?

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): The presence of the Cabinet Minister here is necessary because all the files have been passed by the Cabinet Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will come.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will he come after the House is adjourned?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You support also and interject as well. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why have you stood up? What is your right? Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has moved the Bill.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Out of these above-mentioned tests, the Ultra-Sonography and Amniocentesis tests are very frequently used to know the chromosomal diagnosis and congenital anomalies. The purpose is very good. The concept is very good. To avoid having any child with congenital anomalies or chromosomal abnormalities which may cause problems to the parents in future, these tests are useful. But what is happening now? The way the pre-natal diagnostic tests are used unchecked is a national shame. Instead of using these techniques for good medical purpose, These tests are used for the determination of sex and female foeticide which is nothing less then murder. This should be equated to a murder.

The good purpose of having this is to know the high-risk case diseases like Down syndrome with advanced maternal age. The determination of sex is warranted when there are sex-linked diseases like the Muscular Dystrophy, which will be transmitted from the female to the male. The Muscular Dystrophy is a disease which will be carried from a mother to a male person. But this will not affect the female child. In such type of cases, instead of using it for good purpose, now they are using for sex-determination and female foeticide which is causing a disproportion in the ratio of male and female. The situation is alarming in States like Punjab and Haryana where the religious leaders are asked to interfere and they have called for stopping such type of activities. But in spite of the efforts of the Government, in spite of the Indian Medical Association calling a meeting of all

* Not recorded.

[Dr. Manda Jagannath]

the religious leaders, the NGOs, politicians and the regulating agencies, this practice could not be stopped. Further, in spite of the direction of the Supreme Court, the female foeticide and ultrasound diagnosis are not coming down. It is a very serious matter. The Supreme Court has directed to see that the ultrasound machines are used by the registered hospitals. The Court has also directed to seal and seize the ultrasound machines/ scanner used by unregistered organisations and if it is used for sex-determination and female foeticide purposes.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

Unfortunately, the female foeticide is increasing day by day. The female sex ratio is coming down in an alarming scale. In such a condition, I support this Bill.

Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, our Government, after the Supreme Court's direction has come down very heavily on such illegal tests and they are taking very stringent action. In respect of Ultra-Sonography tests, they have made it compulsory for the hospitals to get themselves registered. Otherwise, they will not be given the permission to start any nursing home or to make any diagnostic tests. Under these circumstances, I would suggest to the Government of India to make an effective awareness campaign in order to make the public as well as the service providers aware of the provisions of the Act.

15.00 hrs.

At present, even educated people do not know about the provisions of the Act of 1994. Due to various social and cultural reasons this is being kept as secret, but it should not be kept secret. So, I urge upon the Ministry of Health to conduct an awareness campaign at the grass-roots level so that the people in the villages come to know about the provisions of this Act.

Then, the States and Union Territories should be asked to provide protection to NGOs and social activists who are giving information about the violation of the provisions of this Act. Some people say that to have a male child or a female child is their personal matter and others should not interfere in it. Our country is surging ahead in many fields. So, I would like to say that there should be no discrimination between a male child and a female child. Therefore, if some people do not want to have more children, they should go in for family planning which will help in bringing down the population of our country.

Sir, I would like to request the Government that strong action should be taken against the people who violate this law. Simple seizure of the ultrasound machine is not enough. The centres which are misusing the ultrasound facility should be closed and their registration should be cancelled.

Finally, I would urge all the Members of this House that we should all take a pledge here to have a mass movement in the country against female foeticide. With these words, I support the Bill.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that the Government of Haryana has started a very good scheme, namely *Devirupak* Scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot suddenly bring anything to the notice of the House. Your name is not there with me. How can you get up and speak like this?

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, I would like to add something new for the information of the House. It is a very good scheme. So, I would request the Minister whether he would assure, during his reply to the debate, any help to the Government of Haryana for the promotion of this beneficial scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to pass this Bill by 3.30 p.m. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has introduced "The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Bill, 2002' in the House. The Chief whip of our party Shri Dasmunsi ji has expressed his views over this bill. I fully support his views. I rise to support the bill. We talk about our states in general and explain with pride the achievements made by them but at the same time I am anguished to submit it and my head is lowered with shame. I am going to say something other than what hon. Shri Indora ji was pointing out.

Historically women have been honoured and their due status has been recognised in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi. But it is a matter of shame that the same states are leading in female foeticide. Thousands of female foetus developing in wombs are killed. Moreover, tender age girl children lose their life due to our atrocities. The figures of such incidents in Punjab are also very alarming. This was the state where the great saint Guru Nanak was born who had exhorted "Soko Manda Akhiya, Jit Jame Rajan". It means it is the women who give birth to the great followers of god and also brave warriors. So they should

not be disrespected. Bebe Nanki brought up the children of Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Nanak Dev ji travelled thousands of kolometres and imparted valued education to the people. Mai Bhago was born in that very soil of Punjab and she fought against cross border oppressions. I would also like to mention her holiness Mata Gujari who was also born in Punjab. It is thought that her husband Guru Teg Bahadur ji did not have faith in the Hindu religion. Besides, he came to Delhi and sacrificed his life against Darul Islam. Now I come to the point. In Punjab, sex ratio is 979 females against a population of 1000 males. Therefore, I thank the government as well as the hon. Minister for introducing this bill in the House. By doing so he has performed a good deed. I have a pledge which I have got in record. A famous poet of Hindi said one thing some years back which is now applicable to our country—'Jinhen Nazz Hai Hind Par Ve Kahan Hain', it means that where are those who are proud of their country. So many atrocities are being committed continuously for the last years. All the ultrasound machines have turned into killing machines and thousand lakhs of female foetus have been killed in the womb. The religious leaders have taken a pledge.

[English]

> "We the citizens of India and the representatives of various religions and sections of India hereby strongly condemn the inhuman and shameful practice of female foeticide."

[Translation]

But this practice has been banned merely by taking an oath. Neither the Government nor the religious leaders have taken any steps to translate it into action. This is very distressing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, however, the whole country is suffering from this malady. But I did not know, perhaps it is due to my ignorance. Multinational companies are also responsible for it. It is the order of the Supreme Court.

[English]

> "On the last hearing, the court had directed manufacturers of ultrasound machines-Philips, Symbonds, Toshiba, Larsen and Toubro and wipro GE—"

[Translation]

Hon. Justice of the Supreme Court, Shri M.B. Shah has said with reference to 'Foeticide : SC orders against action against clinics' that with the help of all these machines, all the killing clinics are being operated in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Chandigarh. I would like to tell about Chandigarh where severe atrocity was committed and these machines were used for sex determination test and we remained mute spectators for a long period over this issue. Better late than never, the government has introduced this Bill. I thank the government for it. I, on behalf of myself and my party, would like to give three-four suggestions. While speaking I recall a beautiful episode of the history of India. Ravana is called as biggest oppressor. It is mentioned in Tulsi Das's Ramayana that before fighting with Puroshatam Ram, the wife of Ravana, Mandodari asked her husband many times not to fight with Maryada Puroshotam Ram, because he did not now how powerful Rama was. She asked him many times to avoid war. Such grave and intelligent women have been born on this earth. But in the 21st century, we have committed crimes against women. We talk about a Kansa but through these clinics Kansavad is going on in the country. For sex determination and female foeticide we go to these clinics. In this way we are committing atrocities. My first suggestion is that there should be

[English]

Prohibition on sale of ultrasound machine, etc., to personal laboratories and clinics not registered under the Act.

[Translation]

There is need to make it more stringent. I was astonished at reading statement of a famous doctor of Mumbai. He said that these tests were lucrative in India. Petition has been registered by Mahila Jagriti Samiti against Gynaecologists.

[English]

Reena George has cited the instance of a Mumbai-based Gynaecologist who in an interview to USA talk show admitted that they conducted sex determination tests. She said that these were lucrative and widely practices throughout the country.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ultrasound machines should not be used for sex determination and it should be banned. Stringent provisions should be made in the Act so that this test can be banned....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am only giving two suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Total time for discussion is half an hour. You please conclude now.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I am the first speaker. You give me at least 5 minutes. My second suggestion is this.

[Translation]

The bill provides for the constitution of Supervisory Board by the states. There is need to nominate those women as members of the said board who have struggled in their life and also have contributed to improve the position of women in the society. You should keep this point in mind.

There is a provision in the Bill.

[English]

You see the prohibition of advertisements relating to pre-conception and pre-Natal determination tests. However, advertisements of sex clinics are published in all the newspapers in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi. You should impose ban on it so that it can not get published in the newspapers.

Lastly, I would like to give one suggestion before I conclude. This suggestion is related to section 2.13 of the bill which provides for banning the license of a doctor for a period of two years if he is caught conducting such a test in his clinic.

[English]

I think this should be increased to 5 years at least.

[Translation]

So that we will teach them a lesson that this is nothing less than a murder. It is equated with the number of a girl child which is a punishable offence under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. Therefore, there should be provision of 5 years imprisonment in this regard.

There is also provision for Search and Seizure racket in the bill. More stringent measures need to be made in this Bill in this regard so that we can feel secure in future.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, lastly, I would like to say that we should first ban these tests in Punjab which has got bad name for female foeticide. We should ban these tests in Punjab so that we can bring the number of females at par with the national average. I again support this Bill. With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA (Barasat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak on this subject which is a very specialised medical technique- "The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994" was brought into operation from 1st January 1996. But, unfortunately, during the last 8 years, this very important technique is misused much more than is applicable in its proper use.

Though the Act was introduced to detect genetic and metabolic disorders, chromosomal abnormalities, certain congenital mal-formations and sex-linked diseases—or in other words, this is a technique for the prenatal diagnosis of diseases which interferes with normal life of the newborn with an incurable disease, the procedure is being widely misused to determine the sex of a normal child which is absolutely unnecessary. Some do it just for inquisitiveness, while in most cases pregnant women are compelled by their husbands or relatives to undergo the tests and in most cases, if a female foetus is detected—illegal abortions are undertaken. This not only leads to a purposeful alteration in the Male-Female ratio in the population as has happened in some States in India, but also against the status and dignity of women and a blatant and shameful gender discrimination. Genetic clinics are meant to use PNDT for genetic counselling regarding genetic diseases but instead they are engaged in large-scale misuse in determining the sex of a normal child.

There has been mushrooming of genetic clinics, diagnostic centres, diagnostic laboratories in cities whose main work in PNDT has been for determining sex of a foetus and promoting illegal abortions. The diseases that need PND for genetic counselling are not common and indeed some diseases are very rare and, as such, ethical use of PNDT in private practice becomes very limited and too expensive a set-up and hence the criminal malpractices of sex determination by PNDT is so common.

I fully support the Amendment of the Act and the clauses with legal actions which should be strictly implemented. With wide-spread circulation to the medical profession through Indian Medical Association, Specialist Medical Associations, the Medical Council of India as well as through the media to create alertness among the Professionals as well as awareness among the common people, should be done so that this useful and expensive technique is used only for diagnosis of diseases and not for determination of the sex of a foetus.

The Government teaching hospitals have a large role to play in serving the people by the PNDT for genetic counselling and prevent its misuse. At the same time

there should be a thorough scrutiny of the activities of the Private clinics, Private Genetic Centres and laboratories regarding the qualifications of the specialists employed, the records of the clinics, the machines used, the staff pattern and the referral systems. The private Genetic Clinics and Laboratories should be monitored by a Committee formed by the Government at the State level.

I understand the difficulties in such surveys in a vast country like India but to prevent an unlawful gender discrimination endangering the life of expectant mothers and to prevent abnormal and abrupt end to an unborn female child should be enacted by law.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I will express my views in few words. On one hand it is a saying in our country-"Janani janambhumishch swargadpi gariyasi" *i.e.* mother and motherland is greater than heaven and on the other hand foeticide is prevalent in our country which is a matter of women in all the times. The foeticide which is being done nowadays is also an atrocity on women. Today, ratio-wise there are only 800 females against 1000 males due to foeticide. If this continues then there would be a time when this ratio will come down to 500 females against 1000 males. It will increase immoral behaviour and encourage the practice of polygamy. That is why foeticide is a crime.

Mr. Bertrand Russel had said that two types of moralities exist in our civilized society. There is one which we advocate but do not practice and there is another which we practice but do not openly advocate. There are similar beliefs in our society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, foetus is not something lifeless, it has life. That is why I am saying that foeticide amounts to homicide. I want to say that no action is taken against private clinics where abortion are carried out illegally particularly in villages where women are illiterate and are not aware of all these things, quacks and clinics set up there carry out abortions and no action is taken against them. There should be stringent law against such doctors who are doing this illegally by opening clinics. These illegal clinics conduct foetus test and carry out abortion if it is a girl child, they should be looked under section 302, in fact I would suggest capital punishment for them because they stop a child from coming to this world even before he is born, they snatch the right of birth from a child who has not yet seen this world. Stringent action should be taken against such doctors.

In the end I would say that atrocities have been committed against women in all ages. Murder and rape have always been committed. The Government should make arrangements for their education and protect their rights. Why has such a situation arisen that even educated people are going for foetcide and ultrasound tests. There is no arrangement for education for girls and daughter seem to be a burden due to dowry. Parents educate boys because they fetch in dowry which girls can not do. Through you I would like to know how has this kind of mentality developed in our society. The Government has to make efforts to erase this kind of mentality. I support this bill and I would like to say that stringent action should be taken against such doctors.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to given an information. I said in the morning that farmers are being harassed that is why the hon. Speaker directed the hon. Home Minister to apprise the House of the situation. While the issue was under discussion thousand of workers and leaders of Samajwadi Party and farmers, demonstrating nearby court in Moradabad...*(Interruptions)* were being lathi charged due to which several demonstrators including many MLA's were seriously injured.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing one Bill. How can we intervene in the Bill?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: They are not being given treatment even now ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing a Bill there should not be any interruption in the debate. A debate is going on. Please wait for five minutes. Let the Bill be passed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Their condition is serious ...*(Interruptions)* They need immediate medical attention not an hour later. They are not being given treatment ...*(Interruptions)* It will be of no use if treatment is given late on ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Only one minute more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Parliamentarian. How can you interfere in the debate? Let us pass the Bill. Then I will give you time.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to give information to the House. You have been the Speaker. I just want to take one minute to give information to the House. I am not giving speech.

[English]

only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should be a coherent recording.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, leaders, workers of Samajwadi Party and farmers were demonstrating near the Court in Moradabd, there were thousand of demostrators. They were demonstrating peacefully. The Chief Minister has gone to Circuit House in Moradabad for zonal inspection and as per orders, the police lathi charged the demonstrators. Shri J.P. Singh, former MLA has received severe injuries, the President of Kundarki Legislative area has a fractured shoulder bone, Shri Bijendra Pal Singh Yadav MLA of several times has received severe injuries, 25 people including Shri Iqbal Mehmood. Shri Pravin Yadav, Shri Chandra Prakash, Shri Vinod Puri etc. have got serious injuries. Women police was not there but even then women were lathi charged. 15 women including Shrimati Kusum Lata Yadav, district President of Samajwadi Party, Shrimati Rajesh Kumari Yadav, Smt. Kaila Devi, Shrimati Maya Devi and some others have been injured. As per the orders of the Chief Minister they have neither been given treatment nor admitted to the hospital. The police has arrested the demonstrators and kept them in police lines. Some of the demonstrators are seriously injured but no arrangement has been made for treatment. The police has even snatched the watches and money from several workers. *...(Interruptions)* It is a serious issue that is why I am informing you. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. Speaker has issued direction in the morning that hon. Home Minister should give a statement in this regard in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you have informed the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the debate is on, on a particular subject, it is not the parliamentary practice to interfere.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, first of all, I should express my thanks to the hon. Members who have spoken on this important Bill. Almost, all the Members, when they were supporting the Bill, gave valid suggestions. These will be taken into consideration, I can assure the House by making rules and other things.

Before giving my answers to the specific questions, I would like to say in what context this Bill has been introduced and is being considered.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): He has already said that in the beginning.

SHRI A. RAJA: Previously, it was called as Pre-Natal Diagnostic Act. Now, a prefix that has been added in the nomenclature of the Bill is 'Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Act'. After 1994, since the techniques were emerging fast, without putting the embryo in the womb of the woman or without taking sperm and other things in the fallopian tube we can have a child. But a technique came out from the scientific field that even if from the 'XY' chromosomes in the DNA, 'Y' is fused to the woman's chromosomes, we can ensure the male child. So, we have confined this Bill, according to the latest techniques available, to give the amendment. Accordingly, the nomenclature of this Act is being changed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, what is this?

SHRI A. RAJA: The intention of the Government, I can say in few words, is that-the doctors are being registered under the Indian Medical Council Act—this is first time doctors are placed within the purview of the Act. If they are indulging in the PNDT clinics and other things, they can be convicted up to five years. Even they have not been placed under the Consumers' Protection Act, as the Chair is well aware of this. This is for the first time that the doctors have been included in the PNDT Act, so that they can be punished if they are indulging in the PNDT. The Government, for the first time, is planning to implement this act stringently.

So, I solicit the fullest cooperation of the House to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Minati Sen—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Minati Sen—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Minati Sen—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 7 and stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 10 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause 11. Shrimati Minati Sen—Not present.

The question is:

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Minati Sen—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Minati Sen—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 17 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 18 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19 and 20 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause 21. Shrimati Minati Sen—Not present.

The question is:

"That clause 21 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 22 to 24 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI A. RAJA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a submission to make. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will have to take up the next Bill—Representation of People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002. It is a small Bill. Let us pass that Bill first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharaganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, three Legislators of Uttar Pradesh have been arrested *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Three legislators have been arrested. One of them is Sh. Radheyshyam Jaiswal *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mulayam jee, we have never stopped you *...(Interruptions)* It is a small Bill, let it be passed.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We are not stopping it. We want that the Bill is passed. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you have already raised that issue. Let us pass the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill. You have raised that issue. That is over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we are not opposing the passing of this Bill. I am talking about the Supplementary List of Business to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution of India. *...(Interruptions)* This is a very vital Amendment. Should it not be informed to the Members earlier? They have brought it last minute. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The Chairman is talking about passing of another Bill. It is not this Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

It you do not want us to introduce this Bill, we will not. I promise you that we would not put this Bill. My only anxiety is that if it is introduced, during the inter-Session period it can go to the Committee and we will get a proper report.

[Translation]

I am introducing the Bill, if you do not want to pass it, do not pass it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are not opposing it. What we are talking is that this should not be the method. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I totally agree with you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do not mind if you take any advantage, but you are bringing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill for introduction at the last minute of the last day.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: This is not a Bill for passing. *...(Interruptions)* It does not require. There are different Constitutional (Amendment) Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): It is a dangerous trend.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: There are different Constitutional (Amendment) Bills.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: It does not matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: This is a different Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am on a point of order under rules 65 and 72.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, this is not introduction of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. This is a different Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, this is not the introduction of the Bill. We are on an earlier Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha.

15.36 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, under article 171 of the Constitution, the election of MLC will also come under the local body. In the Fourth Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, the names of the local bodies are given for various States. In Bihar, the earlier name was municipality, etc. The Bihar Legislature has changed the names of those bodies. Municipality has become Nagar Panchayats and a whole lot of other names have come. Those new names are sought to be incorporated in the Fourth Schedule. That is the only thing. Therefore, I request that we can pass this Bill without any discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the day this Bill was introduced its title was—Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Bill but today it has become—Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill. The hon'ble Minister should reply how the title of the Bill has been changed.

Sir, the State of Bihar has been divided. There is a legislative council in the State of Bihar. The Member of seven bodies *i.e.* Municipal Councils, Cantonment Board, Municipal Panchayats, Zila Parishads, Panchayat Committees, Municipal Cooperation and Village Panchayats shall be the voters for that council. The members of the council would be elected by these bodies. Earlier there were 96 members in the council and there were 32 members of local bodies. After the division of Bihar the number of Bihar Legislature Assembly members has become 243 instead of 324. My question is how many seats would be here and how it would be divided? I think this Bill has been introduced inadvertently otherwise the hon'ble Minister should tell how many Members would be in the Legislative Council and the local bodies, who would be the voters for that Council?

Members were got elected for one Lakh Thirty Five thousand Panchayats. One member was elected over a population ranging from 500 to 1,00,000. Pradhan would also become a voter in the villages Panchayat and the member of ward would also be a voter. Similarly person elected from notified area would also be a member. The number of all these members is about one Lakh Forty Thousand approximately one Lakh Thirty Five Thousand from Panchayats and the remaining would be from Municipal bodies. Please clarify the number of members in it. It has been given in the Constitution-

[English]

Article 17 (1) says:

> "The total number of members in the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council shall not exceed one-third of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly of the State..."

[Translation]

The Total number of members in the assembly would be 243 *i.e.* it is in relation to total number of members. Its members should not exceed 81. The one third of 243 is 81. It means the number of members in the Council would not be more than 81. Bihar Organisation Act has been passed. The section 27 of that Act says that there

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

will be 92 seats in the Bihar Legislative Council from the stipulated date. The present entry at number two in the third schedule of one Representation of the People Act will be replaced by the following entry. Bihar Organisation Act has not been considered while bringing an amendment to this Bill. It is unconstitutional. Therefore the hon'ble Minister should clarify how it would be limited? Earlier, there used to be 34 members in the local self-Government bodies and now what would be their number and how many members will be elected from them? The Bill brought by Hon'ble Minister is constitutional one and till now it was all unconstitutional.

[English]

Article 171 3) says:

> "Of the total number of members of the Legislative Council of a State-
>
> (a) as nearly as may be, one-third shall be elected by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and such other local authorities in the State as Parliament may by law specify."

[Translation]

The hon'ble Minister may please see clause 1, Clause 3 and sub-clause (a) of 3 in Article 171 and enlighten us all about it. How many members would be in the electorate formed of local Bodies. The council would not be constituted with 1/3 members of the Assembly but by one third of its total membership. The hon'ble Minister first clarify it and then get the Bill passed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Raghuvanshjee, the names of all panchayats have been changed by the Government of Bihar and Legislative Assembly—the new name of Municipal Council is Municipal Panchayat but in the law it is still Municipal council. If the law remains the same, then the election to Legislative Council can't be held from Local Bodies. The number is a secondary issue. The High Court has also directed to hold elections at an early date ...*(Interruptions)* For the time being this amendment is necessary. Let it be passed. Thereafter Members for Legislative Council will be elected from Local Bodies.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How many members would be elected?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: It would be as per constitution. If this amendment is not passed then no election can be held.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have no objection over amendments. We would have not raised this question, if no one would have been aware of the law. It is a constitutional matter. Please tell us about the number of members to be elected by electorates of committees. You have referred to constitution and I have told you about the constitutional position.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: There are 24 seats of Local Bodies in the Bihar Legislative Assembly Council. If it has to be changed, we would consider it separately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the Minister has replied to your query. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You please give us in writing. It is our suggestion that you may please go through Article 171. It says that Council would be constituted by 1/3 members of the Assembly and 1/3 members of the Council would be elected from 98 Bodies. But according to it the total number of member in Assembly is 243 and 1/3 of it is 81 and 1/3 of 81 is 27. According to constitution, 27 members would be elected. But the passage of Bihar Reorganisation Act was unconstitutional. In that Act the strength of the members has been reduced from 96 to 92.

[English]

That is not more than one third of the total strength of the Assembly ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, your time is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You may please refer to section 17 of Bihar Reorganisation Act.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you cannot argue like that. You have made your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Why are you in a hurry to pass the Bill? I do not understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Bill was allotted a time of half-an-hour in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. You all were there in that meeting.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Do you want to take a political advantage? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is constitutional ...*(Interruptions)*. This question is relate to 29 lakh persons. The chair will have to be impartial. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, why are you so aggressive?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have simply said that I will finish my speech just in a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, why are you so aggressive? This is very bad. I have given you more time. You have already made your speech.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: This Bill can be passed in the next Session. The Government can bring it in the next Session. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Sir, he is challenging your ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my suggestion is that Hon'ble Minster may please go through the Article 171 and also Section 17 of Bihar Reorganisation Act. He may please furnish his written reply within a week after consulting both the sections under which I have raised questions in view of the Bill he is trying to get passed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I will give reply to hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. ...*(Interruptions)* I am only requesting that the amendment to the Fourth Schedule is needed.

[Translation]

He also wants that the elections should be held at the earliest. We also want that elections should be held at the earliest. As the High Court has also given directives in this regard, so you are giving your consent thereon. I humbly urge that this Bill may be passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: As the Government set the constitution at naught, therefore, we have drawn their attention towards this.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Thank you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the Legislative Business, in the Supplementary List of Business. Shri Jual Oram to introduce a Bili.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh are being looted and they are being lathi charged indiscriminately. Three legislators have been lathi charged mercilessly in Sitapur district.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not able to hear anything.

15.52 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want? We are having a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats and tell me as to what do you want. I will hear you, one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: the House is in disorder. Nobody bothers about the rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, what about the statement by the hon. Minister of Law and Justice on *Tehelka* enquiry? *...(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are being mercilessly beaten by the Government of Kumari Mayawati. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are having a discussion under Rule 193 on the sugarcane issue. I will call you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

15.53 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have obeyed your orders, but we will not keep silent if the Legislators are being beaten and if they are being dragged. Hon'ble Speaker from the Chair had directed that Minister of Home Affairs would say something and give statement immediately in this regard, but even though statement is not being given. We had said that the farmers were being killed and the Legislators were being beaten. Three Legislators from Sitapur are injured. They were being dragged. Discussions were held in this regard *...(Interruptions)* Please direct the Hon'ble Minister to give statement. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already drawn the attention of the House to this matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker have given the ruling that the Minister of Home Affairs should come here and give statement. If you do not listen to us, the atrocities on the farmers will be committed. Whether there will be lathi-charge on the directives of Chief Minister? The Chief Minister was present on the spot. One retired Major J.P. Singh, who had served in Indian Army and had been a Legislator was also beaten up. They will be beaten up, if the legislatures will not be with them *...(Interruptions)* Whether you will beat them if they will be with us? They will be beaten up if they disassociate themselves from the BJP.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you have already drawn the attention of the House and of the Government to this matter. Mr. Minister, what is the position?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should say something in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my compulsion that I am to sit here for the whole day. I don't have any information officially, if any incident has taken place in Uttar Pradesh. I will inform you when it will be made available to me. Enough time is not available in this session now. Therefore, discussions in this regard will be held when the next session will be held. You can speak in details in that session.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Please ask the Minister of Food to reply of the Question relating to farmers. Also ask him to reply on the discussions which is not concluded *...(Interruptions)* Also inform about the incident of lathi charge which has taken place recently.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Akhilesh ji, you may please first decide that discussion on the issue should be held as per the list of business. Therefore, Shri Sharad ji will reply.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the morning when we gave the notice to this effect that the farmers are being beaten and Hon'ble Suman ji was also saying that he is agreed to it that the discussion on this issue should be taken up in the next session *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mulayam Singh ji, for the time being let the debates continue in the House in this regard *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue is concerned with farmers. They have been beaten up *...(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Minister of Food had clearly said that he will give statement *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will proceed with discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, there is one Bill to be introduced. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, there is one Bill to be introduced.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I am on a point of order. Yesterday when I raised the issue of Tehelka, then, the Chair had directed the Minister to make a statement at 2 p.m. today. Now, it is about 4.00 p.m. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of order. A point of order will not arise out of any ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, it was a direction of the Chair. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I will let you know about your every query. *...(Interruptions)* First, let the Minister Introduce the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

15.57 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (NINETY-FOURTH AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up discussion under Rule 193. Shri Ramji Lal Suman is to initiate it.

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SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before you take up discussion under Rule 193, I would like to make a submission to you. We are left with only two hours. Now, there are two items listed in the List of Business.

Sir, there was a direction by the hon. Deputy Speaker, yesterday that the Law Minister would make a statement today on Tehelka. We would like to know whether the statement will be made before 6 o'clock or the statement will not be made. It was a direction given by the Deputy Speaker, on confirmation by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister on the floor. Therefore, we would like to know about it; otherwise, after this business ends, *vande mataram* will be played and we will go back. So, I want to know about that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, unfortunately, yesterday during the hon. Chief Justice's dinner with President, the Law Minister had taken ill. He is hospitalised. I will get information about him and before we play *vande mataram* and adjourn, I will let you know the exact final position. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is the final position? ...*(Interruptions)* It was stated that the statement would be made today.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: That is why, I am saying today only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No. The statement will be made by the Law Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As I said, the Law Minister is hospitalised. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Law Minister does not mean one Minister. The portfolio of the Law Ministry can be held by two people. The other one is here ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Do not worry. I am also a Minister. I will get the statement from them and read if before the House is adjourned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have the right to object to introduction of the Bill under Rule 72. When the Supplementary List of Business has been circulated just now, how could I give notice in the morning? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bill has already been introduced. You can raise your objection at the time of consideration and passing of the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No, that is not the position. I have the right to oppose. You and I were Speakers in the Assemblies. We know the position. Sir, you are occupying this seat and denying justice to a Member. It is very unfortunate. We all know that under Rule 72, I have the right to oppose. You have denied that right to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is Rule 72? You read it out.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You refer to Rule 72. ...*(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

You may refer to Rule 72. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given any notice on this.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am very sorry that you are doing this. I can understand if somebody else does it. I am extremely sorry to say that. You are occupying the Chair and you are denying the right to a Member. I am extremely sorry to say this. If somebody else does it, I can understand that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are my friend.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we did not raise objection at the time of introduction because it relates to the tribals. However, it is very unfortunate and disgraceful on the part of the Government to bring forward this kind of a Constitution (Amendment) Bill on the last day. It is a very casual way of treating the House, and this is not fair. Since it is linked with the tribals' interest, we did not raise the objection, but it is not fair.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, we want to put it on record that the entire tribal population has been discriminated against. Not enough weightage

has been given, and the tribals are being cheated like this. Only at election time, they come and ask for votes and, at other times, they think that it is not necessary to devote the time of this House for the tribals' welfare.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we know that elections are going to take place in Himachal Pradesh soon. We also know that the Government has to start the campaign immediately. However, this should not be the method that you bring forward a Bill at the minute. It could have been brought forward a little earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: They are doing it for political purposes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, the Bill has already been introduced. Therefore, you can raise your objection at the time of consideration. Moreover, you have not given any notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I heard what you have to say.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My objection is that though it is a *post-mortem* examination ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I cannot entertain any objection because the Bill has already been introduced. You can raise your objection later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have a right to raise the objection. I am very sorry that you are doing this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not doing this.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You are doing this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bill has already been introduced.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, hardly two hours are left. The Government has assured us that it would take this up at two o'clock. Now, hardly two hours are left, and we cannot discuss about the atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within these two hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the discussion under Rule 193; Shri Ramji Lal Suman to initiate the discussion.

16.03 hrs.

RE: ATROCITIES AGAINST DALITS IN HARYANA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, five dalits had been killed in Jhajhar district of Haryana on 15th October. Shri Ramvilas Paswan ji and myself had raised that issue. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had given the statement on 9th December, 2002. Today, discussions were to be held on that statement. I have a dialogue with all the Hon'ble members of the House. Today is the last day of the session. It is very serious matter. Not only in Jhajhar but also in whole of the country atrocities on the dalits are being committed. Even no discussion has been held on the report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is jungle Raj in Uttar Pradesh and maximum number of incidents of atrocities are taking place in Uttar Pradesh. According to the report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes maximum number of incidents of atrocities are taking place in Uttar Pradesh. It is a very serious matter and we want that serious discussions should be held thereon during the next session. Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. He should assure us that there will be broad discussions on the issue of Dalits for two days. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): There should be discussion on the issue of dalits for two days. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, we have no objection if it is discussed in the next Session for two days. We want an assurance from the Government that it will be taken up in the next session. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): At the beginning of this Session, on the first day, we had given the notices. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want that this discussion under Rule 193 should be taken up in the next Session?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not able to hear anything. Let the Mover, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, speak on this. Let me know what is happening.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Members want the discussion under Rule 193 to be taken up in the next Session. What has the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to say about it? The hon. Members want this discussion to be taken up in the next Session.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, they want a discussion under Rule 193 on this in the next Session.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him start the discussion and then let the discussion remain inconclusive.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, that day also I said that I do not want to criticise the Government. As I am Member of this House since 1977, I know that for the last 25 years in every session in one way or the other the problems of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been discussed in the House. But it is unfortunate that now since long the problems of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have not been discussed, even the report of the SC/ST commission is not being discussed.

Sir, according to the reply of the Government given just now, the number of incidents of atrocities perpetrated against the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has increased. While the hon. Minister has said in his statement that there has been no increase in such incidents, the Government have admitted in a reply that the number of such incidents has increased.

Sir, I have talked to all, with the Members of both the sides and all have desired a discussion on the report of the SC/ST commission but unfortunately time for discussion is not being allotted by the Business Advisory Committee. I want to thank the hon. Speaker for the meeting of the Leaders he has convened and it was decided in that meeting that this would be taken up today at 2.00 p.m. after the Question Hour but instead of 2.00 p.m. it is 4.00 p.m. now and today is the last day of the session and 'Vande Mataram' is also to be sung. Under these circumstances, all the hon. Members from all sides are desirous of participating in the discussion. They are of the opinion that it should not be taken up today because the issue is not only related to Haryana or Uttar Pradesh but it is concerning the entire country. So there is a need of a detailed discussion on this issue.

The motion moved is in the name of Shri Ramji Lal Suman and myself. We have had discussion among ourselves and this motion has been introduced in my name. We have talked to the Members of all the sections and all the leaders. I have talked to Shri Ramdas Athawaleji as well and since today is the last day of this session the hon. Members are not in a mood to discuss this issue seriously and in detail. Since this issue demands a serious discussion, and it is not possible to do so right now. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that if he has no objection the issue may be put for discussion for the first day of the next session. The issue should be kept for discussion without referring it to the Business Advisory Committee for time allotment because if referred to the Business Advisory Committee this issue would trial in priority to be deferred for the last day of the next session. Therefore, I entreat that this issue should not be taken up for discussion today but should be transferred to the first day of the next session and this discussion should take place for complete one and a half days to two days instead of under Rule 193 because this subject is not only related with Haryana or any one State but is affecting the whole country at large. So if this issue is taken up for discussion on the first day of the next session instead of today, we would not have any objection and you can take up another business today. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would submit that if you arrange a discussion on the issue of the Dalits, it should be held with reference to the whole country and not only in respect of Haryana because the rule 193 referred to just now is only concerned with the incident that has occurred at Jhajhar in Haryana. Peace and tranquillity is prevailing in Haryana now, which will be disturbed if such a discussion is held. Therefore it is my submission that instead of a discussion about the condition of the dalits in Haryana alone, discussion should be held about their condition all over the country. I would request that the discussion should not be linked to Haryana. Now the law and order condition is good there. This discussion may lead to a deterioration in the law and order situation there.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we got the private Members Business postponed only to

enable you to hold discussion on the issue related to dalits. I want to express my gratitude to the hon. Speaker for the time he provided for discussion on the subject, but it is a matter of concern that the time for discussion has been kept on the last day and that too towards the concluding period of the session, which is not justified. This is such an important subject that one-third population of the whole country is associated with it. Hence we should not take it so lightly.

I have also talked to my colleagues in this regard. I want to submit before you the fact that when Atrocities Act was enacted in 1989 during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time the situation was much better. Today the situation is going from bad to worse. The dalits and tribals have got a feeling that there is no such Government at Delhi, which could protect them. You go through the Act of 1989. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has made a provision in that in every State a senior most I.P.S. officer will be the in-charge and the Government of India will conduct it. That is a Central Act but it is unfortunate to read the statement of the hon. Minister in which he has shrugged his responsibility and has said that this is a state-subject so they cannot do anything about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Buta Singhji, this Act was enacted by the Janata Dal Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Improvements and amendments were carried out in this Act. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request that two days should be kept for discussion on this subject so that the atrocities enmasse being perpetrated against the dalits. ...*(Interruptions)* Ghastly atrocities are being perpetrated by Mayawati Government in Uttar Pradesh. For there could be a wider discussion on that we should get two day for it. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has agreed to it that he would give two days in the next session for discussion on this subject. But this should not be his promise rather it should be his commitment. Thank you.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): A dalit woman has been made the Chief Minister, so you are feeling the pain. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Whether the Dalits have got sustenance in Uttar Pradesh, whether their life has become safe? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we require an assurance from the Government in respect of the proposal putforth here. ...*(Interruptions)* This should be discussed for two days. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully share the feelings of all the members that this is not an opportune time for holding a discussion on the issue of atrocities on dalits and the report thereon. I am saying it with reference to this session. It would have been better if we had discussed it earlier, but I would not like to go into the reasons thereof. We have had a very smooth session. I would not like to dwell at length on this issue, but Shri Praveen Rashtrapalji might surely remember that when he raised this matter in the first week of December, I had stated at that time that I did not remember any discussion to have taken place for years, at least during the last two-four years, when we had a detailed discussion on the problems faced by SC's and ST's and also that there must be a discussion on the issue related to them as they constitute a large segment of our society.

Therefore, I agree that the discussion will not be fruitful if we take it up at 4.15 o'clock as all the members will not be able to participate in it. I should not be blamed for it later on the next session as it is the Budget Session which commences with the Presidential Address. In that session the first business is always the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. After that the first discussion the House will take up will be a general discussion on the issue of dalits and there would be no time limit fixed for it. Unless the House agrees that the discussion has concluded, no reply would be given *i.e.* the Minister will not rise to give reply.

I reassure once again that there is no objection to it on our part. After passing the Motion of Thanks, as we have to take it up in the first place in the honour of the President, we do not have any objection to holding first discussion on the issue of dalits. I also agree that it should not be confined merely to a particular state or incident and it should be held on a larger framework. So, we can have that discussion. If the House agrees, we can go ahead our agenda.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up the matter in the next Session, after consulting the Business Advisory Committee.

16.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems being faced by Sugarcane Growers in the country—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further discussion under Rule 193. Shri Suresh Jadhav was on his legs. He is absent.

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem being faced by the farmers is enormous and they are the worst sufferers throughout the country. There was a discussion on farmers but sugarcane growers are the worst affected of all the farmers. We find that the Government is not sensitive to the problems of the farmers and carelessness is reigning supreme. It is evident from the fact that the matter of sugarcane growers is being raised ever since the session has commenced, the proceedings of the House have also been interrupted but the Government was not serious on the matter and no solution has yet been found to the problems of the sugarcane growers. The payment of sugarcane growers is outstanding in all the states for which an agitation is going on. No solution has yet been found for the payment of last year's outstanding dues. The farmer is in distress.

All the Hon'ble Members say that there is a provision of payment of sugarcane dues within 14 day's time otherwise they are entitled to get interest on the arrears. But, what to speak of interest, they are not even getting the arrears of sugarcane which have been outstanding against the sugar mills for years. That is why, the farmers are staging 'dharna' observing hunger strikes and holding agitations here and there. The matter of immediate concern is that Statutory Minimum Price used to be fixed by the Central Government. There has been a convention for the last fifty years that after the Statutory Minimum Price is fixed, different State Governments alongwith the representatives of the sugarcane growers and the representatives of the sugar mills collectively decide the Negotiating price which is known as State Advice Price. Recently it was fixed at Rs. 64.50. Yesterday's the hon. Prime Minister announced a further enhancement of Rs. 5 in it. With this the Statutory Minimum Price comes close to Rs. 69.50 or 70. But in every state with the increase of. 1 percentage in recovery, directions were also given for 76 paise increase. At that rate when it was Rs. 64, the Haryana Government fixed it at Rs. 110, the State Advice Price was fixed at Rs. 110 per quintal. After that the Government of Uttar Pradesh used to fix the State Advice Price and Bihar also followed the suit keeping pace with the prices of U.P. It has been practice for the last fifty years. Earlier there was a difference of Rs. 1 per quintal in the prices of Eastern U.P. and Western U.P. and Bihar also fixed the price equal to that of the Eastern U.P. The Central Government used to fix the Statutory Minimum Price and it would be followed by Haryana, Bihar, the Western U.P., the Eastern U.P. and then Bihar fixed it at par with Eastern U.P. When it was fixed at Rs. 64 per quintal, the Government of U.P. announced the price of sugarcane at Rs. 95 per quintal but it was stayed by the Allahabad High Court. The Mill owners stated on this pretext that they would not pay more than the Statutory Minimum Price fixed while it should be Rs. 89-90 per quintal in Bihar as per the old convention and now if it remains below Rs. 95 per quintal after an increase of Rs. 4 per quintal, the farmer will not tolerate it. That is why there are agiations, lathi charge and firing in U.P. every day, the farmers are being killed. There is agitation in Bihar also. There is Riga Sugar Mill at Sitamarhi. The farmers burnt sugarcane at every centre there. An agitation is going on there. Given this situation, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to take note of the problems being faced by farmers in every state, as well as the decision of the High Court and the situation arising out of that and the Central Government should also take necessary measures in that direction. I am giving proof of the Government's insensitivity to the problems of sugarcane farmers. The Prime Minister had assured, following stalling of the proceedings of the House that a meeting with the Chief Ministers would be convened and solution to the problem would be found. It was on 11th or 12th of the month. After that 7-8 more days have elapsed. Yesterday, the Prime Minister came here, took his seat and abruptly announced an increase in the price and then departed. No solution was found rather he further complicated the matter. So, the fundamental problem has to be resolved keeping in view the order of the High Court, and the convention of fixing Statutory Minimum Price and the State Advice Price, which has been followed for the last fifty years. A way should be found out, but that is not being done.

The Government is ignoring the problems of the farmers but on the other hand we find that it is sensitive to the Mill owners' interests. The Government seems to be championing the cause of the Mill owners as if they are facing a deep crisis whereas it is the farmer who is dying. The Government have given two benefits to the Mill owners. First, that earlier the extent of levy sugar

was 40% which has been reduced to 15% at present resulting into a benefit of Rs. 3-4 hundred crores to the Mill owners. Now doing away with levy is being talked about. The Government will create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of Sugar. What is this buffer stock? Buffer stock is nothing but it is an arrangement to provide undue benefit of Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 crore to the mill owners from the Government exchequer. The mill owners will be benefited of Rs. 3-4 hundred crore from levy and about Rs. 1000-1200 crore from buffer stock. The lobby of mill owners is powerful. Due to this lobby no decision has been taken in favour of the farmers till now. However, two decisions have been taken in favour of the mill owners.

16.23 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in he Chair*]

There are approximately 16, 18 or 20 crore families in India out of which 12 crore families are living above poverty line. 8 crore families are living below poverty line. Earlier, all these families used to get sugar under PDS. It means that there must be some rich people amongst them. The families living below poverty line as well as the people of middle class used to get subsidy on sugar. The Government have done away with the subsidy being provided to the people for purchasing sugar. The Government have put a stop to the sugar being provided to the people living above poverty line under PDS. By doing so the Government have saved an amount of Rs. 300-400 crore. By doing away with the levy the Government have benefited the mill owners. In this way the general public have to bear the brunt of price rise and their expenditure has been increased.

Now the sugar mill owners have benefitted in two ways. The discussion is going on in the House and on the other hand the farmers are committing suicide. I would like to know what happened of imported sugar; and the quantity of sugar imported from the month of April to till date? Earlier, the sugar production in the country was less than its consumption. But, now its production has increased. The reason is that the farmers have produced more sugarcane and more crushing has taken place. Therefore, the problems of the farmers have not been solved. As a result of it, the farmers of every state are agitating. Even if the farmers are lathi-charged, they will not stop agitation. In this way, the farmers would struggle for protection of their rights. The Government should take a concrete decision in this regard. The Government is taking decision in favour of the capitalists continuously but no decision is taken to protect the interest of the farmers. There is nobody to pay attention towards the problems of the farmers. The sugar mills are being closed in Uttar Pradesh and other states. There are 15 sugar mills under Bihar State Sugar Corporation in Bihar. All these mills are lying closed. There are many reasons of their closure, one of the main reason is that these mills were set up in 1930-32. These mills have yet not been modernised and the old machines are operating resulting which the recovery is very less. Besides, bureaucracy is also a stumbling block and there are many disorders. The farmers of this area are living in miserable condition. They have to take their sugarcane in the mills located at distant places. The Government of India have not taken any action to re-commission these closed sugar mills.

The hon. Minister convened a meeting in which the Ministers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh participated. The main issue of this meeting was as to how re-commission these closed sugar mills. IDBI as well as IFCI both were consulted in this regard. The State Cabinet took a decision that IFCI is a consultative agency, therefore it should give suggestion to re-commission these sugar mills. But the conditions have not been laid down in this regard. An employees of the closed sugar mills filed a case in the High Court. The High Court ordered winding up the mill. The State Government have winded up the mill and in this way the situation has got complicated. The sugar mills are lying closed, the farmer of that area grew the sugarcane but that could not be crushed.

My suggestion is that procurement centres should be opened at the mill sites only. More or less the same is the condition of the sugarcane growers in every state. We were happy when the hon. Prime Minister convened a meeting of all the Chief Ministers. In the meeting it was discussed as to how the exclusive problems of the States be solved. But the hon. Prime Minister forgot his earlier assurance in this regard. He expressed another view in this regard. This has led to apprehension. He made two-three announcements in favour of the mills for waiving off certain taxes imposed on them. It is also right that sugar mills should get some tax exemption. But tax should be imposed on them, otherwise the Government's earnings will reduce. But the Government should pay attention towards the consumers and the farmers. Today, the sugar mill owners are powerful; the farmers are unorganised and weak and the consumers are also unorganised. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards the interests of the farmer and the common man and make proper arrangements to protect their interests. The sugar mill owners protect their interests with the help of the Courts but the farmer and the common man do not have easy access to the Court. Therefore, I would like to give some instantaneous suggestions. I do not know whether the Prime Minister has time enough to hear the views of the hon. Minister or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken too much time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding. I am giving the last suggestion. The hon. Minister should convene a meeting of the representatives, Ministers, Chief Ministers and Officers of every State and after deliberations, fix the minimum support price of the crops. The method adopted by the States for the last fifty years for fixing sugarcane price should be amended. Secondly, arrangement should be made for the payment of dues of the farmers. Thirdly, the Government should provide exemption to re-commission the closed sugar mills, so that these can operate ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude shortly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding.

The Government should make such an arrangement that the mills which will pay the dues of the farmers would get benefit of exemption. The hon. Minister should consider on these four suggestions seriously and solve the problems of the farmers. Otherwise, sugar mills will earn profit and the farmer would be choked.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing the problems of the farmers. The problems of the farmers are very serious. India is an agricultural country and Uttar Pradesh is a sugarcane growing state and it grows the best quality sugarcane. This problem has emerged due to non operation of the sugar mills this year. In the absence of remunerative price of sugarcane the sugarcane crop is standing in the fields. The farmers is not sowing wheat as the sugarcane crop is still standing in the fields in the absence of remunerative price. Hon. Members have expressed their views regarding minimum support price of sugarcane. Minimum support price this year and even the sugar mills are not procuring the sugarcane at last year price. Due to this the farmers are staging a dharna and they are being fired at, as some hon. Members have informed the House. Even after this the problem remains the same and no step has been taken to solve it. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister announced that the Government have increased the minimum support price of sugarcane. But the Government of Uttar Pradesh have promised to procure the sugarcane at a rate of Rs. 95 per quintal. The Government should fulfil the promise. If sugarcane of the farmers would not be procured at a rate of Rs. 95 per quintal, the situation will again deteriorate. Alongwith it, the dues of the farmers should be paid so that the farmers can make arrangement of the marriage ceremonies of their children and get their homes constructed. The Government should pay attention in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers of neighbouring state are getting minimum support price of Rs. 110 per quintal. I suggest that the Government of India should formulate a uniform policy regarding procurement of sugarcane so that this kind of dispute may not emerge.

16.34 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these words, I conclude.

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL (Nanded): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Cutting across the party lines I would like to raise certain issues related to the sugarcane growers and sugar mills before this Government with honesty and sincerity.

MR. SPEAKER: Bhaskarji, you would get only five minutes to speak as we have to adjourn the House at 5 O'Clock.

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am the President of Maharashtra Sugar Mill Federation ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Sir, you must be knowing that today sugarcane farmers are raging a big movement in the country ...*(Interruptions)*. Mulayam Singhji asked to conclude the discussion on this issue with in 40 hours and prevented me from speaking by raising the issue of quorum. I will speak sincerely. You are aware that today sugarcane farmers are going through a very difficult phase. I remember till today that three years ago, myself the Chief Minister of my State, Shri Vilasrao Deo Deshmukh and certain industrialists related to sugar industry met the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We talked about an hour and apprised him of the situation.

Sir, regret to note that if the Government had taken all those issues seriously which we raised and taken

some decision then we would not have come to this pass. We gave him two or three suggestions. You must be aware that in 1998-99 this Government imported around 20 lakh tonnes of sugar. Sharad Yadavji, you were not the head of this Ministry then. Today the main reason for all the problems that the sugar mills and sugarcane farmers are facing is the Government's wrong decision to import sugar. The sugarcane farmers are facing problems due to that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say few things to you as you have also been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. There is a big sugar industry over there. Yadavji you must be knowing that there are 165 sugar mills in the federation which I represent. The turnover there is 12 thousand crore per annum from the sugar industry in Maharahstra. Every year we give 6000 crore rupees to farmers who grow sugarcane in Maharashtra. Sugar Industry has taken a big stride in rural areas of Maharashtra. That is why I request you that you should consider this issue very seriously.

Sir, I express gratitude for Yadavji, I requested the hon. Prime Minister three years earlier to take the important decisions of keeping 20 lakh tonnes of sugar as buffer stock. This decision has to be taken. Along with this at least 10 lakh tonnes of sugar will have to be exported and a certain amount of subsidy will have to be given. We cautioned at that time but the Government did not pay heed to what we said. You must be knowing that there is a stock of 118 lakh tonnes of sugar in the country. The prices of sugar has fallen to the extent that no mill can pay 600-700 rupees per tonne to the sugarcane farmers. I would like to tell you with all sincerity that the price of one sack of sugar in Maharashtra today is 1050 rupees. If you want to produce one sack of sugar, the conversion cost is 600 rupees. If you keep it in bank for one year, you get at least 200 rupees as interest. When out of thousand, 800 rupees are used elsewhere, then we can give only 250 rupees to the farmers. This is the condition of sugarmills. Today, the sugar industry in totality is facing the loss of 4000 crore rupees. That is why I would like to request the Government to think seriously about excise duty and molasses duty about which we had already talked with Yadavji. You have to postpone it for two years or pass on the sugarcane farmers. Another issue is that of export. The prices of sugar will not improve until the stock here is not sold and the sugar mills will not be able to pay the proper price for sugarcane to the farmers until the price of sugar is not improved.

I applaud the Government of Maharashtra. They took a decision day before yesterday that there would be a subsidy of 1 rupee per kilo on the sugar which will be exported from Maharashtra. When the State can take this decision then it is the responsibility of the Union Government to give the subsidy of 2 rupee per kilo on the sugar which is to be exported to bring down the stocks. Secondly, I request you to give priority status to sugar industry. Sugar mills do not have access to credit facility due to RBI and NABARD. At least 70 sugar mills could not have started in Maharashtra this year. But Maharashtra Government gave guarantee and that is why U.P. like situation did not arise in Maharashtra. As you have said some farmers were killed in firing in U.P. Farmers did not agitate in Maharashtra as the Government took some steps to give them some relief. I request you to give subsidy on export. Sugar industry should be given priority status. You should have to give them budgetary support in these conditions. Today, sugarcane farmers are given budgetary support in USA and Japan. You should increase 4 per cent DEPB to 8 per cent. You will have to formulate some scheme so as to export 20 lakh tonnes of sugar. Secondly, I would like to say that ocean free subsidy should also be given. There would not be any problem in doing so with the help of WTO. Internal transport subsidy should be provided for North-Eastern States. Sugar mills cannot give SNP price. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister increased five rupees, I thank him for this. But only increasing the NSP would not help as no sugar mill would pay from its pocket. The price of sugar will not increase until the sugarcane farmers get NSP price.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How is it being given in Haryana? What data are you presenting? Are you on the side of the farmers or favouring the mill owners?

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: They can not get it. Raghuvanshji. I respect you but I am giving the information that I have. I can say it that Haryana Government provides budgetary support. Haryana Government cannot pay this much without budgetary support. Maharashtra is the State where maximum recovery is done. The average recovery of Maharashtra is 11.60 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Whose side are you taking, the farmers or the mill owners ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: I want to tell the hon. Member that I am not delivering a political speech. I am talking about the sugarcane farmers. I would say one more thing that you have to start giving the incentive to the new sugar mills which you have stopped. The mills

[Shri Bhaskarrao Patil]

would not pay the price of sugarcane until you give the incentive. I once again caution the Government that if it does not think about the sugar mills and the farmers seriously then the price of sugar would be 20 to 25 rupees per kilo in the coming three years and the Government will have to import sugar. The Government will have to resolve the issues that I have raised. I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the farmers of our country are in crisis and all the hon. Members of this House have expressed concern over their condition. Today the farmers of Rajasthan are on the verge of starvation due to wrong policies of the Government. The sugarcane farmers of the whole country particularly of western Uttar Pradesh are in distress today.

I request you to save the farmers because today they are about to ruin and are agitating. Today the Government are not aware about their distress. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister have announced some relief to farmers. I had raised the matter regarding farmers of western Uttar Pradesh in the same House on 3rd December and had said that if the State Government do not take any step in this regard, the farmers would get excited and agitate but the Government of Uttar Pradesh have not paid any attention towards this. I wrote a letter to hon. Prime Minister on 15th December about the condition of the farmers and requested him to take some steps as the farmers are agitating. I received a letter from the Prime Minister on 21st December that the Government are looking into the matter. On 21st December I raised the issue of farmers in Zero Hour and expressed my concern. Had the Government taken steps in time the innocent farmers would not have become victim of firing? The Government wake upto the situation when it becomes critical. The farmers are not being paid their dues. They are not getting remunerative price for their crops. They have been locked up if they have to pay Rs. 1,000/-. They have been humiliated and their tractors and cattle have been locked up in Tehsil. The industrialists have to pay Rs. 11,000 crore rupees to the farmers. The farmers are not being paid interest of the said amount. Instead of that they are being shot at. Today, the mill owners in connivance with the Uttar Pradesh Government and Union Government are doing this due to which such a situation has been created. The Government is not making payment to the farmers on the pretext of going to the Court. Not to speak of interest, the farmers are not being paid for their labour. The country would not remain strong for long if our farmers would have to live in such a condition. I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to take step in this regard in time. Yesterday, he made an announcement for giving relief to farmers. I had written a letter on 15th November and today I would like to repeat it that the Government of Uttar Pradesh are committing atrocities on farmers and justice is not being given to them due to which they are in distress today.

Patilji was talking about Sugar mill owners just now. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you belong to Maharashtra, but today I am talking about the farmers of Uttar Pradesh because I belong to western Uttar Pradesh. They have sent me here. Atrocities are being committed on them. Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. We welcome the announcement made by him yesterday. Had the steps been taken in time, farmers would not have been killed. Yesterday hon. Mulayam Singhji told the House that a major scam has taken place. He said that 30 thousand crore rupees have been taken from these mill owners. If the Government would not think about farmers rising above party lines, the nation would become weak. The Government should stop politics by taking money from these mill owners only then the condition of farmers would become better. The CBI may inquire whether money has been taken from the sugar mill owners or not? If nothing is found in this regard, Mulayam Singhji should be punished. I just want to say that the Government should take action against people found guilty.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I belong to Uttar Pradesh where 80 per cent farmers grow sugarcane. My name was in the list but struck off perhaps, therefore I may be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your party has not given your name yet I am giving you two minutes to speak.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: I thank you for giving me a chance to speak about the problem of sugarcane farmers. Since you have given me only two minutes to speak therefore I shall try to conclude within the given time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I belong to district Bijnore. There is sugarcane crisis in Uttar Pradesh particularly in western Uttar Pradesh nowadays. For the sugarcane farmers of western Uttar Pradesh sugarcane is lifeline but they have not been paid sugarcane price for the last three years. If the Government go through the data of 1960-65, it would come to know that price of a tractor and Sugarcane were 26 thousand rupees and Rs. 11/- per quintal respectively at that time but today the price of the same Tractor is about 3 lakh 50 thousand rupees and the farmers are not getting remunerative price of sugarcane. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has fixed the price of sugarcane as Rs. 95/- per quintal but today neither the private mills nor the Government owned mills are paying same prices to the farmers. Brazil has been using juice of sugarcane and its molasses to prepare ethanol for the last 30 years. The same should have taken place in our country long time before. Our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has implemented this scheme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Minister of Food that farmers would be benefited with the use of ethanol. The Ministry of Petroleum may decide under the pressure of Reliance and SR. Ethonol has been prepared in sugar mills of my Parliamentary Constituency but it has not been bought. It is being said that tender would be invited for that. I request you that a buffer stock of 20 lakhs metric tonnes should be formed on the basis of production and I would like to say that...

MR. SPEAKER: You have been given two minutes but you have taken five minutes. I have to adjourn the House at 5 O'clock. Please sit down. Nothing would go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has announced sugarcane price for farmers yesterday. They are being given a relief of nine rupees more than what they were getting earlier. For this, I applaud the Prime Minister. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were getting lesser price than this. There are 320 sugar mills in Bihar out of which 20 are lying closed. Crores of people in Bihar depend on sugarcane farmers. The floods in the river in Nepal caused a great havoc to sugarcane farmers of Bihar. Hon. Minister of Food Shri Sharad Yadav is Member of Parliament from Bihar and is also a Minister. The sugarcane farmers of Bihar have not been paid for the last 3-4 years.

The farmers do not get money there. There are four sugar mills in my Gopalganj Parliamentary constituency area. The farmers of Hathua have not paid the amount. Similarly the farmers of Merhora have to get 7 crore rupees. The workers also have not been paid. I urge upon the hon. Minister that we are discussing about sugarcane farmers. Its benefit should not go only to Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra but the farmers of Bihar and the rest of the country should get its benefit.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there has been extensive debate over the farmers engaged in growing sugarcane and sugar industries for the past two days. Shri Jaiswaljee, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavjee, Sharad Pawarjee and many other Hon'ble Members have offered their suggestions before the House speaking out their own perception related to the issue. Mr. Sharad Pawar is not present here. To my mind, all of them in general and a few moments back Mr. Patil in particular have presented a wholesome picture of this issue spotting copious details of every constituting factor. The most significant issue covers the carry-over stock that has to be drastically reduced from the previous year's 106 lac Metric tonne to the existing 82 lac metre tonne. It's partly for the reasons of this huge stock and partly for the extinction of Release Mechanism due to undertaking lease exercise from the courts that the sugar price has gone down and a variety of problems have come up due to the reduction of price. The issues that are being discussed in the House, have had an accumulating effect upon them.

Surely, I happened to advance my views in a detailed manner in my earlier submission. On the 12th I had made the statement that the Government of India is trying out all its options aimed at devising effective ways and means to address this issue.

Earlier I was referring to the outstanding amount of payment to be made to the farmers in course of which Raghuvansh Babu invited our attention to the existing status prevailing in Bihar. The due amount is estimated to be Rs. 1119 crore the country over, of which major

*Not recorded

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

chunk constitutes of outstanding dues required to be paid a year earlier. Such hugely accumulated dues are largely due to the excess productions last year that led to the lowering of prices. Certainly, it is not merely an issue of sugar only. In Uttar Pradesh it amounted to be Rs. 563 crore. It's the outcome of the joint efforts put in by the State Government as well as the Centre that now it has come down to Rs. 359 crore. Going by the figures at the national level, it was somewhere close to or exactly 1119 crore rupees. I wish to apprise the House of the fact through you that exhausting my thorough potentials and in exercise of administrative position. I have been able to reduce dues from Rs. 1119 crore to Rs. 647 crore meaning it has come down. Outstanding dues have been paid up to the farmers growing sugarcane throughout the country. We have made buffer-stock of twenty lac tonne. Patil Saheb, you were saying that the major problem is of carry-over stock. The forthcoming buffer stock will be approximating to 42 lakh tonnes. Unless we liquidate or reduce it, the problem will not be resolved. It goes without saying that the seriousness of this issue necessitates participation of all in a concerted manner. It can hardly be resolved by passing the buck to the Central Government. It has relatively larger implications in two of the states, one is Uttar Pradesh where there is immense production of sugar which bears the distinction of enormous amount of sugar production. The second one is Maharashtra. The point of difference between these two of the States is obviously the monitoring and ownership of sugar Mills while the mills in U.P. are owned by Govt. Private people besides Co-operative ones, in Maharashtra there's none else than co-operative-run mills.

Raghuvansh Babu, you were intervening with Patil Saheb. Problems prevail there but we are settling them with our combined efforts. The existing situation here is that farmers and mill owners are in markedly three entities—there are private proprietors and the Govt. too holds ownership. As you are aware, there has been a practice in Bihar, U.P. and Haryana Governments, that the State Government would announce prices (SAP) always and subsequently, some amount of allocation had to be made by the State Governments and a part of which used to be offered by the private sugar mill owners.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, certain ways must here been figured out. However, the earlier sugar Mechanism essentially has left its impact that bewildered the masses and the owners having 83 mills in Uttar Pradesh sought legal redressal in the High Court and were able to get relief. This apart, the carry—over staff working with mills are also in large numbers. All these problems have added to the magnitude of crisis. Nevertheless, I want to submit through you that the Government of India is concerned about the problems being faced by the farmers engaged in growing sugarcane and yesterday only, the Prime Minister made an announcement to increase the procurement price viz. MSP paid to the farmers to be increased by Rs. 5/-.

A few of the honourable members have wondered about the efficacy of the prices going up by Rs. 5. I would like to say that if prices go up by 5 rupees per quintal and the recovery of sugarcane is 8.5%, farmers will get Rs. 69 against one quintal. If the recovery is 9% sugarcane will cost Rs. 73 per Quintal. If the recovery goes to 10%, they will get Rs. 81 for one quintal, if the recovery is 10.5 per cent. Sugarcane will be available for sale at Rs. 85 per Quintal, if the recovery of sugar amounts to 11.5 per cent, the price of sugarcane will be as much as Rs. 94 per quintal and if it happens to be 12 per cent the price of sugarcane will further rise @ Rs. 1.2 per quintal going by the same proportion, if there is 12.5 per cent recovery, the price of sugarcane will escalate as high as Rs. 106 per quintal. Such a big difference will be effected with the increase by Rs. 5/-.

Sir, I don't intend to say that the increase of price by Rs. 5/- will price to be a panacea to resolve the problems of the farmers. However, certainly it will provide them some relief.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta, North-West): Can you assure whether the extended price which our Prime Minister had announced yesterday will actually be provided to the *kisans* properly? Can they get the supporting price amount in their hands? The problem is the middlemen. They operate the industry. They loot the total money.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Speaker, Sir, Raghuvansh Prasad jee had mentioned that the buffer stock is handed over to the mill-owners by the Government and due to the Government mill owners nexus, farmers are left deprived of the benefits. I want to tell him that it's not so. Sugar-buffer stock of 120 lakh tonne will involve an expenditure of Rs. 778 crore. This entire amount will reach the farmers. We had called for a meeting of sugarcane commissioners from all over the country and had vehemently driven the fact home to them that the entire amount must reach the farmers, they all nodded in compliance. The system put in place earlier had some short-comings. I had a chance—encounter with Patil jee, he made me aware that it involves of hindrance but I would like to say that all the hindrances will be confronted and overcome in a positive way.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): What is its mechanism?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Its mechanism will be evolved.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This means Mechanism is yet to be devised.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, Mechanism is already there but that has become obsolete which will be updated and cane-commissioners will be further tightened. Patil Saheb has cautioned me. I will see to it also. We have constituted a monitoring committee of sugarcane commissioners. All the arrangements will be put in place.

Sir, so far as ocean freight is concerned, I want to make it clear that if buffer stock continues to exist in sugar industry, the crisis in this domain will not be over. If the crisis in sugar industry is to be done away with, we will have to quicken-up the remedial measures. At this juncture, given the immediate state-of affairs we are putting in efforts to establish a coherence amidst consumers grower and the industries altogether.

Sir, I would like to submit before the House, through you, that earlier we had been informed of the death of a man in U.P., to go by the information received from the U.P. Govt. Since the proceedings of the House had been over by then, you had directed to call for information and make the same available to the House today only. That is why, I had informed the House about the death of only one person as per the information available to me. Thereafter, the U.P. Govt. informed me of the killing of 3 persons. I won't go into the details of the incident yet it is a fact that there were killings of 3 persons. Certainly it's an issue of deep regret and I express my grave concern over this incident. Such things must not take place. The issue is very complicated one. However, the Government of India is endeavouring and harnessing its potentials to arrive at a solution to this problem. So, before I conclude, I would like to submit that many of you had approached me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Ropar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, sugar worth Rs. 500 crore is lying in Punjab. Mr. Minister should state as to how will this issue be resolved. For the last one year, I have made several requests. It did lead to a movement in Punjab. Train services were disrupted ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: We have coughed up Rs. 1538 thousand crore for modernization out of Sugar Development fund of the Govt. of India.

We've granted aid amounting to Rs. 734 crore and Rs. 38 crore for cane development and research work respectively. For Buffer Stock we have ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: How much money you've allocated for modernization in Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I want to submit through you that both the Governments at the Centre and at the State will work hand in hand. This contingency fund is not meant for payment of taxes by somebody. In case of any such proposal being forward to me for modernisation, we may allocate it.

As Shri Raghunath Jha was saying or people belonging to all the states have submitted on that count, I want to submit in all its fairness, that we don't have anything but sugar development fund. We have made full use of it. I want to assure that the Government will act in exercise of its powers and capacities. Now there comes the crisis of outstanding dues of sugarcane, the Government will work out some ways ...*(Interruptions)*

17.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Tehelka Enquiry Commission

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I must mention here in the House that yesterday, during the discussion, the hon. Deputy Speaker had said that a statement on the Tehelka.com inquiry would be made and hon. Members were agitating over that in the morning today. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say something on the issue.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINSTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, as you are aware and as the hon. House is aware, yesterday, the Law Minister had assured the hon. Deputy Speaker that he would come to the House today and make a statement regarding the Tehelka.com inquiry.

Unfortunately, yesterday, during dinner at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, he suddenly fell ill. He has been hospitalised and is still in the hospital. Otherwise, he was to come here to make a statement and also pilot the Bill that was listed against his name—the Representation of People (Second Amendment) Bill. But as he suddenly fell ill, he could not come here.

Meanwhile, when this issue was raised in the afternoon, I contacted the Law Minister. He apologised that despite his promise, his health was not permitting him to come to the House. I asked him what I should communicate to the House. He said that the Governor's intention was to continue with the Tehelka.com inquiry. Unfortunately, the judge who was looking after this inquiry has resigned and the Government, in the next fortnight, would appoint a new judge who would continue the Tehelka.com inquiry.

17.07 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Eleventh Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on the 18th November, 2002, is coming to an end today. In this Session, we had very fruitful discussions on various important subjects. I would like to compliment leaders of all parties and each and every Member of the House for extending their help in maintaining dignity and decorum by way of exercising self-restraing and helping in the transaction of business of the House in an orderly manner without wasting precious time of the House.

During the Session, the House had a total of 23 sittings spread over about 160 hours. In the course of the Session, the Lok Sabha transacted several important items of financial, legislative and other bsuiness. In the financial sphere, the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2002-2003 were passed with the full co-operation of the House.

Substantial legislative work was completed by the Lok Sabha during this Session. In all, the Lok Sabha gave approval to 37 Bills. The significant among them being the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002; the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill, 2002; The Constitution (Ninety-Third Amendment) Bill, 2001, which *inter alia* provides for free and compulsory education to children in the age group of six to 14 years; the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2002; the Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002; the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 2002; the Freedom of Information Bill, 2002; the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002; the Competition Bill, 2001; and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002.

The House had useful debates under Rule 193 on five matters of urgent public importance, viz., (i) Recent political developments in the State of Uttar Pradesh, (ii) Problems being faced by the farmers in the country, (iii) Internal Security, (iv) Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings, and (v) Problems being faced by the sugarcane growers in the country.

Keeping in view the demands from the Opposition Parties, two Adjournment Motions regarding (i) Communal tension in the country, especially in Gujarat, and (ii) Unprecedented drought situation in the country, were admitted. After long debates, the House negatived both the Adjournment Motions by voice vote.

Seven important matters were raised by the Members by way of Calling Attention and the concerned Ministers made statements thereon.

Though Rule 372 does not provide for clarifications on Statements made by Ministers, as a special case, 26 Members were allowed to seek clarifications on a statement made by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister regarding attack on Raghunath Mandir, Jammu on 24 November, 2002. Thirteen Statements were made by Ministers including the hon. Prime Minister, on different issues of urgent public importance.

As regards the Question Hour, out of 461 Starred Questions listed, 76 were orally answered in the House. 5089 Unstarred Questions were admitted. Two Short Notice Questions were orally answered in the House. Two Half-an-hour discussions were also held.

Hon. Members, you may recall that during the Ninth Session, I had emphasised on the need to take up more number of Starred Questions for oral answers and requested you to put pointed and brief supplementaries. You will be glad to know that during this Session, with your cooperation, on an average, four Starred Questions were orally answered. The percentage of orally answered Starred Questions has thus increased to 16 per cent as against 9 per cent and 11 per cent during the previous two Sessions respectively.

In so far as the Private Members' Bills are concerned, seven Bills were introduced during this Session. Two Bills (i) to prevent spread of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was discussed and withdrawn; and (ii) seeking to amend the Constitution with a view to making Uniform Civil Code enforceable throughout the country was inconclusively debated.

As regards Private Members' Resolutions, one Resolution regarding 'Ban on Cow Slaughter' was further discussed in this Session.

Members made 327 'Special Mentions' under Rule 377, while 236 matters of urgent public importance were raised by Members during the 'Zero Hour'.

During this Session, the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented 42 Reports.

In response to the unanimous demand made in the House on 10 December, 2002 regarding issue of assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, M.P. on 9 December, 2002 in New Delhi, a 15-Member Committee headed by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Member was constituted to inquire into the incident. The Committee has since submitted its Report to the House today morning.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for me to inform the hon. Members that this Session has been very fruitful. A comparison with the previous two Winter Sessions of 2000 and 2001 would show that the House transacted, with the cooperation of all of you, much more business in this Session. For example, while Lok Sabha passed 17 and 11 Bills respectively, in 2000 and 2001 Winter Sessions, during the current Winter Session, the Lok Sabha gave approval to 37 Bills. This itself is a record in the last 30 years. We have had five Short Duration Discussions under Rule 193 during this Session as against two and four discussions in 2000 and 2001. In addition, two Adjournment Motions were discussed in the House.

As you are aware, in the previous two Sessions, precious time of the House was lost due to interruptions for about 28 hours and 36 hours respectively. During this Session there was a considerable decline in this. Only three hours were lost due to interruptions. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction to all of us that, in addition, the House sat late on 17 days, putting in more than 24 hours extra to transact the essential business of the House.

It is certainly an achievement which could not have been possible without the consensus that had emerged at the meeting of the leaders of parties held on the eve of the commencement of this Session and the cooperation extended by all of you during this Session.

I take this opportunity to gratefully thank all the hon. Members for their self-discipline and collective wisdom which made the Session a grand success. I am confident that this gesture of self-discipline will continue to become the guiding force in the effective functioning of the House in the days to come.

I am very grateful to the hon. Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of various parties in the House as also their Chief Whips and Whips and indeed to each and every member of the House for their kind cooperation

[Mr. Speaker]

extended to me and to my colleagues, the hon. Deputy Speaker and members of the Panel of Chairmen in conducting the proceedings of the House in a smooth and orderly manner during this Eleventh Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

I would like to express appreciation and thanks to the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and allied agencies for their valuable support in this regard. I also thank the media for the cooperation extended by them.

Let us reiterate our resolve to further strengthen the foundations of the institution of Parliament, so as to enable to realise the aspirations of our people.

May I now wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

17.17 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may now stand up as 'Vade Mataram' would be played. Thank you.

(The National Song was played.)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stand adjourned *sine die.*

17.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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