Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXVIII, No. 9

Friday, November 29, 2002
Agrahayana 8, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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(Vol. XXVIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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LOK SABHA

Friday, November 29, 2002/Agrahayana 8, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 162; Shri P.C. Thomas.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): May I request you to consider taking Q. Nos. 162 and 165 together because both deal with agricultural credit?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; we can take up Q. Nos. 162 and 165 together.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Minister asks for it, I have no objection. We can take up both the Questions together.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

One Time Settlement of Bank Loans

\+

*162. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has given instruction to all public sector and scheduled banks to give benefit of one time settlement to small traders below Rs. 25,000 and below Rs. 50,000 for agricultural loanees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases alongwith the amount so settled under both the schemes till date, bank-wise;

(d) whether the banks are reluctant to give benefit of this scheme to the poor farmers and loanees; and

(e) if so, the action taken to give publicity to this scheme and to see that the banks do implement this scheme properly?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of guidelines formulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for recovery of all loan accounts with outstanding balance upto Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively are given in Annexure-I.

(c) to (e) The bank-wise number of settlements approved under the scheme for small borrowers and the amount thereunder, as furnished by Indian Banks Association (IBA), are given in Annexure-II. As regards the Special One-Time Settlement Scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers upto Rs. 50,000, banks do not have any performance to report as on 31st March, 2002, as the scheme was announced on 22nd March, 2002 towards the end of the financial year 2001-02. However, most banks have reported that they have adopted the scheme and have advised their branches for implementation of the same.

Annexure I

Salient Features of the Guidelines formulated by Reserve Bank of India for Recovery of Loan Accounts

1. One Time Settlement of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) — Small Loan Accounts upto Rs. 25,000.

- The scheme covered all loan accounts with outstanding balance upto Rs. 25,000 principal amount (excluding any interest element) in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business or purpose which have become NPAs as on March 31, 1998;
- It also covered suit-filed and decreed debts.
- Cases of fraud and malfeasance not covered;
- The scheme was operative upto June 30, 2002;
- Balance outstanding towards principal as on 31.3.1998 was to be recovered and the interest accrued on the balance outstanding was to be waived;
- Decision on compromise settlement was vested with the branch manager;
- These guidelines for compromise settlement of NPAs were to be followed without discrimination;

- Banks were required to give adequate publicity about the scheme to all the eligible defaulting borrowers for availing of the opportunity of the Special One-time Settlement.

2. Special One Time Settlement Scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers for Loans upto Rs. 50,000.

- The Scheme covers all loan accounts with outstanding balance of up to Rs. 50,000 principal amount (excluding any interest element) to small and marginal farmers, which have become Non-Performing Assets as on March 31, 1998;
- The balance outstanding towards principal as on 31st March, 1998 should be recovered and any interest included in the outstanding amount as on March 31, 1998 or accrued on the balance outstanding after March 31, 1998 will be waived.
- The scheme also covers suit-filed and decreed debts.
- The Scheme does not cover cases of fraud, malfeasance and willful defaults;
- The scheme will be operative upto March 31, 2003.

Annexure II

Statement indicating Bank-wise number of Settlements approved and the amount involved under the Scheme for Small Loans, as on 31st March, 2002

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Number	Amount (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	State Bank of India	16301	21.02
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1759	1.03
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1238	1.45
4.	State Bank of Indore	351	0.18
5.	State Bank of Mysore	489	0.63
6.	State Bank of Patiala	12	0.03
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1263	1.09
8.	State Bank of Travancore	233	0.24
9.	Allahabad Bank	8490	5.25
10.	Andhra Bank	1240	0.47
11.	Bank of Baroda	9209	2.88
12.	Bank of India	32920	20.00
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	779	0.72
14.	Canara Bank	4255	3.77
15.	Central Bank of India	56187	61.00
16.	Corporation Bank	417	0.31
17.	Dena Bank	1350	0.86
18.	Indian Bank	3391	2.46
19.	Indian Oversees Bank	3948	3.64
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	584	0.48
21.	Punjab and Sindh Bank	2479	1.20
22.	Punjab National Bank	3120	1.94
23.	Syndicate Bank	2791	1.76
24.	UCO Bank	15959	8.44
25.	Union Bank of India	7176	3.69
26.	United Bank of India	2838	4.50
27.	Vijaya Bank	276	0.18
	Total	179055	149.22

Credit Limit for Agricultural Sector

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

(a) whether RBI has enhanced credit limits for some segments of the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has also enhanced the credit limit to dealers of sprinkler systems/drip irrigation systems all over the country;

(d) if so, the impact of the increased credit limits to such segments of the agricultural sector;

(e) whether loans will be given to this priority sector at a lower rate; and

(f) the other steps taken by RBI to provide easy credit to the sprinkler irrigation system in the country?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has enhanced credit limits for some segments of the agricultural sector. The Details are given below:

(i) Ceiling of loans granted for financing distribution of inputs for the allied activities such as cattle feed, poultry fee, etc. has been raised from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh for inclusion under priority sector as indirect finance to agriculture;

(ii) In order to further improve credit delivery to the priority sector, particularly to agriculture, and help the farmers in marketing their products, the credit limit to farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce (including warehouse receipts) has been increased to Rs. 5 lakh (from Rs. 1 lakh) for inclusion under priority sector as direct finance to agriculture. The repayment schedule for such credit has also been enhanced to 'not exceeding twelve months' (from six months);

(iii) The limit on advances granted to dealers in drip irrigation/sprinkler irrigation system/agricultural machinery, located in rural/semi-urban areas has been increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh under priority sector lending for agriculture.

(d) RBI has reported that as the limits have only recently been raised, the impact of the measure on overall credit to agriculture would be known only later. However, the outstanding agricultural advances of public sector banks has increased from Rs. 53,685 crore as at the end of March 2001 to Rs. 63,083 crore in March 2002.

(e) and (f) As further reported by RBI, the interest rates charged by banks are governed by its directives. Effective April 1998, it has been stipulated that the lending rates for credit limits upto Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed the prime lending rate (PLR). The banks are free to determine the interest rates for loans above Rs. 2 lakhs.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it is a laudable step that for all loans up to Rs. 25,000, the full interest will be waived, and for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000, the full interest will also be waived. A lot of farmers and small people, having taken loans for small business or workers having taken small loans like Rs. 2,000, Rs. 5,000, etc., are going to get benefited out of this scheme.

Though the Reserve Bank seems to have issued circulars, yet many of the banks are showing that they are not aware of the programme of this type. You answer says that directions have been given. The banks were required to give adequate publicity about the scheme to all the eligible defaulters. I do not think that any bank has taken any such step in this regard. The Bank Managers only show their ignorance or are shirking off.

The total NPAs, as per the Reserve Bank account in the year 2000-2001, come to Rs. 54,773.16 crore, that is, 12.39 per cent of the total loans. I would submit that the amount which has been settled as per the answer is only Rs. 149 crore. That means, many small people and farmers have not yet got the benefit of this Scheme.

Therefore, my question is this. Will the Government take measures to see that accountability is fixed on the Bank Managers or the Bank officers who shirk their responsibility about this scheme so that Reserve Bank or the concerned authorities give adequate publicity? It is not only just a publicity for the Government for a good step but also for the small people who will get the benefit out of it to take use of this very good scheme.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it is more a suggestion by the hon. Member than a question.

If it has come to the hon. Member's notice – whether in his constituency or in his State or elsewhere—that small farmers or small traders or small borrowers have come and felt that they are not aware of this scheme, then obviously somewhere the projection of the scheme or the publicity of the scheme has not been of the required degree.

Otherwise, this is an elite measure. It benefits the small borrowers. We will take steps to rectify this and improve the projection of this scheme. This is supposed to settle Rs. 25,000 for small borrowers and Rs. 50,000 for the farmers. It is a one-time settlement. It includes waiver of interest and this is a Reserve Bank approved scheme. It should have more projection, I agree with this. We will take steps in this regard.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the scheme of writing off interest for loans up to Rs. 25,000 has already elapsed because the final date was June 30th. Now, since this is a very beneficial scheme for the small people, my question is whether the Government will take steps to extend the period from June 30th, which was the last date, to at least one year.

Sir, for loans of Rs. 50,000 to the farmers, the last date is 31st March 2003. If, at least, the date is extended

up to 31st March 2003, for loans up to Rs. 25,000 also, it will help, to some extent, to those beneficiaries. Then the publicity will also go by that time. Of course, this question relates to giving publicity to the beneficiaries so that they will get a chance to take advantage of that.

My request as well as my question is whether the Government will take immediate steps to extend the date.

I have another question, if you permit me, Sir. The NPAs are supposed to be NPAs from 31st March 1998. Now, as it has been stated in the reply that the scheme came very late, therefore, much could not be done in this regard, my submission is, if the last date for the loan to become an NPA also could be extended by a few months or few years, it will help the beneficiaries to some extent.

MR. SPEAKER: Both are questions, where is the request?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: But some answer will come from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I understand, but let me, for the sake of clarity, understand this. The hon. Member spoke of a scheme, which he said is terminating on 30th of June.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It has already elapsed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: All right. Sir, I am aware of the fact that it is under the very active consideration of the Government that the further extension of the scheme ought to be considered. It is under consideration and we are examining it.

As the hon. Member knows, the Prime Minister is considering making a comprehensive statement in regard to the relief that has already been provided for the drought etc. It is the recommendation of the Finance Ministry that this be a part of the total announcement from the Prime Minister.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, even though the Reserve Bank of India issues circulars and guidelines that agricultural sector is the priority sector and numerous statements are also made that nationalised banks must give, at least, 18 per cent financial assistance to the agricultural sector, what is happening in reality is that the national banks, to meet their targets, are simply handing over the money to NABARD and saying that their responsibility is over.

This is not correct. Even today, agricultural sector is the main occupation for nearly 65 to 70 per cent of the people who are residing in the rural areas. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, whether it is the Government's intention that the nationalised banks give all their funds to NABARD, which are meant for agricultural sector. That is my first Supplementary.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I wish to separate the functions of NABARD from the mandated percentage of lending for agricultural sector. It is true, what the hon. Member suggests, that the unfulfilled target in percentage terms is then made available to NABARD for further subsequent lending. The targets given to the banks for agricultural sector alone—I think that is the thrust of the question—is 18 per cent. Has this been achieved by the banks? No it has not been achieved. We are marginally short of this lending by about 2 to 2.5 per cent. We are taking all steps to ensure that the banks themselves fulfil the targets that have been laid down for them, credit to agricultural sector *via* bank is easily made available and the farmers will be able to access bank loans with just as much ease as any other citizen.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: What is the monitoring system evolved by the Government to carefully watch over whether the banks are really meeting their targets or not? In view of the present drought situation in our country, I want to know whether the Central Government has any proposal to encourage sprinkler and drip irrigation due to scarcity of irrigated water.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the monitoring systems of the entire banking operations are well enough known. They are at various levels. They start from the level of the bank management itself and go on up to the Reserve Bank of India and thereafter the Finance Ministry. Monitoring is achieved through regular and frequent reports by the banks of all their various activities. It is a complex monitoring exercise, which will take too much time for me to explain in all details.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has laid down some instructions and in turn, the Reserve Bank of India also issues instructions that some amount that is earmarked in terms of loan is supposed to be given to social sectors and marginal farmers. But it has been seen that most of the nationalised banks default and they do not disburse the amount earmarked for social sectors and marginal farmers, and in turn, whatever money is left, it goes to big houses or corporates. My question to the hon. Minister, through you Sir, is, how many nationalised banks have defaulted on this issue and have not disbursed the amount which is earmarked for social sectors and marginal farmers? What action the

Government has taken against these defaulters who have not fulfilled this social obligation?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, if I were to paraphrase the question, I am sure the hon. Member would be satisfied with my paraphrasing.

What the hon. Member is asking is what action was taken in case of non-achievement of priority sector lending by bank. I do not think I have done injustice to the question by paraphrasing it. There are a number of steps. The domestic scheduled commercial banks, having a shortfall in lending to priority sector or agriculture, are allocated amounts of contribution to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund. This is part of NABARD. Details regarding operation of the RIDF, such as amounts to be deposited by a bank, interest rates on depositors, period of deposits, etc., are decided every year after the announcement of the Union Budget. In the case of foreign banks operating in India, which fail to achieve priority sector lending target or sub-target, an amount equivalent to this shortfall is required to be deposited with SIDBI for one year. In the case of domestic banks, it is to be deposited in the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, and in respect of foreign banks, it is to be deposited in SIDBI. Therefore, instead of achieving the target directly, what happens there is that the shortfall is mandatorily required to be placed by the banks either with the RIDF or with the SIDBI so that, in turn, the amount can be utilised.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: I asked a very pointed question. How much amount is left or has not gone to the priority sector? There are defaulting banks. What action have you taken? Some of the banks are meeting the social obligation; some are not meeting it. So, what action have you taken against those defaulting banks or their officials? This is my question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is precisely what I have just answered. What the hon. Member has suggested is about lapsing of fund.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: They are not able to spend the money. They are not able to meet those requirements which are laid down by the RBI.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I understand that. What they are unable to spend, they are required to deposit it either in the RIDF or in the SIDBI. So far as any lapsing of the fund involved is concerned, there is no lapsing.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: There is no lapsing, but they are not meeting the social sector obligation. That is my question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is an obligation. So far as the total percentage is concerned, the total percentage of priority sector lending is 40 per cent. Forty per cent is being met by all the banks. In fact, in the current year, certain banks have gone up to 43 per cent in the sub-sector. For example, out of this 40 per cent, how much is to be an advance as credit to agriculture sector? It is in the agriculture sector that there is a shortfall by about two or two-and-a-half per cent. That shortfall is then required to be deposited, in the case of domestic banks, with the RIDF, and in the case of foreign banks, with the SIDBI...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, this is more than enough.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: In regard to the shortfall, what action have taken against the officials? As it is, the agriculture sector is neglected...*(Interruptions)* You have accepted that they have not given.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Somebody should be made accountable for that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you think so, you can send him a reply by letter.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a discussion on drought some time back. Often we see there is drought or heavy rains due to which the farmers mortgage their lands. I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether their land under the new law enacted recently will not be taken over and also whether the Government will provide relief to them? Further, how many One Time Settlement schemes have been formulated and how many people submitted applications and also how many applications had been cleared?

Lastly, I want to submit one more thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you ask one more supplementary as already parts A & B have been asked.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I want to submit one more thing about which Thomasji also spoke. People do not even come to know about schemes because of the language barrier. Therefore, whether the Government will apprise them about these schemes in their regional language. The Government formulates many schemes but nobody knows the schemes. In these circumstances, what

does the Government propose to do to publicise the schemes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is your fourth question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Honourable Member has asked A, B, C and D four questions and not one question. In the Securitisation Bill passed recently, there is the provision of the confiscation of the assets. I had clearly stated that very day it is not applicable on the loans of Rs. One lakh or less. Secondly, it is not applicable on the loans taken for agriculture. Your submission that due to drought if any amount is left unpaid then land will be confiscated is not correct as there is no such provision in the Bill. The Honourable Member must be definitely knowing that agricultural land does not come under the purview of the Central Government. Agriculture land comes under the purview of the State Governments and the State Governments have the rights regarding the land. Therefore, if there are some arrears then the State Government can only confiscate the land. Many a time lands are mortgaged against loans, but this provision is not applicable as I told you earlier.

It should definitely be publicised in regional languages because if it had been publicised satisfactorily then Honourable Members would have been definitely aware of all this. I feel that even the Honourable Members do not have full information regarding all this.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: How many such applications were received by the Government?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You can seek clarification personally from him.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether the loans of public sector banks are outstanding against the industrialists of Uttar Pradesh? If so the number of such industrialists against whom more than Rs. One crore is outstanding.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my request two questions related to agriculture were clubbed but I regret to say that industrialists are not covered in this. The question of agriculture is not connected.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: It was reported by the newspapers that the outstanding loans of all the public sector are not being repaid by the industrialists while the loans of the farmers are being forcibly recovered and their land is being attached too.

MR. SPEAKER: Saroj ji, now the Honourable Minister is giving reply. Please sit down.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: The outstanding loans of industrialists are not being recovered. The outstanding loans are of the value of Rs. 1 to 2 crore.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Supplementary is not connected to the main question. The Honourable Member wants to know abut the outstanding loans of industrialists in Uttar Pradesh. Please ask a separate question.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Loans are not being recovered from industrialists, but are being forcibly recovered from the farmers. On the one hand loan is being forcibly recovered and on the other hand, industrialists are being let off...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Recently one Bill in this regard was passed by the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I agree with you that this is a different question. Now, Shri Sunil Khan.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since *Swarnjayanti Gramin Rozgar Yojana* is implemented, may I know how many people have applied to the banks for getting loans either in groups or individually, and how many have got loans from banks in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If I am not mistaken, before I would begin to answer the hon. Member's query, if I heard it correctly, he has asked about *Gramin Rozgar Yojana.*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: I have asked about *Swarnajayanti Gramin Rozgar Yojana.*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Now, this Question does not relate to SGRY; This Question is about rural credit: SGRY is about rural employment in which 75 per cent component is borne by the Union Government and 25 per cent by the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government in Annexure of the reply has stated that small loans of the value of Rs. 25,000 and loans of the value of Rs. 50,000 of marginal farmers will be waived. The details furnished in this regard are debatable. It is mentioned in the reply that the power of writing off of

loans has been given to the Branch Managers. Now only three months are left, in which the farmers who have taken the loans upto Rs. 25,000 will be waived. It is stated about the farmers who have taken loans upto Rs. 50,000 that the balance of the outstanding loans on 31-3-1998 will be waived off and the total accumulated interest component on 31-3-1998 will be waived off too. I do not know why such a reply has come from the Government. The Minister has stated in the reply that loans will be waived off but in case of those who fail to repay loans upto 31st March 2003, then interest will also be added and entire sum will be recovered. The Minister belongs to a affluent family. So, I do not know whether he is concerned about the problems of the farmers. The Government also knows that Rs. 50,000 is not a big sum for making purchases, as nowadays even small farmers use tractors and do not work bullock. I would like to know what decision has been taken by the Government about the farmers who have purchased tractors by taking loans from the nationalised banks and in this regard what directions have been issued to the banks?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Honourable Member has made certain comments and it is not necessary that I should respond to all those comments. He is free to comment on my lineage but it is not relevant.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Its not so and I have full respect for the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am highly obliged.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to respond to this too.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two parts of the question of the hon. Member. Firstly, the period will expire on 31st March, that is why, what the Government is doing in this regard. Secondly, the Hon. Member has submitted that much purchases cannot be made with Rs. 50,000 because even the tractor is very costly. Therefore, the sum of Rs. 50,000 is not sufficient. This scheme is quite old. The limit of Rs. 50,000 has been fixed under this scheme only. Perhaps two days ago I announced while speaking on Security Bill that the loans upto 10 crore rupees whether related to agriculture or of industrialists will be given the option of One-Time Settlement. I accept that Rs. 50,000 is not a big sum. The second aspect of the question of the Hon. Member is that period will expire in March. In this regard, let me state that period is not yet over. From the questions of many Hon. Members it seems that publicity and information given in regional languages to farmers and peasants is not sufficient. That is why, the small borrowers or peasants have not reaped desirable benefits from this scheme. The Reserve Bank of India has extended this scheme upto 31st March, 2003 and in view of the suggestions of the Hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Upto what time it is going to be extended?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If you do not listen and interrupt in between then how we will extend the period...*(Interruptions)* From various questions of the Hon. Members only one important thing comes out that the people are not aware of this scheme. It was also asked whether it is upto March only? In view of the drought situation prevailing in 14 states and keeping in view the small settlement of the banks...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not respond to the interruptions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So, I will request the Governor of Reserve Bank of India that this scheme should be extended for one year to enable the farmers to reap benefits of this scheme.

[English]

World Bank's Assistance for Primary Education

*163. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing assistance for Primary Education in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of assistance received so far; and

(c) the amount disbursed therefrom, State-wise?

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

(b) IDA credit in the form of soft loan amounting to US$ 1317.74 million (approximately Rs. 5137 crores) has been tied up with the World Bank for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP).

213 districts of 16 States, namely, Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are covered under the ongoing project of DPEP.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

State-wise disbursement of World Bank assistance for Primary Education

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount Disbursed
1.	Assam	188.38
2.	Haryana	168.38
3.	Karnataka	344.31
4.	Kerala	141.71
5.	Maharashtra	235.95
6.	Tamil Nadu	184.21
7.	UP	762.28
8.	Orissa	131.7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	77.57
10.	Madhya Pradesh	271.75
11.	Chhattisgarh	8.49
12.	Uttaranchal	17.32
13.	Rajasthan	130.34
14.	Andhra Pradesh	277.99
15.	Bihar	163.12
16.	Jharkhand	16.92

[Translation]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on reply to the question it has been stated that Rs. 5137 crore have been provided to 213 districts of 16 States and you know Punjab has not been covered in it. The condition of Primary Education is not at all satisfactory in Punjab as there are no rooms in 50 per cent of schools while in 25 per cent of schools there are no teachers, where there are teachers, they do not teach, do some other job and appoint someone else on contract in their place. So it is necessary that Punjab should also be covered with other States and other districts so that the standard of Primary Education could improve. Whether the Government will consider it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Government would definitely consider it. We have no grudge against Punjab. But Punjab itself has to take initiative. If Punjab itself takes initiative, the Central Government would definitely assist in its efforts.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary question is that what is the state-wise details of administrative expenses and the amount incurred on the development of primary education.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, some information has already been given in the answer to the question. Hon. Member has asked about the World Bank assistance. He has asked an important question that out of the total assistance of World Bank, under World Bank Scheme how much is spent on administration, and how much is actually spent on education. Our experience tells us that the amount, provided by the World Bank as assistance for such programme, is often utilised by the State Government—I an not talking of any particular Government, hon. Member may not take it as comment. on Punjab nor it is a comment on any other State Generally the State use that amount as ways and means to run the Government. Once the money is in hand, the States utilise it for administrative expenses. But the programme being the World Bank assistance one and if the money is not incurred on it and utilised somewhere else, further instalment of fund would be stopped. Our experience has broadly been so and, now, keeping in view the same, we are trying to improve all our schemes.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is a serious allegation.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not an allegation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The House should know the entire facts about the way the assistance is being utilised by the State Governments for other purposes than the purpose mentioned for.

MR. SPEAKER: It does happen.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The whole House should know which State has done like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is happening in States. This is what the hon. Minister wants to say.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to pay immediate attention on education in social sector. The amount earmarked for education is between 2.8% to 3.0% of our GDP which is against the assurance. The Finance Minister, in speech delivered in Denmark and Bali had assured that we would earmark 6% of GDP for education. Until and unless we increase this amount, we would not emerge as economic power internationally. Keeping this in view, I would like to ask hon. Finance Minister as to what the Government think about it? The amount earmarked for education, particularly for rural areas and the amount fixed for IIM and IIT is Rs. 70 crore. I would like to know whether the Government plan to increase this amount? And my next question is whether the Government have decided to involving international and private sector investment in the field of education because the Government cannot afford to work alone in this field. I would like to know the view of hon. Finance Minister and the Government in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked two-three questions. As far as the matter of spending in the field of education is concerned, I agree that 6% of GDP should be earmarked for education. It is true and the Government is committed towards it. It is also a reality that 6.0% is not being spent at present. It cannot be done immediately and it will take time. It would gradually reach to the target of 6% as the Government is committed to achieve it. Hon. Member has also expressed his desire to know as to what is being done for education in rural areas. I would like to tell him that primary education set up, particularly in rural areas, has many drawbacks. Though, primary education comes under States' list and, secondly, it comes under the purview of other Ministry. However, I would try as it is a question of substance. All Primary Education Schemes come under World Bank about which negotiations are going on with the World Bank so that these schemes follow their targets. Your third question was whether the Government can meet the target alone. You have rightly said that the Government cannot spent 6% on its own and private sector shall also be included. The schemes we are discussing with the World Bank would be provided with grants and the funds would be given. These three components only would make the task possible.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Thank you for allowing me to ask this question. The funds that are being provided by the World Bank relating to expansion of primary education, especially DPEP, are basically in the form of a soft loan. It is being disbursed to different States, to different districts. It is, no doubt, doing a yeoman service in the far-off districts, rural districts, especially tribal districts. The periodic review has been done within the last two yeas. I would like to know how much expenditure has been incurred. A target has been fixed, but how much has been spent actually? Last year, on 20th November, a reply was given that hardly 50 per cent of the tied up money had been actually spent. As it is a soft loan, it is only 85 per cent that is reimbursed by the external financial agencies, say the World Bank, and the rest is contributed by the State Government and the Central Government. I would like to know how much is the interest component which is shared by the Central Government and the State Government. Or, is it only the State Government which is paying the interest? If the State Government is paying the interest or the Central Government is paying the interest, how much has actually been paid by now? What is the term of interest in that respect?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If I have understood correctly, the hon. Member is asking about *Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan.*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: No Sir. It is DPEP.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If the hon. Member is asking about DPEP, I will share whatever information I have with me. In the case of DPEP, in regard to the State-wise disbursement of World Bank assistance, in fact, a chart has been provided with answer itself. I do not want to take the time of the House by reading out the chart. It is available with me. DPEP is for primary education purposes.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: No, Sir. It's the expenditure. I want to know.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Perhaps I have not understood his question correctly.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: My question is this. In the case of DPEP, the money is coming from external agencies, specially from the World Bank. Last year, on 20th November, a reply was given to a question on foreign assistance for primary education and it was mentioned that specially on DPEP, the funds tied up were Rs. 4,767 crore while the expenditure incurred was Rs. 2,017 crore. So, the targeted tied up is of Rs. 4,767 crore and the expenditure that has been incurred is Rs. 2,017 crore. This means, the expenditure incurred is around 50 per cent.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have followed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has understood.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: On this, the disbursement by the World Bank is without any interest. There is a service charge of 0.75 per cent, which is paid to the World Bank. This is passed on to the States as 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant. The loan to the States bears, on an average, an interest which is fluctuating, but is currently at about 10.5 per cent...*(Interruptions)* I was anticipating these protests...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Is it not highly immoral? I think, the Centre should only take some service charge and not subject the State Governments to this penal rate of interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am only sharing the information with you. These are not schemes that have been devised by me as an individual. Successive Governments have worked out a method. If there is to be a rectification of the system...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Why do you not change it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We are addressing ourselves to this question.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: The Minister is a competent man, and he should change it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I cannot give an assurance that I will change it, but I am certainly addressing myself to this question because in any case, what might be passed as a grant and as interest-bearing loan, there are a number of other ways in which the States are benefited by the Centre. It is not possible for me to say that we will change it straightaway. I will give you just one example. I am now being flooded by notes. We are working on the interest part of it. The Centre is examining the whole thing because how do we compensate the States so that the interest part of it is mitigated etc. In any case, all these arrangements have been placed in accordance with certain formulate that have evolved over time. For example, there is the Gadgil Formula of Sharing between States and the Centre. It is not any kind of arbitrary and unilateral action on the part of the Centre.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Minister gives the answers very diplomatically. I think that he is not free from the hangover of the earlier office he was holding. The Finance Minister is supposed to give categorical answers. He is more diplomatic. That is why, I feel that he is still not free from the hangover of the earlier office.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In fact, there is injustice being done to my predecessor, not just the immediate predecessor, but all my predecessors. Hon. Members must recognise that wherein we are charging this interest from certain States on the loan, there are a number of the States of the Union, which are Special Category States, and I do not wish to list them, where the assistance from the Centre is to the extent of 90 per cent grant. After all, where is the Centre to get that 90 per cent grant? We cannot keep manufacturing or printing money. Some hon. Members charged me with being a money lender.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: You are not a money lender because you are taking the money at 0.75 per cent and giving it at 11 per cent.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As former Revenue Secretary, you certainly know the details. The question is very clear, and I do not wish to list these Special Category States, and the difficulties of the Spécial Category States. The assistance that is provided to them is to the extent of 90 per cent, but where does that 90 per cent grant come from? In part, it comes from this 30 per cent interest that is charged from the better off States. It is really the principle of equalisation in this Union, that is, India — he who can pay, pays a little more so that that State which is unable to bear the expenses is compensated.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the amount of aid provided by the Government of India on the percentage of ratio on the assistance provided by the World Bank to India for primary education. I would also like to know whether utility report of sum provided to newly created State of Jharkhand for primary education by the Government of India and the World Bank has been received? I would like to know the amount spent and how much amount provided for this purpose along with the utility in Bihar?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as question of interest on loan is concerned, I have already told about that. The amount provided to Bihar has been given in the list. Bihar has been provided Rs. 163.12 crore and Jharkhand has been provided about Rs. 17 crore. The question is how far it has benefitted? It depends upon the State Government whether they reap

the benefit? As I have already said several State Governments use this amount on its ways and means. I am not saying that Governments of Bihar or Jharkhand are doing it for the same purpose. I said that many a States do so. State Governments are required to ponder over it.

[English]

Export of Beedies

*164. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries to which beedies are being exported from India;

(b) the total export of beedies from India effected during the last three years till date both in terms of value and quantity, country-wise;

(c) whether USA has imposed a ban on import of beedies from India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor including its impact on Beedi Industry?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) A detailed statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Country-wise exports of beedies from India both in terms of quantity and value for the last three years are as below:

(Qty: Tonnes: Value: Rs. Lakhs)

Country	2000-2001		2001-2002		April-Setp. 2002	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Afghanistan	66	162.77	66	169.89	22	57.34
Argentina	a	0.41	a	0.81	—	—
Australia	1	1.70	nil	nil	—	—
Brazil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bahrain	18	61.98	nil	nil	a	0.40
Canada	4	13.02	4	19.90	2	7.73
France	a	2.08	2	5.21	a	1.53
Geneva	—	—	2	3.23	—	—
Greece	—	—	a	3.82	56	20.00
Iran	—	—	10	26.54	—	—
Japan	1	23.56	a	3.64	a	2.30
Jamaica	—	—	—	—	a	1.10
Kuwait	16	56.13	17	61.38	2	8.56
Mexico	10	28.51	—	—	—	—
Malaysia	15	72.27	11	45.73	7	29.73
Martinique, St. Martin	—	—	—	—	2	8.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Zealand	—	—	1	3.40	—	—
Portugal	a	0.21	a	0.28	—	—
Philippines	a	0.12	a	0.05	—	—
Reunion Island	—	—	—	—	a	1.53
Switzerland	9	21.90	8	27.62	3	9.16
Singapore	27	114.75	42	148.91	19	66.81
S. Arabia	—	—	18	8.07	—	—
S. Africa	a	1.83	a	0.29	1	5.94
S. America	—	—	2	5.11	—	—
S. Korea	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tanzania	—	—	a	1.61	—	—
USA*	8	47.36	28	137.15	11	54.00
UAE	634	2178.87	565	2028.6	279	957.64
UK	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Indies	a	0.89	1	6.14	—	—
Taiwan	—	—	—	—	a	0.40
Netherlands	—	—	—	—	a	0.90
Yemen	153	507.52	184	630.10	96	389.20
Total	962	3295.88	961	3337.48	500	2622.76

'a'—Indicates less than 500 Kgs.

(Source: Monthly Returns submitted by exporters of Tobacco Products to Tobacco Board)

(c) and (d) Presently there is no nation-wide ban in USA on import of beedies from India.

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Sir, it is evident from the reply of the hon. Minister that *beedies* worth Rs. 2,622.76 lakh have been exported to more than 30 countries in the world in the last three years. It seems that there is a market for export of Indian *beedies* in many countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government is contemplating for increasing foreign exchange earning through the export of *beedies* to different countries of the world.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, it is true that in the last two to three years the export of *beedies* has diminished substantially as you will see from the statement. There are several reasons for this. Individual five to six States in the United States, as the United States has put restrictions on tobacco in general, have included *beedies* in the list of restricted items. For that reason our exports have come under pressure. The usual steps have been taken of giving greater emphasis to this in international Trade Fairs and exhibitions, and also by tobacco trade delegations to various countries. The Chairman of the Tobacco Board just visited Egypt, Turkey, Romania and Russia to explore possibilities for doing this.

Finally, on the two steps that the United States took, to which the hon. Member alluded in his question, I would like to submit that the matter has been taken up with the United States. In one case, a television news channel had shown that child labour was being employed for the rolling and manufacturing of *beedies* and therefore further exports of that firm to the United States were banned.

The second was that the exporters of *beedies* were required to put in the escrow account an amount of 64 paise per thousand *beedies* for settlement of disputes if they arose later on. Both the matters have been taken up with the United States because as you know, the general stand of India on trade matters has been that non-tariff measures like labour should not be used to restrict trade. That has been our stand in WTO in this regard and also in the official meetings these matters have been taken up with the United States.

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, you are quite aware of the pitiable condition of the *beedi* workers in the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to provide a share of an amount earned through *beedi* exports for the welfare of the *beedi* workers in the country.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As the hon. Member surely knows, under the Beedi and Cigar Workers Act of 1966, the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act and the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act of 1976, a cess of Rs. 2 per thousand beedis is levied. The collections under this are about Rs. 53 crore this year. They have risen from Rs. 21 crore in 1996-97 to about Rs. 53 crore this year. Almost the entire amount is being spent every year Last year, the expenditure for the welfare of workers out of this Cess Fund was about Rs. 52 crore. If the hon. Member wants to know the Heads under which this was used for the welfare of workers, I can supply them to him either here or can write to him later.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, everybody knows that (a) the premium brands in cigarette manufacture in the world do not use Indian tobacco; (b) we have more than 50 per cent of manufacturing capacity lying idle; and (c) the Eighth Plan had asked our scientists to look into R&D for alternative uses of tobacco, because China had gone back on her assurance that she would lift tobacco from us. Given this scenario, a lot of cigaratte manufacturers are looking at making small or mini cigarettes. The MNCs which have that kind of money to promote this through advertisements as a lifestyle are going to eat into our segment of beedi manufacture and beedi use.

In view of this, what steps is the Government taking to ensure that the beedi manufacturers and the *tendu* leaf pickers are kept safe; what measures are we taking a promote export of beedis so that we can ensure employment for this segment of people; and how do we prevent the MNCs from coming and manufacturing small cigarettes in our country to replace the beedi market?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The hon. Member is right. There have been various proposals under the Tobacco Board for some extension type of work. The Tobacco Board is using the funds that accrue to it, for instance under penalities for unauthorised production and cultivation of tobacco in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, for the purpose of extension work which goes to improve the quality, and also to do things like better filtration and so on, so that the nicotine content is reduced.

Actually, there is a dichotomy here. Just the day before yesterday also, when Shri Shatrughan Sinha was being asked questions on cancer, for instance, everybody was lamenting the fact that the Government is not doing enough to fight cancer. Here we are saying that the Government should be doing more to produce tobacco, through which cancer will come.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Ban *Gutkha* first!

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Not only *Gutkha*, but all uses of tobacco.

This is a dichotomy to which the House must address itself in the future. Even in the last four-five years, the hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh as well as hon. Members from Karnataka had come to complain against unauthorised production in the other State and asking the Government not to favour one State or the other. I can go into those details.

The hon. Member is right that as technology improves in cigarette manufacture because of the dominance of these four multinationals in cigarette industry, naturally the beedi industry would come under great pressure. While all these promotional steps which I listed in response to Khan Sahib's question are being taken, in the end we would have to think of alternative crops for these areas.

I very much appreciate the suggestion that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has been making for some years that the hon. Finance Minister put a one per cent cess on cigarettes, and that fund should be used to enable cultivators to move out of this crop, as the Prime Minister has also suggested when he had gone to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Eighth Plan had recommended that by using science and technology, we should look into alternative uses of tobacco, which is a natural bio-pesticide.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The hon. Member is perfectly right. That is one of the things to be done even under the Tobacco Board Act of 1976.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I belong to district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh which has a distinct place in Beedi manufacturing. Beedi and poverty are closely connected. Beedi makers are poor people and mostly poor persons smoke beedi. Decreasing export of beedi has largely affected the livelihood of the poor. I would like to know whether the Government plan to promote the export of beedi to enable the poor to earn their bread and get employment and whether the move against the tobacco has affected beedi export?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir first of all, I have already spelt out the scheme formulated for export. If hon. Member is desirous to know more, I will provide him details.

So far as his suggestion regarding withdrawal of advertisement of tobacco, so as to boost the production of tobacco and ensuring improvement in manufacturing of Beedi, is concerned. I think that the Health Ministry would not like the ban to be lifted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Outstanding Excise Duty

*166. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) the excise duty outstanding at present;

(b) the excise duty realized during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government machinery has failed to realize the outstanding excise duty;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to realize the outstanding excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Central Excise duty outstanding as on 30.9.2002 is Rs. 11,320 crores.

(b) Out of the outstanding amount the Central Excise duty liquidated during the last three financial years is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount (Rupees in crores)
1.	1999-2000	5997.78
2.	2000-2001	6580.71
3.	2001-2002	14284.00

(c) and (d) No Sir, as recovery of outstanding Central Excise duty is an ongoing process. Every year fresh cases are added to the balance outstanding dues as existing are reduced. Therefore, it would not be correct to aver that the Government machinery has failed to realize outstandings.

(e) Action is taken against departmental officers only where it is found that they have deliberately failed to recover any amount of outstanding dues which was otherwise recoverable.

(f) Such administrative and legislative steps are taken as are considered necessary to realize outstanding central excise duty.

[English]

Modernisation of Spinning Mills

*167. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for the modernisation of the spinning mills in the country;

(b) if so, the allocation of funds made to various States for the purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to modernise the spinning mills at Gobindpur in Dhenkanal district, Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Government of India has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) since April 1, 1999 for five years, for modernisation of

the textile and jute industries including spinning mills in the country. The scheme provides for reimbursement of 5 percentage points of interest on the loans availed of from designated banks and financial institutions for modernisation of benchmarked textile projects.

No allocation is made to the States. The funds are reimbursed to the banks and financial institutions, which provide the loans for the eligible individual units for modernization. Any eligible spinning mill including spinning mill at Gobindpur can avail of benefits under the TUFS.

[Translation]

Consumer Forums

*168. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether some States/UTs have not set up a consumer forum in each district as per provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the names of such States/UTs alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to non-establishment of such forums, the Union Government are facing any problems in protecting the interests of the consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it mandatory for the States to set up such forums; and

(f) if not, the other corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a few newly created districts the District Forums are yet to be set up by the State Governments as mentioned below:

Gujarat	7 (6 new districts and one old district)
Jharkhand	4 (New districts)
Karnataka	7 (New districts)
Maharashtra	4 (New districts)
Tripura	1 (New district)

(c) and (d) It is the responsibility of the State Governments under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to set up District Forum in every district. To protect consumer interests State Governments make alternate arrangements by extending the jurisdictions of the other District Forums, till the time, in such districts the District Forums are established.

(e) and (f) In terms of the provisions of Section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 the State Government shall set up in each district a District Forum. Besides, the State Commission shall also be established by the State Government in each State.

Amendment in Companies Act, 1956

*169. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from State Governments particularly from Madhya Pradesh for making certain amendments in the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments suggested by the States and action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking decision on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No suggestion from any State Government, including Madhya Pradesh, suggesting amendment in the Companies Act, 1956 has been received in the recent past.

[English]

Contract Farming in Tobacco Sector

*170. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce contract farming in tobacco sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tobacco farmers are opposing the Government's above move and are in favour of retaining the present production and auction system;

(d) whether any representations in this regard has been received;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (f) There have been suggestions in passing from certain quarters that contract farming, on a limited scale, particularly where foreign direct investment is concerned, could be allowed in the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco sector. The Tobacco Growers' Association have urged, however, that the present system be continued. At present, Government do not propose to change this system.

[Translation]

Loan under PMRY

*171. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployed youths have been facing difficulties in getting loan under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to simplify the rules for loan under the scheme in order to provide self-employment to unemployed youths;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government and Reserve Bank of India are aware of the problems faced by the unemployed graduates in getting loans from banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). In order to mitigate the problems being faced by the borrowers and also to expand the coverage and scope of the scheme some amendments have been made with effect from 22.1.1999. The major amendments are:

(i) *Age:* The maximum age limit raised from 35 to 45 yeas for SC/ST, Ex-servicemen/physically handicapped & women candidates.

(ii) *Educational Qualifications*: Relaxed from Matric/ ITI to class VIII passed.

(iii) *Activities covered*: The range of activities covered has been expanded to include agriculture and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising crop, purchase of manure etc.

(iv) *Family Income*: The eligibility limit has been increased from Rs. 24,000 to Rs. 40,000 per annum.

These parameters/guidelines for PMRY have been further relaxed in case of North-Eastern States.

Age Limit: Raised from 35 years to 40 years for General Candidates, plus 10 years for SC/ST and Women candidates.

Subsidy: @15%, Maximum subsidy increased from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 15,000.

Margin Money: From 5% to 12.5% of the project cost (against fixed 5% earlier) so as to make the subsidy and margin contribution at 20% of the project cost.

[English]

Economic Growth

*172. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the economists have stated that Indian economy would grow by 4.8 per cent in 2002-03, much below the Government's estimates;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the economists for the same and the growth-rate anticipated by the Government; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the economic growth in the country so as to achieve the estimated growth of 5.5 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in its monthly report 'Macrotrack' for October 2002 has projected the overall real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2002-03 at 4.8 per cent comprising zero growth in agriculture, 5.9 per cent in industry and 6.8 per cent in services sector.

(b) The forecast of growth in real GDP made by the NCAER is based on a major deficiency in rainfall. The Reserve Bank of India in its Mid-term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 2002-03, released on October 29,

2002, has indicated that the overall real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2002-03 is likely to be in the range of 5.0 to 5.5 per cent as against its earlier projection of growth of 6.0 to 6.5 per cent. The growth targets under the Five Year Plan are not fixed annually. The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan aims at an annual average growth rate of 8 per cent for the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07).

(c) The Government is conscious of the need for higher economic growth. The Union Budget for 2002-03 adopted a six-pronged strategy, *inter alia*, emphasising continuation of agricultural and food economy reforms, enhancement of public and private investment in infrastructure, strengthening the financial sector and capital markets, deepening structural reforms and regenerating industrial growth. The various reform measures are expected to have a positive effect on the growth of the economy.

[Translation]

Rating by Standards & Poor

*173. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) whether international organisation Standards and Poor has devalued the Indian currency to the lowest level notwithstanding signs of improvement in the first quarter in the Indian economy, rise in exports, rise in agricultural production, growth in GDP and a better growth rate in many other important business sectors;

(b) if so, whether any conspiracy against Indian currency is being apprehended; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to project a better picture of the Indian economy and save it from such conspiracy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In September, 2002 one of the international credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's Rating Service (S&P) revised their local currency sovereign credit ratings on India to 'BB+' from 'BBB-' for the long term and to 'B' from 'A-3' for the short-term. At the same time, the agency affirmed its double 'B' long-term and single-'B' short-term foreign currency sovereign credit ratings.

(b) and (c) Government is confident of the robustness of the economy. S&P's ratings will not affect the economy or Government of India's resource mobilization. Government's view is based on factors which, *inter-alia*, include declining weighted average cost of market borrowings, better industrial and export performance, higher gross tax receipts, moderate inflation rate and record level of foreign exchange reserves during the period of April-July of the financial year 2002-03. A press release to this effect was issued by the Government on 20th September, 2002.

Bank Dacoities

*174. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of public sector banks dacoities reported during the current financial year till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons arrested in connection with each case of these dacoities; and

(c) the action taken by the Government and management to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that during the current financial year till date 20 incidents of dacoities were reported by public sector banks to RBI as per the details give below:

Name of the State	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Orissa	Punjab	U.P.	West Bengal	Total
No. of incidents	01	08	01	02	03	02	01	02	20

(b) Dacoits have been arrested in two cases. 9 dacoits were arrested in connection with the incident of dacoity which took place on 5.4.2002 at Panchora SAB Branch of State Bank of India, Orissa and 6 dacoits were arrested in connection with the incident of dacoity which took place on 6.8.2002 at Moregram Branch of Allahabad Bank, West Bengal.

(c) Security measures implemented by public sector banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened by the Reserve Bank of India. The meetings are required to be attended by bankers and State Government officials including senior Police officials. The Committee takes stock of the security environment in the State, steps needed to be taken to strengthen bank security and whenever further improvements are necessary requisite guidelines/instructions are given to banks. Banks have classified their branches depending on the risk factor involved and posted armed guards, installed anti-burglary devices, etc., wherever necessary. Where deficiencies are reported in regard to guarding of bank branches by the armed guards supplied by the State Police, the Committee stresses on the police officials to provide adequate armed guards.

[English]

Interest Rates on Credit Cards

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of usurious rates being charged by the banks from Credit Card holders;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring some kind of regulatory guidelines for the benefits of Credit Card holders;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the correctives steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that since interest rates have been deregulated, banks are free to determine their own rates on credit cards. At present, interest rates charged by banks vary from 24% to 36% per annum. The reasons for the high charges are because Credit Card business is highly capital intensive. It involves capital expenditure for the infrastructure i.e. on-line computer systems, call centres (customer service centers), Electronic Data Capture Machines (EDCMs) for cash dispensation and Point of Sales (POS) terminals. These are on-going investment expenditure, risk involved in credit card usage is undefined as the credit card dues are clean in nature without any security/collateral.

Further, in the case of credit cards, there s also fraud risk arising out of stolen/altered credit cards. Recovery of outstanding dues on credit card is very difficult, time consuming and costly.

Banks make an estimate of costs depending upon the volume, technology adopted, facilities offered etc., for fixing the service charges.

RBI has advised Indian Banks' Association to examine the issue and bring about some uniform approach especially in regard to financial charges, service charges, rate of interest in the background of general reduction in interest rates. The issue is being examined by them in consultation with their member banks.

[Translation]

New Sugar Mills

*176. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently announced a number of incentives for setting up of new sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the installed capacity for production of sugar is more than the requirement of sugar in the country at present;

(d) if so, the assessment of the Government in regard to the requirement and production capacity of sugar;

(e) the schemes formulated or proposed to be formulated by the Government for optimum utilization of the entire production; and

(f) the quantum of sugar consumed and exported by the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) As on 30.9.2002, the installed capacity of the sugar industry was 174.43 lakh tonnes. The consumption of sugar during the season 2001-2002 was around 173.00 lakh tonnes. During the sugar season 2002-2003, the consumption of sugar is, however, expected at around 182.00 lakh tonnes as against the estimated production of 170.00 lakh tonnes. There is, however, no difficulty envisaged in this regard because of sizeable accumulation of stocks of sugar in the country.

(f) The quantum of sugar consumed and exported by the country during the last three sugar years is as under:

Sugar Year	Consumption (lakh tonnes)	Exported (lakh tonnes)
1999-2000	159.77	0.23
2000-2001	162.45	9.87
2001-2002	173.04	10.00

Pending Excise Cases

*177. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether about 50,000 cases relating to Central Excise Duty realisation are pending with the Ministry and the total amount involved is to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the parties having vested interests in the said cases are causing inordinate delay taking the advantages of the cumbersome proceeding; and

(d) if so, the step taken to remove such procedural delay?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) As on 30.9.2002 there were 50142 cases of confirmed demands involving Central Excise duty of Rs. 11,320 crores, pending realization with the Central Excise Department all over India. Every year some old cases are liquidated and some fresh cases added.

(c) Most parties do prefer the recovery proceedings to be delayed or postponed. For this they resort to various legal steps. Department has to defend such cases in the court/appellate forum resulting in delays.

(d) Such administrative and legislative steps are taken by the Department as are considered necessary to deal with such cases. Some of the steps taken are, (1) effective monitoring (2) filing petitions for early hearing of cases, (3) creating separate Recovery Cells for handling such cases.

[English]

Surplus Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

*178. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns by the end of October, 2002, State-wise, foodgrain-wise;

(b) whether these stored foodgrains are in surplus of the existing demand in the country;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to consider reducing the issue price of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line category to increase the offtake;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the annual consumption of foodgrains in each State, during each of the last two years and till date; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the proper distribution of foodgrains to the needy people?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The total quantity of foodgrains held by FCI, State-wise, at the end of October, 2002 is at Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

(e) The annual allotment & offtake position of rice & wheat, State-wise, under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other various welfare schemes, during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (upto October, 2002) is at Statement-II.

(f) The steps taken by the Government for the proper distribution of foodgrains to the needy people are at Statement-III.

Statement-I

(In '000 Tonnes)

States/UTs	Statewise stock of Foodgrains with FCI as on 1.11.2002			Total Stock of Foodgrains in Central Pool as on 1.11.02 held by FCI and State Agencies		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	13.62	2.83	16.45	13.62	2.83	16.45
Arunachal Pradesh	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.03
Assam	0.35	0.2	0.55	0.35	0.2	0.55
Bihar	0.98	1.08	2.06	0.98	1.08	2.06
Chhattisgarh	5.64	0.37	6.01	5.64	0.37	6.01
Delhi	0.3	2.74	3.04	0.3	2.74	3.04
Goa	0.05	0.03	0.08	0.05	0.03	0.08
Gujarat	0.69	6.1	6.79	0.69	6.1	6.79
Haryana	6.75	12.64	19.39	14.51	82.58	97.09
Himachal Pradesh	0.04	0.12	0.16	0.04	0.12	0.16
Jammu & Kashmir	0.39	0.18	0.57	0.39	0.18	0.57
Jharkhand	0.31	0.11	0.42	0.31	0.11	0.42
Karnataka	2.24	0.95	3.19	2.24	0.95	3.19
Kerala	4.06	0.19	4.25	4.06	0.19	4.25
Madhya Pradesh	1.62	3.89	5.55	2.26	4.94	7.24
Maharashtra	4.43	6.94	11.37	4.43	6.94	11.37
Manipur	0.06	0	0.06	0.06	0	0.06
Meghalaya	0.11	0	0.11	0.11	0	0.11
Mizoram	0.04	0	0.04	0.04	0	0.04
Nagaland	0.06	0	0.06	0.06	0	0.06
Orissa	2.18	0.13	2.31	2.18	0.13	2.31
Punjab	71.63	19.67	91.3	118.42	189.66	308.08
Rajasthan	0.76	7.55	8.31	0.76	7.55	8.31
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	9.38	1.14	10.52	9.38	1.14	10.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	0.17	0	0.17	0.17	0	0.17
Uttar Pradesh	15.34	9.23	24.57	19.31	18.78	38.09
Uttaranchal	0.39	1.12	1.51	0.39	1.12	1.51
West Bengal	2.8	1.55	4.35	2.8	1.55	4.35
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
JM (PO) Vizag	0	0	0	0	0	0
JM (PO) Kandla	0	0	0	0	0	0
JM (PO) Chennai	0	0	0	0	0	0
JM (PO) Kolkata	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stocks in Transit	1.51	1.29	2.8	1.51	1.29	2.8
Grand Total (All India)	145.93	80.06	225.99	205.09	330.59	535.68

Statement II (I)

(Rice-2000-2001)

Alltoment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1316.648	1847.040	15.570	3179.258	923.047	1002.912	1.333	1927.292
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.384	70.320	0.000	88.704	15.828	13.958	0.000	29.786
3.	Assam	457.428	331.280	0.000	788.708	374.143	5.768	0.000	379.911
4.	Bihar	750.840	86.604	0.000	837.444	131.445	1.032	0.000	132.477
5.	Chhattisgarh	99.288	20.004	7.185	126.417	76.400	0.060	11.744	88.204
6.	Delhi	0.000	163.320	0.000	153.320	0.000	1.980	0.000	1.980

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Goa	6.230	42.840	0.000	49.070	1.483	7.069	0.000	8.552
8.	Gujarat	343.526	216.000	0.000	559.526	113.962	2.584	0.050	116.596
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.640	0.000	0.000	1.640
10.	Himachal Pradesh	34.947	62.760	0.984	98.691	21.755	3.539	0.980	26.274
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.800	150.120	0.000	262.920	64.649	4.096	0.000	68.745
12.	Jharkhand	73.800	8.436	0.000	82.236	14.150	0.120	0.000	14.270
13.	Karnataka	568.272	917.000	0.000	1485.272	527.845	420.613	0.000	948.458
14.	Kerala	365.144	1375.440	5.955	1746.539	417.011	71.939	0.000	488.950
15.	Madhya Pradesh	468.496	104.196	4.760	577.452	278.330	1.050	3.718	283.098
16.	Maharashtra	521.504	268.560	0.000	790.064	341.107	33.283	0.000	374.390
17.	Manipur	31.214	34.320	0.000	65.534	18.670	4.606	0.000	23.276
18.	Meghalaya	34.354	190.416	0.000	224.770	30.106	1.058	0.000	31.164
19.	Mizoram	13.940	81.720	0.000	95.660	13.938	27.122	0.000	41.060
20.	Nagaland	18.480	103.560	0.000	122.040	17.944	0.271	0.000	18.215
21.	Orissa	949.922	44.640	0.000	994.562	659.580	3.340	0.000	662.920
22.	Punjab	16.800	3.360	0.000	20.160	0.364	0.070	0.000	0.434
23.	Rajasthan	23.595	9.360	0.107	33.062	1.141	0.020	0.064	1.225
24.	Sikkim	8.916	83.640	0.000	92.556	5.875	3.284	0.000	9.159
25.	Tamil Nadu	1121.664	461.280	0.000	1582.944	1131.124	78.586	0.000	1209.710
26.	Tripura	55.450	109.440	0.000	164.890	53.567	6.225	0.000	59.792
27.	Uttar Pradesh	741.628	131.812	0.000	873.440	320.906	0.098	0.000	321.004
28.	Uttaranchal	22.172	2.588	0.000	24.760	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	676.064	198.760	0.000	874.824	305.853	34.025	0.000	339.878
30.	A & N Islands	3.604	28.200	0.000	31.804	3.020	4.245	0.000	7.265
31.	Chandigarh	0.480	2.040	0.000	2.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.899	2.160	0.050	5.109	2.078	0.556	0.000	2.634
33.	Daman & Diu	0.532	1.320	0.000	1.852	0.211	0.150	0.000	0.361
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	6.540	0.000	6.540	0.000	5.288	0.000	5.288
35.	Pondicherry	17.088	21.480	0.000	38.568	7.510	2.394	0.000	9.904
	Total	8876.049	7180.556	34.611	16091.216	5874.682	1741.341	17.889	7633.912

(P) = Provisional.

Statement II (II)

(Wheat-2000-2001)

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

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	96.000	0.000	96.000	0.000	3.295	0.000	3.295
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.840	6.360	0.000	8.200	0.278	0.466	0.000	0.744
3.	Assam	0.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	0.000	0.396	0.000	0.396
4.	Bihar	1126.260	129.908	0.000	1256.168	428.651	1.081	0.000	429.732
5.	Chhattisgarh	28.428	13.700	0.000	42.128	2.555	0.000	0.083	2.638
6.	Delhi	24.540	487.140	0.000	511.680	10.501	0.084	0.000	10.585
7.	Goa	2.874	20.280	0.000	23.154	0.361	1.272	0.000	1.633
8.	Gujarat	565.287	354.000	0.000	919.287	284.423	2.690	0.020	287.133
9.	Haryana	175.918	8.640	0.000	184.558	47.763	0.000	0.000	47.763
10.	Himachal Pradesh	67.369	38.400	0.984	106.753	24.700	2.727	0.905	28.332
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	35.520	88.320	0.000	123.840	22.993	7.881	0.000	30.874
12.	Jharkhand	110.700	12.652	0.000	123.352	72.526	0.067	0.000	72.593
13.	Karnataka	142.0682	221.00	0.000	363.068	135.560	63.926	0.000	199.486
14.	Kerala	0.000	452.640	0.000	452.640	0.000	30.212	0.000	30.212
15.	Madhya Pradesh	665.612	138.100	11.050	814.762	277.928	3.518	7.642	289.088
16.	Maharashtra	968.580	469.560	0.000	1465.140	619.256	8.032	0.000	627.288
17.	Manipur	0.000	20.520	0.000	20.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18.	Meghalaya	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.03	0.120	0.000	0.123
19.	Mizoram	0.000	15.120	0.000	15.120	0.000	2.602	0.000	2.602
20.	Nagaland	4.560	18.480	0.000	23.040	3.043	1.487	0.000	4.530
21.	Orissa	102.300	0.000	0.000	102.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Punjab	89.436	18.120	0.000	107.556	10.756	1.515	0.000	12.271

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Rajasthan	850.575	392.160	9.208	1251.943	321.592	1.457	8.055	331.104
24.	Sikkim	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.000	0.350	0.00	0.350
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.759	0.000	0.759
26.	Tripura	0.000	15.360	0.000	15.360	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1537.660	260.916	0.000	1798.576	887.713	1.557	0.000	889.270
28.	Uttaranchal	11.840	5.124	0.000	16.964	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	577.496	777.400	0.000	1354.896	493.111	39.797	0.000	532.908
30.	A & N Islands	1.680	8.160	0.000	9.840	1.737	5.064	0.000	6.801
31.	Chandigarh	3.834	11.640	0.000	15.478	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.725	0.600	0.020	1.345	0.364	0.120	0.000	0.484
33.	Daman & Diu	0.268	0.480	0.000	0.748	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.014
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.504	0.000	0.504	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	6.240	0.000	6.240	0.000	0.827	0.000	0.827
	Total	7095.374	4251.324	21.262	11367.960	3645.828	181.302	16.705	3843.835

(P) = Provisional.

Statement II (III)

(Rice-2001-2002)

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

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1470.960	1495.680	186.840	3153.480	972.348	564.141	191.522	1728.011
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.459	70.320	1.134	95.913	25.007	21.065	0.740	46.812
3.	Assam	515.058	311.280	28.152	854.490	429.825	45.296	28.515	503.636
4.	Bihar	656.370	69.732	60.000	786.102	64.639	0.686	43.252	108.577
5.	Chhattisgarh	305.748	60.012	86.220	451.980	148.292	0.210	77.884	226.386
6.	Delhi	11.790	163.320	0.480	175.590	9.699	18.652	0.246	28.597
7.	Goa	6.431	42.840	0.979	50.250	3.539	4.208	0.734	8.481

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Gujarat	234.604	216.000	12.350	462.954	130.324	2.653	11.785	144.762
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	173.955	62.760	14.172	250.887	102.705	3.772	13.721	120.198
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	115.247	150.120	19.323	284.690	120.449	129.449	4.072	254.065
12.	Jharkhand	227.000	25.308	36.650	288.958	76.529	5.609	26.925	109.063
13.	Karnataka	646.182	444.000	67.287	1157.469	639.186	380.709	64.640	1084.535
14.	Kerala	374.958	1375.440	71.460	1821.858	371.494	21.005	61.507	454.006
15.	Madhya Pradesh	289.756	64.188	57.120	411.064	121.551	0.791	51.922	174.264
16.	Maharashtra	725.426	268.560	93.749	1087.735	426.556	1.509	82.663	510.728
17.	Manipur	35.136	34.320	1.914	71.370	25.455	0.000	0.740	26.195
18.	Meghalaya	44.240	114.360	3.515	162.115	43.278	4.511	2.812	50.601
19.	Mizoram	16.461	81.720	3.156	101.337	16.168	18.931	3.156	38.255
20.	Nagaland	24.185	103.560	2.280	130.025	24.185	3.143	2.280	29.608
21.	Orissa	907.045	44.640	88.466	1040.151	488.185	11.584	87.277	587.046
22.	Punjab	18.080	3.360	0.000	21.440	1.588	0.000	0.000	1.588
23.	Rajasthan	6.282	9.360	1.284	16.926	0.338	0.159	0.484	0.981
24.	Sikkim	11.205	35.640	1.176	48.021	11.371	5.972	1.146	18.489
25.	Tamil Nadu	1350.423	461.280	35.475	1847.178	1040.753	0.000	24.760	1065.513
26.	Tripura	62.718	109.440	7.917	180.075	61.115	15.363	6.786	83.264
27.	Uttar Pradesh	736.649	126.636	82.111	945.396	253.688	0.942	84.006	338.636
28.	Uttaranchal	70.962	7.764	8.028	86.754	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	831.438	128.760	54.960	1015.158	213.648	28.757	27.957	270.362
30.	A & N Islands	3.686	28.200	0.591	32.477	2.888	9.585	0.303	12.776
31.	Chandigarh	0.350	2.040	0.318	2.708	0.055	0.000	0.318	0.373
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.009	2.160	0.600	5.769	2.475	0.745	0.570	3.790
33.	Daman & Diu	0.639	1.320	0.120	2.079	0.056	0.219	0.085	0.360
34.	Lakshadweep	0.044	6.560	0.040	6.644	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
35.	Pondicherry	22.701	3.480	1.125	27.306	8.502	0.120	0.917	9.539
	Total	9923.197	6124.160	1028.992	17076.349	5835.986	1302.786	903.725	8042.497

(P) = Provisional

Statement II (iv)

(Wheat-2001-2002)

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

(In '000 Tonnes)

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

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

(P) = Provisional

Statement II (v)

(Rice-2002-2003)

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

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	842.800	1232.623	152.586	2228.009	829.409	194.155	126.176	1149.740
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.298	44.266	3.703	66.267	17.222	23.260	3.887	44.369
3.	Assam	397.999	277.165	68.971	744.135	316.253	32.000	62.784	411.037
4.	Bihar	532.832	534.667	98.000	1165.499	43.403	0.230	70.986	114.619
5.	Chhattisgarh	262.836	363.075	70.413	695.324	10.461	0.000	4.654	15.115
6.	Delhi	25.259	194.802	2.144	222.205	18.310	12.147	1.691	32.148
7.	Goa	4.578	47.085	1.792	53.455	3.639	3.583	1.207	8.429
8.	Gujarat	116.544	643.256	15.925	775.725	79.938	9.483	12.888	102.309

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	51.058	132.782	11.097	194.937	56.012	4.397	11.220	71.629
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	94.948	156.100	21.042	272.090	93.252	120.406	8.911	222.569
12.	Jharkhand	190.099	50.477	35.917	276.493	21.380	0.124	26.711	48.215
13.	Karnataka	519.995	966.280	93.338	1579.613	503.306	226.866	84.622	814.794
14.	Kerala	322.329	793.940	58.359	1174.628	178.162	6.328	58.046	242.536
15.	Madhya Pradesh	212.941	577.579	44.388	834.908	94.488	0.754	43.131	138.373
16.	Maharashtra	475.376	1072.231	85.897	1632.504	296.134	5.621	73.850	375.605
17.	Manipur	25.599	17.325	6.251	49.175	24.233	0.543	7.251	32.027
18.	Meghalaya	37.947	21.728	6.888	66.563	38.701	4.856	6.887	50.444
19.	Mizoram	14.154	24.598	2.576	41.328	14.153	22.743	2.576	39.472
20.	Nagaland	20.678	29.737	3.724	54.139	20.678	2.728	3.724	27.130
21.	Orissa	865.886	683.613	123.851	1673.350	223.536	0.000	93.418	316.954
22.	Punjab	6.576	82.599	0.000	89.175	0.980	0.016	0.000	0.996
23.	Rajasthan	5.397	44.135	1.050	50.582	0.250	0.010	0.195	0.455
24.	Sikkim	8.995	27.184	1.645	37.824	8.954	4.585	1.703	15.242
25.	Tamil Nadu	1025.901	2213.625	165.485	3405.011	658.625	0.000	163.103	821.728
26.	Tripura	61.194	93.296	11.081	165.571	53.840	14.346	10.930	79.116
27.	Uttar Pradesh	698.238	1723.353	132.020	2553.611	111.160	1.126	71.147	183.433
28.	Uttaranchal	56.422	98.297	13.111	167.830	23.839	0.005	5.786	29.630
29.	West Bengal	647.428	362.061	89.768	1099.257	145.567	10.467	52.335	208.369
30.	A & N Islands	2.919	16.450	0.756	20.125	1.999	7.596	0.000	9.595
31.	Chandigarh	0.105	7.282	0.518	7.905	0.105	0.030	0.518	0.653
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.583	3.262	0.490	6.335	0.827	0.150	0.190	1.167
33.	Daman & Diu	0.553	4.949	0.098	5.600	0.010	0.084	0.036	0.130
34.	Lakshadweep	0.217	3.608	0.098	3.923	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500
35.	Pondicherry	18.277	35.208	2.205	55.690	4.463	0.062	1.636	6.161
	Total	7565.961	12577.638	1325.187	21468.786	3893.289	709.201	1012.199	5614.689

(P) = Provisional.

Statement II (vi)

(Wheat-2002-2003)

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2002 to October, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	89.642	0.000	89.642	0.000	4.225	0.000	4.225
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.205	4.415	0.000	6.620	1.455	2.230	0.000	3.685
3.	Assam	0.000	352.975	0.000	352.975	0.000	228.790	0.000	228.790
4.	Bihar	786.692	802.053	147.000	1735.745	154.267	0.935	112.067	267.269
5.	Chhattisgarh	75.306	247.975	0.000	323.281	37.970	0.449	0.000	38.419
6.	Delhi	67.106	492.900	5.696	565.702	51.970	70.004	4.829	126.803
7.	Goa	2.940	23.427	0.000	26.367	0.000	1.697	0.000	1.697
8.	Gujarat	331.124	1053.692	63.700	1448.516	154.374	5.005	48.991	208.370
9.	Haryana	152.187	726.253	27.398	905.838	93.645	15.575	24.928	134.148
10.	Himachal Pradesh	34.034	81.168	8.188	123.390	31.066	5.201	8.020	44.287
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.378	91.840	6.622	128.840	29.083	57.799	3.631	90.513
12.	Jharkhand	285.138	75.698	53.879	414.715	114.418	0.633	39.906	154.957
13.	Karnataka	129.997	241.570	23.331	394.89	125.21	171.580	20.613	217.404
14.	Kerala	0.000	261.275	0.000	261.275	0.000	90.089	0.000	90.089
15.	Madhya Pradesh	530.396	1131.485	110.550	1772.431	314.754	19.598	100.327	434.679
16.	Maharashtra	881.048	1982.684	159.523	3023.255	462.856	12.397	134.987	610.240
17.	Manipur	0.000	10.360	0.000	10.360	0.000	1.850	0.000	1.850
18.	Meghalaya	0.000	3.570	0.000	3.570	0.000	3.565	0.000	3.565
19.	Mizoram	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.076	0.000	6.076
20.	Nagaland	5.068	12.556	0.910	18.534	5.068	12.361	0.907	18.336
21.	Orissa	0.000	120.000	0.000	120.000	0.000	6.683	0.000	6.683
22.	Punjab	90.500	936.526	17.570	1044.596	48.799	4.993	8.251	62.043

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Rajasthan	463.631	1806.892	90.237	2360.760	346.805	89.238	85.294	521.337
24.	Sikkim	0.000	1.085	0.000	1.085	0.000	1.016	0.000	1.016
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	50.000	0.000	50.000	0.000	8.874	0.000	8.874
26.	Tripura	0.000	13.698	0.000	13.698	0.000	2.576	0.000	2.576
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1407.615	3411.382	266.923	5085.920	373.897	3.884	131.548	509.329
28.	Uttaranchal	31.592	194.642	5.586	231.820	12.976	0.730	2.528	16.234
29.	West Bengal	345.844	2180.884	89.775	2616.503	239.012	113.794	61.070	413.876
30.	A & N Islands	1.421	4.760	0.294	6.475	1.001	2.052	0.000	3.053
31.	Chandigarh	4.998	40.465	0.000	45.463	0.610	0.030	0.000	0.640
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.651	0.903	0.196	1.750	0.132	0.218	0.096	0.446
33.	Daman & Diu	0.280	1.131	0.049	1.460	0.011	0.008	0.012	0.031
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.292	0.000	0.292	0.000	0.150	0.000	0.150
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	2.549	0.000	2.549	0.000	0.380	0.000	0.380
	Total	5660.151	16456.983	1077.427	23194.561	2599.380	844.685	788.005	4232.070

(P) = Provisional.

Statement II (vii)

(Rice-2000-2001)

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

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme		Annapurna		
		Rice		Wheat		Wheat		Total	Rice	Wheat
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot. (Rice+Wheat)	Offtake	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	234.61	128.84	0.00	0.00	23.00	0.00	11.19	4.87	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.43	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	70.15	9.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	54.47	32.24	132.52	38.16	0.00	0.00	26.59	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	30.90	25.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	17.98	5.73	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Goa	2.62	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	59.40	18.22	60.18	18.14	22.30	9.63	5.32	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	20.08	13.10	20.56	13.21	0.00	0.30	2.07	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	16.61	14.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91	4.95	0.35
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	21.43	6.49	2.04	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	114.57	99.91	46.93	46.34	0.00	0.93	8.17	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	46.56	49.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.34	0.94	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	80.53	74.32	138.09	117.89	1.20	0.51	14.38	0.00	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	280.69	236.13	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	16.08	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	6.75	6.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	8.91	1.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.92	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12	0.00
20.	Nagaland	3.04	2.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.31	0.00
21.	Orissa	101.19	55.20	0.00	0.00	4.46	3.00	7.78	4.80	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	39.83	4.20	2.41	1.09	1.50	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	130.31	100.55	2.00	2.00	5.70	0.07	2.88
24.	Sikkim	2.26	2.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	107.48	74.95	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.65	10.33	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	1.53	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.52	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	132.70	43.69	232.42	49.90	0.00	0.00	30.13	0.00	5.26
28.	Uttaranchal	9.39	3.99	2.24	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
29.	West Bengal	218.86	175.33	0.00	10.46	0.00	0.00	11.48	0.00	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	1.13	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.20	0.80	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.72	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.44	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.23	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
	Total	1657.23	1088.03	823.47	405.18	68.17	18.11	165.15	16.58	8.56

The allocation during 1999-2000 was for MDM, Nutrition Programme and Annapurna only.

The allocation under Nutrition Programme was for Wheat only.

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Statement II (viii)

(2001-2002)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	SC/ST/OBC/Hostels			SGRY				Food for Work			
		Total	Rice	Wheat	Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allot. (Rice+Wheat)	Offtake	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.23	62.28	0.00	232.44	381.67	0.00	0.00	1650.00	1598.63	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.18	0.00	0.00	328.70	102.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	228.48	24.90	0.00	0.00	100.00	5.05	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.29	124.22	0.00	2.75	120.55	130.38	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	5.32	0.00	3.19	0.00	0.14	92.45	11.60	11.59	25.03	46.51	80.76
9.	Haryana	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.79	66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06	5.46	7.19	5.08	0.00	5.97	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.98	13.20	9.73	6.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.76	0.00	0.00	115.52	10.01	53.54	8.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	17.07	8.03	3.10	158.96	117.88	22.55	17.90	57.46	57.25	42.54	42.54
14.	Kerala	1.61	0.75	0.00	41.52	13.25	0.00	0.00	5.00	4.98	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.92	78.57	265.88	253.78	43.43	60.72	145.24	208.92
16.	Maharashtra	20.85	0.29	0.37	81.86	24.58	153.90	39.81	28.00	7.44	112.00	27.09
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.38	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.97	10.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	1.01	1.01	0.00	7.25	5.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.18	5.19	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	21.94	1.08	0.00	197.81	175.63	0.00	0.00	150.00	155.76	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.67	14.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	3.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	137.59	9.52	0.00	0.00	621.36	502.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.59	3.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	17.41	2.94	0.00	151.84	34.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	0.18	0.00	0.09	32.67	17.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	253.52	10.55	244.74	121.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.13	0.00	0.00	16.98	5.88	12.89	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	5.82	0.00	0.00	225.60	146.57	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.64	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	196.47	76.42	6.79	2357.09	1318.92	1114.37	563.66	2166.03	2051.21	967.65	861.54

Allocation under SC/ST/OBC Hostels Scheme was in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Statement II (Ix)

(2001-2002)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme				Annapurna		
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat		Total	Rice	Wheat
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot. (Rice+Wheat)	Offtake	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	232.75	167.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.14	21.53	14.03	11.99	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.30	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.09	0.00
3.	Assam	91.72	32.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.27	0.67	0.19
4.	Bihar	46.92	35.87	170.65	107.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.06	6.47	10.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	126.72	59.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	3.20	0.94	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	20.21	6.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.07	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7.	Goa	2.41	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00
8.	Gujarat	45.08	10.65	45.08	11.36	0.09	0.03	22.05	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	24.25	18.43	24.25	18.34	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	20.06	19.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.23	0.20
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.50	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	21.43	18.17	2.04	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.51	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	120.45	106.11	35.70	29.16	36.42	7.86	37.00	16.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	46.69	43.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.51	3.52	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	44.35	35.91	146.26	131.51	5.73	0.07	55.16	29.68	0.00	1.12	4.44
16.	Maharashtra	293.76	249.86	0.00	0.00	33.96	23.83	0.00	9.03	17.82	0.09	0.10
17.	Manipur	8.38	6.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.05	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	12.57	8.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.18	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.95	2.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.10	0.00
20.	Nagaland	4.79	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.40	0.00
21.	Orissa	92.22	79.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.92	10.63	6.50	6.45	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.42	49.79	28.83	2.27	0.00	3.04	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	186.65	147.31	0.00	0.00	4.60	0.00	12.64	0.00	10.93
24.	Sikkim	2.42	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	116.01	81.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	2.57	8.64	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	14.24	9.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	1.78	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	161.26	128.61	313.87	245.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	0.00	28.89
28.	Uttaranchal	19.21	15.87	1.72	0.51	0.00	0.00	7.00	1.05	1.27	1.00	0.05
29.	West Bengal	287.44	207.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60	1.37	0.38
30.	A & N Islands	1.15	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.04	0.56	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.76	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.45	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.25	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
	Total	1867.50	1348.81	996.79	727.96	80.17	31.85	175.11	103.41	162.25	37.06	55.80

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Statement II (x)

(2002-2003)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2002 to October, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme				Annapurna		
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat		Total	Rice	Wheat
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot. (Rice+Wheat)	Offtake	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	223.69	76.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.30	11.18	5.15	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00
3.	Assam	91.72	25.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.01
4.	Bihar	57.59	15.82	185.29	52.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.04	4.51
5.	Chhattisgarh	74.55	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	20.22	1.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	2.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.00
8.	Gujarat	32.59	5.97	32.59	6.08	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	23.07	11.30	23.07	11.47	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19.20	10.48	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.20	2.14	0.23	0.76	0.51	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	24.66	0.06	0.00	0.00	1.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	47.44	7.97	4.36	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.52	2.96	0.00
13.	Karnataka	142.92	58.39	10.64	6.08	55.99	13.41	35.00	4.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	47.11	28.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	49.31	20.40	161.34	67.04	2.00	0.00	60.00	15.15	0.00	0.55	2.18
16.	Maharashtra	297.93	158.17	0.00	0.00	33.96	8.95	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.01	0.02
17.	Manipur	8.62	5.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	13.04	8.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.81	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	4.79	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
21.	Orissa	123.76	50.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.57	7.03	0.00	3.71	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	48.62	18.70	21.06	0.00	28.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	154.04	88.20	0.00	0.00	5.16	1.07	12.64	0.00	6.65
24.	Sikkim	2.31	1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	108.03	41.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.76	3.85	8.64	2.62	0.00
26.	Tripura	13.80	3.16	0.00	0.00	3.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	151.10	66.12	294.57	127.78	0.00	0.00	31.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.04
28.	Uttaranchal	20.79	5.25	3.86	0.69	0.00	1.40	7.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	292.92	116.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.16	1.98	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	1.08	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.78	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.25	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	1884.23	723.26	939.85	380.78	120.26	23.96	280.81	45.27	46.80	25.91	33.41

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Statement II (xi)

(2002-2003)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2002 to October, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	SC/ST/OBC/Hostels				SGRY			
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72.24	40.96	0.00	0.00	2024.26	1463.06	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.57	0.21	0.19	0.00	4.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	34.12	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	174.91	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	44.39	0.00	66.58	0.00	131.46	108.37	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	22.52	0.00	6.46	0.00	259.31	8.14	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Delhi	1.58	0.00	6.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.40	0.01	0.25	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	9.86	0.00	27.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.08	49.70
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	13.04	0.05	0.00	0.00	78.69	69.92
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4.38	0.70	2.92	0.23	9.58	3.58	8.46	1.84
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.06	0.00	2.54	0.00	7.12	6.93	3.43	2.56
12.	Jharkhand	16.30	0.00	24.44	0.00	96.44	20.93	56.22	13.43
13.	Karnataka	44.57	7.96	11.15	2.19	318.89	257.99	14.97	13.57
14.	Kerala	27.62	0.45	0.00	0.00	51.48	43.31	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	19.18	0.00	44.53	0.00	165.16	45.76	265.35	170.27
16.	Maharashtra	40.66	3.56	75.52	5.34	49.92	52.75	90.51	87.02
17.	Manipur	2.20	0.37	0.00	0.00	4.53	1.02	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	3.25	0.57	0.00	0.00	7.23	4.41	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	1.21	0.71	0.00	0.00	1.85	2.80	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	1.78	0.00	0.43	0.00	3.58	2.78	1.96	1.96
21.	Orissa	74.22	1.74	0.00	0.00	495.14	371.39	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	1.32	0.00	7.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.96	7.79
23.	Rajasthan	0.47	0.00	39.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.86	355.32
24.	Sikkim	0.77	0.04	0.00	0.00	2.76	0.02	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	91.15	13.39	0.00	0.00	190.64	106.08	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	5.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.89	18.35	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	49.63	0.00	108.02	0.00	81.34	106.54	493.38	323.08
28.	Uttaranchal	4.69	0.00	2.63	0.00	44.94	15.19	26.98	9.46
29.	West Bengal	72.73	0.01	12.41	0.00	93.80	98.05	0.00	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	0.25	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.38	0.57	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.22	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.00
	Total	658.21	70.72	452.67	7.82	4058.34	2913.42	1420.85	1105.92

(Provisional)

Statement-III

Steps taken by the Government for the proper distribution of foodgrains to the needy people of the country.

PDS Control Order was issued on 31.08.2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Order contains the following provisions:—

(i) Identification of families living below the poverty line;

(ii) Ration Cards;

(iii) Scale and Issue prices;

(iv) Distribution of foodgrains;

(v) Licensing;

(vi) Monitoring; and

(vii) Penalties for violation.

Violation of the Clauses 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the Order involves Criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act.

The Department has constituted a Task Force for checking irregularities brought to the notice of the Government and also for generation inspection/monitoring of the implementation of TPDS and Antyodaya Anna Yojana in identified areas. Every time specific information is received about starvation deaths or major deficiencies in the functioning of PDS, a group of 1 or 2 officers drawn from the Task Force is directed to visit the area and submit a detailed report along with recommendations. So far the teams have been sent to various States including Orissa, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. The recommendations are examined and suitable advisories are issued to the concerned State Government for action.

Under the guidelines for implementation of TPDS the States/UTs have been asked to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society under the BPL category and actively involve the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat in the identification process. The State Governments/UTs have been asked to review the list of BPL families on regular intervals so that the poor and needy are not deprived of the benefits under the TPDS.

Posts Reserved for Handicapped

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

(a) whether the posts reserved for the handicapped persons in the Government services are being filled;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the position regarding reservation of posts for the handicapped persons in the public sector undertakings;

(d) whether National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been set up;

(e) if so, the salient features of the Corporation;

(f) if not, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(g) the programmes formulated for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons residing in the rural areas particularly in Kutch District of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in employment in the establishment of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings against posts identified as suitable for persons with disabilities. As per information provided by Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) in March, 2001, on the basis of information available, the status of reservation for persons with disabilities in various Ministries/ Departments with reference to the identified posts in Group A, B, C & D, is 6.56%, 5.43%, 6.50% and 6.39%, respectively. According to the information provided by Department of Public Enterprises in January, 2002, the status of reservation in Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for persons with disabilities against the identified posts in Group A, B, C & D is 2.78%, 8.54%, 5.04% and 6.75% respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been set up in 1997 to promote economic and development activities undertaken by persons with disabilities. The Corporation assists them by providing loans for self-employment and other economic ventures. The Corporation extends loan to the disabled person through the State Channellising Agencies nominated by respective State Governments/Union Territories. The corporation has also launched a Micro Financing Scheme, which is being implemented through reputed non-governmental organizations.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Ministry implements Schemes for providing support to non-government agencies for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP Scheme) and undertaking various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. During 2001-2002, over 800 non governmental organizations have been given financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 104.40 crores.

During 2000-2001, two non governmental organizations have been given assistance to the tune of Rs. 4.37 lakhs in the district of Kutch of Gujarat under the Scheme for Promotion of Voluntary Actions for persons with disabilities.

Public Issue of Private Banks

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

(a) whether the SEBI has exempted public and private sector banks from fulfilling eligibility norms in order to come out with public issues;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the above decision of the SEBI;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reviewed;

(e) the recommendations made by J.R. Verma Committee for risk containment measures for derivative tradings;

(f) whether these recommendations have been accepted by SEBI and are being implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In April 1996, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had issued guidelines for companies planning to bring out public issues. In July 1996, SEBI exempted public and private sector banks from fulfilling eligibility norms for public issues.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suggested exemption of newly set up private sector banks and public sector banks from the operation of SEBI's guidelines, as commercial banks in the private and public sector are subject to the regulatory powers of RBI and the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The main recommendations of the J.R. Varma Committee for Risk Containment Measures for Stock Index Futures Markets include, *inter alia*, the methodology for initial market computation, and prescribe margin collection in cash, liquid networth and exposure limits and position limits.

(f) The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the SEBI Board at its meeting on 19th March 1999 and enforced with effect froms 28th July 1999.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Bailout Package to Banks and Financial Institutions

*181. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have pumped thousands of crores of rupees in public sector banks and financial institutions like the IDBI, SIDBI, Exim Bank and UTI banks to bail them out of the red, whereas the Government have written-off thousands of crores of rupees due from multinational and other companies, withdrawing subsidies from agriculture sector and reducing the interests on small savings and deposits including employees provident funds, during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the bailout package given during each of these years;

(c) how far it widened the fiscal and budget deficits during the above period each years; and

(d) the total amount of funds provided and spent for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) There has been no "bailout package". Details of financial assistance provided by the Government to the public sector banks and financial institutions during the last 3 years and the current year, are given below:—

Public Sector Banks

Year	Amount of financial assistance	Nature of financial assistance
1999-2000	Nil	N.A.
2000-2001	Nil	N.A.
2001-2002	Rs. 1300 crores	Recapitalisation assistance to Indian Bank
2002-2003	Rs. 770 crores	Recapitalisation assistance to Indian Bank proposed to be given.

Financial Institutions

1999-2000	Rs. 50 crores	Capital infusion in EXIM Bank
2000-2001	Rs. 300 crores	Financial assistance provided to UTI for meeting the shortfall between assured repurchase prices and NAV in respect of US-64
2001-2002	Rs. 400 crores	Investment in IFCI's 20 years convertible debentures
	Rs. 50 crores	Contribution to SIDBI under National Equity Fund Scheme
	Rs. 100 crores	Capital infusion in EXIM Bank
	Rs. 1157.02 crores	Transfer of National Industrial Credit-Long Term Operations (NIC-LTO) to IDBI from the books of RBI to Government of India and Investment by Government into 20 years convertible bonds of IDBI
	Rs. 559.38 crores	Transfer of National Industrial Credit-Long Term Operations (NIC-LTO) to EXIM from the books of RBI to Government of India and Investment by Government into 20 years convertible bonds of EXIM Bank
	Rs. 2172.80 crores	Transfer of National Industrial Credit-Long Term Operations (NIC-LTO) to SIDBI from the books of RBI to Government of India and Investment by Government into 20 years convertible bonds of SIDBI
	Rs. 148.87 crores	Transfer of National Industrial Credit-Long Term Operations (NIC-LTO) to IIBI from the books of RBI to Government of India and Investment by Government into 20 years convertible bonds of IIBI
	Rs. 973.48 crores	Conversion of balance amount of IBRD line of credit by Government to IDBI into 20 years convertible debentures
2002-2003	Rs. 54.95 crores	Contribution to SIDBI under National Equity Fund Scheme proposed to be given.
	Rs. 500 crores	Financial assistance provided to UTI for meeting the shortfall between assured repurchase prices and NAV in respect of US-64
	Rs. 1000 crores	Financial assistance provided to UTI for meeting commitments in respect of assured return schemes matured during June & August, 2002
	Rs. 450 crores	Financial assistance provided to UTI for meeting commitments in respect of MIP 97 (IV) matured on 31st October, 2002.

Since Government is the owner of these public sector banks/financial institutions, it is required to augment their capital base to enable them to maintain the prescribed capital adequacy norms and other commitments/ obligations. Such assistance is from the Government budgetary resources and wherever feasible it is endeavoured that the banks/financial institutions invest such amounts in Government securities in order to minimize cash outgo from the budget.

[English]

C&AG Report on Foodgrain Prices

1753. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report 2000-01 has criticised the Centre's policy on prices of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to set right the shortcomings pointed out by the C&AG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The CAG in its Report for 2000-01 made certain observations on prices of foodgrains. The main observations are the following:

(i) The price movements show a policy tilt towards producers *vis-a-vis* purchasers;

(ii) The inevitable increase in subsidies in the short run and in Central Issue Prices thereafter reduced the margins between the PDS prices and the market prices which led to the decline in offtake of foodgrains in some years;

(iii) Despite foodgrains availability in the public domain, the aggregate release of foodgrains remained static between 1992-1999;

(iv) The procurement price for wheat was higher, and it is certainly not to the advantage of the consumer;

(v) The leakages and inefficiencies at the level of Procurement and Release Agencies and also some other costs added at State level increase the prices for consumers as result of which 60 to 70 per cent ration card holders did not/do not purchase rice or wheat from the fair price shops.

(c) The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice are fixed by the Government mainly to help the poorest and the disadvantaged segments of our population. As such, under the TPDS, wheat and rice are issued to BPL families at subsidized rates. The CIPs fixed for APL families also contain an element of subsidy. Therefore, CIPs are significantly below open market prices. However, the economic costs of wheat and rice are kept in mind while fixing the CIPs.

The offtake of foodgrains under the TPDS has shown remarkable improvement since 2000-2001. The offtake of foodgrains under TPDS was 117.1 lakh tonnes during 2000-01, which increased to 138.3 lakh tonnes during 2001-02. The offtake of foodgrains under TPDS has already touched 100 lakh tonnes during the first seven months of the current financial year (April-October 2002-03).

[Translation]

Educationally Backward Districts

1754. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to identify more districts where minorities live in large numbers and are educationally backward also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to identify such areas which are economically backward; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration and the requisite data relating to economic and educational backwardness is being collected from the appropriate authority.

Spurious Soft Drinks

1755. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business of spurious soft drinks is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details of cases which come to the notice of the Government during the last one year;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(d) the action taken against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government does not have factual and authentic information to suggest that the business of spurious soft drinks is on the rise in the country.

Cartel Formation by Cement Producers

1756. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prices of cement are increasing continuously due to Cartel formation by cement producers in the country;

(b) if so, whether danger of acquisition of cement companies by European companies is increasing due to globalisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Cement is fully delicensed and decontrolled commodity and its prices are determined by the market forces of demand and supply. Distance from the production centres also influence the prices in different consumption centres. Production of cement has been continuously rising since 2000-01. It registered an increase of 9.52% in the year 2001-02 over the production level achieved in the year 2000-01 as it rose from 97.61 million tonnes in 2000-01 to 106.90 million tonnes in 2001-02. This trend is continuing in the current year also as the production in the first seven months has registered an increase of 9.33% over the production of cement in the corresponding period in the previous year. It has risen from 60.45 million tonnes to 66.09 million tonnes. prices of cement have not shown an increasing trend for more than one year as shown in the enclosed statement because of increase in production. These trends do not suggest formation of cartel by cement producers.

(b) to (d) Only following two cases of acquisition by European companies have been reported so far.

Foreign Co.	Indian Co.	Capacity (Mn. T.)	Date
Lafarge	TISCO	2.25	Nov. 1999
	Raymond	2.20	Jan. 2001
Italcementi	Zuari (50-50)	2.20	Apr. 2000
	Sri Vishnu	1.20	Jan. 2002

However, their share in the production of cement is negligible. Further in the present liberalised world trade regime, the market forces alone determine quantum of investment to be made by the cement companies in the companies of their choice.

Statement

Region/Centre	Apr-01	May-01	June-01	Jul.01	Aug.01	Sep-01	Oct-01	Nov-01	Dec-01	Jan-02	Feb-02	Mar-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Northern Region												
Delhi	147	140	131	139	139	143	139	139	138	131	130	122
Karnal	151	149	142	147	144	143	142	143	141	138	137	131
Chandigarh	159	161	154	151	157	154	153	152	152	152	147	147
Jaipur	145	139	123	128	126	126	133	139	138	125	124	119
Rohtak	148	145	133	140	136	139	133	134	136	129	128	124
Bhatinda	159	160	152	144	154	151	151	150	150	150	143	143
Ludhiana	163	166	160	151	158	158	158	157	157	157	149	149
Jammu	195	193	192	191	191	191	191	191	191	188	187	186
Simla	168	168	164	166	167	167	167	167	167	161	164	166

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Eastern Region												
Calcutta	155	151	140	147	145	143	136	125	124	138	132	128
Patna	148	149	146	153	141	136	132	130	127	133	128	126
Bhubaneswar	153	150	142	135	135	128	123	125	129	130	133	127
Guwahati	183	183	183	183	183	183	182	175	172	172	172	172
Muzaffarpur	150	151	148	154	144	141	138	137	131	134	134	130
Western Region												
Mumbai	179	174	175	178	174	171	163	163	170	176	162	159
Ahmedabad	153	154	154	155	155	145	138	142	141	140	137	134
Nagpur	152	148	142	145	144	130	137	128	129	142	131	124
Pune	164	160	147	155	153	131	139	136	139	152	140	124
Rajkot	153	154	154	155	155	145	138	142	141	140	137	134
Baroda	153	154	154	155	155	145	139	144	141	140	137	134
Surat	153	154	154	155	155	145	139	144	141	140	137	134
Southern Region												
Chennai	173	170	159	164	147	136	163	169	174	179	173	164
Trivandrum	185	186	183	185	162	158	175	180	184	184	184	174
Bangalore	166	164	162	165	159	140	140	157	164	170	165	148
Hyderabad	143	144	151	155	140	120	136	147	149	149	138	134
Calicut	180	181	181	185	169	161	179	185	185	183	180	174
Visakhapatnam	151	149	156	160	144	130	144	143	149	154	146	139
Goa	154	153	153	146	142	129	128	146	153	153	154	143
Central Region												
Lucknow	151	151	145	145	141	138	139	130	131	130	127	132
Meerut	147	147	141	141	140	138	138	133	134	133	133	133
Faizabad	149	149	142	143	135	129	134	121	119	123	123	125
Bareilly	147	147	141	142	137	133	134	128	130	128	129	126
Bhopal	149	141	136	137	134	127	117	119	123	124	124	122

Region/Centre	Apr-02	May-02	June-02	Jul.02	Aug.02	Sep-02	Oct-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
Delhi	131	136	131	131	135	130	130
Karnal	137	140	137	137	141	135	136
Chandigarh	143	145	143	140	136	140	142
Jaipur	120	132	120	118	120	114	119
Rohtak	129	132	128	129	134	124	125
Bhatinda	142	141	142	137	136	133	139
Ludhiana	147	150	146	143	140	139	144
Jammu	186	183	178	177	177	177	181
Simla	165	162	158	156	153	152	153
Eastern Region							
Calcutta	134	148	148	153	153	153	153
Patna	129	138	137	140	140	139	137
Bhubaneswar	121	137	138	148	152	149	143
Guwahati	172	172	172	172	172	172	172
Muzaffarpur	131	137	138	143	143	141	139
Western Region							
Mumbai	159	160	158	150	144	128	151
Ahmedabad	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Nagpur	122	123	123	119	113	107	106
Pune	121	131	124	112	105	107	123
Rajkot	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Baroda	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Surat	136	138	141	137	137	129	127
Southern Region							
Chennai	159	156	147	140	137	128	126
Trivandrum	164	162	156	146	141	133	131

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bangalore	131	133	134	136	139	135	138
Hyderabad	115	111	105	104	105	105	120
Calicut	164	162	156	146	141	136	136
Visakhapatnam	123	118	115	116	120	120	133
Goa	130	133	134	133	130	137	128
Central Region							
Lucknow	130	129	134	143	143	133	128
Meerut	132	137	133	138	138	131	132
Faizabad	123	126	134	141	139	128	125
Bareilly	127	131	134	138	136	131	134
Bhopal	119	123	124	127	128	120	114

[English]

Diversion of Funds by Companies

1757. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspection reports of Department of Company Affairs has taken note of diversion of about 300 crores rupees by various group of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Company Affairs has imposed a penalty of Rs. 58000 on these companies to close the matter so investigated despite the fact that the money of about 300 crores had not been brought back; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind imposing a small penalty against 300 crores involved in the affair?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As the Department does not maintain any cumulative figure of "diversion of funds", there are no details to provide.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Computerisation of Income-Tax Department

1758. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken a Programme of Comprehensive Computerisation of Income Tax Operations in 1994-95 but the same has not yet been fully achieved;

(b) if so, whether the Income-tax authorities have been under utilising the funds ranging from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 18.28 crores;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and fix the accountability and responsibility of the person concerned and to take action against them apart from expediting the networking; and

(d) if so, the system adopted/proposed to be adopted in the purchase of computers and its software?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir, Comprehensive Computerisation plan for Income-tax Department is being implemented in a phased manner since 1994-95. The first and second phases covering Delhi, Mumbai Chennai and 57 other cities have since been completed. Formal

expenditure sanction of the Cabinet is awaited for the remaining Income Tax offices in 418 cities/towns to be covered in the third phase.

(b) Yes Sir, it is true that there has been under utilization of funds. But this has been due to various unavoidable factors, such as, non-submission of bills/ supporting documents for release of payment, delay in technical/commercial evaluation of some of the tenders.

(c) No Sir, in view of reply to part (b) above.

(d) The Technical evaluation of Tenders regarding procurement of various items of hardware, software, networking etc. is done by the Technical Sub Committee (TSC) which assists, guides and monitors technological aspects of computerization in the Income Tax Department. The commercial evaluation of Tenders is finalized by the Technical Evaluation and Procurement Committee (TEPC) comprising of Officers of Department, Financial Advisor (Finance) and Senior Technical Officers from Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, and Department of Space.

National Committee on Tax

1759. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance (No.2) Act, 1991 made a provision for deduction of tax under Section 35AC of Income Tax Act, 1961 and appointment of a national committee on Tax;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives for appointing the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any review of the working of the National Committee; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) (i) To approve associations and institutions for the purpose of carrying out any eligible project or scheme; and

(ii) to recommend to the Central Government, projects and schemes of any company including a public sector company, a local authority or an approved association or institution, for being notified as eligible projects or schemes.

(c) No review has so far been undertaken by the Government. The report of the C&AG in this regard has already been laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Does not arise.

Import Duty on Silk

1760. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to increase the import duty on silk from 30 per cent to 44.04 per cent and is willing to provide 50 per cent of the minimum support price;

(b) the extent to which it has helped domestic silk growers;

(c) the total production of silk in the country and the share of Karnataka out of this; and

(d) the scheme prepared by the Karnataka Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) An increase in Import Duty has been recommended to the Ministry of Finance. This is also seen as a necessary pre-condition for Price Stabilization of the domestic market. No minimum support price has been fixed. However, a market intervention scheme to give price incentive to mulberry silk farmers has been proposed by the State Government of Karnataka in which central share is 50%. The scheme will provide Rs. 10/ per kg. of cocoons to farmers as price incentive till prices reach Rs. 110/kg. or a period of 3 months whichever is earlier.

(c) The table below indicates the total production of raw silk in the country as also in Karnataka during the last three years:—

Year	Production of Silk (MT) in the country					Karnataka Mulberry	% of share of Karnataka (Mulberry)
	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total		
1999-2000	13944	211	974	85	15214	8121	58.2
2000-2001	14432	237	1089	99	15857	8200	56.8
2001-2002	15842	249	1160	100	17351	8728	55.1

(d) The Government of Karnataka in collaboration with Central Silk Board is implementing the following project/schemes in the State for expanding the production of silk:

(1) Project for strengthening Extension System for Biovoltine Sericulture with JICA technical cooperation.

(2) Catalytic Development Programme.

NABARD Loan

1761. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans sanctioned and distributed by National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the centrally sponsored major agricultural projects implemented through NABARD during the said period with the funds sanctioned and incurred so far on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facilities to scheduled commercial banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks for providing loans for agricultural and other activities. The State-wise details of the loans sanctioned and disbursed by NABARD during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Presently, NABARD is implementing three credit linked subsidy schemes of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The name of the schemes and the amount released thereunder are as follows:

(i) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for construction/modernization/expansion of cold storages. Amount of Subsidy released—Rs. 98.80 crores;

(ii) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for construction/renovation/expansion of rural godown-Amount of subsidy released—Rs. 18.84 crores; and

(iii) On Farm Water Management Scheme for increasing Food Production in Eastern India. The scheme has been started during 2001-2002 and the project envisages a total financial outlay of Rs. 433.33 crore.

Statement

State-wise details of loans sanctioned and disbursed by NABARD during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. crores)

S. No.	State/Union Territories	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Sanction	Disbursed	Sanction	Disbursed	Sanction	Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A & N Islands	2.88	2.76	3.27	3.22	2.73	3.06
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2500.21	2135.37	2857.94	2363.13	2720.14	2463.39
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	303.23	11.17	96.30	35.04	72.26	37.83
4.	Assam	266.16	145.70	125.72	130.49	49.03	104.22
5.	Bihar	358.77	267.69	278.63	269.79	311.81	199.88
6.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.12	0.09	0.09
7.	Chhattisgarh					240.31	190.74
8.	D&N Haveli	1.45	1.45	6.70	6.70	1.40	1.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Goa	14.57	17.93	036.31	20.06	34.89	31.57
10.	Gujarat	916.35	630.82	1357.03	838.80	1257.90	874.25
11.	Haryana	1251.10	1182.92	1459.89	1356.71	1655.68	1477.33
12.	Himachal Pradesh	192.90	135.72	228.89	198.63	309.18	246.62
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	146.19	87.48	197.28	108.22	258.96	189.56
14.	Jharkhand					46.95	46.76
15.	Karnataka	1293.92	1249.15	1553.80	1354.40	1640.33	1313.75
16.	Kerala	730.90	526.22	832.40	518.70	968.08	771.77
17.	Lakshadweep	0.24	0.22	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1360.39	955.22	1414.96	1107.15	1463.66	1265.51
19.	Maharashtra	1131.03	868.34	1419.02	1263.07	1607.05	1287.95
20.	Manipur	2.02	8.16	10.20	1.87	1.55	7.90
21.	Meghalaya	45.64	20.73	43.58	26.55	27.91	29.03
22.	Mizoram	58.96	13.85	10.42	18.14	16.81	23.36
23.	Nagaland	21.83	10.33	65.10	12.95	3.89	14.71
24.	NCT of Delhi	1.30	1.00	6.69	6.69	6.27	6.27
25.	Orissa	825.30	776.25	835.65	798.45	1009.72	905.70
26.	Pondicherry	8.44	8.09	9.30	8.77	9.32	9.32
27.	Punjab	1057.71	986.48	1323.20	1118.61	1297.52	1202.87
28.	Rajasthan	1040.38	913.25	1233.25	1069.32	1497.02	1167.81
29.	Sikkim	11.82	14.00	7.40	10.79	8.83	15.96
30.	Tamil Nadu	1534.52	1206.58	1637.09	1356.17	1800.20	1464.08
31.	Tripura	79.79	29.47	68.60	35.65	15.99	19.64
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1848.79	1648.80	1948.77	1848.13	2089.19	2012.62
33.	Uttaranchal					81.65	27.78
34.	West Bengal	659.76	480.63	870.48	654.32	992.54	733.12
	Total	17393.67	14345.87	19942.05	16534.75	21496.76	18139.59

Tax Free Bonds

1762. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced bonds carrying interest along with the terms of exemption from Income-tax and Wealth-tax to encourage savings; 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) Government have introduced '7% Savings Bonds, 2002' scheme for subscription by individuals and Hindu Undivided Families, excluding non-resident Indians, without any investment limit with effect from 1st October, 2002. The Bonds have a maturity of 6 years and carry interest at 7% per annum. The Bonds are exempt from Wealth-tax and interest thereon is exempt from Income-tax. However, these are not transferable, except by way of Gift to relatives, are not tradable in the secondary market and are also not eligible as collateral security for loans.

Non-Payment of Dues by Credit Card Holders

1763. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of credit cards issued by each of the nationalised banks;

(b) the amount involved in non-repayment of dues provided by the nationalised banks to the credit card holders, bank-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by banks to recover the arrears of payment?

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

Loan under PMRY for SC/STs

1764. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to provide loans to SC & STs unemployed graduates by the nationalized banks; and

(b) if so, the State-wise and bank-wise number of SC/ST unemployed youths given bank loan for self employment during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Banks are providing loans to SC/STs unemployed youths including graduates to undertake self employment under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY). The State-wise and Bank-wise details of loan disbursed by banks to SC/STs under PMRY during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (Provisional) are indicated in the enclosed Statements.

Statement

The State-wise details of Loans disbursed to SC/STs by all Scheduled Commercial Banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (Provisional)

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	758	407.73	726	422.54	739	427.39
Himachal Pradesh	391	252.90	339	187.10	562	340.10
Jammu & Kashmir	146	124.78	81	65.0	110	89.54
Punjab	1287	746.11	1205	704.86	1320	749.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	1907	922.20	2033	1012.84	2090	997.31
Chandigarh	5	3.57	3	2.95	8	3.58
Delhi	89	57.05	94	54.64	92	69.63
Assam	1871	1396.98	579	409.28	379	267.88
Manipur	147	110.16	13	8.85	84	45.83
Meghalaya	355	240.47	128	90.19	111	79.71
Nagaland	69	6.74	18	14.43	31	36.81
Tripura	98	50.22	80	64.88	164	98.83
Arunachal Pradesh	126	122.16	166	139.15	129	101.42
Mizoram	64	50.88	26	13.70	17	13.40
Sikkim	11	6.63	16	8.40	12	5.88
Bihar	1237	910.39	1557	1219.89	748	570.54
Jharkhand	–	–	–	–	582	353.30
Orissa	1321	910.09	1081	841.86	216	129.72
West Bengal	611	421.01	441	291.31	348	275.78
Andaman & Nicobar	26	20.74	27	21.29	19	14.20
Madhya Pradesh	3370	2363.62	3749	2334.29	1482	855.95
Chhattisgarh	–	–	–	–	148	97.45
Uttar Pradesh	5663	3320.67	6416	4605.03	5455	3344.70
Uttaranchal	–	–	–	–	487	243.19
Gujarat	1973	829.26	1468	693.18	1271	556.86
Maharashtra	3758	1941.95	3044	1738.31	2439	1299.46
Daman & Diu	1	0.60	4	3.17	1	0.80
Goa	11	7.15	12	7.33	10	5.82
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	2.00	5	3.63	2	1.95
Andhra Pradesh	2665	1418.08	1582	948.03	1879	1127.65
Karnataka	2238	1380.12	2065	1321.56	1134	684.14
Kerala	1283	661.87	1009	555.61	864	508.26
Tamil Nadu	2010	927.21	1541	690.34	1150	463.30
Lakshadweep	33	22.89	16	11.76	23	13.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pondicherry	49	15.79	32	12.60	20	8.21
Not Specified	-	-	9	4.11	4	1.95
All India	33576	19715.02	29565	18502.15	24130	13883.63

Statement

The Bank-wise details of loans disbursed to SC/STs by all Scheduled Commercial Banks under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02 (Provisional)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Bank	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	10657	6481.00	8264	5430.00	6404	3792.00
SBBJ	675	322.17	766	388.28	702	339.99
S.B. of Hyderabad	1149	715.42	1200	670.49	606	320.97
S.B. of Indore	480	420.18	522	407.80	243	58.49
S.B. of Mysore	764	466.41	727	578.72	270	111.68
S.B. of Patiala	452	256.79	502	312.96	640	379.59
S.B. of Saurashtra	191	87.87	223	114.54	122	60.53
S.B. of Travancore	310	146.33	459	254.58	410	281.44
Allahabad Bank	893	594.08	1351	1055.88	889	585.02
Andhra Bank	-	-	14	8.90	-	-
Bank of Baroda	2074	1163.34	2523	1650.16	1972	1071.87
Bank of India	1922	1124.84	1693	982.64	1538	872.26
Bank of Maharashtra	846	488.29	451	249.53	566	296.59
Canara Bank	1427	716.67	1106	609.80	1296	722.81
Central Bank of India	2334	1518.25	1416	953.18	1443	929.96
Corporation Bank	231	126.93	228	136.48	152	101.44
Dena Bank	397	187.48	426	244.66	153	74.48
Indian Bank	692	336.73	657	280.80	498	223.07
Indian Overseas Bank	988	479.81	109	57.75	-	-
Oriental Bank of Commerce	375	190.35	320	191.79	337	194.02
Punjab National Bank	2497	1466.42	2656	1565.14	2492	1457.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab & Sind Bank	143	73.00	194	140.80	150	86.40
Syndicate Bank	799	418.23	817	416.46	740	376.31
Union Bank of India	1273	774.50	1079	698.24	907	518.29
United Bank of India	317	205.50	145	98.42	338	226.10
Uco Bank	730	434.14	818	514.49	569	347.10
Vijaya Bank	418	255.14	405	241.27	254	149.01
ICICI Bank Ltd.	–	–	12	9.00	16	3.26
Bank of Madurai Ltd.,	27	21.00	–	–	–	–
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	101	47.19	76	36.68	72	35.61
Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	2	0.78	4	1.37	4	1.38
Banaras State Bank Ltd.	–	–	–	–	–	–
Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	–	–	30	15.15	29	11.68
Dhanlakshmi Bank Ltd.	21	11.64	14	7.37	–	–
Federal Bank Ltd.	88	48.83	99	59.31	80	36.62
J & K Bank Ltd.	–	–	–	–	–	–
Karnataka Bank Ltd.,	33	12.56	15	8.97	–	–
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	17	5.21	8	1.31	5	1.55
Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	32	14.66	11	5.85	16	6.45
Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	–	–	1	0.80	2	1.68
Sangli	–	–	16	7.68	4	1.94
South Indian Bank Ltd.	47	19.52	51	20.72	56	23.05
Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	8	2.98	8	2.32	11	4.08
United Western Bank Ltd.	65	33.95	63	32.57	70	39.77
Vaysya Bank Ltd.	80	39.88	48	20.21	60	31.72
Bareilly Corp. Bank Ltd.	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nainital Bank Ltd.	–	–	19.	9.90	9	5.25
City Union Bank Bank	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	5	1.50	10	5.54	5	3.07
Total of all Banks	33576	19715.00	29565	18502.15	24130	13883.63

External Assistance to West Bengal

1765. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal have submitted any proposals for external assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which external assistance sought by the State Government; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) and (c) The proposals and their status are indicated as under:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Donor	Status
1.	West Bengal Health Services Development Initiative	DFID (UK)	The project will be signed shortly
2.	Additional funding for Additional scope of work in the project "Improvement of Water Distribution Management", funded by France	Germany	The State Govt. took up the matter with another donor, viz. Germany. The State Government has been requested to route the proposal through the concerned Administrative Ministry.
3.	Water Supply and Solid Waste Management	Italy	The Financial convention for the project is expected to be signed shortly.
4.	Scheme of Financial Assistance to Pregnant Mothers for Transportation, Nutrition and Medical Assistance	Germany	The State Government has been requested to route the proposal through the Central line Ministry.
5.	Calcutta Water Supply & Sewerage/Drainage	World Bank	The project has not been accepted by the World Bank.
6.	West Bengal Forestry Project-II	World Bank	World Bank's response is awaited
7.	Augmentation of tertiary level health care facilities at Malda	OPEC fund and Kuwait Fund	The project has been posed to the donors whose response is awaited.
8.	Sagardighi Thermal Power	Japan	The project will be posed to the donor depending on prioritisation of the projects under consideration.

Audit of Accounts

1766. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4001 on August 9, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the report of the super imposed audit of the accounts of the NCCF for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000 by the CAG has since been received;

(b) if so, the details of the salient findings thereof and the action taken report/review thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the report at the earliest?

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

(b) to (d) The report is under examination of the concerned Ministry.

Guidelines on Home Loans

1767. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been formulated by the RBI for the banks so as to have a uniform pattern in the matter of sanctioning of home loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the RBI to ensure that a uniform pattern is adopted by all the banks for sanctioning of home loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not formulated any guidelines for sanctioning of home loans by banks. However, RBI have issued instructions to all commercial banks prescribing the annual allocation limit for housing finance. Accordingly, each bank is required to compute its share of the housing finance allocation at 3 percent of its incremental deposits over the previous year. There is no objection to banks exceeding this level having regard to their resources position. The lending rates of banks from time to time are governed by the directives on interest rate issued by RBI. As per extant guidelines the interest on loans upto Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of the bank and beyond Rs. 2 lakhs, banks have been given operational flexibility in deciding their lending rate.

[Translation]

Income Tax from Salaried Class

1768. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salaries and allowances of employees in all states in the country had been increased due to implementation of Fifth Pay Commission and many of them came under the net of income tax and they have to pay the amount as income tax to the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the amount received by the Government as Income Tax after implementation of the recommendations of Fifty Pay Commission, Year-wise and State-wise?

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

(b) There is no system in the Department to maintain such information. However, Year-wise figures of growth of Collections under Income Tax (excluding Corporation Tax) for Financial Year 1997-98 and onwards are as under:—

Financial year	Amount (in Rs. Crores)
1997-98	17,101
1998-99	20,240
1999-2000	25,655
2000-2001	31,764
2001-2002	32,004

State-wise Figures are enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise & UT-wise collection of Income Tax (excluding Corporation Tax) after the implementation of Fifth Pay Commission Report

(Rs. in crores)

State	Financial Year				
	1997-98	1998-999	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	677.99	783.01	1051.52	1417.49	1638.86
Arunachal Pradesh	4.08	3.32	7.08	5.01	2.84
Assam	115.71	148.99	186.47	486.19	301.83
Bihar	319.3	330.04	424.37	583.91	336.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chhattisgarh	–	–	–	–	245.35
Goa	84.77	89.65	106.11	137.78	141.31
Gujarat	1175.06	1336.87	1599.35	1944.88	1710.43
Haryana	242.07	297.39	339.43	466.14	587.11
Himachal Pradesh	62.88	68.83	86.96	131.88	130.48
Jharkhand	–	–	–	–	405.55
Jammu & Kashmir	36.17	44.36	54.69	108.96	119.53
Karnataka	1094.93	1229.78	1720.11	2304.77	2597.54
Kerala	400.22	420.7	510.03	646.89	674.24
Madhya Pradesh	396.2	476.02	536.64	758.2	713.44
Maharashtra	5262.34	6077.27	8547.7	9657.2	9255.17
Manipur	5.68	5.63	4.64	13.21	10.74
Meghalaya	12.47	12.67	17.03	21.74	41.21
Mizoram	0.90	1.33	0.47	0.31	0.21
Nagaland	4.24	6.27	7.52	3.48	4.40
New Delhi	2454.34	3344.57	3328.98	4186.67	4031.11
Orissa	137.18	155.59	173.81	246.01	343.03
Punjab	435.05	562.57	600.13	708.75	732.22
Rajasthan	363.21	444.92	530.5	640.71	658.63
Sikkim	0.50	0.09	0.29	1.00	2.75
Tamil Nadu	1377.87	1618.69	2003.55	2603.26	2750.36
Tripura	9.22	8.10	15.70	22.22	26.03
Uttar Pradesh	751.53	872.54	1177.72	1547.82	1376.27
Uttaranchal	–	–	–	–	151.63
West Bengal	892.98	1077.11	1397.83	1819.23	1818.3
Union Territories					
Andaman & Nicobar	3.03	1.57	2.7	3.27	5.18
Chandigarh	119.78	89.06	172.82	205.03	214.1
Daman	0.10	0.01	0.78	2.02	0.00
Diu	0.08	0.05	0.6	0.16	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	17.41	22.95	31.3	26.49	83.05
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
Silvasa	0.09	0.01	0.39	0.32	0.01
C.T.D.S. (Prov.)	643.21	810.19	1017.68	1061.97	894.3
Total	17100.59	20240.15	25654.51	31763.99	32004.1

[English]

Rehabilitation Service Centre

1769. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chandigarh has been selected for setting up Rehabilitation Services Centre;

(b) if so, whether the same has become functional;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the functions undertaken by it; and

(d) if not the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Spinal Injuries and other Orthopaedic Disabilities has been approved to be set up in District Ropar, Punjab. This centre has temporarily been made functional at Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector-32, Chandigarh. The Centre presently undertakes activities such as Spinal Surgeries, Occupational Therapy, Vocational Counseling and Nursing. Construction of the permanent building of the Centre has started in District Ropar, Punjab.

Investment by TATA Tele Services

1770. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a committee to look into the investment of Rs. 1200 crores by VSNL made to TATA Tele Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received report of the Committee and considered its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) No such Committee has been set up by Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

1771. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing any financial or other incentives to the State Governments for setting up of export oriented units in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such incentives provided to each State during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of 100% export oriented/export oriented units set up in each State during the above period, location-wise;

(e) the details of items manufactured by these units;

(f) the total number of export oriented units at present in each State; and

(g) the schemes of Union Government for further establishment of more export oriented units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The Union Government is not providing any financial or other incentives to the State Governments for setting up Export Oriented Units (EOUs) in their States as these units are set up by Private Entrepreneurs/ Promoters with prior approval of Government of India.

(d) to (g) EOUs are located in various parts of the country. State-wise details of functional EOUs during the last three years is given in statement-I. Majority of EOUs are manufacturing units in sectors, namely Engineering, Electronics & Software, Chemicals & Plastic, Agriculture & Forest, Textiles & Yarn, Granite and Gem & Jewellery etc. Sectoral break up of units is also given in statement-II. The Government of India has been reviewing the Export-Import Policy relating to EOU Scheme from time to time to encourage the establishment of more EOUs.

Statement I

State-wise Distribution of Functional EOUs during the last three years

State	1999-2000 No. of units	2000-2001 No. of units	2001-2002 No. of units
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	160	166	171
Assam	–	–	–
Bihar	1	1	1
Gujarat	168	178	194
Haryana	53	58	59
Himachal Pradesh	8	8	8
Karnataka	175	216	226
Kerala	25	30	34
Madhya Pradesh	64	73	78
Maharashtra	184	192	201
Orissa	6	7	7
Punjab	40	43	42
Rajasthan	75	78	76
Sikkim	1	1	1
Tamil Nadu	278	284	301
Uttar Pradesh	75	80	82
West Bengal	43	48	52
A & N Island	1	2	3
Chandigarh	–	–	–
Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	11	15	16
Delhi	36	40	41

1	2	3	4
Goa	14	18	17
Pondicherry	3	5	7
Others	17	13	4
Total	1438	1556	1621

Statement II

Industries-wise break up of EOUs Functional

S. No.	Sector/Industry	Functional EOUs As on 31.3.2000	Functional EOUs As on 31.3.2001	Functional EOUs As on 31.3.2002
1.	Engineering Industry	135	150	154
2.	Electronics and Software	125	151	158
3.	Chemical, Plastic and Allied Industry	171	182	189
4.	Leather & Sports Goods	28	31	32
5.	Foods Agriculture & Forest Products	271	286	301
6.	Textiles & Garments & Yarn	433	464	489
7.	Minerals & Ores	23	24	25
8.	Granites	160	160	162
9.	Gem & Jewellery	19	27	28
10.	Misc.	73	81	83
	Total	1438	1556	1621

[English]

Trade Ties between India and UAE

1772. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASSOCHAM has signed a MoU with the Sarjah Chambers of Commerce and Industry to facilitate closer trade ties between India and UAE;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present trade between UAE and India;

(d) whether ASSOCHAM has identified some particular field for trade with UAE;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the trade between the two countries is likely to be increased by signing this MoU?

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

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry *inter-alia* provide for exchange of information to strengthen trade, technological and industrial cooperation between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE)-Sharjah; exchange of publications and material concerning economic development, foreign trade and investment policies; mutual assistance in organising

business delegations and facilitating their business contacts; exchange of information about international fairs, exhibitions and trade promotion events held in their respective countries; promotion of tourism between the two countries; mutual assistance for development of joint ventures and investment opportunities etc.

(c) During the first four months of the current year, bilateral trade amounted to US$ 1321.93 mn. as against US$ 1145.25 mn. in the same period last year, as per DGCI&S statistics.

(d) and (e) The ASSOCHAM Foreign Trade Committee has identified sectors like Information Technology, Oil & Gas, Entertainment, Tourism, Financial services, Infrastructure, Food & Food Products, Bio-Technology, Non-conventional energy as thrust areas for trade with UAE;

(f) ASSOCHAM and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry expect that the trade between India and UAE would grow by 50% in the next five years through implementing the MOU signed by them.

Nationalised Banks and their Credit

1773. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nationalized Banks are following the guidelines issued by RBI in respect of credit to priority sector in letter and spirit in each of the States particularly in States like Orissa;

(b) whether any effective monitoring system is there in order to ensure credit availability to agriculture and other priority sector in backward areas;

(c) whether the Government propose to instruct banks to have more efforts and thrusts in backward areas to accelerate their economic activities instead of trying to achieve average macro targets; 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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the target/sub-targets under priority sector lending are applicable to a bank as a whole. There is no State-wise and Region-wise target. However, the credit requirements of a State are taken care of through Annual Credit Plan at district level formulated under Lead Bank Scheme. As on the last reporting Friday of March 2002, Public Sector Banks have, as a group, achieved the overall target for priority sector lending of 40 percent of Net Bank Credit (NBC). However, 3 banks have not achieved the stipulated target. As regards lending to agriculture, Public Sector Banks as a whole reached 15.81 percent of NBC and 7 banks achieved target of 18 percent. In lending to weaker sections, banks as a group achieved 7.3 percent while 7 banks achieved the stipulated target of 10 percent of NBC. Priority sector lending by Scheduled Commercial Banks is monitored by RBI through receipt of half-yearly returns as on the last reporting Friday of March and September and banks which do not achieve the target including sub-targets in respect of agriculture, are advised to take steps for improving flow of credit to these sectors. Banks' lending to priority sector is also monitored at the various fora under the Lead Bank Scheme and at meetings taken by RBI from time to time.

(c) and (d) In this regard, no specific instructions have been given to banks by RBI.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan to AP, Rajasthan and Karnataka

1774. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 49 crore dollars to India and the loan has been provided for Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details of projects for which the money is meant for and the amount to be allocated to each project, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India and World Bank signed three loans aggregating 49 crore dollars on 14/15th March, 2002. These loans are Second Karnataka Economic Restructuring for ($ 10 crore); Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform ($ 25 crore) and Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project ($ 14 crore).

TPDS In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

1775. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have requested the Union Government to increase

the number of beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System as per the census of 2001;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereto;

(c) whether similar requests have been received from other States as well; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Only State Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal to increase the number of beneficiaries as per the census of 2001.

[English]

Inclusion in ST List

1776. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to include Halba Koshti in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Maharashtra as a synonym of Halba and Halbi by making suitable amendment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the report of the Government of Maharashtra, the Halba Koshtis have no affinity with Halbas or Halbis, which are Scheduled Tribes in the State of Maharashtra.

Assistance to Handloom Workers

1777. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any projects to assist the handloom manufacturers and industry to provide subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana financial assistance is provided in the form of grant to take care of activities such as product development, infrastructure support, institutional support, training of weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support etc., both at macro and micro level. It also attempts to look at the needs of the weavers for working capital, basic inputs, creating awareness and attempts to support quality fabrics production through appropriate design intervention along with increase in productivity, provision of publicity and marketing incentive etc. The details of component-wise eligible grant of assistance are given in the enclosed statement.

The details of year-wise amount released are as under:

(Rupees in lakh)

S. No.	Year	Amount Released
1.	2000-01	1695.84
2.	2001-02	5935.06
3.	2002-03 (till date)	2638.56
	Total	10269.46

Statement

Component	Centre's Share	State's Share	Weaver's Contribution	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Margin Money to avail credit facilities	2000/-	1000/-	1000/-	
Purchase of Looms	1000/-	1000/-	Nil	
Purchase of Dobby	750/-	750/-	Nil	

1	2	3	4	5
Jacquard	1000/-	1000/-	Nil	
Accessories	500/-	500/-	Nil	
Training				
1. Weavers	1125/-	1125/-	Nil	
2. Master Weaver	3750/-	3750/-	Nil	
Infrastructure Support				
1. Primary Weavers cooperative societies having turnover of more than Rs. 25.00 lakh and Corporations/Apex Organisations having a turnover of more than Rs. 5.00 crore	25% of the Capital Cost	—	Nil	Central Assistance provided for water effluent treatment plant, process houses only if 75% of the capital cost is obtained as loan from the bank.
2. Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies having turnover of less that Rs. 25.00 lakh and Corporation/Apex Organisations having a turnover of less than Rs. 5.00 crore.	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakh	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakh	Nil	Assistance provided for setting up of common facility center. Additional assistance upto Rs. 0.50 lakh each also provided for purchase of dyeing equipments.
Design Input				
1. Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies having turnover of less that Rs. 25.00 lakh and Corporation/Apex Organisations having a turnover of more and than Rs. 5.00 crore.	Rs. 2.50 lakh	Rs. 2.50 lakh	Nil	For provision of CAD/CAM. This is one time assistance.
2. Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies having turn over of less that Rs. 25.00 lakh and Corporation/Apex Organisations having a turnover of more and than Rs. 5.00 crore.	Rs. 0.50 lakh	Rs. 0.50 lakh	Nil	To avail services of National Institute of Design (NID), National Institution of Technology (NIFT) and Weavers' Service Centres (WSC) for processing/ developing design.
Publicity	Rs. 2.50 lakh (Maximum)	Rs. 2.50 lakh (Maximum)	Nil	—
Transport Subsidy	90% of actuals	10% of the actuals	—	For transporting finished goods from the States of North East, Sikkim and J&K to events organised by DC (Handlooms) to their own outlets outside the State. This assistance is payable only to agencies falling under NER, Sikkim and J&K.

1	2	3	4	5
Strengthening of Handloom Organisations	50% of the cost	50% of the cost	—	Funds are released as seed money for restructuring only after the organization has streamlined its business, rationalized its manpower and submitted a bankable project.
Marketing Incentive				
1. State Level/National Level Handloom Organisation	(a) 4% during 2000-01 & 2001-02 (b) 3% during 2002-03 & 2003-04 (c) 2% during 2004-05 & 2005-06 (d) 1% during 2006-07	(a) 4% during 2000-01 & 2001-02 (b) 3% during 2002-03 & 2003-04 (c) 2% during 2004-05 & 2005-06 (d) 1% during 2006-07	—	Assistance is given on the average sales turnover of last 3 years preceding the financial year for which the grant is sought for.
2. Primary Weavers cooperative Societies	(a) 5% during 2000-01 & 2001-02 (b) 4% during 2002-03 & 2003-04 (c) 3% during 2004-05 & 2005-06 (d) 2% during 2006-07	(a) 5% during 2000-01 & 2001-02 (b) 4% during 2002-03 & 2003-04 (c) 3% during 2004-05 & 2005-06 (d) 2% during 2006-07	—	Assistance is given on the average sales turnover of last 3 years preceding the financial year for which the grant is sought for.

[Translation]

Irregularities in MMTC

1778. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the irregularities of over Rs. 21 crores have been reported in 10 different cases including the inappropriate (joint venture) sale of import licences in the MMTC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) List of cases regarding irregularities in MMTC as mentioned in C&AG's Report No. 3 of 2002 (Commercial) is as follows:

Sl.No.	Para	Para Title	Subject in brief
1	2	3	4
1.	5.2.1	Loss of total investment in a joint venture	MMTC invested Rs. 4.75 crore in a joint venture in violation of delegations of powers and lost whole value in the investment.
2.	5.2.2	Loss due to delay in the sale of special import licences.	Delay and faulty decision-making in the sale of special import licences by the Company resulted in a loss of Rs. 3.24 crore.

1	2	3	4
3.	5.2.3	Loss due to undue favour to private parties	Acceptance of post-dated cheques and extending unsecured credit to a private party resulted in avoidable loss of Rs. 2.47 crore and non-verification of bank guarantees before acceptance thereof resulted in a loss of Rs. 50.15 lakh to the Company.
4.	5.2.4	Loss due to subletting of premises at the lower rates.	Subletting of premises at rates lower than those indicated by the Govt. registered valuer resulted in short recovery of Rs. 2.85 crore.
5.	5.2.5	Loss due to lapses in amending and implementing an MOU to the benefit of a party	Amendments in MOU signed with a party for import of raw material and export of finished product coupled with lapses in in custody of the imported raw material and lack of control in realisation of its export proceeds resulted in non-recovery of dues of Rs. 2.72 crore from the party.
6.	5.2.6	Loss due to improper procedures	Due to handing over of negotiable documents relating to import of Chilean copper wire bars by an official of the Company resulted in a loss of Rs. 1.86 crore.
7.	5.2.7	Irregular expenditure on foreign tours	Failure of the company in regulating foreign travel claims in accordance with the instruction of the Department of Public Enterprises resulted in releasing irregular payment of Rs. 1.08 crore to the officials during 1996-97 to 1999-2000.
8.	5.2.8	Loss due to procurement of tea for export	Acceptance of an order for export of tea and furnishing of performance bank guarantee to the improper without ensuring opening of letter of credit by the latter coupled with delay in disposal of the tea in domestic market on backing out by the importer resulted in loss of Rs. 95 lakh.
9.	5.2.9	Undue benefit to a private company	Payment of barging charges to an agent for stevedoring, handling, clearing, forwarding and transporting of imported thermal coal from a port not requiring barging operations from the midstream resulted in undue financial benefit of Rs. 63.62 lakh to the agent.
10.	5.2.10	Loss in financing import of an unproven product	Injudicious financing of import of new product on behalf of a customer without adjudging the market response and also without safe guarding the Company's interest resulted in a loss of Rs. 62.05 lakh to the Company.

[English]

Import of Tea

1779. SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the time by when the tea is being imported and from which countries;

(b) the total quantum of tea imported alongwith the value thereof during the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether the imports of tea from Burma, Vietnam and Indonesia has increased;

(d) if so, the total quantum of tea imported from these countries during the last three years and also during the current fiscal year;

(e) whether this imported tea is being sold at very low prices in comparison to domestic tea;

(f) whether the increase in the import to tea has adverse impact on the domestic tea industry; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to protect the domestic tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Tea was a restricted item of import prior to August 1998 and was allowed to be imported only against import licences. However, import under duty exemption Scheme and by EOU/EPZ units was allowed without payment of duty and subject to re-export after value addition. Tea was also allowed to be imported without license, on payment of duty, from SAARC countries with effect from August 1998. After removal of quantitative restrictions with effect from 1.4.2001 there is no restriction for import of tea from any country.

The details of major country wise import of tea during the last three years are given below:

(Quantity in thousand Kgs. and Value in thousand Rupees)

Country	2001-2002		2000-2001		1999-2000	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Indonesia	6219	302563	5772	343321	3247	180401
Vietnam	6049	232579	3287	157996	619	28440
Kenya	1669	152060	1457	147554	1696	152423
Sri Lanka	984	77988	1861	173771	2953	178046
Iran	222	6720	883	25778	592	21119
Others	878	55133	1966	106297	1256	59246
Total	16021	827043	15226	954717	10363	619675

Imports of tea from Vietnam and Indonesia have shown an increase over the last three years. During the current financial year (April-September, 2002) import of tea from Vietnam has been around 7.14 million kgs while 2.68 million kgs have been imported from Indonesia. There has been no import of tea from Burma during the last eight years.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. Tea is imported into India mainly for the purpose of re-export after value addition. More than 95% of the imported tea is re-exported. Besides, the total import of tea is only about 2% of the domestic production of tea. Therefore, import of tea does not have an adverse effect on the domestic tea industry. However, in order to provide protection to the domestic tea industry, Government has increased the import duty on tea from 70% to 100%.

[Translation]

Adivasi Dialects

1780. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made to give protection and encouragement to the adivasi dialects of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maharashtra Adivasi Anusandhan Sanstha is also working in this direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribals Affairs provides funds to State Tribal Research Institutes including the Maharashtra Adivasi Anusandhan Sansthan, Pune, to undertake various activities of Research and Evaluation including the protection of Tribal dialects, as part of preservation of tribal culture under the Central Sector scheme.

[English]

Withdrawal of Schemes by Insurance Companies

1781. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Insurance companies propose to close down some of their schemes;

(b) if so, the details of schemes which are proposed to be closed alongwith the details of such schemes which have been closed during the last one year, Company-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any options have been given to insurers by these companies;

(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) to (f) A statement is enclosed on the basis of information received from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA).

Statement

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) informed that life insurance companies are not closing the existing schemes but they are bringing the new versions of such schemes sometimes with different names in tune with the prevailing marketing conditions.

The revised versions are specially in case of single premium policies where Guaranteed Additions are allowed to policyholders. The following Table indicates the company-wise position:

Name of Insurer	Name of Single Premium policies having Guaranteed Additions	Revision in past
LIC of India	Bima Nivesh, 2002 (Latest, Sep. 2002)	(i) Bima Nivesh 2001 (June, 2001) (ii) New Bima Nivesh (Nov. 2001)
SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	Sukh Jivan Prathan (Latest revision Sep. 2002)	Sukhjeevan (Sep. 2001)
ICICI-Pru Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	ICICI-Pru Assure Invest (Latest revision Oct. 2002)	Earlier revision in Aug, 2002 Aug, 2001 (First Launch)
ICICI-Pru Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	ICICI-Pru Re-Assure (Latest revision Aug. 2002)	Earlier revision in Aug. 2002 Aug, 2001 (First Launch)
Om Kotak Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	Kotak Insurance Bond (Latest revision Nov. 2002)	First Launch in Aug. 2002

In addition to single premium policies having guaranteed additions, LIC of India brought the following new versions of Schemes in place of old policies.

New Version of Product	Cleared on	Earlier Version
New Jeevan Akshay-I	14.12.2001	Jeevan Akshay
New Jeevan Dhara/Jeevan Suraksha	11.01.2002	Jeevan Dhara & Jeevan Suraksha
New Bima Kiran	01.02.2002	Bima Kiran
New Jeevan Shree	04.02.2002	Jeevan Shree
Komal Jeevan	07.11.2002	Children Deferred Assurance Plan.

The LIC has informed that they review their portfolio of products regularly to ascertain their financial viability. Future withdrawal/revision in its products will depend on circumstances such as long term interest rates available in the market, expense experience, changing needs of the customers, etc. In the last one year the LIC has withdrawn 20 plans, namely Bima Nivesh, 2001; New Jeevan Dhara; New Jeevan Akshay; Jeevan Suraksha; Jeevan Sneha; Jeevan Shree; Bima Kiran; Bima Sandesh; Jeewan Sanchay-12 years, 15 years, 20 years and 25 years; Money Back Children Assurance; New Bima Nivesh; Deferred Annuity Certain; Immediate Annuity Certain; Jeevan Griha Double Cover; Jeewan Griha Triple Cover; Endowment Assurance Limited Payments and Endowment Assurance.

The General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) has informed that the long term Janata Personal Accident Cover (JPAC) which was issued prior to 1999 insuring persons for a period of more than 5 years and with a sum insured of more than Rs. 1 lac per person were cancelled. This cancellation was done by the Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. and New India Assurance Co. Ltd.

The reasons for withdrawal of some plans are reduction in investment, non-sustainability with existing premium, adverse claims ratio etc.

However, the commitment under life insurance policies issued before withdrawal will be honoured by the insurance companies as per policy conditions. In case of JPAC pro-rata premium was refunded to the insured during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

OBC Vacancies In GIC

1782. DR. BEATRIX D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether OBC reservation ratio is being maintained in the GIC appointment of "Assistant" cadre by the subsidiaries of General Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken to fill up the OBC vacancies in GIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) OBC ratio in the "Assistant" cadre is maintained whenever general recruitment exercises are conducted. After OBC reservation came into force in 1993, GIC has recruited 13 candidates in "Assistant" cadre of which 3 were from OBC Category. No general recruitment of Assistants has been made in the public sector general insurance companies during last few years.

Regularisation of Unauthorised Cultivation of Tobacco

1783. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco growers of Karnataka have sought intervention by the Union Government in regularising the unauthorised cultivation of tobacco in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government had levied a 15 per cent fine on the excess production being grown in Karnataka last year;

(e) if so, the reasons for not levying such fine for excess production/unauthorised cultivation in other States;

(f) whether the Government have taken steps to regularise the unauthorised cultivation of tobacco in Karnataka; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c), (f) and (g) In response to representations received in respect of unauthorised tobacco grown in current year, the Tobacco Board has increased the authorised crop size of flue cured virginia tobacco from 42.08 million kg. to 50 million kg.

(d) The Government has levied the following penalties on excess production in Karnataka in 2001:

On excess tobacco produced by registered growers	Rs. 2 per kg.+5% of the sale value
On authorised tobacco produced by unregistered growers	Rs. 2 per kg.+15% of the sale value

(e) In respect of other States, the Tobacco Board has retained 25% of the sale proceeds of unauthorised

crop produced by unregistered growers in accordance with the orders of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. This matter is now before the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

SEZ In Navi Mumbai

1784. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal seeking approval for setting up special economic zones in the Navi Mumbai region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers whose land has been acquired for setting up of proposed special economic zones and the area of land acquired from each of the farmer;

(d) the scheme for rehabilitation of the displaced farmer; and

(e) the time by which these proposals would be cleared?

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

(b) Government of Maharashtra had proposed to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, through City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (Government of Maharashtra Undertaking).

(c) and (d) No land has been specifically acquired for the SEZ. Part of land earmarked for the Navi Mumbai SEZ had been acquired for the "New Bombay" town project.

(e) Approval has been given to the Government of Maharashtra for setting of SEZ at Navi Mumbai on 15.2.2002.

Insurance of Tractors

1785. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision of insurance for tractors used for agricultural purposes;

(b) whether there is no insurance provision for passengers sitting in trolleys attached to tractors;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are formulating any scheme in this regard; and

(e) if so, 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export Growth Rate

1786. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate any measures to arrest the existing falling export growth rate of the country and have taken any progressive steps to accelerate the growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are envisaging to diversify the products and markets to overcome the recessionary trends prevailing in US and Japan;

(d) if so, the measures mooted to achieve, the said diversification and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures/steps being implemented to increase the productivity of the exportable agricultural products so as to maintain consistency in the export policy and to build an image of a reliable supplier in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Exports of merchandise goods during the current financial year (April-September 2002-03) has actually witnessed a growth rate of 13.49% which is more than the target of 12% fixed for the current year.

However, export promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, various initiatives have been taken during the last one year. The EXIM Policy for 2002-07 has also incorporated a number measures to proactively promote exports. New initiatives have been

taken like launching the scheme of Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports, strengthening of Market Access Initiative additional features and facilities for Special Economic Zones; etc.

(c) and (d) Yes sir. The Government is taking measures on an on-going basis for diversifying the products and markets which *inter alia* include Government level interaction through Joint commissions/Committees; participation in various specialized fairs and exhibitions/ buyer-seller meets, etc. Besides "Focus Latin American Countries" (LAC) which was launched earlier, "Focus Africa" Programme was also launched by the Government in 2002 to enhance India's trade with Sub-Saharan African region.

Besides, these, the Medium Term Export Strategy (MTES) was announced this year which has identified 220 Focus Products and 25 Focus Markets to achieve 1% share in the world exports by 2006-07.

(e) The measures taken to increase the productivity of the exportable agricultural products and to build an image of a reliable supplier in the international market *inter alia* include establishing Agri Export Zones, permitting free export of almost all agricultural products, providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for good quality planting material, improving packaging, dissemination of market information, assistance for setting up laboratories for testing of products, etc.

Tax on Advertisement

1787. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has been making a number of requests to the Union Government to allow the State Governments to impose Tax on Advertisement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No such requests is pending with the Union Government from the State Government of Karnataka.

(c) Does not arise.

Tax Benefit Package for Gujarat

1788. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received response on the tax benefit package declared for Kutch, Gujarat region;

(b) if so, whether such package was declared to attract new industries after the earthquake;

(c) if so, the details of package; and

(d) the details of industries which have plan to establish these units in that region?

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

(c) The Central Excise exemption under the scheme is provided under notification No. 39/2001-CE., dated 31.7.2001. It is available to new units set up during the specified period, subject to certain specified conditions. The exemption is available for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production. The exemption, however, is not applicable to a few specified items. The exemption provides for constitution of a Committee, which certifies the original value of investment and the fact that a unit is a new unit, set up during the specified period.

(d) The Committee has so far issued certificates to two units. Cases of 11 units are under process for issuance of certificate by the Committee.

Uniform Rate of Sales Tax on Drugs

1789. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to unstarred question No. 2049 answered on August 3, 2001 regarding uniform rate of sales tax on drugs and state:

(a) whether the Central Sales Tax on bulk drugs is 2.2% in Gujarat *vis-a-vis* 4% in other States; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to withhold Central assistance and grant in the matter for not implementing Central Government decision on uniform floor rates as Sales Tax on bulk drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N.

RAMACHANDRAN): (a) State Government of Gujarat has informed that Central Sales Tax on inter States sales of bulk drugs against "C" form is 2%.

(b) In a Conference of Chief Ministers held on 16th November, 1999, a consensus decision was taken to implement uniform floor rates on General Sales Tax levied on commodities including drugs. The decision to withhold Central assistance and grants was for not complying to implement the decision in respect of General Sales Tax only. Since Central Sales Tax is not a part of the scheme of uniform floor rates, no action is required to be taken by the Government of India.

[Translation]

Prices of Gold

1790. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep hike in the prices of gold in the country during the last two years as compared to previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to bring down the gold prices.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The changes in gold prices are as follows:

Date	Bombay		London	
	Rs./total	Percent Change	GBP/oz	Percen Change
30.9.1999	4150	-	264.7	-
30.9.2000	4535	+ 9.3	273.7	+ 3.4
30.9.2001	4750	+ 4.7	283.4	+ 3.5
30.9.2002	5325	+ 12.1	319.1	+ 12.6

(b) and (c) As seen in the data above, the price of gold in India is substantially determined by world gold prices, and by fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Indian rupee and the Great Britain pound.

Export of Banana

1791. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of banana exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to make Jalagaon district of Maharashtra a Banana export zone;

(c) if so, the facilities likely to be provided for the said district for this purpose; and

(d) the amount needed to be spent on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The export of banana during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1999-2000	6289744	12.81
2000-2001	8629426	18.00
2001-2002	8099617	15.84

Source: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

(b) to (d) A proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra in this regard, upon its consideration, has been sent to the state Government for appropriate revision.

[English]

Lifting of Ban on Export of Onion

1792. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

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

(a) whether there is a great demand to lift the ban on export of onion;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to lift the ban imposed on export of onion completely;

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

(d) the quantum of onion projected for export during the current year; and

(e) the policy of the Union Government in regard to export of onion for the current year especially in respect of Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) There is no ban on export of onions. As per EXIM policy, the export of onion is subject to quantitative restrictions and is canalized through NAFED and various State and Co-operative agencies. Ceiling on exports for the current year has been fixed at 7 lakh M. Tons.

Funds to NGO

1793. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the total amount approved and sanctioned for various NGOs during the current financial year upto October 31, 2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): A Statement is attached.

Statement

Total amount approved and sanctioned for various NGOs during the current financial year 2002-03 (upto 31st October 2002)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount sanctioned during 2002-03 (upto 31st October 2002)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2143.62
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.16
3.	Assam	114.14
4.	Bihar	329.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	24.49
6.	Goa	16.52
7.	Gujarat	408.57
8.	Haryana	205.45
9.	Himachal Pradesh	26.17
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.95
11.	Jharkhand	14.19
12.	Karnataka	810.30
13.	Kerala	407.53
14.	Madhya Pradesh	254.72
15.	Maharashtra	970.17
16.	Manipur	228.73
17.	Meghalaya	59.53
18.	Mizoram	36.08
19.	Nagaland	16.10
20.	Orissa	861.11
21.	Punjab	174.26
22.	Rajasthan	576.51
23.	Sikkim	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	647.40
25.	Tripura	24.18
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1879.41
27.	Uttaranchal	222.56
28.	West Bengal	734.97
29.	A & N Islands	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	6.71
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
32.	Daman & Diu	2.00
33.	Delhi	726.91
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	23.22

[Translation]

Export of Readymade Garments

1794. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in export of readymade garments;

(b) if so, the details of increase registered during the current year as compared to last year;

(c) whether the Government have signed an agreement with the Eastern European countries for export of textiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per latest available DGCI&S data, during the current year i.e. April-July 2002, readymade garment exports amounted to US$ 1705.00 million recording an increase of 4.3%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

[English]

Sugarcane Price Rationalisation

1795. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter regarding sugarcane price rationalisation has been referred to the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP);

(b) whether the CACP convened a seminar to work out a viable pricing policy; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the present status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend a new sugarcane pricing policy. CACP had accepted the responsibility. A seminar on 'Pricing of Sugarcane' was held and the representatives of the Central and State Governments, sugar industry associations, sugarcane growers, research institutions relating to sugar and sugarcane and leading agricultural economists had participated in the seminar.

12th Finance Commission

1796. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted the 12th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations made by the 11th Finance Commission;

(d) the number of recommendations implemented so far; and

(e) the reasons for not implementing the remaining recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted the Twelfth Finance Commission vide Notification dated 1st November, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, with the following composition:—

1.	Shri Som Pal, Member, Planning Commission	Member (Part-Time)
2.	Shri T.R. Prasad, IAS (retd.), Former Cabinet Secretary	Member
3.	Prof. D.K. Srivastava of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy	Member
4.	Shri G.C. Srivastava, IAS	Secretary

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) fall under two heads. The first set of recommendations are mandatory under articles 270 and 275(I) of the Constitution. These pertain to devolution of Central taxes, Grants-in-aid for the schemes of Calamity Relief (CRF), Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant (and constitution of an Incentive Fund for fiscal performance based grants), Local Bodies and Upgradation/ Special Problem Grants. These recommendations are being implemented in full. The EFC had also recommended a scheme for constitution of National

Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), which has since been constituted and the scheme is being implemented. Further, a scheme for Debt Relief to States as recommended by EFC is being implemented. Other consequential recommendations/observations are recommendatory in nature and primarily fall within the purview of the States.

MSP for Sericulturists

1797. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to save sericulturists in Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Government with the help of Central Silk Board, Bangalore has announced a minimum support price scheme;

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

(c) whether prices of cocoons and raw silk have crashed in recent times;

(d) if so, whether the Government have undertaken a study to know the reasons for the same;

(e) if so, the outcome of such a study; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) Due to steep fall in prices of cocoons in the country, the sericulture farmers including the farmers of Andhra Pradesh have been getting a low remuneration from the sale of cocoons. The Department of Sericulture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has formulated a scheme with an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores (which it proposes be shared by the DOS, Andhra Pradesh and Central Silk Board in the ratio of 50:50) for procurement of 3000 MT of cocoons from mulberry farmers by providing an incentive of Rs. 10/- per kg. of cocoon purchased by the Department of Sericulture.

(c) Yes, Sir. The prices of reeling cocoons and raw silk have been declining during 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(d) to (f) A close study of the situation by Central Silk Board has established that the fall in domestic prices of cocoons and raw silk is the result of falling prices of imported raw silk. No separate study has been done.

[Translation]

Procurement of Paddy

1798. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to commence the official procurement of paddy from 1st October and not 21st of September for the 2002-2003 season;

(b) if so, the reasons for this change of procurement date; and

(c) the details regarding benefits/profit likely to be accrued by the Government and the farmers from this change of procurement date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The date of commencement of procurement is fixed in consultation with State Governments. For Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03, the date of commencement of procurement was fixed as 1.10.2002, based on an assessment of arrivals of grain in the market.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Bifurcation of National Commission of SC/STs

1799. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to bifurcate the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to set up a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs is in process of introducing the Constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament to amend Article 338 of the Constitution to set up a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

Assistance for the Development of SC/STs

1800. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided as Central assistance for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the current financial year, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether any special programmes/scheme has been implemented for their social and economic upliftment during the current year; and

(c) if so, the number of beneficiaries of the said programmes/schemes as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The details about Central Assistance provided state-wise, scheme-wise for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Amount released to the States under various Schemes/programmes during 2002-03 as on 25.11.2002 (Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Scheme/State	Special Central Assistance	Scheme of grant in aid to voluntary organisation working for SCs	Assistance to Scheduled Caste Development Corporation	Scheme for Post matric scholarship	Scheme of Pre-matric scholarship	Upgradation of merit scheme	Scheme of Construction of Girls hostel	Scheme of construction of Boys hostel	Scheme of Book Bank	Coaching and allied scheme	Special Educational development programme for SC girls	National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavenger	PCR and Atrocities
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	A.P.	1458.88	236.98	496.50	2585.15	7.19	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2737.76	328.14
2.	Assam	284.32	25.35	Nil	221.32	8.11	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.78	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	0	90.46	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	65.00
4.	Gujarat	392.04	39.46	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	23.05	Nil	Nil	5.45	Nil	Nil	208.14
5.	H.P.	173.54	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	239.96	Nil
6.	Haryana	405.69	15.92	Nil	Nil	Nil	7.65	Nil	4.50	8.47	24.68	Nil	Nil	17.28
7.	J&K	85.9	Nil	Nil	19.99	Nil	Nil	Nil	24.97	5.99	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Karnataka	970.16	167.27	160.50	984.47	11.45	Nil	8.53	114.32	115.63	Nil	Nil	Nil	487.05
9.	Kerala	0	1.15	437.70	Nil	Nil	3.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	M.P.	1046.95	95.13	Nil	272.33	36.89	14.70	Nil	Nil	24.99	Nil	Nil	Nil	435.98
11.	Maharashtra	0	96.16	Nil	1478.77	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	59.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12.	Manipur	0	29.33	Nil	71.28	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Orissa	736.9	176.16	Nil	Nil	2.07	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.81
14.	Rajasthan	1057.46	123.88	Nil	231.55	38.83	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Sikkim	3.76	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.90
16.	Tamil Nadu	1400.57	17.65	400.00	Nil	51.49	Nil	61.5	89.49	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	327.31
17.	Tripura	74.8	7.12	Nil	85.06	2.30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	U.P.	3973.64	202.07	314.60	1469.46	Nil	36.25	Nil	Nil	11.42	Nil	Nil	Nil	886.64
19.	W.B.	2127.8	105.42	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	40.06	4.48	3.21	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Jharkhand	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	105.97
21.	Punjab	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	14.51	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Chhattisgarh	300.67	5.29	503.70	106.83	21.80	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	88.27
23.	Chandigarh	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	35.42	50.18	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttaranchal	0	12.27	61.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	22.42
25.	A&N	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	8.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Delhi	0	114.43	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.70	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.89	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	26.32
33.	Goa	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Pondicherry	5.81	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	29.23
35.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Statement

Funds Released to State Governments during 2002-2003 by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (As on 5.11.2002)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	States/Schemes	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	Grant Under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	Girls Hostel	Boys Hostel	Vocational Training Centre	Ashram Schools	Res. & Trg. (TRIs)	Grant-in-aid to State TDCCs	Village Grain anks	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups	Post Matric scholarship	Book Bank	Exchange of Visits of Tribals	Coaching and Allied	Upgradation of Merit	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	910.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	910.93
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
3.	Assam	1019.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1019.66
4.	Bihar	185.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185.52
5.	Chhattisgarh	1542.06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.07	8.21	-	-	-	1582.34
6.	Gujarat	1310.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.25	-	-	-	1320.55
7.	Himachal Pradesh	514.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	514.82
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	-	-	-	6.50
9.	Jharkhand	1596.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1956.75
10.	Karnataka	257.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.74	75.38	20.00	-	-	-	354.23
11.	Kerala	91.23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2611.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.49	-	-	-	2627.56
13.	Maharashtra	1241.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1241.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
14.	Manipur	253.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	820.11	-	-	-	-	1074.10
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	310.62	-	-	-	-	310.62
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
18.	Orissa	2165.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2169.10
19.	Rajasthan	1216.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1216.52
20.	Sikkim	36.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.75	36.76
21.	Tamil Nadu	107.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107.77
22.	Tripura	347.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	347.01
23.	Uttaranchal	74.33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74.33
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.63	-	11.33
25.	West Bengal	1956.75	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.85	-	-	-	1964.60
26.	A & N Islands	66.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.59	-	2.79	-	-	71.33
27.	Daman & Diu	33.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	-	-	-	-	34.10
28.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	17908.91	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	4.00	-	1.74	1247.32	57.80	2.79	0.63	0.75	19228.94

[English]

Commercial Bank of India in Russia

1801. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and Canara Bank have jointly ventured to open a Commercial Bank of India in Russia;

(b) if so, the main objectives of this joint venture; and

(c) when this new bank is likely to commence its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted State Bank of India and Canara Bank to establish a joint venture subsidiary in Russia as the Russian laws permit foreign banks' presence only through a locally registered subsidiary/joint venture incorporated in Russia. The main objective of the joint venture is to have presence of Indian banks in Russia.

(c) The first stage approval from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation has since been received by the banks concerned and the second stage applications are under process. RBI has extended the validity of its permission to establish the above joint venture bank in Russia upto 1st March, 2003.

[Translation]

Loan for SSI

1802. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

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

(a) the number of applications received by the public sector banks in various States particularly in Rajasthan from the Small Scale industries for loans during the last three years;

(b) number of loan applications disposed of out of the above and the amount of loans sanctioned State wise;

(c) number of applications under consideration/pending and the time by which such applications are likely to be disposed of State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the banks to provide adequate loan to small scale industries.

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

[English]

Sale of Surplus Land

1803. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation (NTC) has decided to sell off its surplus land in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the surplus land identified and the steps being taken for its disposal, State-wise;

(c) the total amount expected to be realised by the sale of surplus land, State-wise; and

(d) the purpose for which it is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes sir. BIFR has sanctioned Schemes for sick subsidiaries of NTC envisaging funding of these schemes through sale of surplus assets.

(b) and (c) The state-wise details of surplus land and amount expected to be realised from their sale is given in Statement. The assets are valued by independent valuers and sale is being undertaken through Asset Sale Committees formed under direction of BIFR.

(d) The amount would be utilized towards expenses on VRS, statutory dues, modernization etc.

Statement

State-wise details of Surplus Lands indicating Area and Value

S.No.	Name of State	Surplus land	
		Area in acres	Value in Rs. Crores
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	8.98	82.54
2.	Punjab	63.56	29.65

1	2	3	4
3.	Rajasthan	61.05	65.86
4.	Uttar Pradesh	247.90	309.03
5.	Madhya Pradesh	343.84	190.24
6.	Chhattisgarh	52.10	12.71
7.	Gujarat	188.10	183.27
8.	Andhra Pradesh	344.87	93.43
9.	Karnataka	361.91	214.58
10.	Kerala	38.17	6.04
11.	Tamil Nadu	119.64	210.61
12.	Pondicherry	40.00	48.79
13.	Maharashtra	430.33	1778.58
14.	West Bengal	209.30	157.37
15.	Assam	50.00	0.60
16.	Bihar	54.97	6.02
17.	Orissa	62.17	0.87
	Total	2676.89	3390.19

[Translation]

Funds to States

1804. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) the purposes for which funs have been allocated by the Union Government to various States during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of Central fund utilised by each State Government during these years;

(c) whether the Union Government have noticed the under utilization of fund in any State;

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

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Funds have been allocated to State Governments, as non Plan grants as per recommendations of the Finance Commission, as Central Plan Assistance for financing of State's Plans and through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(b) to (e) The State Governments are accountable to their State legislature for proper utilisation of funds through State Audit Report prepared by the C&AG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution. However, if there is shortfall in Plan expenditure as against approved/revised Plan outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central Assistance released to the States.

Production of Yarn

1805. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether yarn is produced in the country at a large scale;

(b) if so, the total yarn production capacity in the country during the year 2001-2002;

(c) whether the quantity of the hank yarn has also been defined by the Government in the total production of yarn;

(d) if so, the quantity thus defined as well as the quantity of the annual average production of the hank yarn during the last three years; and

(e) the extent to which the quantity of the hank yarn production is lesser to the total domestic requirement of the hank yarn in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Spun Yarn is produced at large scale in the country and 3101 million kologram of yarn was produced in the year 2001-02. During this period, yarn production capacity was as under:

Spindles	38.33 million
Rotors	480000

(c) Hank Yarn Packing Notification stipulates that every producer of yarn who packs yarn for civil

consumption shall pack yarn in hank form in each quarterly period commencing from April/June, 2000 and in every subsequent quarterly period in proportion of not less than 50% of total yarn packed by him during each quarterly period for civil consumption.

Yarn for the purpose of hank yarn obligation means yarn spun from not less than 90% cotton and/or 90% viscose fiber including their blends and/or their wastes but excluding the following category:

(i) hosiery yarn

(ii) sewing thread

(iii) industrial yarn

(iv) mixed yarn

(v) cellulosic/non-cellulosic filament yarn

(vi) yarn produced by 100% EOUs

(d) and (e) The quantity thus defined as well as the quantity of the annual average production of the hank yarn during the last three years are as under:

(In Million Kgs.)

Year	Total of obligatory variety of yarn packed	Hank Yarn obligation (50% of Column 3)	Fulfillment of hank yarn obligation (On Actual Packing Basis)	Percentage of fulfillment
1	2	3	4	5
1999-2000	1054.91	527.46	533.51	101.15%
2000-2001	1091.12	545.56	559.78	102.61%
2001-2002	1068.78	534.39	577.57	108.08%

From Column (5) it may be noticed that the quantity of hank yarn is more than the total stipulated obligation and requirement of the hank yarn in the country.

Bank Branches Abroad

1806. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) the countries in which the SBI and other Indian banks have opened their branches, bank-wise;

(b) the business done by these banks during the last three years in dollars, country-wise;

(c) the countries in which these banks especially SBI have sought the permission to open these branches in near future;

(d) whether there is a continuous decline in the business of Indian banks abroad;

(e) if so, the reason therefor; and

(f) the remedial 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) Country-wise and bank-wise details of branches of Indian banks abroad are given in the Statement.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Indian banks have sought permission to open branches in the following countries:—

Bangladesh
Australia
Russia
Qatar
Jersey, Channel Islands
China
Kenya
Tanzania
Malaysia
United Kingdom
Canada
Singapore
Dubai

SBI has sought permission to open branches in Australia, China, Bangladesh and Joint Venture Bank with Canara Bank in Russia.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

Country-wise branches of Indian Banks at Overseas Centres

Name of the country	Nationalised Banks								Private Banks	Total
	SBI	BOI	BOB	Ind Bank	IOB	UCO	Canara Bank	Syndicate Bank	Bharat Overseas Bank	
Sri Lanka	2	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	6
United Kingdom	3	6	7	–	–	–	1	1	–	18
United States of America	4	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	7
Japan	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
Maldives Islands	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
West Germany	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bangladesh	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bahamas Island (Nassau)	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Bahrain	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Belgium	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Singapore	1	1	–	1	1	2	–	–	–	6
Hong Kong	1	2	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	7
Cayman Islands	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
France	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Channel Islands	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Fiji Islands	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	9
Kenya	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Mauritius	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
United Arab Emirates	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Seychelles	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
South Africa	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
South Korea	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Sultanate of Oman	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Thailand	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Total	21	18	38	3	6	4	1	1	1	93

Loss due to Afghan War

1807. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of area where India suffered financial losses due to war in Afghanistan alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to compensate this financial loss?

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.

[English]

Commission for Criminal Tribes

1808. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Commission to look into the claims of erstwhile criminal tribes and others for inclusion into the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether the Commission has submitted its Report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Tax Evasion by Multinational Companies

1809. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the number of multinational companies and some big business houses are involved in tax evasion to the tune of hundred of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, details of such MNCs and big business houses and tax evasion by each of such MNC and big business houses;

(c) the *Modus operandi* adopted by these MNC and big business houses for tax evasion;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such defaulters for tax recovery and progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is not true that number of multinational companies and some big business houses are involved in tax evasion to the tune of hundred of crores of rupees. However, necessary action is taken by the Income Tax Department at the field level in accordance with the provisions of law against evasion of Income Tax in respect of all categories of assesses including multinational companies and big business houses.

(b) and (c) Such information is not centrally maintained. The collection and compilation of the desired information from the field formations spread all over the country will involve substantial time and efforts, which may not be commensurate to the objectives sought to be achieved.

(d) High priority is given to the work of recovery of tax demand in all cases and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken in this regard.

TCIDS

1810. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received applications from Orissa to provide assistance under Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on such requests?

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

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

Bilateral Deal on Textiles

1811. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Union (EU) are examining the possibility of a limited bilateral deal in textiles to compensate New Delhi for the likely loss of over 250 million euro arising out of diversion of trade to Pakistan due to duty-free access being granted to it by EU;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in this regard was reached during the 12th Session of the Indian EU joint commission held in Brussels on July 10, 2002; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (c) The scheme of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union (EU) for the period 1st January 2002 to 31st December 2004 *inter alia* provides for suspension by the EU of customs duties for all products which have not graduated under special tariff arrangements to combat drug production and trafficking. Pakistan is one of the beneficiary countries under this special arrangement. As this may adversely affect India's exports to EU, India had taken up this issue with EU through bilateral consultations held in February 2002 and July 2002 and consultations under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO on 25th March 2002. During these consultations it was highlighted that India would stand to lose substantial trade on account of duty concessions given to Pakistan. The EU was requested to rectify the adverse trade impact due to such concessions. The EU has not yet addressed our concerns in this regard. Further course of action would be taken in accordance with the WTO rules.

Investors Education and Protection Fund

1812. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government have asked the companies to deposit all dividend amounts remaining unpaid for a period of seven years in unpaid dividend account on or after October 31, 1995 to the Inventor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF);

(b) whether many companies are not adhering to the rules framed in this regard;

(c) if so, the total amount so far accumulated in the IEPF by way of deposit of unpaid dividend so far; and

(d) if so, the action taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) It is mandatory for companies to deposit all amounts including dividend amounts remaining unpaid and unclaimed for seven years to the Investor Education and Protection Fund as provided under Section 205C of the Companies Act and Rules made thereunder. As on 31st October, 2002, an amount of Rs. 81,05,59,483.46/- has been deposited by the companies in the Fund as provided in the Act. No such complaint has been received that the companies are not adhering to the rules.

Ceiling Limit for Tobacco Production

1813. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the ceiling fixed in Karnataka for tobacco production during 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) whether Karnataka has the potential to touch 65,000 m.kg. this year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enhance the ceiling limit to 65,000 m. kgs of tobacco production in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The authorised crop size for Karnataka for flue cured virginia tobacco was as below:—

2001-02	—	38.07 M.Kg.
2002-03	—	50.00 M.Kg.

(b) As per estimates of production made by the Tobacco Board, it is not likely to touch 65 million kg.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Backwards and Tribals in Rajasthan

1814. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan have submitted any scheme for the development of backwards, Tribal and weaker section of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given approval to this scheme;

(d) if not, the time by when it is likely to be approved; and

(e) the time by which funds are likely to be made available to the state Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government of Rajasthan have submitted proposals under the following schemes-Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs, Post Matric scholarships to SCs, and OBCs, Pre-Matric Scholarships to SCs students and State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for MFP operations. Details of funds released under these schemes are given in the statement. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, a proposal from the Government of Rajasthan has been received on 8.11.2002. The clarifications sought from Government of Rajasthan in this regard are still awaited. In respect of the proposals received under the Scheme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Post Matric scholarship and book bank for Scheduled Tribes, clarifications have been sought from Government of Rajasthan.

Statement

Release of funds under various schemes in the State of Rajasthan

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	2002-03
SCHEDULED CASTE DEVELOPMENT		
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	1057
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	231.55
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation	38.83
4.	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	6.26
OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES		
5.	Post Matric Scholarships including Higher Scholarship for Ph.D. and higher level for Other Backward Classes	199
SCHEDULED TRIBES		
6.	State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for MFP Operations	251.61

New Banks In Rural Sector

1815. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee constituted by the RBI has recommended not to open new banks in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the other main recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 a Review Group on the working of the Local Area Bank scheme was constituted by them in July 2002. The Review Group has submitted its report on 1st October 2002. The Review Group has opined that since the current LABs only recently commenced functioning, some more time needs to be given to them to observe their performance and help them to overcome their weaknesses. The Review Group has suggested

certain measures to strengthen the existing LABs and has recommended that till these measures are put through to strengthen the existing LABs and they are placed on a sound basis, there should be no licensing of new LABs.

(c) and (d) The other main recommendations of the Review Group are given below:

(1) LABs with their present capital base cannot become viable institution. The existing LABs should be asked to reach net worth of at least Rs. 25 crore over a period of 5 years.

(2) LABs should also be enjoined to maintain a minimum capital adequacy of 15 percent.

(3) LABs should be prohibited from trading in Government securities and other papers during their formative years, say for a period of 5 years.

(4) LABs should not be permitted to engage the services of agents and quasi-agents for achieving their business outreach.

(5) Scheduling of LABs may be considered after they have reached higher capital and capital adequacy and after watching their performance for some time.

(6) LABs should be treated on par with Cooperative banks in the matter of opening of branches falling within their charter.

The recommendations of the Review Group have been put in RBI website for obtaining comments, based on which appropriate decisions would be taken in due course.

[English]

Winding up of State Financial Corporation

1816. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to wind up State Financial Corporations and State Industrial Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

1817. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of departments identified by the Expenditure Reforms Commission for restructuring/ downsizing;

(b) the number of Group C & D employees likely to be rendered surplus, once the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission are implemented; and

(c) the amount of expenditure on the voluntary retirement scheme made available to employees declared surplus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) 36.

(b) and (c) Around 23,400 posts in all Groups have been declared surplus so far by the various Ministries/ Departments and so far 11,485 posts have been abolished. It is difficult to estimate at this stage the number of Groups 'C' and 'D' employees likely to be rendered surplus once the Expenditure Reforms Commission recommendations are fully implemented, as also the surplus employees who would avail the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Visit of US Officials

1818. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the US officials visited India recently and sought India's support on an agricultural pact to be negotiated by the members of the World Trade Organisation at Geneva;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the reaction of the Indian Government;

(c) whether some issues of promoting inter regional trade in South Asia on the bilateral front were also discussed with the US officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):

(a) to (d) The Second Cabinet level meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Forum was held on 22 November 2002 at New Delhi. The discussion focused on the global economic scenario with specific reference to the Indian and US economies. Areas of mutual concern and prospects for the future were discussed. Both sides agreed on the need to promote trade, and considered ways to strengthen trade in services, traditional and non-traditional areas.

Discussions held in the first week of November 2002 with visiting US Officials, covered various economic, business and commercial matters, including facilitation of exports of manufacture products from India and shared interests in various areas of the negotiations underway in the World Trade Organization, including agriculture.

Overseas Investors

1819. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment of the Companies Act in 1999 have hurt the confidence of a section of overseas investors as it tends to help Indian entrepreneurs to dictate terms to overseas stake holders;

(b) if so, whether the Norwegian Ambassador to India has commented that this amendment has added to the factors supporting China as a better place to invest;

(c) if so, whether while speaking at Bengal Chamber of Commerce meet he said that Indian system lacks transparency and consists of many unwanted steps which discourage overseas investors; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export to Other Countries

1820. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exports is limited to certain countries only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to approach maximum number of countries for exporting of Indian goods; and

(d) the percentage of Indian export in regard to information and technology products to America presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, sir. Besides the USA, EU and Japan, the destination of India's exports of merchandise goods include a large number of countries in Asia & Oceania, CIS countries, Latin America, Africa, etc.

(c) Towards market diversification, Government have launched various programmes/schemes from time to time. An integrated programme "Focus LAC" was launched in 1997, in order to explore new markets and to enhance India's trade with Latin American countries. Besides this, "Focus Africa" Programme was launched by the Government in 2002 in order to significantly enhance India's trade with Sub-Saharan African region which *inter alia* include identification of the areas of bilateral trade and investment between two regions exchange of industry and trade delegations, holding of exclusive Indian Exhibitions and Fairs, etc.

The Government is also taking measures on an on-going basis for expanding the export basket and for enhancement of trade to countries of Europe which *inter alia* include Government level interaction through Joint Commissions/Committees, exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, seminars, publicity through our missions abroad, interaction with apex trade bodies in India and abroad, etc. Similar measures are being taken with respect to other trading partners.

A Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07 was also announced this year which includes an identification of focus products and focus markets.

(d) During the year 2001-02, USA accounted for 57% of India's total export of Electronic and Computer Software.

[English]

Import of Tea for Re-export

1821. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the import of plantation commodities for re-export from the country

by multinational companies has affected the indigenous plantation industry especially tea plantation adversely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose a temporary ban on import of plantation commodities for re-export from the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) In the case of plantation commodities tea, coffee and rubber, the import of the commodities for re-export has not affected the domestic industry for the reasons given below:

- In the case of tea, there is only one 100% Export Oriented Unit (EOU) and it is the only multinational company importing tea into India for the purpose of re-export after making some value addition. No tea imported by the company is sold in the domestic market. Import of tea for re-export has been allowed in order to increase the price competitiveness of Indian tea in the international markets and also to cater to the requirements of international buyers which will help in boosting the Indian tea export. The imported teas have also to conform to the quality parameters as prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA). Moreovef, the total quantum of tea imported into India is less than 2% of the total domestic production of tea.

- In the case of coffee, import of coffee in green bean form is carried out by the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) who re-export the same as value added products, contributing to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. The annual average quantum of coffee imports during the last five years is only about 2% of the annual average export of coffee.

- In the case of rubber, duty free import of natural rubber against advance licenses and for EOU/ EPZ units is banned. There is no import of natural rubber into the country for re-export by the multinational companies.

In order to protect the Indian tea and coffee producers, the Government has increased the import duty on tea and coffee from 70% to 100%. In view of the position stated above there is no proposal to ban import of tea and coffee for re-export from the country.

[Translation]

Investment by LIC

1822. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "LIC bhi jokhim me dal rahi hai niveshkon ka dhan" appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated 27th October, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to keep an eye on the functioning of the LIC as to protect the money of the common investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The investments of the Corporation are governed by the provisions of Insurance Act, 1938, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000 and guidelines issued by the Investment Committee of the Corporation from time to time. As per the provisions of law, not less than 50% of funds of the Corporation has to be invested in Government securities and as on 31.3.2002, 57% of LIC funds are invested in Government securities. The Corporation has also been investing a part of the funds in equity market with a long term view to earn higher return for its policy holders. LIC has informed that they have made equity investments in fundamentally strong companies in all sectors of economy over a long period and booked capital appreciation whenever the market provided an opportunity. During 2001-2002, the Corporation invested Rs. 4,755 crore in the equity market and sold equities worth Rs. 1,830 crore, booking a profit of Rs. 723 crore. Similarly, during 2002-2003 the Corporation has invested around Rs. 3,067 crore as on 15.11.2002 in the equity market and sold stocks worth Rs. 847 crore, booking a profit of Rs. 422 crore.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

1823. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for appointment on compassionate grounds in public sector banks;

(b) whether a large number of deceased bank officers and employees dependents have been appointed on compassionate grounds violating the existing norms of appointment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaint in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The appointments on compassionate grounds in public sector banks are made in deserving cases to an eligible dependent of an employee dying in harness keeping in view the financial condition of the family.

(b) to (f) Appointments on compassionate grounds have been made only in deserving cases and Government have not received any complaint regarding violation of existing norms of appointment on compassionate grounds.

Permission to States for Imposing Service Tax

1824. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the number of States including the State Government of Tamil Nadu have been requesting the Central Government to empower the States to collect service tax in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals which have been received by the Union Government, State-wise;

(c) whether the FICCI has also requested the Union Government for the same; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to empower the States to collect tax on services and thus generate additional revenues for taking up social services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The States have taken an unanimous decision to replace their existing sales tax systems with a Value Added Tax system from 1st April 2003. In this context, and also to widen their tax base, all the States have requested that they should be allowed to levy tax on services. The request of the States has also been supported by various trade and industry organizations, including FICCI.

(d) Appropriate action has been initiated in this regard.

Indo-Libya Bilateral Cooperation

1825. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Libya has lifted ban on import of Indian tea and wants to intensify bilateral cooperation in the sectors of power, oil, gas and infrastructure, to push present volume of trade;

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

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Import of commodities including tea from India was stopped National Supply Corporation (NASCO), the Libyan government procurement agency, over the past couple of years, following the non-resolution of trade disputes with a group of Indian companies. During the 8th session of the Indo-Libyan Joint Commission (ILJC) meeting in New Delhi on 9-11 October, 2002, the Libyan side informed that NASCO does not impose ban on registering the Indian companies any more and a number of Indian companies have been already registered. The Libyan side also informed that NASCO was willing to register those companies applying for registration according to the conditions and regulations in force. The companies duly registered shall have rights to participate in bidding for various commodities, including tea and to win the contracts in case their offer was competitive in terms of quality and price. This in effect, amounts to NASCO lifting the informal ban on imports of items from Indian parties.

During the ILJC meeting, the sides *inter alia* agreed on promoting bilateral cooperation in areas like hydrocarbons, power, infrastructure (including railways, roads and ports, building material industry) etc. and identified specific measures for cooperation in these sectors like setting up of joint ventures, technical

collaboration, cooperation in training in the oil and gas industry etc. Necessary follow-up action is taken by both sides for implementing these decisions.

International and External Debt

1826. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita debt both internal and external of country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have noticed any slowdown in economy during these years;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The per capita debt outstanding during the last three years are as follows:

Per Capita Outstanding Debt as at end-March

(Rs.)

	Internal debt	External debt
1999-2000	7135	4281
2000-01	7887	4564
2001-02	8766	4618

(b) and (c) India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is estimated at 5.4 per cent in 2001-02 as per the revised estimates released by CSO in June 2002, compared with 6.1 per cent in 1999-2000 and 4.0 per cent in 2000-01 (Quick Estimates).

[Translation]

Quota of Levy Sugar Allocation

1827. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) the quota of levy sugar being allocated in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is providing the levy sugar on the basis of the 1991 census;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have received requests from the State Governments to increase the quota of levy sugar on the basis of the recent census report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A quantity of 2.16 lakh tonnes of levy sugar is allocated every month for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) to the States/UTs in the country at present. Besides about 1 lakh tonnes of levy sugar quota is allocated to the States/UTs as annual festival quota. However, this festival quota was doubled for the calendar years 2001 and 2002 in order to meet the additional requirement of sugar during festivals. A statement showing statewise allocation of levy sugar as well as annual festival quota is enclosed.

(b) No Sir. Monthly levy sugar quota is allocated on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.2000.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Allocation of State/UT-wise Levy Sugar Quota for Distribution under PDS

(Quantity in tonnes)

S. No.	State/UT	Monthly levy quota	Annual Festival Quota
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9690	7614
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	389	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	834	94
4.	Assam	18337	2896
5.	Bihar	20516	7527
6.	Chandigarh	62	112
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	48	14
8.	Delhi	2610	2316

1	2	3	4
9.	Goa	120	150
10.	Daman & Diu	11	12
11.	Gujarat	5841	4878
12.	Haryana	2485	1924
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4698	608
14.	Jammu & Kashmir ,,	6962	868
15.	Karnataka	8636	5350
16.	Kerala	4103	3600
17.	Lakshadweep	115	22
18.	Madhya Pradesh	12441	5523
19.	Maharashtra	16792	9014
20.	Manipur	1763	208
21.	Meghalaya	1704	200
22.	Mizoram	666	78
23.	Nagaland	1179	128
24.	Orissa	8707	3730
25.	Pondicherry	243	88
26.	Punjab	1385	2392
27.	Rajasthan	7342	5092
28.	Sikkim	391	50
29.	Tamil Nadu	10820	6790
30.	Tripura	2647	302
31.	Uttar Pradesh	33013	15154
32.	West Bengal	14087	7796
33.	Chhattisgarh	4512	2013
34.	Jharkhand	6948	2551
35.	Uttaranchal	6033	782
	Total	216130	99950

Note: Government have doubled the Festival quota for the calendar years 2001 and 2002 in order to meet the additional requirement of sugar during the festivals.

Export of Handicraft Products

1828. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the export of handicraft products during the current year;

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

(c) the quantum of handicraft products exported during the last three years; and?

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets during the current financial year i.e. 2002-03 (April-October) has increased to Rs. 5203.78 crores as against Rs. 4428.76 crores registered during the corresponding period in the financial year 2001-2002, thus registering an increase of 17.50%.

(c) and (d) The quantum of handicrafts products including hand-knotted carpets exported in rupees term during the last three years and the amount of foreign exchanged earned therefrom is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Export (Rs. in crores)	Export (in US million $)
1.	1999-2000	8105.63	1859.95
2.	2000-2001	9270.50	2050.34
3.	2001-2002	9205.63	1942.54

[English]

Ethics Committee for Accounting Firms

1829. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to rework the accounting norms for Chartered Accountants, Company Directors and Corporates in view of the recent scandals unearthed in the United States of America;

(b) whether the Ethics Committee appointed by the Government has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the broad outlines of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) The Department of Company Affairs has not set up any Ethics Committee.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Restrictions on Free Trade by Foreign Countries

1830. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether there are several types of restrictions on free trade in different countries which are likely to continue till 2005;

(b) if so, the names of the countries among them which are the members of World Trade Organisation;

(c) the items on which there are import and export restrictions in these countries; and

(d) the impact of these restrictions on Indian trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) All countries in the world, including WTO Members, maintain some form of restrictions on free trade, these include tariff restrictions and/or non-tariff restrictions. There is no time limit on the retention of all of these restrictions, i.e., all of them are not required to be removed by 2005. However, some non-tariff restrictions like quotas on textile imports which are still maintained by developed countries are required to be removed with effect from 01.01.2005.

Restrictions faced by Indian exporters are monitored to examine the legitimacy of the same. As and when they are found to adversely affect India's exports unduly, they are taken up with the concerned country. Some of these restrictions will also be taken up in the ongoing negotiations in WTO under the Doha Work Programme.

[English]

Hostel Monitoring Committee

1831. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a monitoring committee to monitor the boys and girls hostels meant for the benefit of the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) There is no proposal as such to set up a monitoring committee to monitor the boys and girls hostels meant for the benefit of the tribals. However, monitoring of these hostels is undertaken by the concerned State Government/U.T. Administration through their State machinery. These hostels are also inspected by the officials of the Ministry from time to time.

Credit Relief to Farmers of Drought Hit Areas

1832. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

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

(a) the guidelines issued by the RBI to banks to provide credit relief to the farmers of drought affected States;

(b) the extent up to which the guidelines of RBI have been adhered to by the banks;

(c) whether the farmers from drought hit States have requested the Government to write-off loans for interest

on loans drawn by them from Co-operative and other banks or extend the loan repayment terms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether requests from State Co-operative Ministers have also been received by RBI in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued standing guidelines vide its circular dated August 2, 1984 (subsequently revised in 1998) advising all banks on the relief measures to be extended by them to the persons affected by natural calamities like flood, drought etc. While reiterating its extant guidelines, RBI has recently advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to extend the following reliefs to the farmers affected by drought, in the districts notified by the State Governments.

(i) There should be no recovery of any amount either by way of principal or interest during the current financial year in respect of kharif crop loan.

(ii) The principal amount of crop loan should be converted into term loan and will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers (as against three years stipulated in the existing guidelines)

(iii) Interest due in the current financial year on crop loan should also be deferred. No interest should be charged on the deferred interest.

All Scheduled Commercial Banks are required to adhere to the instructions issued by RBI.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting of Indo-Nepal Governmental Committee

1833. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether a three day meeting of the India—Nepal Government Committee on Trade Transit and Cooperation was held at New Delhi in the month of August this year;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in the meeting and its outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Indian delegation has raised the issue to overcome the problems being faced by the Indian joint venture companies established in Nepal;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Nepal thereto;

(e) whether the trade links between both the countries have been further liberalised; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) A meeting of the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade, Transit and Co-operation to Control Unauthorized Trade was held at New Delhi on August 15-18, 2002.

(b) The following issues relating to bilateral trade were discussed in the meeting:—

(i) Bilateral agreement to Promote and Protect Investments.

(ii) Bilateral co-operation to evolve common standards and measurements to promote bilateral trade.

(iii) Infrastructural improvement on the identified Land Customs Stations on the border including operationalisation of Inland Clearance Depot (ICD), Birgunj, Nepal and rehabilitation of Purnea-Forebesgunj-Jogbani.

(iv) Agreement on Regulation of Motor Vehicular Traffic.

(v) Import of Indian vehicles into Nepal under emission norms.

(vi) Improvement in the facilities for import of Nepalese food articles and other agricultural products including food testing and quarantine testing facilities.

(vii) Relaxation in Anti-Dumping Duty and Special Additional Duty on some of the Nepalese articles exported to India.

(viii) Tariff Rate Quota on some of the Nepalese products to protect Indian industries.

(c) and (d) The Indian side raised the issue of the problems faced by the Indian Joint Venture Companies in Nepal on account of amendments in the Nepalese Labour Law. The Nepalese side appreciated the concern of the Indian side and agreed to take appropriate action.

(e) and (f) The provisions of the India—Nepal Treaty of Trade were reviewed in detail in March, 2002 with a view to promote bilateral trade and to address the problems of the industries on both sides. Details are given in Statement.

Statement

(i) The validity of the Treaty has been extended for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 6th March, 2002.

(ii) The following changes have made in Protocol V and IX with reference to Articles V and IX of the Treaty to improve the earlier provisions in the Treaty:

(a) To be eligible for duty free access into the Indian market, the articles manufactured in Nepal should have undergone a four digit level change in the H.S. Code number of different from those in which all the third countries origin materials used in its manufacture are classified and the manufacturing process in Nepal should ensure atleast 25% value addition during the period 6th March, 2002 to 5th March, 2003 and 30% value addition from 6th March, 2003 onwards.

(b) In case where the condition of four digit level change is not fulfilled, Government of India would consider preferential access for such articles manufactured in Nepal on a case by case basis after satisfying itself that such article has undergone a sufficient manufacturing process in Nepal.

(c) In the case of vegetable fats, acrylic yarn, cooper products and zinc oxide duty free import from Nepal shall be allowed only upto the specified quantities in a year.

(d) The Nepalese products which do not fulfill the prescribed conditions for preferential access to the Indian market, Government of India will provide normal access to the Indian market on MFN basis.

(e) The articles manufactured in small scale units in Nepal will get relief in the levy of additional customs duty at par with the facilities applicable to similar small scale units in India in the levy of applicable excise duty.

(f) In the case of reasonable doubts about the authenticity of the Certificate of Origin, the Indian Customs authorities may seek a clarification from the certifying Nepalese agency and if necessary a joint visit to the manufacturing facilities in Nepal could also be made.

(g) In case where preferential access to particular item leads to injury to the industry in the importing country, joint consultations would be held to address such issues and if consultations do not lead to satisfactory solutions, the requesting Government shall be free to take appropriate remedial measures.

Atrocities on SC/STs

1834. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is an increase in the case of atrocities on SC/STs;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of incidents of atrocities committed against persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes particularly in Tamil Nadu during the period between October, 31, 2001 and October 31, 2002;

(c) the proportion of murder and rape against total incidents; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) to (c) As per the crime statistics of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, there has been a very slight increase of 0.13% in cases in the year 2000 to 29,683 cases in the year 2001. The State/UT-wise details of cases for the year 2000 and 2001 are given in the Statement. So far as the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned, the available data from November 2001 to September, 2002 indicates that there has been 460 such incidents out of which, the cases of murder and rape were 6 and 3 respectively. It may be noted that the number of cases in Tamilnadu fell from 1305 in year 2000 to 537 in year 2001.

(d) With a view to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribes, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to implement provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in letter and spirit. Financial assistance is also provided for strengthening of administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. Implementation of the Act is also reviewed from time to time.

Statement

The total number of atrocities cases committed on SCs/STs States/UTs-wise during the years 2000 and 2001

S. No.	State/UT	Year 2000	Year 2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1784	2056
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	3
3.	Assam	11	0
4.	Bihar	802	657
5.	Chhattisgarh	Not exist	706
6.	Goa	1	1
7.	Gujarat	1647	1247
8.	Haryana	117	150
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63	63
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	13	1
11.	Jharkhand	Not exist	0
12.	Karnataka	1393	1376
13.	Kerala	530	580
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6476	6301
15.	Maharashtra	631	637
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2	1
18.	Mizoram	1	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Orissa	1021	1050
21.	Punjab	40	44
22.	Rajasthan	6320	5915
23.	Sikkim	23	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	1305	537
25.	Tripura	3	0
26.	Uttaranchal	Not exist	125
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7408	8191
28.	West Bengal	0	6
29.	A & N Islands	1	1
30.	Chandigarh	1	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	4
32.	Daman & Diu	1	0
33.	Delhi	13	16
34.	Lakshadweep	1	0
35.	Pondicherry	21	13
	Total	29645	29683

Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

FCI Office at Jalpaiguri

1835. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down the Jalpaiguri District office of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the supply of more foodgrains to Below Poverty Line families in remotest areas will be in jeopardy by this closure;

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the above plan; and

(f) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Foodgrain Distribution in Karnataka

1836. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government for the release of total requirements of foodgrains for the State's Public Distribution System from the Central Pool keeping in view the drought situation prevailing in the State;

(b) if so, the details regarding the demand of the State; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka had indicated the requirement of 8.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains.

(c) A quantity of 2.00 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated free of cost, under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for creation of additional wage employment in the drought affected districts of the State.

Dawki Land Custom Station

1837. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dawki Land Custom Station, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya is one of the oldest and most important Land Custom Stations in the North Eastern region of the country and an entry point of trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether there has been a long standing demand of the people of the region that Dawki Land Custom Station may be designated as the entry point for import of agro-based and horticultural products and for setting up of a Plant Quarantine Office at Dawki keeping in view the growing trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard to fulfil the demands of the people of that region?

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

(c) Present volume of trade agro based and horticulture products do not justify setting up of Plant Quarantine office at Dawki.

[Translation]

OBC List in Rajasthan

1838. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of castes covered in the Other Backward Classes in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the number of castes of Rajasthan which have applied for inclusion in the list of Central Backward classes at present;

(c) the difference in the rules prevailing in various States for inclusion of castes in this list of other backward classes;

(d) whether the Union Government are contemplating to include those castes in the list of OBCs which have been included in the list of OBCs by the other States; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) The names of castes/ communities included in the Central List of OBCs for Rajasthan during the last three years have been brought out vide Gazette of India Notifications No. 241 dated 27-10-1999, No. 270 dated 06-12-1999, No. 71 dated 04-04-2000, No. 210 dated 21-09-2000 and No. 246 dated 06-09-2001.

(b) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has recently received a request for the inclusion

of 'Ramgarhia' caste/community as a synonym/sub-caste of 'Khati, Tarkhan' in the Central List of OBCs for Rajasthan. Besides this, the requests for reconsideration of inclusion of 'Jats' of Bharatpur and Dhaulpur Districts of Rajasthan and 'Bishnoi' caste/community of Rajasthan in the Central List of OBCs for Rajasthan were also received. These were referred to the NCBC for reconsideration. The Commission has informed that these were considered by Commission and decided that since the Commission only tenders advice to the Government in terms of the provision as laid down under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993, it has no power to review its own advice and the requests can be considered only at the time of revision at the end of every 10 years under section 11 (1) of the NCBC Act.

(c) to (e) The Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 16-11-1992 in the case of Indira Sawhney and others Vs. Union of India and others directed the Government of India and each of the State Governments and the Administration of Union Territories to constitute a permanent body for entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion of caste/communities in the list of OBCs. The State Commissions consider cases for inclusion in the State Lists depending upon the Social educational and economic status of a caste in that particular State. The NCBC has formulated guidelines for consideration of requests which include criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

[English]

CII Report on Success of China Industry

1839. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry stated in its report that lower taxes is the key of China's success;

(b) if so, the Government reaction thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to replicate similar steps in India to give a boost to our economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Report entitled 'Learning from China to Unlock India's Manufacturing Potential' by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and McKinsey has indicated that reduction and simplification of indirect taxes in China has boosted demand.

(b) to (d) The Government has been following a policy of rationalisation of tax structure and widening the tax base as an integral part of its on-going economic reforms. The policy has resulted in lower and fower tax rates and a more transparent tax system than before. The Budget for 2002-03 further brought down the peak rate in customs tariff to 30 per cent. It is proposed to further rationalise the tax system. Reforms in tax structure are undertaken keeping in view the specific requirements of the country.

Special Cell to Monitor Drought Hit Areas

1840. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether leaders of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had a meeting in August, 2002 regarding setting up any special cell to monitor foodgrain distribution to the flood and drought hit States for proper implementation of various relief measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) To review the flood and drought situation in Bihar and U.P., a meeting was held with elected representatives of these States in August 2002 n which, inter-alia, the flood and drought situation in these States was reviewed in detail. 25,000 tonnes of foodgrains free of cost have been allotted to the State Government of Bihar for distribution among the flood affected families. 2.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Special Component of the Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for distribution to the drought affected families.

ASEAN Conference on Trade and Industry

1841. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of ASEAN Conference held in the month of October, 2002 in relation to trade and industry in India; and

(b) the steps taken to protect the interest of small and medium industries in India so that they do not suffer the way WTO made them to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The first India-ASEAN Business Summit was held in New Delhi and Hyderabad on 17th and 18th October, 2002 respectively, as a joint Government-Business initiatives. The Summit was organised to develop and deepen synergies, promote policies and strategies for increasing regional business cooperation between India and ASEAN member countries. The Summit Programme featured day-long events at Delhi and Hyderabad with in-depth discussions in various areas like Infrastructure, Oil & Gas, Finance, Tourism, Trade & Investment, Biotechnology & pharmaceuticals, IT and Entertainment. One-to-one business networking meetings and factory/field visits were also arranged.

The issue of protecting the interest of small and medium industries will come up only at a much later stage when exchange of tariff concessions through a possible Agreement on Free Trade Area between India and ASEAN is actually considered.

ADB Loan to States

1842. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States who have been provided Asian Development Bank loan for the last two years;

(b) the names of the States who have applied for ADB loan during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) During the calendar years 2000 and 2001, Asian Development Bank has approved loan assistance to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The ADB Country Programming Mission has in consultation with State Governments and Central Government, proposed loan assistance for projects for calendar year 2002 for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and UP. For Calendar Year 2003, ADB Programming Mission has included projects for possible assistance for the State of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and West Bengal. Government of India has processed the above loans for assistance.

World Bank Loan for A.P.

1843. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with World Bank for $108 million credit (equivalent to Rs. 531.36 crores) for the Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management;

(b) if so, the number and names of districts of Andhra Pradesh where this amount is likely to be utilised;

(c) when the work on these projects is likely to commence; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

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

(b) Project covers 14 districts viz. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nizamabad, Medak, Mahaboobnagar, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Nellore, Chittor and Cuddapah.

(c) The work on Project has already commenced.

(d) The project development objective is to reduce rural poverty through improved forest management with community participation.

It has three main components namely creation of enabling environment for Community Forest Management and Community Development.

The credit has been given on standard IDA terms.

Apparel Parks

1844. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of establishing apparel parks;

(b) the number of apparel parks proposed and sanctioned so far; State-wise;

(c) the facilities provided by the Union Government in setting up these parks;

(d) whether there is any other proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up such parks elsewhere in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) A centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme" has been launched. The objectives of the scheme are as under:—

(i) To give a focussed thrust to setting up of modern apparel manufacturing units of international standards in clusters of excellence which will work as one-stop-shop for reputed international buyers.

(ii) To give fillip to domestic production to meet competition from imports and to promote exports in this sector.

(b) Certain State Governments have forwarded project proposals for setting up of Apparel Parks for Exports in their respective States at viz. Visakhapatnam and Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Surat and Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tirupur (Tamilnadu), Kolkata-Howrah (West Bengal), Bangalore and Bellary (Karnataka), Tronica City and Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Indore, Jabalpur, Malanpur-Ghirongi, Kheda (Madhya Pradesh), Gannaur (Haryana), Thiruvanathapuram (Kerala), Solan (Himachal Pradesh), Bhagalpur (Bihar), Bhubaneshwar (Orissa).

The Project Approval Committee, constituted under the guidelines of the "Apparel Park for Exports" scheme, has accorded in-principle approval to the nine project proposals for setting up Apparel Parks at Tronica City & Kanpur (U.P.), Surat (Gujarat), Thiruvananthapur (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalore (Karnataka) and Tirupur & Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu).

(c) Under the Scheme, Government of India assistance to the tune of 75% of the infrastructure development cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores is admissible. In addition, 100% assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 5 crores is available for setting up of an effluent treatment plant, creches, any multi purpose centre/hall for marketing/display etc. and assistance to the tune of 50% subject to maximum of Rs. 2 crores is available for the cost of any training facility created in the park.

(d) The project approval Committee will review the setting up of new parks from time to time.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Persons Arrested/Released under FERA-1973

1845. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether some of the persons arrested under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 during the last three years have been released till date;

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

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the action being taken under this Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 79 persons were arrested for various violations under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973 (since repealed) during the last years and upto 31.5.2002. All the aforesaid arrested persons stand released by the Courts of law on bail.

(b) The State-wise details are given in he Statement enclosed herewith.

(c) and (d) The Foreign Regulation Act, 1973 stands repealed with effect from 1.6.2000 (with sun-set period available up to 31.5.2002) and replaced by a new Act namely, Foreign Exchange Management Act, (FEMA), 1999 akin to a civil legislation. Accordingly, the same does not contain provisions envisaging arrest during the course of investigation. The FERA cases are now with the respective courts in various stages of trial.

Statement

State-wise Break up

State	Year 1999	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2001 (upto 31.5.2002)
1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	01	01	–	–
Karnataka	10	01	–	–

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	07	–	–	–
Kerala	03	01	–	–
Delhi	13	08	01	
Rajasthan	03	–	–	–
West Bengal	02	–	01	–
Maharashtra	12	10	04	01
Total	51	21	06	01

Restructuring of State Financial Corporation

1846. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the G.P. Gupta Committee recommendations on the restructuring of State Financial Corporations; and

(b) if so, action taken by the Government to implement the reforms suggested in the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Gupta Committee in its report dated 30.1.2001 made recommendations for operational, financial and organizational restructuring of State Financial Corporations (SFCs). The report was circulated to all SFCs to take immediate action on recommendations not involving financial support such as operational and organizational restructuring of SFCs. The process of consultations on recommendations concerning recaptilisation of SFCs is yet to be completed.

[English]

Upliftment of Juang Tribes

1847. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any scheme for the welfare and upliftment of Juang Tribes in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any review has been made on the implementation of those schemes;

(d) if so, the outcome of the review; and

(e) the various steps taken to identify and resolve the problem of these micro tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa have taken a micro project for the upliftment of the Juang tribe in Orissa. The Government of India also provides Central Assistance to the State Government/NGOs under the Central Sector Scheme for the Development of PTGs including the Juang tribe.

(c) to (e) The Government of India reviews the implementation of the Schemes annually. The Government of Orissa has also conducted a baseline survey of Primitive Tribe Groups and will submit an action plan for the development of PTGs in the State including Juangs.

Sericulture Development Programmes

1848. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some externally aided sericulture development programmes are being launched in the country;

(b) if so, the States where these programmes are being implemented and since when; and

(c) the specific organisation funding the projects/ programmes for the development of sericulture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The following externally aided projects/ programmes are under implementation in the country:

S. No.	Name of the Project	States covered	Year of Signing of Agreement	Name of the foreign organisation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Strengthening Extension System for Bivoltine Sericulture in India	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu	2002-03	Japan International Cooperation Agency

1	2	3	4	5
2.	SERI-2000	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu and West Bengal	1997-98	Swiss Development Cooperation
3.	Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project (Earlier known as Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project)	Chhattisgarh	1998-99	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation
4.	Manipur Sericulture Project	Manipur	1998-99	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation
5.	Sub-Programme on Non-mulberry silk of Fibres & Handicraft Programme under CCF-I	Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland	1999-2000	United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)

[Translation]

Reservation Quota for OBC in MP

1849. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh had ever recommended to the Union Government to increase the reservation quota for the OBCs in the State in Government jobs during the period between 1993 to 1998;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have also sent several reminders in this connection to the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the present status of the representation and the reasons for the delay in implementation of the said recommendations?

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

(c) In pursuance of the directions of the President of India dated December 7, 2001 under the provision of Article 201 read with Article 200 of the Constitution, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has already been informed that the Madhya Pradesh Lok Seva (Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anusuchit Janjatiyon Aur Anya Pichhade Vargon Ke Liya (Arakshan) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 1995 be returned to the Legislature of the State of Madhya Pradesh together with a message that the Legislature reconsider it and suitably amend to provide that:

(i) the percentage of total reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes should not exceed 50%; and

(ii) the category-wise percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes should be the same for all posts, i.e., Class I to Class IV.

[English]

Indo-Japan Trade Relation

1850. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-Japan trade relation has been established;

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

(c) if so, the details of new areas identified for the expansion of Indo-Japan trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The important areas of Indo-Japan trade relations include gems & jewellery, marine products, cotton yarn, fabrics, machinery, electronic goods, iron & steel.

(b) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to expand it's trade relations with Japan.

(c) Potential new areas include meat, husked rice (brown), turbo jets, gas turbine parts, bicycles and other cycles.

Spinning Mills Registered with BIFR

1851. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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

(b) the number of mills declared sick during the last three year, State-wise;

(c) the number of cases registered with BIFR; and

(d) the details of mills revived during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) The state-wise number of spinning mills (SSI and non-SSI) in the country, as on 31-10-2002 (P) is as follows:—

State	Spinning Mills
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	107
Assam	6
Bihar	7
Chhattisgarh	1
Delhi	4
Goa	1
Gujarat	86
Haryana	150
Himachal Pradesh	15
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Jharkhand	1
Karnataka	54
Kerala	39
Madhya Pradesh	49
Maharashtra	146
Manipur	1
Orissa	17
Punjab	105
Rajasthan	53
Tamilnadu	1700
Uttar Pradesh	99
Uttaranchal	8
West Bengal	24
Union Territory	
Dadra Nagar Haveli	3
Daman & Diu	3
Pondicherry	11
Grand Total	2692

(b) and (c) BIFR has reported during last three years i.e. October 1, 1999 to October, 31, 2002, 299 cases of textile mills were registered as follows:—

S. No.	State	No. of Cases registered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	04
3.	Goa	01
4.	Gujarat	25
5.	Haryana	05
6.	Kerala	06
7.	Karnataka	19
8.	Madhya Pradesh	05
9.	Maharashtra	66
10.	NCT Delhi	27
11.	Orissa	02
12.	Punjab	14
13.	Rajasthan	15
14.	Tamil Nadu	80

1	2	3
15.	Uttar Pradesh	05
16.	West Bengal	14
	Total	299

Since the inception of BIFR and as on October 31, 2002, 740 cases of textile mills have been registered with the Board under the provision of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. During the last 3 years, i.e. from 1.10.1999 to 31.10.2002, 299 cases of textile mills were registered with the Board.

(d) During this period 13 cases of textile mills have been revived. The details of these mills are given below:

S.No.	Company
	Gujarat
1.	Diamond Textile Mills
2.	Broach Textile Mills
3.	Rohit Mills Ltd.
4.	Plod Machines Ltd.
	Karnataka
5.	Sree Ganesar Textile
	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Gangwal Udyog Pvt. Ltd.
	Maharashtra
7.	Fancy Corpn.
8.	Jay Bharat Synthetics
9.	Sudharsan Synthetic Pvt. Ltd.
	Rajasthan
10.	Banswara Textiles
	Tamil Nadu
11.	Tirupur Cotton
12.	Sree Minakshi Mills Ltd.
	Uttar Pradesh
13.	India Poly Fibres Ltd.

[Translation]

Assistance through SC Finance & Development Corporation

1852. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youth provided financial assistance for self employment by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of maximum limit of amount which can be provided by this Corporation to an unemployed youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) The number of beneficiaries provided financial assistance by the National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSDFC) during the last three years, State-wise is given in statement.

(b) The National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation provides term loan upto 90% of project costing upto Rs. 30.00 lakhs.

Statement

Number of Beneficiaries provided Financial Assistance

S. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5312	14752	25457
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	3	0
3.	Assam	203	588	395
4.	Bihar	-	39	242
5.	Chandigarh	89	56	123
6.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	70
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	9	0
8.	Delhi	83	130	232
9.	Goa	9	21	6
10.	Gujarat	858	5032	4145

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Haryana	29	123	61
12.	Himachal Pradesh	107	104	115
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	51	-	473
14.	Jharkhand	-	-	188
15.	Karnataka	3760	3411	8890
16.	Kerala	333	701	217
17.	Lakshadweep	7	57	-
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1351	1718	1388
19.	Maharashtra	80	675	1243
20.	Manipur	156	120	0
21.	Mizoram	140	2122	-
22.	Nagaland	64	147	-
23.	Orissa	343	390	44
24.	Pondicherry	33	112	96
25.	Punjab	150	78	4
26.	Rajasthan	344	212	348
27.	Sikkim	84	230	109
28.	Tamil Nadu	340	36	342
29.	Tripura	351	177	537
30.	Uttar Pradesh	-	11937	15073
31.	Uttaranchal	-	-	614
32.	West Bengal	1005	18922	15882
	Total	15312	61902	76296

[English]

Director of Companies

1853. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether the DCA has issued any guidelines with regard to the appointment of Independent Directors to a company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the remuneration that is being given to Independent Directors is considerably less;

(d) whether ASSOCHAM has requested the DCA to make certain amendments in the Company's Act accordingly to give proper weightage to the Independent Directors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the DCA in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) ASSOCHAM have made a number of suggestions about Independent Directors covering, inter-alia, areas such as appointment from a panel of outstanding professionals, inserting a definition in the Companies Act, 1956, defining the domain and making appointment in such mandatory, and adequate compensation to independent directors for providing their expertise. Representations received from industry and trade associations are duly considered and appropriate decisions taken on the suggestions made.

Corporation Status to IDBI

1854. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act to give it a Corporation status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to merge IDBI with a public sector bank; 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) Yes, Sir. Government is contemplating to repeal the IDBI Act 1964, and convert it into a company under the Companies Act, 1956.

It is proposed to:

(i) repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964;

(ii) transfer and vest the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to the Company to be formed and registered under the Companies Act, 1956;

(iii) allow such company to carry on banking business in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Property of Revenue Officials

1855. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government keeps a watch on the officers of income tax, custom duty and excise duty who possess more properties than their known sources of income;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of reported corruption and tax-evasion registered against these officers during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of persons one of the above found guilty; and

(e) the number out of the above punished for their offence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Searches are conducted and cases registered by the CBI.

(c) CBI has registered 24 cases in respect of Group 'A' and 'B' officers of Income Tax during the last 3 years as under:

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002 (upto 31.10.2002)
Cases	2	14	8

CBI has registered 21 cases in respect of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' officers/officials of Customs and Central Excise during the last 3 years as under:

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002 (upto 31.3.2002)
Cases	8	9	4

(d) and (e) Insofar as officers of Income Tax are concerned, final report has been received from CBI only in one case where no case of disproportionate assets has been established. As regards the officers/officials of Customs and Central Excise are concerned, two cases are pending trial, one case has been closed on account of death of accused, prosecution has been sanctioned in one case and in one case the officer is facing Regular Departmental Action for major penalty. The remaining cases are under investigation by the CBI.

[English]

Export Quota of T. Shirts

1856. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export quota for knitted shirts and T. shirts to the United States was fulfilled in three quarters of the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether exporters have demanded that the quota be increased; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the export quota for knitted shirts and T. shirts to the United States was filled up by the first week of November 2002.

(c) and (d) India's exports of certain textile categories, including knitted shirts and T. shirts, to United States are subject to annual quota limits prescribed under the bilateral agreement concluded under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which has since 1.1.1995, become part of the WTO Agreement on Textiles & Clothing (ATC). The issue of enhancement of the quota limit for knitted shirts and T. shirts for the year 2002 was taken up with the US authorities, but US is not willing to reconsider the limits already fixed.

ATM of Banks

1857. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) have been installed by each of public sector bank so far;

(b) whether ATM facility has been provided in rural areas also; and

(c) if not, when this facility are to be provided in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per the Biannual Report on "Progress of Computerisation in public sector banks" for the period ended 30th September, 2002 sent by the public sector banks, details of number of ATMs installed by the public sector banks is furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Statistics regarding number of ATMs installed by the Banks is only collected by RBI. Location-wise data is not available.

(c) Opening of ATMs is a subject matter of individual banks, and it is for the bank to decide the place of opening of ATM depending on business viability.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Banks	ATMs installed as on 30.9.2002
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	1138
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	26
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	30
4.	State Bank of Indore	14
5.	State Bank of Mysore	3
6.	State Bank of Patila	49
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	5
8.	State Bank of Travancore	15
9.	Allahabad Bank	43
10.	Andhra Bank	83
11.	Bank of Baroda	34
12.	Bank of India	93
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	44
14.	Canara Bank	135
15.	Central Bank of India	25
16.	Corporation Bank	252
17.	Dena Bank	42
18.	Indian Bank	74
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	58
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	33
21.	Punjab National Bank	192
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	6
23.	Syndicate Bank	31
24.	UCO Bank	14
25.	Union Bank of India	26
26.	United Bank of India	7
27.	Vijaya Bank	18
	Total	2490

[Translation]

Transfer of NISST to ICAR

1858. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology situated in Mau District of Uttar Pradesh has been handed over to the Indian Council of Agriculture Research in principle;

(b) if so, the reasons for not handing over the said complex to the ICAR yet;

(c) the details in this regard; and

(d) the time by which hand over of this complex is likely to be completed?

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

(d) A decision has been taken in principle to transfer the National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST) at Mau in Uttar Pradesh to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The ICAR has sought certain information regarding financial liabilities, pending legislation etc. No time limit has been laid down to complete the handing over.

[English]

SEBI Guidelines by IPO

1859. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has announced/proposed to announce fresh guidelines for the issue of IPOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these guidelines put into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has not announced any fresh guidelines for the issue of IPO in the last 6 months.

SEBI has constituted a primary market Advisory Committee which makes recommendations to SEBI based on representations received from participants in the Primary Market regarding changes required in the SEBI (disclosure and investor protection) guidelines, 2000.

The suggestions made by this Committee are considered by SEBI and if required, amendments are carried out in the SEBI (DIP) guidelines, 2000 from time to time.

Procurement of Arecanut

1860. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from the State of Kerala regarding the procurement of arecanut in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has submited a scheme for Market Intervention of Arecanut (Chali) for the season January to June, 2003. The Government of Kerala has proposed to procure 9000 MT Arecanut during the season at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 65 per kg. As per the guidelines of the scheme, the State Government has proposed to bear 50% of losses on implementation of the Scheme.

(c) In the proposal, the State Government has not furnished the figures of production during the year 2001-02 and anticipated production and the expected prices for the season 2003. As per the guidelines of the scheme this information is required for taking a decision on implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in the State. The State Government has been requested to furnish this information.

[Translation]

Economic Reforms

1861. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken various steps in the past for economic reforms in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed these economic measures; 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) Various economic reforms measures have been taken by the Government since 1991 aimed at accelerating economic growth, facilitating greater investment, enhancing the competitive spirit, reducing the level of poverty, allowing higher provate initiative and achieving greater integration with the world economy. The reforms have resulted in improved growth of the economy, a lower rate of inflation, an overall increase in flows of foreign direct investment, a significant improvement in the balance of payments position, accumulation comfortable foreign exchange reserves and an all round improvement in the external debt indicators. Economic reforms are a continuous process and these measures are reviewed from time to time based on the prevailing situation.

[English]

Closure of Tea Gardens

1862. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI SHIBU SOREN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of tea plantations in several parts especially in North Bengal and Kerala have been abandoned by the tea companies;

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

(c) the number of workers affected as a result thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government or State Governments have taken any steps to solve the labour problems and other consequences arising out of this account; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Some tea gardens in North Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Kerala have been locked out/ abandoned by the tea companies mainly due to a continuous fall in tea prices over the last few years, coupled with high cost of production, which has adversely affected their economy. This has resulted in delays and sometimes non-payment of wages and supply of ration to the plantation workers causing labour unrest. Statewise details of the number of tea estates abandoned/under lock out and the number of affected workers are given below:

Name of the State	No. of tea gardens abandoned/under lock out	No. of workers affected
West Bengal	12	13050
Assam	03	2526
Tripura	04	560
Kerala	06	3250

In addition, 5 estates in Kerala involving about 2500 workers are being run by the workers and the staff in the absence of the management.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has enacted various Acts and Rules to safeguard the interest of labour in India. The Plantation Labour Act and the Rules framed there under govern the various facilities for the tea plantations workers and regulates conditions of work in tea plantations. State Governments are the appropriate authorities to provide various benefits under the Plantation Labour Act, including monitoring of the progress of the various facilities to be provided to the plantation workers under the said Act. The State Government of Kerala have taken steps to provide immediate relief to affected plantation workers which include distribution of free rice to the workers, provision of medical care, education and other basic facilities besides deferment of Agricultural Income Tax. As the present crisis in the tea plantation industry is on account of unremunerative prices for tea, Government of India have taken a number of steps to help the tea industry, which include the following:-

- Excise duty on tea has been reduced from Rs. 2 per Kg. to Rs. 1 per kg. in the Budget 2002-2003.
- The allowance under Section 33 AB of Income Tax Act has been increased from 20% to 40% in the Budget 2001-02.
- A Quality Upgradation Programme is being implemented by the Tea Board for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers in the country.
- Tea Marketing (Control) Order 1984 has been modified to remove the condition of obligatory sale of 75% of tea production through public tea auctions. The producers of tea are now free to sell their teas anywhere.
- The basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 70% to 100% as announced in the Budget of 2002-2003.
- As part of the Medium Term Export Strategy, a communication campaign to promote Indian tea and the logo developed by Tea Board has been launched in Russia recently
- A factory upgradation Scheme has been implemented by the Tea Board to encourage production of good quality orthodox and non reconditioned CTC teas in the country.
- Government has also provided financial incentives to the exporters of tea for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transport/ freight charges.
- The sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) is banned.

- A generic promotion campaign has been launched for improving the consumption of tea within the country.
- A relief package has been announced by RBI, which provides for restructuring/rescheduleument of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc.

Income Tax Refunds

1863: SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the percentage of Income Tax refunds ranged between 5.3 percent to 43.4 per cent of the gross collection between 1997-98 to 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the refunds are also not possible due to shortage of cheque books with Income Tax Department; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for early refunds to the Assessees?

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

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Shortage of MICR Refund Voucher Books with Income Tax Department has some times resulted in delay in issue of Refunds in some of the cases at bigger Urban Places.

(d) The Government has given 'No Objection Certificate' to the Proposal of the Income Tax Department to get Refund Vouchers printed through approved private Printers on the panel of the Reserve Bank of India.

Investment by LIC and Other FI In Backward Areas

1864. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance given to backward areas of various States and particularly in North Bengal Region of West Bengal by Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation and other financial institutions during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of people belonging to Scheduled Caste dominated areas benefited through this assistance, State-wise?

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

Duty Evasion by Export Oriented Units

1865. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS please to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Export Oriented Units (EOU) are evading duty by misusing concessions given to them;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to the notice of Government during the last three years; and

(c) the total amount of duty that has been evaded by the EOUs so far in the last three years, year-wise and EOU-wise?

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

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposals for Investment in India

1866. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for investment in India in different fields have been received from some companies of China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan individually;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received; and

(c) the decision of the Government of those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Citizens or entities, whether incorporated or not, of Pakistan and Bangladesh, and citizens of Sri Lanka are prohibited to make Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in terms of Regulation 5(1) of the Foreign Exchange

Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000 (Notification 20/2000-RB dated 3.5.2000). As per extant procedure, all applications to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) are duly registered and posted on the website at "www. dipp. nic. in". All such proposals to FIPB, including proposals involving Chinese investment, are considered after necessary inter-Ministerial consultations taking into account the sectoral policy regulations as also strategic or defence related considerations.

Performance of Credit Plan in Chandigarh

1867. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the apathy of the participating banks is the main contributory factor for continued poor performance under District Credit Plan and other Welfare schemes in Union Territory of Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the action taken to remedy the situation and achieve the target?

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 the following performance of the Union Territory of Chandigarh under the District Credit Plan (Rural) for the years 2001 and 2002:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Sector	As on March 2001			As on March 2002		
	Targets	Achievement	%Achieved	Targets	Achievement	%Achieved
Agri/Allied	191	261	136	220	318	145
SSI	50	27	53	64	12	19
Services	179	154	86	267	229	86
Total	420	442	105	551	559	101

As regards performance under Self-Employment Schemes like Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) shortfall is attributed to the inadequate sponsoring of cases, poor quality of applications sponsored by various agencies and insufficient number of approval by the Task Force Committee. The performance of banks regarding the credit plan are discussed regularly in the quarterly meetings of the District Consultative Committee (DCC) with a view to register further improvement.

Coffee Production

1868. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the coffee production in the country during each of the last three years alongwith productivity for per hectare of land, State-wise;

(b) the size of average plantation holdings, State-wise;

(c) the consumption of coffee in the country and amount of export of coffee with destination countries, type-wise;

(d) whether coffee prices have been falling down for the last several years, if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of price for the last three years;

(e) whether due to fall of coffee price, coffee growers are facing lots of financial difficulties;

(f) if so, the packages proposed for coffee planters and the alternative programme to maintain prices for the benefit of growers and for earning of more foreign exchange;

(g) whether the Government are planning to install coffee processing industries for producing quality instant coffee in order to attract export markets; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) State-wise coffee production and productivity in the country during the last three years is given below:

(Production Qty. in MT/Productivity in Kg/ha.)

State	1999-2000	2000-01	2000-02	Average Productivity
Karnataka	209100	210950	208670	1045
Kerala	60470	70550	66690	787
Tamil Nadu	19400	16450	21630	705
Andhra Pradesh	2176	2220	2500	143
Orissa	152	180	400	209
North Eastern Region & Non-Conventional areas	702	850	710	88

(b) The size of average plantations holdings-in numbers, state-wise is given below:

Siza (Ha)	Karnataka	Kerala	Tamilnadu	Others	Total
Small Holdings (0-10 ha).	52621	76997	14085	10508	154211
Large Holdings (above 10 ha.)	1918	307	351	24	2600
Total (India)	54539	77304	14436	10532	156811

(c) The average annual consumption of coffee in the country is around 60,000 MT. The quantity of coffee exported during the years 1999-2000-2001 and 2001-02 has been 2.45 lakh tonnes (value Rs. 1901 crores), 2.47 lakh tonnes (value Rs. 1377 crores) and 2.13 lakh tonnes (value Rs. 1049 crores) respectively. The Indian coffee is exported to over 60 countries of the world. Some of the leading countries importing Indian coffee are Italy, Russian Federation, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Slovenia, USA, Japan, Greece, Kuwait, Switzerland etc. The details of destination-wise coffee exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGC&IS), Kolkata, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(d) and (e) In the recent years, the coffee prices have fallen due to surplus coffee production by the coffee producing countries overtaking the consumption of coffee. The price fall has affected all the coffee producing countries including India and the coffee growers in India are not getting same prices today as they were getting 2-3 years ago. The average coffee prices available to the growers during the last three years are as under:

Year	Price (Rs./kg.)	
	Arabica	Robusta
1999	81	60
2000	80	40
2001	56	29

(f) The Govt. of India through Coffee Board has been implementing various plan schemes for development of coffee under which various types of financial/technical assistance are provided to the coffee growers. Further, thrust is being given for increasing productivity of coffee and improving quality of the produce to achieve competitiveness in the international markets. Concerned with the problems being faced by the coffee growers, the Govt. of India have in the recent past taken a number of initiatives for the benefit of coffee growers such as restructuring the term loans as well as crop loans availed by the coffee growers, providing 5% interest relief to small growers on the working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions, package of incentives for export of coffee and innovative marketing strategies in the international as well as domestic markets to arrest the

decline in exports and also to increase domestic consumption etc. In addition, the 10th Five Year Plan programmes and schemes of the Coffee Board have been formulated to ensure long-term development of the sector. Recently, at the request of the Government, the National Bank for Agricultural Rural Development (NABARD) has also set up a "Plantation Industry Cell", for providing prompt attention to the credit related problems of the plantation industry.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan to Gujarat and Karnataka

1869. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank propose to approve a loan of Rs. 54.2 crore dollars for earthquake affected areas of Gujarat and for the two projects of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the time by which the loan is likely to be made available;

(c) the amount of funds proposed to be allocated to the projects, State-wise and Project-wise; and

(d) the time by which the loan is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Madam. There are no new proposals for loans in this context.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Bank Branches in Bihar

1870. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the names of the public sector banks which have been authorized to open their additional branches in various States, particularly in Bihar during the current financial year, bank-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): The names of the Public Sector Banks which have been authorised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open their additional branches in various States including Bihar during the current financial year i.e., from 1st April 2002 onwards are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

No. of Authorisations Issued to Banks during the Current Year, Bank-wise & State-wise

Sr. No.	State	Bank of India	No. of Branches
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Allahabad Bank	2
		Andhra Bank	4
		Bank of India	2
		Corporation Bank	1
		Indian Overseas Bank	1
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
		State Bank of Hyderabad	3
		Total	15
2.	Assam	Punjab & Sindh Bank	1
		Syndicate Bank	1
		Vijaya Bank	1
		State Bank of India	1
		Total	4
3.	Bihar	Bank of Baroda	1
		Bank of India	3
		Central Bank of India	1
		Total	5
4.	Chandigarh	Punjab National Bank	2
		Total	2
5.	Chattisgarh	UCO Bank	2
		State Bank of India	1
		Total	3
6.	Delhi	Andhra Bank	1
		Bank of Baroda	1
		Corporation Bank	1

1	2	3	4
		Onental Bank of Commerce	2
		Punjab National Bank	1
		Syndicate Bank	1
		Union Bank of India	1
		Vijaya Bank	1
		State Bank of India	2
		Total	11
7.	Goa	State Bank of India	1
		Total	1
8.	Gujarat	Bank of Baroda	2
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
		Punjab National Bank	2
		Total	5
9.	Haryana	Andhra Bank	2
		Indian Overseas Bank	1
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	3
		State Bank of India	1
		State Bank of Patiala	3
		Total	10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	State Bank of India	1
		State Bank of Patiala	2
		Total	3
11.	Jharkhand	Allahabad Bank	1
		Andhra Bank	1
		Bank of Baroda	1
		Bank of India	1
		Total	4
12.	Karnataka	Allahabad Bank	1
		Andhra Bank	2
		Canara Bank	5
		Corporation Bank	1
		Indian Overseas Bank	2
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
		Syndicate Bank	2
		Vijaya Bank	1
		State Bank of Mysore	3
		Total	18
13.	Kerala	Andhra Bank	2
		Bank of Maharashtra	1
		Indian Overseas Bank	2
		Syndicate Bank	2
		State Bank of India	1
		Total	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Allahabad Bank	1
		Bank of Baroda	3
		Bank of India	1
		Central Bank of India	2
		Indian Overseas Bank	2
		UCO Bank	1
		State Bank of Indore	4
		Total	14
15.	Maharashtra	Bank of Baroda	2
		Bank of India	1
		Canara Bank	1
		Central Bank of India	2
		Indian Overseas Bank	1
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	4
		Punjab National Bank	1
		Vijaya Bank	2
		State Bank of India	3
		State Bank of Indore	1
		State Bank of Patiala	4
		Total	22
16.	Meghalaya	Punjab National Bank	1
		Total	1
17.	Orissa	Corporation Bank	1
		Total	1

1	2	3	4
18.	Pondicherry	Indian Overseas Bank	1
		Total	1
19.	Punjab	Andhra Bank	1
		Indian Overseas Bank	2
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	6
		Punjab and Sindh Bank	1
		Punjab National Bank	5
		State Bank of India	1
		State Bank of Patiala	7
		Total	23
20.	Rajasthan	Andhra Bank	1
		Bank of Baroda	3
		Indian Overseas Bank	2
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
		Union Bank of India	2
		Total	9
21.	Sikkim	Allahabad Bank	1
		Total	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	Andhra Bank	8
		Bank of India	1
		Corporation Bank	1
		Indian Bank	2
		Indian Overseas Bank	2
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	1
		Syndicate Bank	1
		State Bank of India	2
		State Bank of Mysore	1
		State Bank of Travancore	1
		Total	20
23	Uttar Pradesh	Bank of India	1
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
		Punjab National Bank	3
		Union Bank of India	1
		Vijaya Bank	1
		State Bank of India	2
		State Bank of Saurashtra	1
		Total	11
24.	Uttaranchal	Indian Overseas Bank	1
		Punjab National Bank	1
		Union Bank of India	2
		State Bank of Patiala	4
		Total	8
25	West Bengal	Andhra Bank	1
		Bank of Baroda	1
		Bank of India	1
		Corporation Bank	3
		Punjab National Bank	2
		State Bank of Mysore	2
		Total	10
		Grand Total	210

Selling Fake Stamp Papers and Notary Public Documents

1871. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gang/individual persons involved in selling fake stamp papers, stamps, and fake notary public documents were arrested in October, November, 2002 from Delhi, Gujarat, Mumbai and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated value of seized fake stamp papers;

(d) the action taken against them;

(e) the manner in which the gang and individuals were arrested; and

(f) the concrete action taken/proposed to be taken to check such illegal activities?

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

[English]

Task Forces on Indirect Tax

1872. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the main aims behind constitution of Task Force on Indirect Taxes; and

(b) the details regarding the terms and conditions alongwith the composition of this Task Force and the procedure followed for nominating the members to serve in this Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The main objective of the constitution of the Task Force on Indirect Taxes is to take advantage of information technology and bring the indirect tax systems and procedures at par with the best international practices and thus, encourage compliance and reduce transaction costs.

(b) The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows:

(i) The review of the Customs and Central Excise law and procedures and recommendations on their simplification, reducing cost of compliance and facilitating voluntary compliance.

(ii) Recommendations relating to increased use of automation for a user friendly and transparent tax administration.

(iii) The review of the statutorily prescribed records, documents and returns including periodicity) and suggestions on their utility and simplification.

(iv) Recommendations to provide for in-built mechanism in the procedures for time bound disposal of matters.

(v) Any other recommendation on different aspects of legal provisions and administration to facilitate the tax payers and improve compliance.

The terms and conditions of the Task Force are as follows:

(i) The Task Force should furnish to the Government a Draft Consultation Paper containing its recommendations in 45 days i.e. by 21.10.2002. The same will be made available to the public for feedback and comments by 1.11.2002 which shall be considered by the Task Force and a Final Report submitted to Government by 30.11.2002.

(ii) The Task Force is empowered to interact with departmental officials, trade interests and individuals and visit field formations as it may choose.

(iii) The non-official Task Force members would be entitled to TA/DA as per norms.

The composition of the Task Force is as follows:

1.	Dr. V.L. Kelkar, Adviser to Minister of Finance and Company Affairs	Chairman
2.	Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Delhi.	Member
3.	Prof. Jayanta Roy, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.	-do-
4.	Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, Hero Cycles, Ludhiana, representing CII.	-do-
5.	Shri Sanjay Bhatia, Hindustan Tin Works, Ghaziabad, representing PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry.	-do-
6.	Shri K.S. Suresh, ITC Limited, Kolkata, representing FICCI.	-do-
7.	Shri Nihal Kothari, Hindustan Lever Limited, Mumbai, representing ASSOCHAM	-do-
8.	Shri Y.P. Suri, Rex Enterprises, Delhi, representing FASSI.	-do-
9.	Shri K.S. Ravishankar, Bangalore, representing NASSCOM.	-do-
10.	Shri Deepak Puri, Moser Baer, Delhi, representing Electronics and Software Export Promotion Council.	-do-
11.	Shri Gautam Ray, Joint Secretary, C.B.E.C., New Delhi.	-do-

12. Shri S.M. Bhatnagar, Director, C.B.E.C., New Delhi. — Member Secretary

The procedure followed for constituting the Task Force was to ask the major Chambers of Trade and Industry Associations to nominate their representatives.

Investment by RBI

1873. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI is reducing its overseas investment in foreign securities;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the RBI has increased its holdings in foreign currencies and deposits with greater liquidity; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this change in pattern of investment by RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India makes investments taking the prevailing market conditions and within the framework of Section 17 of RBI Act. RBI has not reduced its investment in foreign securities compared to the position as at the beginning of the year 2002.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) RBI is investing the foreign exchange reserves in some major currencies which have very good liquidity in the international markets. The investment pattern has not undergone any major changes since the beginning of the year 2002.

(d) Does not arise.

Urban Cooperative Banks

1874. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale for excluding the Urban Cooperative Banks from the operational ambit of the Ordinance for Securitisation and Restructuring of Financing assets; and

(b) the data of the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the Urban Cooperative Banks and the policy initiatives taken to recover the NPAs of Urban Cooperative Banks since 1999-2000 onwards, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) At present, only commercial banks and financial institutions are covered under the said Ordinance. However, Union Government can include any other institutions or class of institutions in the provisions of the said Ordinance by issue of a gazette notification.

(b) The data of non-performing assets (NPAs) of urban co-operative banks (UCBs) since 1999-2000 onwards, year-wise, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is as under:

As On	No. of banks	No. of reporting UCBs	Gross NPA's (Rs. Crore)	Gross NPA as a percentage of Total Advances
March 31, 2000	2050	1,748	4.535	12.2
March 31, 2001	2084	1,942	9,245	16.1
March 31, 2002	2090	1,342	11,472	21.9

As a measure to encourage recovery of loans and with a view to instill confidence in the co-operative banking sector, RBI has taken the following measures:

(i) UCBs were advised to initiate penal measures against willful defaulters;

(ii) The Chief Secretaries of all the States/Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies were requested in October, 2001 to consider issue of suitable instructions to UCBs in their States to implement a scheme of One Time Settlement of NPAs on the lines of draft scheme approved by RBI.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Divisions of LIC

1875: SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India propose to computerise all the 89 Divisional Offices to facilitate transactions through internet; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure and estimated ratio of increase in the business?

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 has informed that they have already networked all 100 Divisional Offices in 89 centres all over India. 1421 out of 2048 branches have been networked and the networking of the rest of the branches is expected to be completed in nine months time. The estimated ratio of increase in business due to computerisation is about 15% in policies, 25% in Sum Assured and 40% in First Premium Income.

Waiving of Loans of Farmers

1876. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to waive of the loan taken by the farmers and interest thereon during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the names of those Government and non-government agencies which have granted these loans; and

(c) the total losses likely to be suffered by these agencies on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government have not taken any decision to waive the loan taken by farmers and interest thereon during the current financial year. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with Government, has decided not to effect any recovery of the crop loans, including interest during the current financial year in the States affected by the failure of the South-West monsoon. Accordingly, RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks vide its circular dated 15th November, 2002 that for Kharif 2002-03, the following reliefs may be extended by commercial banks to the farmers affected by drought, in the districts notified by the State Governments:

(i) There should be no recovery of any amount either by way of principal or interest during the current financial year in respect of Kharif crop loan;

(ii) The principal amount of crop loan should be converted into term loan and will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers;

(iii) Interest due in the current financial year on crop loan should also be deferred. No interest should be charged on the deferred interest.

(b) All the scheduled commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks in the country provide loans to farmers.

(c) For reschedulement of loans as above banks will be sacrificing a part of the interest due. However, the above measures have been announced only recently and hence it is too early to assess the quantum of this sacrifice.

[English]

Fake Companies

1877. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 48 companies who have been reported to have circulated fake shares and thus have duped the investors of approximately Rs. 2000 crores; and

(b) the punitive action taken against these companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that no instance of companies circulating fake shares has been reported to SEBI by the Depositories as reported in the press report.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Super Bazar

1878. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of the retail outlets of Super Bazar at present; and

(d) the total value of the assets of Super Bazar at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Super Bazar, the Cooperative Store Limited, New Delhi has been directed by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS), vide order dated 5.7.2002, to be wound up.

(b) while issuing order for winding up of Super Bazar, the CRCS observed that, at present, Super Bazar is on the brink of financial collapse, and that without continuous financial support from Government, is not in a position to carry out its activities.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that, at present, the number of retail outlets is 125, which are all non-functional due to the winding up process.

(d) Super Bazar has negative net worth taking into account the depreciated value of its' assets and the losses accumulated over the years.

[English]

Rise In Foodgrain Quota to Kerala

1879. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for increase in foodgrain allocation in the State quota in view of Christmas and New Year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Multi Level Marketing

1880. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have introduced any guidelines for upcoming Multi Level Marketing (MLM); 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.

Manual Scavengers

1881. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) the details of States which have not adopted the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrine Act, 1993 as yet;

(b) whether all the States which have adopted the Act have so far abolished the employment of manual scavengers completely; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tripura, West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab, Assam, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh have adopted the Act, out of which States of Goa, Gujarat and Tripura have declared themselves as Scavenger-free. The States of Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim have not adopted the Act but have declared themselves as Scavenger-fee.

Foodgrains Scam In Jharkhand

1882. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains meant for distribution for BPL people at subsidised rates under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in Jharkhand sold for profit as mentioned in the Hindustan Times dated August 19, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government have inquired into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the responsible officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) The State Government of Jharkhand has already done the needful in the matter.

Loans for Poverty Alleviation

1883. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lead banks provide loans to that area's persons and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) for poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, the loans advanced by the lead banks for the purpose in Gujarat during the last three years, bank-wise?

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 all scheduled commercial banks including lead banks participate in the implementation of Government sponsored schemes such as Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY).

(b) The performance of banks under SJSRY and SGSY schemes for the last three years in Gujarat, as reported by RBI, are given in Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Performance of Scheduled Commercial banks under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) Scheme in Gujarat during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

Year	Sanction		Disbursement	
	Number	Amount (Rs. lakhs)	Number	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1999-2000	3968	1003.94	3677	907.49
2000-2001	3070	772.00	2831	705.28
2001-2002	3166	929.63	2958	829.05

Statement-II

Performance banks under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana in Gujarat during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Bank	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bank of Baroda	846	1151	823.06	2819.06
2.	Bank of India	159	245	214.06	618.06
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	6	10	8.73	24.73
4.	Central Bank of India	157	237	198.75	592.75
5.	Dena Bank	331	695	630.88	1653.88
6.	Indian Bank	7	11	8.80	26.80
7.	Indian Overseas Bank	15	23	21.57	59.57
8.	Syndicate Bank	14	40	9.66	63.66
9.	Union Bank of India	97	170	117.13	374.13
10.	UCO Bank	16	45	30.63	91.63

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	S.B.I.	432	622	519.03	1564.03
12.	S.B. Saurashtra	287	476	452.80	1215.80
13.	Punjab National Bank	6	15	13.24	34.24
14.	Other Comm. Banks	43	14	9.41	66.41
15.	Gramin Banks	460	973	988.25	2421.25
16.	Coop. Banks	1105	1579	1001.09	580.63
17.	Others Instts.	83	167	174.32	424.32
	Total	4064	6463	5198.41	15735.41

Recognition of Scheduled Tribes

1884. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals who have migrated from Chhotanagpur Division of Jharkhand to Assam to work in tea garden are not recognized as Scheduled Tribe;

(b) if so, the reasons;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has also recommended for inclusion of these tribals in the list of Scheduled Tribe; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) The tribals who have migrated from other States including Jharkhand to Assam as tea garden labourers are not recognized as Scheduled Tribes in Assam as they have not been notified as such in relation to as that State. The Government of Assam had recommended their notification as Scheduled Tribes. The recommendation has been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims.

Rural Sector Obligations of Insurance Companies

1885: SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has announced the removal of stringent rural sector definition that has been acting as a impediment for the new-age insurance companies to meet their compulsory rural sector obligations;

(b) if so, whether the constructive nature of rural and social sector regulations had acted against the development of the rural and social sector insurance; and

(c) if so, to what extent this removal of stringent rural sector definition has helped the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that they have now adopted the census definition of rural areas.This is to ensure better compliance of the regulations and its monitoring by the IRDA. The Authority has also raised obligations of the life insurers toward rural sector. They have stipulated that no insurer shall write rural/social sector business less than what was recorded for the year ended 31st March, 2002. The amendments will be effective from financial year 2002-03.

(b) and (c) The IRDA has reported that the regulations have not acted against the development of the rural and social sector insurance. The IRDA has issued notice to the companies which did not fulfill the rural and social sector obligations. With the new modifications, it is expected that the insurers will find it more convenient to identify the rural sector areas and comply with the Regulatory requirements.

Income earned from Private Cable Network

1886. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) The total income earned by the Government from various private cable network organisation in the country;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring agency to look into and inspect the modus operandi and monthly income of big cable network companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The cases pertaining to the firms/companies/individuals etc. running Cable TV operations have not been centralised. Moreover, no separate record of income from different categories of business activities is maintained by the Income Tax Department

(b) The Government have not set up separate agencies to monitor different categories of business activities and their monthly incomes. As per income tax return, the assessee is required to declare the annual income only.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) whenever any instance of suppression of income or avoidance of tax by any person (including Cable TV operators) comes to the knowledge of the Government, appropriate action as provided in the law is taken to prevent loss of revenue to the Government.

(e) No corrective steps are required to be taken.

Crisis in Tea and Coffee Industry

1887. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether tea and coffee plantations are facing crisis due to very low price for farmers;

(b) if so, whether the delegation of tea and coffee growers have made a number of demands separately to overcome the situation;

(c) if so, the details of their demands;

(d) whether any joint meeting of officials of Finance and Commerce Ministry have been held to find out the solution for problems confronting the coffee and tea industry;

(e) if so, the outcome of the meeting;

(f) whether the Government have decided to lift the excise duty and to raise the import duty stoppage of import etc. to arrest the problems of growers;

(g) if so, the action taken in this direction;

(h) whether import of plantation crops especially tea and coffee for re-export is being suggested by the Government of Kerala and other States; and

(i) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The tea and coffee plantations in the country have been facing a crisis due to low prices and several delegations of tea and coffee growers have represented to the Government for reduction in excise duty on tea, measures to increase both domestic and export demand, suspension of tea imports, tea auction reforms, price fixing mechanism for green leaf, relaxation in repayment of loans availed by the coffee growers, waiver of interest on coffee loans and principal amount and coffee price support measures etc.

(d) and (e) Interaction between the various Departments of the Government of India including Finance and Commerce Ministries, are often held to sort out the problems of the commodity sector, including tea and coffee.

(f) and (g) The Government has reduced the Excise duty on tea from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 1/-per kg. with effect from 1.4.2002 and has raised the import duty to 100% for tea and coffee.

(h) No Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Central Board of Bank Frauds

1888. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Central Board of Bank Frauds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the cases assigned to the above Board so far;

(d) the number of the cases out of the above disposed of by the Board upto 28th February, 2002; and

(e) the number of persons found guilty and the number of those punished during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A Central Advisory Board on Bank Frauds (CABBF) was constituted with effect from March 1, 1999 by Central Vigilance Commission to render advice to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on borrowal accounts in banks and financial institutions. The advice of the Board will not be a binding on the CBI. The Board has been renamed as Advisory Board for Banking, Commercial and Financial Frauds (ABBCFF) w.e.f 8.8.2000. The Board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases where in disagreement with a public sector enterprise bank, financial institution or insurance company the CBI desires to register a Regular Case (RC)/ Preliminary Enquiry (PE) in respect of an allegation;

(i) a fraud in a borrowal account in a public sector bank;

(ii) a financial or commercial fraud in a public sector Financial Institution, enterprise or Insurance company.

(c) to (e) The Board's function is only advisory in nature and it has no executive or investigative powers. Reserve Bank of India has reported that during the period March 1999 to February 2002, the Board had received 46 cases and all of them have been disposed of.

[English]

ADB Aided Projects

1889. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Infrastructural development projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the country State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects and to ensure the specified quality in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Asian Development Bank has funded loan assistance to the following infrastructure development projects implemented by the State Governments:

1. Andhra Pradesh

(a) Rayalaseema Thermal Project

2. Gujarat.

(a) Gujarat Power Sector Development Project.

(b) Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project

3. Madhya Pradesh

(a) Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Development Project.

4. West Bengal

(a) Kolkata Environment Improvement project

(b) West Bengal Corridor Development Project

5. Karnataka

(a) Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project

(b) Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environment Project

6. Rajasthan

(a) Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project

7. Tamil Nadu

(a) North Madras Thermal Power

(b) Second North Madras Thermal Power

8. Multi State Projects/Centre-State Project

(a) Road Improvement (AP, Haryana, UP, Karnataka and TN)

(b) Second Road Improvement (AP, Orissa and UP).

(c) Second Ports (Centre and AP)

(b) The steps taken include, adequate budget provision for projects, setting up of project monitoring unit with executing agencies, periodic monitoring and review, streamlining the procedures for speedy implementation etc.

Pension Fund

1890. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has mooted a proposal for creation of a permanent fund for pension out of the disinvestment proceeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken in this matter?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Mentally Handicapped

1891. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for setting up of new projects for the welfare and rehabilitation of mentally handicapped persons received by the Union Government from the Governments of various States including that of Bihar during the last two years;

(b) the number of projects cleared so far and the financial assistance provided, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications still pending for approval; and

(d) the time by which all the projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERNMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) 159 applications of Non-Governmental Organizations have been received from various State Governments during 2001-02 and 2002-03 under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities for setting up of new projects for the welfare and rehabilitation of mentally challenged persons. No application has been received from the Government of Bihar;

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) 95 applications are pending. Four applications have been rejected.

(d) Approval of the projects depends upon receipt of satisfactory Technical Evaluation Reports, requisite documents and availability of funds.

Statement

Details showing the Number of Projects cleared and financial assistance provided during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (till date)

S. No.	State	Number of Projects Sanctioned	Amount (Rs. In lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	12.34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0
5.	Chandigarh	0	0
6.	Chhatisgarh	1	3.31
7.	Delhi	1	4.09
8.	Goa	0	0
9.	Gujarat	0	0
10.	Haryana	1	1.69
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0
13.	Jharkhand	1	4.25
14.	Karnataka	4	4.82
15.	Kerala	2	1.33
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3	9.1
17.	Maharashtra	7	6.95
18.	Manipur	0	0
19.	Meghalaya	0	0
20.	Mizoram	0	0
21.	Nagaland	0	0
22.	Orissa	6	16.03

1	2	3	4
23.	Pondicherry	0	0
24.	Punjab	2	0.91
25.	Rajasthan	5	14.41
26.	Sikkim	0	0
27.	Tamil Nadu	5	4.23
28.	Tripura	0	0
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2	0
30.	Uttaranchal	2	2.53
31.	West Bengal	6	7.03
	Total	60	95.02

Fulfilment of Commitments by Export Firms

1892. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the process being adopted by the Government to ensure fulfillment of export commitments made by the companies at the time of submitting applications for foreign cooperation;

(b) whether some companies have not fulfilled their commitments regarding exports during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details of such companies; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) As per the extant policy of foreign direct investment, export obligation is applicable in respect of manufacture of items reserved for small scale sector by non small scale industrial undertakings and import of liquor concentrates. Accordingly, the export obligation condition is duly imposed in all such cases. Non-compliance of the export obligation makes the defaulting company liable for action under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and regulations made thereunder. All such cases that come to the notice of the Government are referred to RBI for appropriate action under the law.

Outstanding Income Tax against Industrial Houses

1893. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of income tax and other taxes are outstanding against the big industrial houses;

(b) if so, the total amount of taxes outstanding during the last three years along with the names of industrial houses against whom the said amount is outstanding;

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

(d) whether the Government have so far taken any remedial measures in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and 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 Outstanding Taxes on the basis of classification such as 'Big Industrial Houses.'

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Demands Outstanding against Assessees are in various stages of process, including Appeals.

(d) and (e) Recovery of Taxes is a continuous process involving various statutory provisions such as Charging of Interest, levy of Penalty, Attachment and Sale of Movable and Imovable Properties, etc. periodical review & monitoring of Cases involving High Demands are made by Income Tax Authorities on a regular basis and necessary Instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of Taxes.

[English]

Import of Fruits and Vegetables

1894. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables imported from the various countries during the last two years, country-wise, variety-wise and value-wise; and

(b) the compelling reasons for importing these fruits/ vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The details of quantity of fruits and vegetables imported from the various countries during the last two years, country-wise, variety-wise and value-wise, 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.

(b) Imports of all items including fruits and vegetables, is permissible as per the Exim Policy and procedures laid down in the Handbook of procedures. The Quantitative Restrictions, which were earlier maintained on balance of payment grounds, have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the country's commitment to multilateral trading regime.

Code of Ethics

1895. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the code of ethics evolved for directors of stock exchanges;

(b) whether instances of breach of this code have come to notices of the Government during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken against them for the breach;

(d) whether SEBI have failed to discharge its duty in respect of Section 11 of SEBI Act, 1992;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

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

(g) whether it has also come to notice of the Government that individual stock brokers are discharging their duties; and

(h) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) circular for implementing the code of ethics for directors and functionaries of stock exchanges was issued on May 18, 2001 and exchanges were required to implement the same by August 2001. The code of ethics has the following salient features:

- Exercising fairness and transparency in dealing with matters relating to the exchange and the investors;
- Disclosure of dealings in securities by functionaries and directors of the exchange;
- Avoidance of conflict of interest in decision making;
- Disclosures of beneficial interest by functionaries, and

Implementation of the code of ethics by exchanges required changes in the byelaws of exchanges, which have been made by exchanges. The code of ethics is applicable to the key functionaries of the exchanges including broker directors. It is not applicable to all stockbrokers. In January 2002, SEBI directed that broker directors could not be office bearers of an exchange. Consequently provisions in the code of ethics related to broker directors who were functionaries of the exchange have become redundant. 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. Compliance of various SEBI circulars/guidelines/directives by a stock exchange is looked into at the time of inspection of a stock exchange. Accordingly, compliance with the abovesaid directive of SEBI pertaining to code of ethics would be looked into during the inspections to be conducted in this year (for 2002-03).

(d) to (h) Section 11 of the SEBI Act, 1992 provides that it is the duty to the SEBI Board to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities market by such measures as it thinks fit. SEBI has intimated that it has taken various measures, in the interest of investors and orderly development of the securities market, from time to time to perform its duties effectively.

Recent experience of SEBI during episodes of market misconduct has revealed many limitations in the legal provisions of the SEBI Act. To remedy the situation, an Ordinance amending the SEBI Act, 1992 has been promulgated, inter-alia, to strengthen SEBI's investigation and enforcement mechanism. A Bill to convert the Ordinance into an Act is presently before the Parliament.

SEBI has investigated the affairs of over 60 companies/broker firms/OCBs for violation of various SEBI regulations during the course of investigations into the events leading to the crisis in the stock markets during

early 2001. Action taken, so far, inter-alia, include prohibition of certain brokers from dealing in securities, for example, Credit Suisse First Boston Securities Pvt. Ltd. and cancellation of certificate of registration, for example, of certain broking firms under the Biyani Group, Poddar Group, Singhania Group, Nirmal Banga Group etc. and initiation of quasi-judicial proceedings against them.

[Translation]

Foodgrains to Rajasthan

1896. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains allocated by the Union Government to Rajasthan as relief measure to deal with the drought situation during the last six months;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains distributed among the drought affected people in each district of Rajasthan; and

(c) the total stock of foodgrains with FCI godowns in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) 7.0 lakh tonnes of wheat has so far been allocated to the State Government of Rajasthan for the current drought (2002-03) under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. This does not include the normal allocations of foodgrains to the State Government, under TPDS and other Welfare Schemes.

(b) Statement-I and II showing the quantum of foodgrains distributed under the Special Component of SGRY are enclosed.

(c) As on 31.10.2001, a total stock to the tune of 8.31 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was available with FCI in the State of Rajasthan.

Statement-I

Allocation of Foodgrains to the State of Rajasthan Under the Special Component of the SGRY during 2002-03.

Sl.No.	Name of District	Foodgrains (Wheat) in MT
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	6073
2.	Alwar	4020
3.	Banswara	6987
4.	Baran	1820
5.	Barmer	20431
6.	Bharatpur	2820
7.	Bhilwara	5453
8.	Bikaner	15553
9.	Bundi	1820
10.	Chittorgarh	2820
11.	Churu	7607
12.	Dausa	2633
13.	Dholpur	1720
14.	Dungarpur	6553
15.	Ganganagar	3253
16.	Hanumangarh	2293
17.	Jaipur	11293
18.	Jaisalmer	11293
19.	Jalore	4593
20.	Jhalawar	2633
21.	Jhunjhunu	8467
22.	Jodhpur	10000
23.	Karauli	3013
24.	Kota	1867
25.	Nagaur	9233
26.	Pali	8993
27.	Rajasmand	4740
28.	S. Madhopur	3253
29.	Sikar	7413
30.	Sirohi	2440
31.	Tonk	8000
32.	Udaipur	10907
	Total	200000

Statement-II

Allocation of Foodgrains Under Special Component of SGRY during 2002-03 Sanctioned Vide File No. V-24011/18/2002/SC (SGRY) Dated 18.11.2002.

Name of the State: Rajasthan

Sl. No.	Name of District	Foodgrains (Wheat) in MT
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	12505
2.	Alwar	5436
3.	Banswara	2175
4.	Baran	3348
5.	Barmer	63227
6.	Bharatpur	7658
7.	Bhilwara	8383
8.	Bikaner	51457
9.	Bundi	180
10.	Chittorgarh	5166
11.	Churu	29696
12.	Dausa	4775
13.	Dholpur	1629
14.	Dungarpur	17217
15.	Ganganagar	2536
16.	Hanumangarh	8578
17.	Jaipur	20034
18.	Jaisalmer	42999
19.	Jalore	25584
20.	Jhalawar	6819
21.	Jhunjhunu	12071
22.	Jodhpur	27742
23.	Karauli	12025
24.	Kota	5610
25.	Nagaur	10140
26.	Pali	28623
27.	Rajasmand	14047
28.	S. Madhopur	10317
29.	Sikar	10942
30.	Sirohi	14322
31.	Tonk	15894
32.	Udaipur	18865
	Total	500000

[English]

Benefits to disabled

1897. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the steps taken to extend the benefits of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 by way of identifying the persons eligible for such benefits and setting up the authorities within their reach for such identification and regulation; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in the process indicating the progress so far made in giving effect to this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) In order to ascertain the population of persons with disabilities, data on disability was collected through Census 2001 and is under compilation. The National Sample Survey Organisation is conducting a survey on disability in the 58th round during the period July-December, 2002. Besides, some States have also carried out complete survey, district-wise, to identify persons with disabilities. A special drive for setting up Medical Boards in States/Union Territories has also been launched for issue of disability certificates. Medical Boards have been set up in 398 districts in 22 States/ Union territories for issue of certificate of disability.

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect of deprivation of such rights. Also, all States have set up similar authorities in the States.

(b) The Persons with Disbilities 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 Ministries of the Union Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. Action to implement various provisions of the Act has been initiated in right earnest since its adoption. Existing institutions have bene strengthened. New institutions/organizations have been set up and the outlay for the disability sector have been increased substantially since 1995-96.

[Translation]

Abolition of Posts

1898. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have abolished 12,000 posts in various ministries;

(b) if so, the details of the ministries where the posts have been abolished;

(c) whether the abolition of posts and adverse effect on the department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) On the basis of the Expenditure Reforms Commission recommendations, 11,485 posts at different levels have been abolished so far. Ministry-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed Resewith.

(c) and (d) The abolition of posts is not likely to have any adverse impact, as only those posts have been abolished which have been found to be surplus.

Statement

Ministry-wise details of number of posts abolished

Sl. No.	Name of the Ministry/Department	No. of posts abolished
1	2	3
1.	Information & Broadcasting	334
2.	Economic Affairs	1903
3.	Public Enterprises	15
4.	Supply	996
5.	Steel	6
6.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	16
7.	Chemicals & Petrochemicals	624
8.	Fertilizers	11
9.	Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution	57
10.	Agriculture & Cooperation	214
11.	Women & Child Development	175
12.	Environment & Forests	779
13.	Culture	12
14.	Urban Development	6291
15.	Industrial Policy & Promotion	52
	Total	11,485

[English]

Disinvestment of PSU's and Banks

1899. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the top 15 profit making public sector units in the estimation of the Finance Ministry in the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the top 10 scheduled banks which made profits in the above two years;

(c) whether the Disinvestment Ministry had consulted his Ministry formally to plan for any kind of disinvestment of strategic sale of any of the profit making PSUs and Scheduled Banks as stated above; 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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Schemes for Tribal Development

1900. COL. (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes launched for Tribal development during each of the last three years in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of funds allocated for each of these schemes to Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the total amount allocated for upliftment of tribals have been fully utilised;

(d) the nodal agency appointed by the Government to monitor judicious utilization of funds allocated to state; and

(e) the details of unutilized funds with the States, if any, and the action taken to ensure full utilization released funds by the State?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) A number of Schemes are implemented by the Ministry in different states for development of STs including Rajasthan. A list of Schemes implemented through the state Government is given in statement I. State-wise funds are allocated under the schemes of Special Central Assistance to the Tribal sub Plan and Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. Funds allocated to Rajasthan under these two schemes and their utilization in the last three year are given in statement II.

(d) and (e) The Ministry monitors the utilization of funds allocated to the States. The Statement II provides the details of funds allocated to Rajasthan and the position of utilization.

The following steps are taken to ensure full utilization of funds by the States:

(i) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a prerequisite for further release of funds;

(ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained and reviewed;

(iii) Central Government Officers visit the States/UTs for ascertaining the progress of implementation of the schemes/projects;

(iv) Meetings/conferences are convened with the Secretaries and Heads of the State' Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure timely submission of proposals for the release of funds and to speed up the implementation of schemes.

(v) At the State level, the agencies like the Tribal Advisory Council, Project Implementation Committees of the Implementation Committees of the ITDPs at Block levels and Panchayat Samities monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes in addition to inspection by field officers.

Statement-I

Name of the Schemes implemented through State Governments

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
2. Grants under First Proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution
3. Post-Matric Scholarship
4. Girsl Hostel for STs
5. Boys Hostel for STs
6. Research & Training
7. Educational Complex in Law Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas.
8. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
9. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce
10. Village Grain Banks
11. Development of Primitive Tribal Group
12. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs
13. Book Bank for ST Students
14. Upgradation of Merit of ST Students
15. Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas
16. State Tribal Development Finance Development. Corporation
17. Exchange of visits by Tribal Communities/ delegates

Statement-II

Statement showing Funds Released and Actual Expenditure and Unutilised for different Schemes in Rajasthan State

Rs. in lakh

S. No.	Scheme	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
		Funds released	Actual Exp.	Unutilised amount	Funds released	Actual Exp.	Unutilised amount	Funds released	Actual Exp.	Unutilised amount
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	2915.24	3355.46	(-)440.22	2915.24	3260.51	(-)345.31	3649.56	3721.21	(-)71.65
2.	Grant Under Article 275 (1) on the Constitution	800.29	300.00	500.29	1700.00	1200.00	500.00	2550.00	3006.33	(-)456.33

(-) denotes expenditure exceeding Central Allocation.

Trade Agreements between India Nepal

1901. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) the details of revised Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty;

(b) the changes made in the earlier treaty;

(c) whether Nepal Government has asked for further certain modifications to the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty which was renewed in March, 2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons forwarded for changes in treaty; and

(f) the reaction of the Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The India-Nepal Treaty of trade was reviewed and revised through exchange of letters by Commerce Secretaries on 2nd March, 2002. The salient features of the revised Treaty alongwith the important changes carried out in the reviewed Treaty over the corresponding provisions in the earlier Treaty are given below:-

(i) The validity of the Treaty has been extended for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 6th March, 2002.

(ii) The following changes have made in Protocol V and IX w.r.t. Articles V and IX of the Treaty to improve the earlier provisions in the Treaty:

(a) To be eligible for duty free access into the Indian market, the articles manufactured in Nepal should have undergone a four digit level change in the H.S. Code number different from those in which all the third countries origin materials used in its manufacture are classified and the manufacturing process in Nepal should ensure at least 25% value addition during the period 6th March, 2002 to 5th March, 2003 and 30% value addition from 6th March, 2003 onwards.

(b) In cases where the condition of four digit level change is not fulfilled, Government of India would consider preferential access for such articles manufactured in Nepal on a case by case basis after satisfying itself that such article has undergone a sufficient manufacturing process in Nepal.

(c) In the case of vegetable fats, acrylic yarn, copper products and zinc oxide duty free import from Nepal shall be allowed only upto the specified quantities in a year.

(d) For the Nepalese products which do not fulfill the prescribed conditions for preferential access to the Indian market, Government of India will provide normal access to the Indian market on MFN basis.

(e) The articles manufactured in small scale units in Nepal will get relief in the levy of additional customs duty at par with the facilities applicable to similar small scale units in India in the levy of applicable excise duty.

(f) In the case of reasonable doubts about the authenticity of the Certificate of Origin, the Indian

Customs authorities may seek a clarification from the certifying Nepalese agency and if necessary a joint visit to the manufacturing facilities in Nepal could also be made.

(g) In case where preferential access to a particular item leads to injury to the industry in the importing country, joint consultations would be held to address such issues and if consultations do not lead to satisfactory solutions, the requesting Government shall be free to take appropriate remedial measures.

(c) to (f) His Majesty's Government of Nepal requested for removal of copper products under Chapter 74 of H.S. Code from the list of Tariff Rate Quota items on the ground that the quantitative ceiling of 7,500 MTs per annum prescribed under Annexure-C to the revised Treaty of Trade is not sufficient to meet the requirements of their manufacturing units. Government of India have considered this request and is considering the increase of the quantitative ceiling suitably for copper products under Chapters 74 and heading 85.44 of H.S. code.

[Translation]

Tribal Literacy Rate

1902. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in the country, State-wise;

(b) the literacy rate in Maharashtra especially of Malegaon region which is totally a tribal area; and

(c) the special schemes/programmes being undertaken by the Government to bring the literacy rate of this tribe at par with National level and the time by which this rate is expected to be brought at par with national level?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) As per the 1991 census, the Literacy rate in Malegaon was 54.99%.

(c) In addition to the Schemes implemented by the Department of Education, Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes viz., (i) Girls Hostels for STs, (ii) Boys Hostel for STs, (iii) Establishment of Ashram Schools in the TSP Area, (iv) Post Matric Scholarship for ST students, (v) Book Bank Scheme, (vi) Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for the development of women's literacy, are being implemented exclusively for STs, which focus on the educational development of tribals.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Literacy Rate
	States	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.45
3.	Assam	49.16
4.	Bihar	26.78
5.	Goa	42.91
6.	Gujarat	36.45
7.	Himachal Pradesh	47.09
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	
9.	Karnataka	36.01
10.	Kerala	57.22
11.	Madhya Pradesh	21.54
12.	Maharashtra	36.69
13.	Manipur	53.63
14.	Meghalaya	46.17
15.	Mizoram	82.71
16.	Nagaland	60.59
17.	Orissa	22.31
18.	Rajasthan	19.44
19.	Sikkim	59.01
20.	Tamil Nadu	27.89
21.	Tripura	40.37
22.	Uttar Pradesh	35.70
23.	West Bengal	27.78
	Union Territories	
24.	A & N Islands	56.62
25.	D & N Haveli	28.21
26.	Daman & Diu	52.91
27.	Lakshadweep	80.58
	India	29.60

* Excludes figures of J&K where 1991 census was not taken.

[English]

Procurement of Rice

1903. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the quantity of foodgrains procured during the last three years and till date and the price at which the procurement was made, State-wise;

(b) the value of foodgrains sold during each of the last three years alongwith the price at which the foodgrains has been sold, State-wise and foodgrains-wise;

(c) whether the farmers are being exploited through such procurements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) A statement-I showing the State-wise quantity of wheat and rice procured for Central Pool since 1999-2000 Marketing Season is enclosed.

The Minimum Support Prices fixed for procurement of wheat and paddy during the last three marketing seasons are as under:-

(Rs. per qtl.)

Marketing Season	Wheat	Paddy	
		Common	Grade-A
1999-2000	550	490	520
2000-2001	580	510	540
2001-2002	610	530	560
2002-2003	620	530*	560*

*Special drought relief prices of Rs. 20/- per qtl, for paddy allowed over and above the MSP.

A statement-II showing the State-wise prices for procurement of levy rice from rice millers/dealers is enclosed.

(b) Wheat and rice are issued to the State Governments/UTs for the Central Pool at the uniform Central Issue Prices (CIP) for distribution under TPDS. The CIPs fixed during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. per qtl.)

Effective from	CIP of wheat		CIP of Rice	
	BPL	APL	BPL	APL
29.1.99	250	650	350	905
1.4.99	250	682	350	905
1.4.2000	450	900	590	1180
25.7.2000	415	830	565	1130
12.7.2001	415	610	565	830
1.4.2002	415	510	565	730
1.7.2002	415	610	565	830

The end retail prices are fixed by the State Governments/UTs after adding their transport cost, retailer's margin etc.

The total quantity of wheat and rice lifted by the State Govenrments/UTs at the uniform CIPs under TPDS are as under:-

(In lakh tonnes)

Financial Year	Wheat	Rice	Total
1999-2000	57.6	113.1	170.7
2000-2001	39.7	77.4	117.1
2001-2002	56.8	81.5	138.3
2002-2003 (April-September)	36.6	48.1	84.7

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The procurement under price support scheme is aimed to ensuring benefits of MSP to the farmers.

Statement-I

State-wise Procurement of Rice and Wheat during Marketing Seasons 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

(Figures in'000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	1999-2000		2001-01		2001-02		2002-03*	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
Andhra Pradesh	5498	–	7174	–	6425	–	28	–
Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Assam	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bihar	–	–	19	–	89	43	–	–
Chandigarh	15	–	16	–	–	12	–	–
Chhatisgarh	–	–	857	–	1922	–	Neg.	–
Delhi	6	2	–	–	–	50	–	35
Gujarat	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Haryana	987	3870	1481	4498	1484	6407	1127	5888
Himachal Pradesh	–	–	1	–	1	2	Neg.	2
Jammu & Kashmir	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Karnataka	111	–	230	–	137	–	–	–
Madhya Pradesh	1104	542	176	351	273	294	Neg.	424
Maharashtra	51	–	34	–	129	–	3	–
Orissa	889	–	918	–	1253	–	–	–
Pondicherry	9	–	40	–	11	–	–	–
Punjab	6815	7832	6963	9424	7282	10560	7093	9863
Rajasthan	32	637	26	539	39	676	27	461
Tamil Nadu	919		1695		852	–	–	–
Uttar Pradesh	1422	1261	1174	1545	1936	2446	10	2111
Uttaranchal	–	–	42	–	235	140	12	183
West Bengal	351	–	434	–	48	–	–	–
Total	18229	14144	21280	16357	22126	20630	830	19025

*Position as on 22.11.2002.

Statement-II

Statement Showing State-wise Prices of Levy Rice (Raw & Parboiled) of Kharif Marketing Season 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rupees per quintal)

S.No.	State	Raw Rice				Parboiled			
		Common		Grade 'A'		Common		Grade 'A'	
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	935.10	970.30	985.00	1020.10	931.00	956.20	980.10	1006.20
2.	Assam	879.10	914.30	926.00	960.90	875.80	901.00	921.80	947.00
3.	Bihar	895.10	930.30	942.60	977.80	891.60	916.80	938.50	963.70
4.	Chandigarh	911.10	946.30	959.50	994.70	907.40	932.80	955.10	980.30
5.	Delhi	937.50	972.70	987.40	1022.60	933.40	958.60	982.60	1007.80
6.	Gujarat	859.10	894.30	904.60	939.80	856.10	881.30	901.00	926.20
7.	Harayana	939.10	974.30	989.10	1022.80	935.00	960.20	984.30	1009.50
8.	Karnataka	863.10	898.30	908.80	944.00	860.10	885.30	905.10	930.30
9.	Madhya Pradesh	872.70	907.90	919.00	954.20	869.50	894.70	915.10	930.30
10.	Maharashtra	863.10	898.60	909.20	944.40	860.50	885.70	905.60	940.70
11.	Orissa	903.10	938.30	951.10	986.30	899.50	924.70	946.80	972.70
12.	Pondicherry	855.10	890.30	900.40	935.60	852.20	877.40	896.80	922.00
13.	Punjab	939.10	974.30	989.10	1024.30	935.00	960.20	984.30	1009.50
14.	Rajasthan	915.90	951.10	964.60	999.80	912.10	937.30	960.10	985.30
15.	Uttar Pradesh	903.10	938.30	951.10	986.30	899.50	924.70	946.80	972.00
16.	West Bengal	875.10	901.30	921.50	956.70	871.90	897.10	917.60	942.80
17.	Chhattisgarh	871.10	906.30	917.30	952.50	868.00	893.10	913.50	938.70
18.	Uttaranchal	883.10	938.30	930.00	986.30	879.80	924.70	946.80	972.00

Satyam Committee Report

1904. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Satyam Committee report on Textiles submitted to the Government three years ago have not yet been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) to (c) Such of the recommendations of the Expert Committee Report as were found acceptable were incorporated in National Textile Policy 2000 announced by the Government in November 2000. The Ministry of Textiles has since been in process of implementation of

National Textile Policy 2000, which covers majority of the recommendations of Sathyam Committee Report.

Need for Improving Anti-Dumping Agreements

1905. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has stressed the need for improving the anti-dumping agreement and removal of the provisions that are trade distortionary and prone to abuse and misuse by countries which are more adept in blending and interpreting various legal provisions;

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

(c) whether though the Indian exporters have been subjected to a number of actions by other countries, India is yet to initiate any action for imposition of countervailing duty; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has sought certain improvements in the Anit-dumping Agreement.

(b) the Doha Ministerial mandate of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides for negotiations aimed at improving and clarifying the disciplines under the Anti-dumping Agreement. India has submitted a proposal to WTO's Negotiating. Group on Rules highlighting some issues for seeking classifications and improvements so as to ensure that the Anti-dumping Agreement is not misused for projectionist purposes.

(c) and (d) While Indian exporters have been subjected to countervailing duty actions by certain countries, the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties, in the absence of any representation or specific complaint in this regard, has so far not initiated any case for imposition of countervailing duty under the provisions of WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

Encouragement of Cotton Growers

1906. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been supplying cotton seeds at subsidized rates to the cotton growers in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to encourage the growth of only one variety of cotton instead of different variety of cotton in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the variety of cotton being encouraged in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) Assistance @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1000/- per quintal of varieties (both hybrids/non-hybrids) notified during the last 15 years is provided for the distribution of certified seed of cotton to the cotton growers cotton growing States including Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Government of India has not encouraged the growth of only one variety of cotton in Karnataka. However, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), in addition to its primary responsibility of purchase under support price operations/commercial operations, has taken steps to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton. The developmental activities of CCI, *inter alia*, includes supply of certified seeds to the cotton growers at subsidized rates (50% discount for non-hybrids and 25% discount for hybrids) and Village Adoption Programme on the principle of 'one village one variety concept' to avoid admixture of different varieties of cotton. The assistance is not limited to any particular variety or hybrid.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes under Export Promotion

1907. 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 "Export Promotion and Market Development" scheme under the welfare schemes meant for others;

(b) the formula adopted by the Government to provide loans, grants and other financial assistance under these schemes;

(c) the contribution or financial share of the State Governments in these schemes; and

(d) the schemes/programmes being run directly by the Central Government, State Government and other

voluntary organisations separately under the "Export Promotion and Market Development" scheme in Rajasthan since April 1, 1998?

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]

ADB Report on NPA of Banks

1908. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank in its report has revealed that high NPAs in banks has affected adversely on the effectiveness of the monetary policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the impact of NPAs on economy of the country; 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. The Asian Development Outlook 2002 mentions that "The overhang of NPAs remained a factor in structurally high intermediation costs in the banking and non-banking sectors, and, together with the high cost of funds and non interest operating expenses, somewhat limited the downward flexiblity of interest rates and, therefore, the effectiveness of monetary policy".

(c) and (d) While no specific assessment has been made of the impact of non-performing assets of Banks and Financial Institutions on the economy of the country, Government and RBI are concerned about NPAs and have been evolving and implementing a recovery policy.

[Translation]

Branches of Foreign Banks

1909. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

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

(a) the bank-wise number of the branches of foreign bank set up in the country;

(b) whether the Government provide any facilities to the foreign banks to enable them to open their branches in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received applications from foreign banks for opening up additional branches in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and decision taken by the Government in this regard, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The details of the number of branches of foreign banks in India, bank-wise, as on 31st October, 2002, is given in the statement-I.

(b) and (c) No facilities are provided by the Government to foreign banks for setting up their branches.

(d) and (e) On the basis of applications received, Government has allowed six foreign banks for opening of 16 addiional branches in the country. The center-wise and bank-wise details are given in the Statement-II.

Statement I

As on 31st October 2002

	Name of the Bank	No. of Branches
1	2	3
1.	ABN AMRO Bank N.V.	12
2.	Antwerp Diamond Bank	1
3.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd	2
4.	American Express Bank Ltd.	4
5.	Arab Bangladesh Bank	1
6.	Bank International Indonesia	1
7.	Bank Muscat International (SAOG)	1
8.	Bank of America N.T. & S.A.	5
9.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC	2
10.	Bank of Ceylon	1

1	2	3
11.	Bank of Nova Scotia	5
12.	Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd.	4
13.	Banque Nationale De Paris	8
14.	Barclays Bank PLc	2
15.	China Trust Commercial Bank	1
16.	Cho Hung Bank	1
17.	Citibank N.A.	19
18.	Commerzbank AG	1
19.	Credit Agricole Indo Suez	2
20.	Credit Lyonnils	4
21.	Deutsche bank (Asia)	5
22.	Development Bank of Singapore Ltd.	1
23.	Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.	31
24.	ING Bank N.V.	2
25.	JP Morgan Chase Bank	1
26.	KBC Bank N.V.	1
27.	Krung Thai Bank Pcl	1
28.	Mashreq Bank psc	2
29.	Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.	1
30.	Oman Inernational Bank S.A.O.G.	2
31.	Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd.	1
32.	Siam Commercial Bank Ltd.	1
33.	Societe Generale	4
34.	Sonali Bank	2
35.	Standard Chartered Bank/Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank Ltd.	62
36.	State Bank of Mauritius Ltd.	3
37.	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation	2
38.	Toranto Dominion Bank	1
39.	UFJ Bank Limited	1
	Total	201

Statement II

Bank-wise details of New Centres of Foreign Banks in India

Bank	Centres
Citi Bank	Surat, Lucknow, Noida, Kolkata, Trivandrum
HSBC	Bangalore, Thane, New Delhi
Standard Chartered Bank	Bhopal, Surat, Howrah Jalandhar
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	New Delhi
Arab Bangladesh Bank	Kolkata
ABN Amro Bank	Mumbai Kolkata

[English]

GDP Growth

1910. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the confronted with the challenging task of doubling per capita income and accelerating GDP growth to 8 per cent per annum. Planning Commission have sought a whopping 18 per cent in gross budgetary support for the 2003-04 annual plan;

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

(c) the present position of request; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Planning Commission have proposed a budgetary support of Rs. 1,34,064 crore for the Annual Plan 2003-04 as against the budgetary support of Rs. 1,13,500 crere for the current year's (2002-03)

Annual Plan, in order to fulfill National Development Council mandated objectives for the Tenth Plan i.e. doubling per capita income in ten years and growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 8 per cent per annum. Government's proposal in this regard will be placed before the Parliament for consideration alongwith the annual budget, 2003-04.

Organisation of Rice Exporting Countries

1911. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has gained a lead over Thailand and Vietnam in the global rice export trade by outpricing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during a recent meet in Bangkok a proposal was mooted for the formation of an Organisation of Rice Exporting Countries of which India is dominant player; and

(d) if so, the extent to which India agreed with the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The details of exports of rice (milled) by the major rice exporting countries during the period 2001-03 are as under:

(in million tonnes)

Country	2001	2002	2003
Thailand	7.5	7.1	7.5
Vietnam	3.5	3.0	3.4
USA	2.5	3.1	3.1
India	1.9	5.0	4.5
Pak	2.3	1.4	1.4

(Source: FAO, Food Outlook No. 4—October, 2002)

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Participation of India in any agreement on this matter will depend on its scope and coverage.

Committee on Anti-Dumping Investigations

1912. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to look into the laws and procedures governing anti-dumping investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said group has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have examined the said report; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) A Committee was constituted by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied duties (DGAD), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry under the chairmanship of the Designated Authority on 27th April, 2001 to facilitate and streamline anti-dumping investigations. The Committee consisted of senior officers of the Deparment of Revenue, Department of Commerce, officers of the DGAD as well as legal expert sfrom the panel of lawyers appointed by the Government of India. The Committee submitted its report to the Minister for Commerce & Industry, which was approved on 5.7.2002. As the recommendations relate to modification of various provisions under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (as amended in 1995), the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue have been requested to take necessary action as suggested by the Committee.

[Translation]

Construction of Educational Complex

1913. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on constructing educational complex for vocational training of Scheduled Tribe girls in tribal areas during the year 1999 to October 2002;

(b) the total number of girls benefited; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for evaluating the development schemes being implemented in tribal areas especially Jharkhand State?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The educational complexes are set up to impart education to tribal girls in low literacy projects. The scheme, after revision in 1998-99, has no construction component. During he period 1999 to October, 2002 no fresh sanction for construction was given to any organization. However, Rs. 18.36 lakhs were sanctioned to four organizations towards the 2nd installment of a construction grant against sanctions issued prior to 1998-99. The expenditure incurred during the period 1999-2000 to October, 2002 to set up and maintain the complexes in rented/organization owned buildings and the number of tribal girls benefited are:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)	Number of tribal girls benefited (Approx.)
1999-2000	1.84	1940
2000-2001	1.02	1075
2001-2002	3.99	4200
Up to Oct., 2002	1.03	8420

(c) The scheme provides for annual inspection of each of the Educational Complexes by State Government/ District Authorities. The officers/officials of the Ministry have also been inspecting the activities of the organization wherever it is felt necessary. Further, the Ministry has assigned, in May, 2002, study to Haryali Centre for Rural Development, 192/2, Street 5 A, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-25 to conduct an evaluation of Educational Complexes being run by NGOs in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Imposition of Anti-dumping Duties

1914. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether Director General of Anti-Dumping has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duties on import of several other items from some countries;

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

(c) the details of items at present for which DGAD have imposed duties.

(d) whether inferior quality products are flooding the markets in spite of imposition of anti-dumping duties; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to check such trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) has so far initiated Anti-dumping investigations into 142 cases. The present status of these cases is given below:

Cases in which final findings have been issued	106
Cases in which preliminary findings have been brought out and further proceedings are on	16
Cases under investigation for preliminary findings	16
Cases initiated but closed	4
Total	142

The countries prominently figuring in Anti-dumping investigations are China, EU, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, USA, Signapore and Russia.

The major product categories on which Anti-dumping duty has been levied are Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Fibres/Yarns, Steel & other Metals and Consumer Goods.

(d) and (e) The purpose of Anti-dumping duties is to counteract trade distortion causes by dumping and the consequential injury to the doemstic industry. The imposition of anti dumping measures does not restrict imports from the subject countries.

Norms for Mutual Fund

1915. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has relaxed norms for mutual Funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some private Mutual Funds have collected a lot of money from investors and disappeared from the market; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

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.

Forex Transactions

1916. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forex transactions within India have become live settlement from November, 2002;

(b) whether Clearing Corproation has started live foreign exchange transactions of Indian banks from November, 2002;

(c) if so, the benefits thereof;

(d) the concept of Clearing Corporation of India Limited; and

(e) the manner in which it is beneficial for Indian economy?

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 the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) has commenced its forex clearing operations from 8th November, 2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The forex settlement system of CCIL will provide a platform for multilateral netting of inter-bank USD/INR transactions which will result in substantial reduction in the settlement risk of counterparty banks, cost reduction and prompt reconciliation of accounts.

(d) and (e) CCIL acts as a centerlised clearing house for clearing and settlement of trades in Government securities, other debt, money market instrument and inter bank USD/INR transactions. It will ensure efficient and orderly settlement while providing operational flexibility at lower cost to its members and the settlement through CCIL will enhance the safety of the markets.

Export of Sandal Wood

1917. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lost its position as leading exporting nation of sandalwood;

(b) if so, the reasons for this situation; and

(c) the corrective steps the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As per the Export Import Policy of Government of India, export of sandal wood is prohibited, since 1992.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rules for Foreign Capital Investment

1918. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) the total foreign investment made in the country so far and investment made by the non-resident Indians in the country as on date country-wise; and

(b) the details of restrictions imposed in regard to withdrawal of capital and abandonment of projects funded by foreign capital investment in the country?

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.

[English]

Increase in Wages

1919. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the wages of textile workers working in NTC mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no parity of wages of the workers for the same type of work being done in various NTC mills; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to equalize the wages?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Wages of workers in mills are governed by Region-cum-Wage Awards and would vary from Region to Region. Apart from this, some Staff Associations' of NTC mills have filed a petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking parity wth the salaries of employees working in Corproate offices. The case is currently pending in the Court.

Use of Surplus Fund by Regulatory Authorities

1920. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regulatory Authorities including SEBI and IRDA are not depositing their surplus funds to the public accounts of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount collected by authorities as fees and penalties imposed since their inception;

(d) the utilisation of these funds by these authorities; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to get these funds credited to the public account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As far as the Securities and Exchange board of India (SEBI) is concerned, through the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002 promulgated on 29th October, 2002, all sums realised by way of penalties and fines are to be credited into the Consolidated Fund of India. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has been directed to credit all money in the IRDA Fund into Public Accounts of India.

(c) and (d) The details of fees and penalties collected by the SEBI from the year 1993-94 to 2001-2002 are as follows:

Year	Amount of fees collected	Amount of penalty collected
1	2	3
1993-1994	Rs. 1,589.94 lakhs	Nil
1994-1995	Rs. 2,549.78 lakhs	Nil
1995-1996	Rs. 3,127.70 lakhs	Nil
1996-1997	Rs. 2,535.42 lakhs	Nil
1997-1998	Rs. 1,895.50 lakhs	Rs. 4.60 lakhs
1998-1999	Rs. 2,039.29 lakhs	Rs. 1.65 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 2,774.74 lakhs	Rs. 29.00 lakhs
2000-2001	Rs. 6,132.82 lakhs	Rs. 60.98 lakhs
2001-2002	Rs. 9,741.24 lakhs	Rs. 97.14 lakhs

SEBI has been utilising these funds for meeting the expenditure on the salaries, allowances, other remuneration of members, officers and other employees of the Board and the expenses of the Board in the discharge of its functions. So far as other regulatory agencies are concerned, the information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002, all sums realised by way of penalties are required to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Visit of Economic Affairs Under Secretary of USA

1921. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Under Secretary of Economic Affairs of USA visited New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the discussion held between the two countries; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Alan Larson visited New Delhi during 7-9 November, 2002.

(b) His visit provided an opportunity to review progress in India-U.S. economic relations and exchange views on international economic issues.

(c) The two sides agreed to intensify and strengthen the India-U.S. Bilateral Economic Dialogue, comprising the Financial and Economic Forum, Working Group on Trade Policy, Commercial Dialogue, Energy Consultations and Environment Cooperation. During Under Secretary Larson's visit, an India-U.S. Biotechnology Alliance was launched in partnership with the private sector.

Offloading of Shares

1922. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the attnetion of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Coca-Cola to offload 49 p.c." as reported in the Hindu dated August 17, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Coca Cola has complied with the Government orders given earlier in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the present status of the company in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the company for not following the Government rules and orders?

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

(b) and (c) Hindustan Coca Cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (HCCH) has been granted approval on 17.7.97 for setting up two wholly held Indian subsidiaries for production and distribution of non-alcoholic beverages. The above approval was subject to the condition that Indian participation up to 49% in the equity of the proposed subsidiary companies would be ensured within a period of five years. Representations for deletion of the divestment condition were considered by the Government on a number of occasions and rejected. The company, vide their representation dated 12.6.2002 sought extension of time for meeting the divestment clause pending reconsideration of their request or waiver of the divestment condition. In response thereto, HCCH were granted on month extension up to 16.8.2002 for completion of the divestment process. Subsequently, based on the intimation furnished by the company regarding steps taken and proposed to be taken within a definite time schedule to fulfil the process of divestment, the Government extended the date for completion of the divestment process up to 28.2.2003.

(d) HCCH has intimated that it has completed the process of placement of 10% equity shares with Employees' Welfare Trust and Employees' Stock Option Trust on 17.10.2002. The company is required to divest the remaining 39% equity shares in favour of resident Indian citizens or entities by 28.2.2003.

(e) Does not arise.

Free Coaching to SCs/STs

1923. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for providing free coaching to the SCs and STs students has since been implemented in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the financial allocations made during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) Yes Sir. The Govt. of India is implementing the Scheme of Coaching & Allied for SCs and STs in all the States/UTs including the North Eastern States.

(b) and (c) No State-wise allocation is made under the Scheme of Coaching & Allied for SCs and STs and fund is released on the basis of proposal received from the States/UTs. Grant-in-aid provided to the North Eastern States under the Scheme of Coaching & Allied implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for SCs during last three years are given as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Meghalaya	1.79	1.79	Nil
5.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Tripura	0.67	Nil	Nil

No grant-in-aid has been released to North Eastern States under the Scheme of Coaching & Allied for STs by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is implementing the Scheme.

[Translation]

Impact of WTO Agreements on Indian Trade

1924. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the items whose imports has increased since the agreement of WTO;

(b) the items whose export has increased since then;

(c) whether the agricultural and industrial sector of the country has suffered huge losses after the implementation of WTO agreements;

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the domestic agricultural and industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The World Trade Organisation was set up on 1st January, 1995. Data on the items whose import of export has increased since then are contained in Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. I (Exports) and Vol. II (Imports), published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. From the year 1995-96 till 2001-02, in rupee terms country's exports have increased at a compound rate of 11.9% while imports have grown at a compound rate of 12.2%.

The Quantitative Restrictions for import of various items have been removed from time to time as part of economic reform as also in accordance with the international commitments. Removal of Quantitative Restrictions over the years has not had any significant impact on the average growth rate of imports. In fact, non-oil imports in rupee terms during this period have grown at a compound rate of 10.6%. Most of our imports comprise of raw materials, essential items, capital goods and petroleum crude. However, to ensure that domestic economy does not suffer as a result of dumping or surge in imports, anti-dumping and safeguard measures are taken in accordance with WTO agreements. An Inter-Ministerial Group under the Chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary has also been constituted to monitor the import of 300 sensitive items. The following measures have been taken to provide a level playing field to the domestic producers:

(i) Import duties on a number of items have been increased.

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

(iii) Import of 135 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory India quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement, all manufacturers/ exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

[English]

Indo-EU Business Summit

1925. SHRI Y.V. RAO. Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his address to Indo-EU Business Summit at Copenhagen he has asked the EU to take a long-term view on the trade matter as against India; and

(b) if so, the response of the EU in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Minister of Finance & Company Affairs did not address the Indo-EU Business Summit held in Copenhagen.

Advance Tax Collection

1926. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a surge in advance tax collection in all major sectors except power and telecom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to study the trend in power and telecom sectors which have not registered an upward trend;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) An analysis of Advance Tax paid by top 100 Corporate Assessees in September, 2002 shows that sectors like Banking, Financial Institutions, Petroleum, Pharmaceuticals, Information Technology, Automobiles, Mining etc. have registered 28 to 105 per cent increase over the amount of Advance Tax paid in September, 2001.

(c) Identification of Assessees including Companies which are found to have deviated significantly from trends in different sectors including Power and Tele-Communication is done by the Income Tax Department officers at the field level as the number of such Income Tax Assessees in the country is large. Thus, field units are required to study reasons for such deviations.

(d) In view of the reply to (c) above such information is not centrally maintained.

(e) Already mentioned in reply to para (c) above.

Best Performing Cooperative Banks

1927. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD have launched a scheme to select and reward the best performing cooperative banks in the country;

(b) if so, the criterion adopted by NABARD for selecting the banks;

(c) whether smaller banks are unable to get attention from NABARD for their performance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the NABARD to have a broad-based team to select such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has a scheme for awarding prizes every year to the best performing cooperative banks at national and state level since 1995-96. NABARD constitutes a selection committee consisting of experts in the field of rural development, rural economics and cooperation for selecting the best banks for awards. The criteria adopted for selection of cooperative banks includes, the performance indicators, leadership aspects and the developmental role played by the bank in its area of operation, systems and procedures, profitability, asset quality, recovery levels, business, owned funds, etc. Further, the banks should also not be incurring operational losses in the performance year, should comply with Section 11(1) and Section 24 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in maintaining the minimum capital and reserves, should comply with the credit monitoring arrangement norms prescribed by NABARD and should have no serious adverse features/findings in the inspection conducted by NABARD.

(c) The cooperative bans are not selected on the basis of size but on the basis of size but on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. Smaller banks also qualify for the awards on the basis of their performance. NABARD also has a separate award category for District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and Primary Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) operating in dryland/rainfed areas since 1999-2000.

(d) NABARD has reported that the selection committee is constituted every year and it is ensured that it is a broad based committee and includes eminent bankers and experts.

[Translation]

Production of Special Textiles

1928. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, some targets had been fixed in respect of production of some special types of textiles through the handloom weaver workshop;

(b) if so, the types of textiles to be produced through the handloom weaver workshop under the said Act;

(c) if so, whether this number had been reduced from 22 to 11;

(d) whether market development assistance scheme has been discontinued;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the handloom development centre and quality control unit projects have been completely

discontinued; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) As per Order dated 26th July 1996 issued under the provisions of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and notified in the Gazette of India, 11 categories of textile articles are reserved for production by handlooms only. No targets for production of the aforesaid articles have, however, been fixed in any weaver workshop.

(b) A copy of the Order dated the 26th July 1996 indicating therein the articles reserved for production by handlooms is enclosed as statement.

(c) As per the Order existed since 11th March 1986, the number of articles reserved for production by handlooms was 22. It was reduced to 11 in the revised Order dated 26th July 1996 issued after review of the nature and class of the articles reserved.

(d) and (e) With the launching of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana with effect from 1.4.2000, which, inter alia provides for Marketing Incentive assistance to Handloom agencies, the erstwhile scheme for Market Development Assistance was discontinued.

(f) and (g) The scheme for setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units (HDC/QDU) was introduced in the year 1993-94. 1848 Handloom Development Centres and 391 Quality Dyeing Units were sanctioned to various implementing agencies of different States upto 31.3.1998. As the implementing agencies were facing difficulties in obtaining cash credit from the banks and as also other schemes in operation broadly had provision for the components available under the HDC/QDC, the scheme for setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units was discontinued with effect from 1.4.1998. However, in order to enable the implementing agencies to complete the projects sanctioned till 31.3.1998, committed liabilities were paid till 31.3.2002.

Statement

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
ORDER
New Delhi, the 26th July, 1996

S.O. 557(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 (22 of 1985), and in supersession of the order No. 459(E) dated the 4th August, 1986 and order No. 477(E) dated 6th August, 1986 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Textiles, the Central Government being satisfied after considering the recommendations made to it by the Advisory Committee that it is necessary to do for the protection and developed of the Handloom Industry hereby directs with immediate effect that the articles of class or articles specified in the Table below shall be reserved for exclusive production by Handlooms, namely:—

TABLE

S. No.	Article	Range reserved for production by Handlooms
1	2	3
1.	Saree	(a) A saree is a fabric made out of cotton or silk or in any combination thereof irrespective of count of yarn and dimensions, which is commonly known by that name and is characterised by the following:
		(i) has extra warp and/or extra weft design in the border and/or heading and/or body including buttas containing any coloured or greeny or bleached yarn or zari or any other metallic/metallised yarn or in combination thereof;
		and/or
		(ii) has a solid coloured woven border.
		(b) Tie and dye saree, warp-wise and/or weft-wise made out of cotton or silk or art silk or in any combination thereof irrespective of count of yarn and dimensions with or without extra warp or extra weft solid woven border.

1	2	3
		Note (i) Nothing in this direction shall apply to Sarees made out of 100% synthetic fibre/yarn i.e. Polyester, Nylon etc. or in any combination thereof. (ii) Nothing in this direction shall apply to sarees made in blends or union with more than 45% by weight of man-made fibre/ yarn (including viscose rayon) in combination with any natural or man-made fibre/yarn. (iii) Nothing in this direction shall apply to crepe, chiffon, chinon, georgettes and cotton voile sarees. (iv) Nothing in this direction shall apply to grey/ bleached Silk Sarees having a border in extra warp-design.
2.	Dhoti	Dhoti is a fabric made out of cotton or silk or in any combination thereof woven with extra warp and/or extra weft design using more than 16 dents inclusive of selvedge in the border (including solid coloured woven border) and/or extra weft heading irrespective of count and dimensions, which are commonly known by that name. **Note** (i) Nothing in this direction shall apply to Dhoties made out of 100% synethetic fibre/yarn i.e. Polyester, Nylon etc. or in any combination thereof; (ii) Nothing in this direction shall apply to Dhoties made in blends or union with more than 45% by weight of man-made fibre/ yarn (including viscose rayon) in combination with any natural or man-made fibre/yarn.
3.	Towel, Gamcha and Angavastram	A towel is a fabric woven in plain, mat, twill, honey-comb, huckaback or a combination of these weaves with border or heading which is also jointly characterised by the following: (i) is made of cotton or blends of cotton with any other fibre; (ii) are made in different dimensions; (iii) may be white or coloured; and (iv) may contain decorative design when produced or jacquard; (v) Towels with mat weave is commonly known as Erazha Thorthu in Kerala and Erazha Thundu in Tamil Nadu and also includes Gamcha & Angavastram.
4.	Lungi	Lungi is a fabric made out of cotton or art silk or in any combination thereof having a width of 110 cms. or above and 64 ends per inch and above and woven in check and/

1	2	3
		or stripe design using coloured yarn to form check and/or stripe pattern.
5.	Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing, (including tapestry, upholstery)	Khes, bedsheet, bedcover, counterpane, furnishing (including tapestry, upholstery) and by whatever name they may be called in different parts of country, including double cloth and tie & dye, made out of cotton or art silk or in any combination thereof, woven with design pattern on multi-treadle loom and/ or with dobby and/or jackquards upto 200 & art silk warp, irrespective of count and dimensions. **Note** Nothing in direction shall apply to plain sheeting.
6.	Jamakkalam Durry or Durret	Jamakkalam Durry or Durret commonly known by that name made out of cotton or art silk or wool or jute or in any combination thereof using coarse count of single yarn or plies of resultant count having upto 24 ends/inch, woven with plain weave or twell weave or in combination of both twill and plain weave in any dimension.
7.	Dress Material	Dress material including Mashru cloth and yarn tie & dye cloth, made out of cotton or silk (including spun silk) or art silk or in any combination thereof woven with extra weft design in the border and/ or body irrespective of count and dimensions. This also includes Tella Rumal, Real Madras Handkerchief which are commonly known by that name.
8.	Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kamblies	Barrack blanket is a thick fabric made of wollen yarn of any count and any colour having fibrous surface produced by milling and raising which is also jointly characterised by the following: (i) woollen blankets made from wool and woollen yarn or in any combination with other fibres; (ii) it is produced in any size and weave; (iii) nothing in this direction shall apply to Barrack Blankets and Kambal or Kamblies made out of shoddy woollen yarn; (iv) whereas Kambal or Kamblies would be defined as a fabric made of wool and/or cotton or in any combination thereof woven in plain or check design.
9.	Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc.	Shawl is a piece of cloth woven from worsted or woollen or cashmilon or Pashmina or any other fibre and/or blends thereof which is used by ladies or gents for covering their body/worn over the shoulders without any tailoring process which is

1	2	3
		also jointly characteristised by the following: (i) woven with designs with or without extra weft using any fibre; (ii) using any type of woollen yarn, worsted yarn or blended yarn or in combination thereof; (iii) it is woven with any count of yarn; (iv) it is woven in any length width and weight; and (v) is commonly known by that name. The term shawl also includes Loi, pankhi as well as mufflers. It will also include traditional shawls like Kullu, Kinnauri, Kani Pashmina, Dhori, Lirancha (Tibetan), Scarf etc.
10.	Woolen Tweed	It is a piece of fabric woven by 100% pure woollen yarn for making coasts, jackets and dress materials and is also jointly characterised by the following: (i) It is produced in check or stripe design irrespect of dimensions; and (ii) it is produced in 3/1 twill weave.
11.	Chaddar, Mekhala/ Phenek	It is used for covering lower and/or upper part of the body and is manufactured from cotton or silk or art silk or in combination thereof woven in plain/twill weave with check or stripe design irrespective of count and dimensions and is charaterised by a border and/or cross border with extra wrap and/or extra weft design. **Note** The direction above shall also include: (i) Puan of Mizoram. (ii) Dhara, Jainsem, Dakmanda, Daksari of Meghalaya. (iii) Skirts and Odhana fabrics of Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh. (iv) Riha and Pachara of Tripura. (v) Pawde (set)/Dhawani of Southern State. (vi) Dakhona, Danka, Khamlet, Phanak of Assam.

[No. of 2/10/95-DCH/CEO]

B.L. Sharma, Jt. Secy. & Development Commissioner (Handlooms)

Regd. No. D.L. 33004/99

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA
EXTRAORDINARY
PART II—Section 3—Sub Section (ii)

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 305] New Delhi, Wednesday, June 2, 1999/ Jaishtha 12, 1921

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

(Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms)

(Enforcement Wing)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 2nd June, 1999

S.O. 408 (E) in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub Section (I) of Section 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 (22 of

1985) the Central Government being satisfied after considering the recommendations made to it by the Advisory Committee that it is necessary to do for the protection and development of handloom industry, hereby amends with immediate effect, the order of the Government of India in the Ministry of Textiles, number S.O. 557(E) dated 26.7.1996 as follows, namely:—

In the table of the said Order, for Serial Number 8 and entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

8.	Barrack Blanket, Kambal or Kamblies	(a) Barrack blanket means a thick fabric made of wool of average 34 micron or coarser, with fibrous surface, produced by milling and raising, and includes barrack blankets made by using hand spun or mill spun woollen yarn from natural grey or black wool or its combination and produced in any size and in any weave.
		(b) Kambal or kamblies means a thick fabric made of wool of average 34 micron or coarser, with fibrous surface, produced by milling and raising; and includes kambal or kamblies made by using hand spun or mill spun, worsted, woollen yarn or its combination in plain, stripe or check design.
		(c) Nothing in items (a) & (b) shall apply to barrack blanket, kambal or kamblies made out of shoddy yarn, that is, a cheaper class of woollen yarn made from reused or recycled wool and synthetic rags."

[No. of 2/10/95-DCH/CEO/Vol. IV]

Arun Gupta, Addl. Secy. & Development Commissioner (Handlooms)

Regd. No. D.L.-33004/99

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA

EXTRAORDINARY
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 284] New Delhi, Tuesday, April 25, 2000/Vaisakha 5, 1922

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

(Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms)
(Enforcement Wing)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 25th April, 2000

S.O. 405 (E)—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 (22 of 1985), the Central Government being satisfied after considering the recommendations made to it by the advisory Committee that it is necessary so to do for the protection and development of handloom industry, hereby further amends, with immediate effects, the order of the Government of India in the Ministry of Textiles, number S.O. 557(E) dated the 26th July, 1996 as follows, namely:—

In the Table of the said Order, for serial number 9 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"9.	Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi, etc.	Shawl is a piece of cloth woven from worsted or woollen or Pashmina or pure silk or cotton yarn and/or its combination therefore which is used by ladies or gents for covering their body/worn over the shoulders without any tailoring process which is also jointly characterized by the following:
		(i) shawls woven, with extra weft designs, using woollen or worsted or pashmina or pure silk yarn or cotton yarn and/or its combination or blends with other fibres i.e. natural and/or manmade/synthetic fibre thereof with dobby/jacquard design effect up to 400 hooks;

(ii) using any type of woollen, worsted or pashmina or pure silk yarn or cotton yarn and/or in combination thereof;

(iii) it is woven with any count of yarn;

(iv) it is woven in any length, width and weight; and

(v) is commonly known by that name.

Explanation:— The term shawl shall also include Loi, Pankhi, Mufflers, traditional shawls like Kullu, Kinnauri, Kani, Pashmina, Dhori, Lirancha (Tibetan), Gajari, and all shawls produced in the North-Eastern Region like Naga, Manipur, Mizo shawls, etc."

(F. No. 2/10/95-DCH/CEO/Vol. VI]

Arun Gupta, Addl. Sec. & Development Commissioner (Handlooms)

[English]

Import of Minerals

1929. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of various kinds of minerals imported during the last three years, year-wise and mineral-wise;

(b) the main channelising agency through which these minerals have been imported;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the import of these minerals and materials in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The details of total quantum of various kinds of minerals imported during the last three years, year-wise and mineral-wise 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.

(b) Minerals are covered under Chapters 25, 26 and 27 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import items. As per section V of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. 2002-2007 on "minerals products" only 9 items as classified under Exim Heading No. 27.10 of Chapter 27, are under State Trading Enterprise (STE) arrangement for imports. These items are importable through Indian Oil Corporation only. All other items under Chapters 25, 26 and 27 are either freely importable or importable under restricted category as indicated in the Exim Policy 2002-2007.

(c) to (e) Minerals are imported by the user industries as per their requirement of specific grades and characteristics. India is also deficient in certain minerals like crude petroleum, cocking coal, base metals like cooper, lead-zinc, high value metals and minerals like gold, diamond, nickel, tungsten, rock phosphate, potash, etc. The Government has amended the mining statutes in 1994 and December 1999 for facilitating and encouraging private sector investment for exploration for minerals.

Achievements in Sericulture

1930. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 4037 dated August 9, 2002 and state:

(a) the achievements made in sericulture and generation of employment in that industry since the inception of the schemes in various States and particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the allocation made under these schemes during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) The production of raw silk in the country has gone up from the level of 15236 MT in 1997-98 to 17351 MT in 2001-02. The combined Madhya Pradesh state was producing 111 MT in 1997-98. After carving out of Chhattisgarh state, the production of raw silk in Madhya Pradesh stood at 12 MT in 2001-02. The estimated employment generation in sericulture activities in the country has gone up from 53.22 lakh persons in 1997-98 to 55.00 lakhs persons in 2001-02, which includes estimated employment of 0.70 lakh persons in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) State-wise allocation under the schemes of Central Silk Board in the current year is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise and scheme-wise allocation made during 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State	Allocation during 2002-03								
		UNDP	Special SGSY project	SERI-2000	CDP	Chhattis-garh Seri. Project	Manipur Seri. Project	Project on conser-vation of Wild Tasar Eco Races	Project for extn. System for Bivoltine Seri	Dev. of nature grown tasar (Rally) in MP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.94	–	125.00	–	–	–	–	–	–
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3.	Assam	62.27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
4.	Bihar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5.	Chhattisgarh	60.45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
6.	Gujarat	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
7.	Haryana	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
8.	Himachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
10.	Jharkhand	94.26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
11.	Karnataka	–	–	79.93	–	–	–	–	–	–
12.	Kerala	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
13.	Madhya Pradesh	–	–	–	7.69++	–	–	–	–	–
14.	Maharashtra	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15.	Manipur	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
16.	Meghalaya	3.36	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
17.	Mizoram	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
18.	Nagaland	3.25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
19.	Orissa	14.66	–	–	–	–	–	10.00	–	–
20.	Punjab	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
21.	Rajasthan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
22.	Sikkim	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
23.	Tamil Nadu	–	–	102.89	–	–	–	–	–	–
24.	Tripura	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25.	Uttar Pradesh	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
26.	Uttaranchal	185.24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
27.	West Bengal	19.14	–	111.92	–	–	–	–	–	–
28.	Common to all States	110.00	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	576.57+	–*	419.74@	7.69$	–*$	–*	10.00	–	–

\+ Includes UNDP share of 396.57 lakhs

* State Project

@ States allocation

++ Amt. Released to MP till Oct. 02

$ State-wise allocation for these schemes during the current year would depend on the individual proposal to be received from the state.

ICICI Bank Defaulters

1931. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICICI bank issued notices to its defaulters especially to top 16 defaulters recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of notices issued to defaulters after Presidential Ordinance on Securitisation of non-performing assets;

(c) he total amount outstanding as default amount as on date of ICICI Bank;

(d) the number of cases solved so far and total amount recovered from defaulters; and

(e) the other steps taken or being taken by ICICI to recover NPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) ICICI Bank issued notices to 16 defaulters upto July, 2002 and, thereafter, to 8 other companies under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002. The details of such companies are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Total amount claimed against these 24 companies amounted to Rs. 19214 million (i.e. Rs. 1921.40 crore).

(d) The said companies continue to figure in ICICI Bank's books, as none of these cases have been resolved fully. The Bank has recovered Rs. 15.2 million (i.e. Rs. 1.52 crore) towards part of bank's dues in some of these cases.

(e) Other than issuance of notices under the said Ordinance, ICICI continues to adopt varied measures to recover its dues including filing of suits and/or applications before the Debt Recovery Tribunals, out of court settlements and One Time Settlements. In genuine cases where the company is facing liquidity crunch, the Bank either solely or through consortium has agreed to restructuring packages. The bank is also referring proposals through the Corporate Debt Restructuring mechanism.

Statement

Lists of ICICI defaulters

(Rs. Million)

S. No.	Group	Name of Company	Date of notices	Amount Claimed	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	ZS	Akbr Laminators	16/7/2002	153.3	B-73, MIDC, Waluj Industrial Area, MIDC, Aurangabad-431136
2.	CSII	Apex Electricals	17/7/2002	251.0	PADRA, Road, Samlaia, L391410 District
3.	ZS	Blue Blends	16/7/2002	269.4	UBF House, Old Post Office Lane, Kalbadevi Road, Mumbai 4000071
4.	CSI	CD Industries	14/7/2002	20.0	512, Swastick Chamber, Kurla Trombay Road, Chambur, Mumbai-400071.
5.	CSII	Deora Polytex	17/7/2002	95.4	122-A, Mittal Court, A-Wing Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021
6.	CSI	Kirti Steel	15/7/2002	790.1	Yamnapet Industrial Area, Gharkasar, Rangareddy District, Andhra Pradesh
7.	CSI	Lloyds Steel	23/7/2002	4011.3	Modern Mills Compound 101, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Jacob Circle, Mumbai-11
8.	CSI	Mardia Chemicals	15/7/2002	2934.9	501, 5th Floor, Mangal Murti complex, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380006
9.	CSI	Parasrampuria Industries	15/7/2002	1601.1	Survey No. 214/3, Dadra 396191, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
10.	CSI	Parasrampuria Synthetics	15/7/2002	3139.7	103, Surya Mansion, 1 Kaushalaya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
11.	CSI	Patheja Brothers and forgings	16/7/2002	172.3	16,E-20, MIDC Industrial Area, Bhosari, Pune-26
12.	CSI	Patheja Brothers and forgings	15/7/2002	262.8	16,E-20, MIDC Industrial Area, Bhosari, Pune-26
13.	CSII	Poplab forgings	18/7/2002	57.0	31, Sagar Plaza, Kassarwadi, Pune-411034
14.	ZS	Sharp Industries	16/7/2002	92.4	Plot No. 6, Waliv village, Waliv East, Vasai (E) District Thane-401208
15.	CSII	Techncon systems	14/7/2002	107.2	Plot No. 32, Marol Industries Area, MIDC, B-Cross Road, Andheri, (E) Mumbai-93
16.	ZS	Vishnu Vijay	16/7/2002	284.3	B-5, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad-431136

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Chennai	Tamilnad Hospital Ltd.	16/9/2002	568.5	No. 439, Cheron Nagar, Perumbakkam, Chennai-601302
18.	CSAMG	Modern Terry Towals Ltd.	17/10/2002	338.6	A-4, Vijay Peth, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur-302004
19.	CSAMG	REPL Engineering Ltd.	24/10/2002	1415.9	Plot No. 112, 13th Road, MIDC Industrial Area, Marol, Andheri, (E) Mumbai-400093
20.	Delhi	Arihant Cotsyn Ltd.	18/9/2002	92.1	B-35, Phase, V, Focal Point, Ludhiana-141010
21.	Delhi	Bhiwani Denim & Apparels Ltd.	29/8/2002	165.9	13/7, Mathura, Road, Faridabad, Haryana
22.	Delhi	James Hotels Limited	13/9/2002	27.6	Block No. 10 Sector 17, Chandigarh-160017
23.	Calcutta	Uniworth Ltd.	26/10/2002	2280.0	70 A, Shakeshpears Sarani, Calcutta.
24.	Chennai	Madras Petrochemicals Ltd.	21/11/2002	73.2	No. 16, Nariman Bhavan, 227, Vinay K. Shah Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai
	Total			19214.00	

[Translation]

Old Age Homes

1932. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding setting up of day care centre and old age homes proposed to be sanctioned during the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether any amendments are proposed to be made in the procedure of sanctioning these homes;

(c) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be made; and

(d) the total amount proposed to be allocated under these schemes to NGOs during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) No specific target of new proposals to be sanctioned during the year 2002-03 has been fixed. The number of new proposals to be sanctioned would depend on various factors such as committed liabilities for ongoing cases, availability of funds and the new proposals being complete in all respects and in accordance with the scheme etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The total fund allocated for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 18.27 crores under he Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

[English]

Credit to Rural Sector

1933. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert committee on rural credit has opined that the commercial banks shunning away from lending to the farm sector despite their network of 19,000 rural branches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make it obligatory for foreign and private sector banks to provide credit to the priority sector as per norms of RBI; and

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

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 Expert Committee on Rural Credit has in its report looked into the various issues relating the rural credit provided by commercial banks. The Committee has, inter-alia, observed that commercial banks which were made to expand their rural operations substantially after nationalization, seem to have turned shy, as in such operations they find themselves servicing vast number of small accounts—both deposit and borrowing-costly and cumbersome.

(c) and (d) RBI has fixed targets for lending to priority sector by private sector banks and foreign banks. The details of the target so fixed and achievements thereunder are given below:

	Private Sector Banks	Foreign Banks
Priority Sector Lending: Target	40% of net banks credit	32% of net bank credit
Lending to agriculture: Achievement	40.9% of net bank	34.2% of net bank credit

Foreign banks which do not achieve the target as on the last reporting Friday of March are required to deposit the entire shortfall with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a period of one year. As regards private sector banks, those having shortfall in priority sector/agriculture lending are allocated amounts for contribution to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). RBI has been reviewing the performance of banks in lending to the priority sector and has been emphasizing the need for taking appropriate steps for achieving the target/sub-targets so as to ensure increased flow of credit to priority sector/agriculture, weaker sections in a time bound manner. During April/ May, 2001, it was decided by RBI to set a timeframe of two years within which private and public sector banks should achieve the target and sub-targets for lending to priority sector/agriculture/weaker sections. Accordingly, these banks have been advised to step up credit flow to these sectors so as to reach the targets by March 2003.

Group of Ministers on WTO

1934. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Group of Ministers for speedy decisions on WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the issues would be discussed by the Group; and

(d) the extent to which the Group would placed India's views on agriculture in the coming WTO negotiation in Mexico next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers consisting of Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of External Affairs for finalising the strategy to be followed during the negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and to take appropriate decisions from time to time within the overall approach approved by the Cabinet Committee on WTO Matters. In the negotiations on agriculture which are scheduled to be concluded by 1 January 2005, the Government has presented proposals to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers.

Export of Minerals

1935. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of various kinds of minerals including iron ore exported during each of the last three years till date, mineral-wise;

(b) the States from which these minerals especially iron ore have been procured for export;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the export of minerals including iron ore from those States during the last three years; and

(d) if so, upto what extent and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Details of major minerals exported in value terms during each of the last three years including the current year and the States from which these are procured are as follows:

(Provisional Figures)/(Rs. crores)

Item	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (April-July)	States from which procured for exports
Iron Ore	1633.80	1918.22	1150.83	Goa, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh
Mica	41.60	55.22	13.24	Jharkhand
Coal	167.51	276.06	61.13	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal
Processed Minerals*	1719.83	1612.99	728.07	Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh
Others Ores & Minerals**	1704.63	1909.80	713.99	Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Gujarat
Total	5267.37	5772.29	2667.26	

* Includes Calcined Alumina, Barytes, Bentonite, Quartz, Feldspar, Illemnite & others

** Includes Chrome Ore, Manganese ore, Bauxite, Salt & others

(Source: DGCI&S)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Regional Trade Promotion Centres

1936. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has set up some Regional Trade Promotion Centres (RTPCs) in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance given by the Government to these RTPCs during the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal with the ITPO to set up more RTPCs in the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the criteria being adopted for setting up of RTPCs?

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

(b) A joint venture company formed between India Trade Promotion Organisation and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) as co-promoters, has set up a trade centre/exhibition centre in White Field Area, Bangalore on a plot of land measuring about 50 acres provided by the Government of Karnataka. The plan of the exhibition complex inter-alia envisages construction of four modules of 5000 square meters each of exhibition halls and support services to be built in a phased manner.

(c) No financial assistance has been provided by the Department of Commerce for this centre so far.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) ITPO has been providing technical and managerial support to the State Governments of West Bengal, Assam and Gujarat on their request to facilitate formulation of their proposals in this regard.

(f) The broad criteria adopted for selecting the locations for setting up RTPCs include, inter-alia, suitability in terms of being a metropolitan town with large population, existence of a good industrial base, proven experience in organising 3-4 major trade exhibitions annually in the last few years, support of the State

Government in terms of providing developed land with a supportive infrastructure in the form of roads, electricity, water etc. and availability of funds.

Default in Repayment of Government of India Loans by SEBI

1937. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI defaulted in repayment of Government loan amounting Rs. 105 crore as pointed out in C&AG Report No. 4 of 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the finding of the formal enquiry ascertaining the reasons for the default;

(c) whether any action has been initiated against all the delinquent SEBI officials for the default;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of date-wise break-up of the loan repaid stating the source of funds for repayment;

(f) the total interest due on entire loan as on date; and

(g) the manner in which the Government proposes to recover the loan with interest thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Government of India granted interest free loans of Rs. 115 crores to SEBI during 1992-93 to 1996-97 to meet its capital expenditure. These loans were to be repaid by SEBI in ten equal instalments after a moratorium of two years. SEBI repaid Rs. 10 crores upto March, 1997 and requested to convert the balance outstanding loans into grants. Pending the decision of Government SEBI did not pay the three instalments upto 1999-2000. As the request of SEBI for converting the loans into grant was not agreed to by the Government, SEBI repaid the outstanding instalments in February, 2001. CAG in its inspection report has made observation regarding non-payment of these instalments of the loans to the Government. Consequent to the repayment of the outstanding instalments during February, 2001, the observations were dropped.

(e)

Date of Repayment	Amount repaid (Rs. in crores)
30th March - 1995	1.00
29th March - 1996	3.50
31st March - 1997	5.50
02nd February - 2001	10.50
08th February - 2001	6.00
20th February - 2001	15.00
31st March - 2001	11.50
31st March - 2002	11.50
Total	64.50

The loans are repaid out of the income of SEBI.

(f) The loans are interest free

(g) Now SEBI is repaying the loan as per the repayment schedule.

Growth Rate of Infrastructure Industries

1938. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether six key infrastructure industries posted a robust 6% growth in the first half of the current fiscal compare to a 1.5% growth in the same period of last year;

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

(c) whether despite this growth, there was a slow down evident in September, 2002;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the industries which have shown slow growth; and

(e) the steps proposed to increase the growth rate of those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The industry-wise details of growth rates (%) registered during first half of the current fiscal are given below:

	April-September	
	2001-02	2002-03
Crude Petroleum	-2.9	5.2
Petroleum Refinery Products	4.2	5.6
Coal	2.1	5.9
Electricity	3.2	3.4
Cement	3.4	9.8
Finished Steel	-0.9	9.3
Overall	1.5	6.0

(c) The growth rate of six infrastructure industries has shown a rising trend since beginning of the current fiscal (2002-03) year with the exception of September 2002, when a growth rate of 1.7% was registered. The six infrastructure industries, however, registered a growth of 6.1% during October 2002, for which latest data is available.

(d) The reasons for slowdown evident in September 2002 are industry specific. Power failure and shutdown in some refineries, less contribution from oil wells and environmental problems have affected crude oil production while, grid failure in the southern region affected the electricity sector. Crude petroleum, coal and electricity sectors registered low growth rates during September 2002.

(e) The government has taken following initiatives to improve performance of the infrastructure industries:

- Tax holiday for infrastructure development has been announced in the Union Budget 2002-03.
- Launch of PMs mega Road projects, which will boost demand for cement, steel and coal.
- Government is taking steps to increase the domestic production of crude oil by offering blocks under the new exploration licensing policy.
- Administered Price Mechanism (APM) for petroleum products has been dismantled. The pricing of petroleum products is now market determined.
- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.

Issue of Income Tax Clearance Certificates

1939: SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income-tax offices in Delhi are not issuing income tax clearance certificates to the assesses on demand within a reasonable period of time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of applications pending with each of the respective wards of Income Tax for issue of ITCC till date;

(d) the time by which these applications are pending; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The income tax clearance certificates are issued within a reasonable period of time.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 81 in the Chief Commissioner of Income-tax, Delhi region.

(d) About seven days.

(e) The clearance certificates are being issued within a reasonable period of time.

Denotification of Tribes

1940. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Thoti" and "Chodhra" tribes are being denotified;

(b) if so, the reasons for denotification;

(c) whether people in large numbers belonging to these two tribes reside in many districts of Maharashtra State;

(d) whether the Government propose to review its decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (e) The Govt. of Maharashtra, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have recommended the exclusion of the Thoti and Chodhra communities from the list of Scheduled Tribes of Maharashtra. According to 1991 Census data, the Chodhra community is mainly found in Greater Bombay and Thane districts whereas the Thoti community is mainly found in Nanded and Bir districts. There is no proposal to review the decision already taken in the matter.

NABARD Loan to States under RIDF

1941. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion to select projects and granting RIDF loans to States;

(b) the State-wise details of the projects selected for granting loans under RIDF;

(c) the amount of investment made by NABARD under RIDF in each of the States till date; and

(d) the outstanding debt under RIDF with each of the States as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that individual projects are selected and prioritized by the concerned State Governments for creation of rural infrastructure. These projects are then appraised by NABARD with regard to technical feasibility and financial/economic viability before sanction.

(b) and (c) NABARD sanctions projects to State Governments for purposes such as irrigation, roads, bridges, watershed management, flood protection, drainage works, soil conservation, fishing harbour, inland navigation, primary/secondary school, joint forest management, rubber plantation, public health, rural drinking water, rural market yard, rural godown, citizen information center, food park, system improvement in power sector, mini hydel projects, animal husbandry, anganwadi and seed farms, etc. The State-wise amount of total funds sanctioned and disbursed by NABARD under various tranches of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) is given in Statement.

(d) The State-wise RIDF loans outstanding as on 31 October, 2002 is given in Statement II.

Statement I

State-wise details of total amount of funds sanctioned and disbursed under various tranches of Rural Infrastructural Development Fund by NABARD

(Rs. Crores)

S. No.	Name of State	Sanctioned	Disbursed
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2965.34	1915.73
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	183.01	80.06
3.	Assam	379.42	241.54
4.	Bihar	209.82	53.35
5.	Chhattisgarh	385.22	239.22
6.	Goa	50.66	28.48
7.	Gujarat	1590.05	954.73
8.	Haryana	564.09	325.35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	630.91	417.79
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	741.18	335.12
11.	Jharkhand	214.27	2.48
12.	Karnataka	1696.76	960.35
13.	Kerala	849.57	480.64
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1609.85	936.05
15.	Maharashtra	2361.74	1527.29
16.	Manipur	10.08	0.96
17.	Meghalaya	107.51	56.42
18.	Mizoram	67.64	42.00
19.	Nagaland	85.79	28.02
20.	Orissa	1103.69	651.68
21.	Punjab	962.00	653.19
22.	Rajasthan	1529.67	1008.92
23.	Sikkim	40.04	34.48
24.	Tamil Nadu	1720.61	1081.92
25.	Tripura	149.82	29.35

1	2	3	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2612.76	1695.30
27.	Uttaranchal	131.42	8.90
28.	West Bengal	1958.22	970.84
	Total	25011.14	14760.20

Statement II

State-wise details of loans outstanding under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) as on 31st October, 2002

S. No.	Name of State	Total Outstanding (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1494.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75.50
3.	Assam	221.57
4.	Bihar	53.34
5.	Chhattisgarh	178.75
6.	Goa	20.32
7.	Gujarat	723.24
8.	Haryana	250.44
9.	Himachal Pradesh	359.24
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	318.03
11.	Jharkhand	2.48
12.	Karnataka	744.70
13.	Kerala	363.04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	723.65
15.	Maharashtra	1220.27
16.	Manipur	0.24
17.	Meghalaya	49.92
18.	Mizoram	39.74
19.	Nagaland	26.64
20.	Orissa	406.90
21.	Punjab	504.48
22.	Rajasthan	774.16
23.	Sikkim	34.53
24.	Tamil Nadu	921.10
25.	Tripura	27.91
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1226.65
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00
28.	West Bengal	810.10
	Total	11571.08

Unutilised External Assistance

1942. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether external assistance has risen to more than sixty thousand crore as on March 31, 2002 and the same is lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any accountability and responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(d) whether the country has to pay commitment charges on the unutilised external assistance;

(e) if so, the details thereof and how much commitment charges have been paid during each of the last three years; and

(f) the measures taken to use the external assistance properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The total external assistance received upto 31.3.2002 was Rs. 200183.38 crore, out of which Rs. 77331.71 crore remains to be utilized. It may be mentioned that external assistance is largely project tied and therefore, utilisation of the sanctioned aid for any project is spread over the project implementation period. As a result, there would always be some unutilised

amount at any point of time, reflecting the assistance in pipeline, which will be used as project implementation progresses.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02, amounts of Rs. 41.78 crore, Rs. 40.23 crore and Rs. 48.46 crore respectively were paid as commitment charges.

(f) Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects in the budgets of State and Central Govt., streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation of flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, reviews with Executing Agencies, setting up a Project Management Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs, strengthening of Project Monitoring Units in some States and Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officers for the States and regular review of projects with respect to quality at entry, etc.

Kisan Credit Cards

1943. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the banks to identify the eligible farmers for the KCCs scheme;

(b) if so, the number of farmers provided with the cards so far from the identified lot;

(c) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to speed up the process of issuing the Kisan Credit Cards to small and marginal farmers;

(d) whether RBI has also conducted any study on the implementation and operationalised problems of Kisan Credit Cards; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. Banks estimate the number of eligible farmers from the data on the ground level borrowings of banks loans.

(b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that since inception 2,61,94,845 Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) have been issued by the banking sector comprising public sector banks, co-operative banks and regional rural banks, as on 31st August, 2002 (latest available).

(c) To expedite the process of issuing KCCs to small and marginal farmers, banks have been instructed to consider issue of KCCs for production credit even below Rs. 5000/- at their discretion. Instructions have also been issued to all banks to ensure the issue of KCCs to all eligible farmers in a time frame of three years i.e. by March 31, 2004. Banks have been advised to launch intensive publicity campaign to generate greater awareness about KCC particularly among small and marginal farmers.

(d) and (e) RBI has reported that it had conducted an in-house study through its regional offices on the implementation of KCC Scheme in commercial banks. The findings of the study revealed that the scheme has been well received by farmers in terms of timelessness, hassle-free operations as also adequacy of credit including for consumption. Bankers were of the view that the scheme has resulted in reduction of both transaction cost and documentation. However, the operational problems in implementation and in outreach so as to cover all eligible farmers under the scheme have been on account of lack of updation of land records, small land holding and illiteracy of borrowers, etc. RBI has also advised all scheduled commercial banks to rectify the deficiencies which emerged in the Study.

Bureau of Indian Standards

1944. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued licenses and standards for almost all the items manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effective steps taken by BIS to implement these specified standards;

(d) whether these standards can be diluted by frequent appeals by manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that rules are not flouted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has

formulated around 9250 standards pertaining to products of different kinds. However, BIS Certification Marks Licenses have been issued to 16471 licensees against 1083 Indian Standards.

(c) to (e) BIS standards are formulated through well structured technical committees which include representatives of all concerned interest-groups including technologies, manufacturers, consumers etc. With a view to ensure that specifications under the relevant Indian Standards are strictly adhered to, BIS undertakes periodical surveillance inspections of its licensees.

Trade Ministers' Conference

1945. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether composition of Indian delegation attended the Trade Ministers' Conference at Sydney recently;

(b) the details of discussions held in the Conference;

(c) the outcome of the conference;

(d) whether the Trade Ministers have also reached any conclusion regarding making a new WTO facility to enable poor countries to import patended drugs at cheaper costs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) An Indian delegation led by the Minister of Commerce & Industry attended the informal mini-Ministerial meeting of WTO Trade Ministers held in Sydney from 14-15 November 2002. The other members of the delegation were Shri Dipak Chatterjee, Commerce Secretary, Shri S.N. Menon, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Shri K.M. Chandrashekhar, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to WTO, Geneva and Private Secretary to the Minister.

(b) to (e) The discussions were held on various issues covered under the Doha Work Programme adopted by the Ministers at the Fourth WTO Ministers Conference held in Doha in November 2001. These included, issues relating to the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Public Health with particular reference to the issue regarding access to Medicine. Other issues covered included implementation of existing WTO Agreements, Special and Differential (S&D) Treatment and Trade-related Technical Assistance; Market Access for Agricultural, Non-agricultural products and Services; review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) and the Singapore issues of the Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition Policy, Transparency in Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation.

Since this was an informal meeting, discussions were in the form of exchange of views of participating countries with no declared outcome. The object was to see how further progress can be made in taking forward the Doha Work Programme by the time of the Fifth Ministerial Conference to be held in Cancun, Mexico next year.

Schedule Tribes In West Bengal

1946. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has recommended for the inclusion of Deshwali Majhi in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Govt. of West Bengal has recommended inclusion of the Deshwali Majhi community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State. The proposal has been processed as per the approved modalities for deciding such claims.

English Medium Schools for Tribal Students

1947. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start an English Medium Model Residential School for the tribal students in Kerala with CBSE syllabus during 2002-03;

(b) whether the Government have received such a proposal from Kerala Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the whole project;

(d) whether the Government have given assistance for such school in various States;

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

(f) the details of such schemes for the past three years with the total number of students expected to get benefit each year?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2001-2002, the Ministry received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for a grant under Proviso (1) of Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, for setting up a Model Residential School with the CBSE Syllabus in Thiruvananthapuram District, which has been sanctioned. The estimated project cost is Rs. 1042.14 lakhs for a period of six years of which Rs. 724.41 Lakhs is the non-recurring cost.

(d) to (f) It was decided during 1997-98 to start Model residential Schools for imparting quality education to tribal students from class VI to XII with 30 boys & 30 girls in each class. The Government has given assistance for setting up of 84 "Eklavaya Model Residential Schools". The State-wise details is given in the Statement enclosed.

The non-recurring cost is Rs. 250 lakh per school. The schools mentioned in the Annexure are in addition to the school mentioned above.

Statement

Number of Schools and Funds Released under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for Establishment of "Eklavaya Model Residential Schools"

S. No.	State	No. of schools for which amount released during IXth Plan	Total amount Released so far (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	16.50
2.	Assam	2	2.00
3.	Bihar/Jharkhand	4	4.00
4.	Gujarat	6	12.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1.00
7.	Karnataka	3	8.05
8.	Kerala	2	2.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	17	25.10
10.	Maharashtra	4	4.00
11.	Manipur	3	5.00
12.	Orissa	10	12.40
13.	Rajasthan	7	17.50
14.	Sikkim	1	2.50
15.	Tamil Nadu	1	2.95
16.	Tripura	3	4.50
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1	2.50
18.	West Bengal	5	5.00
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1.00
20.	Meghalaya	2	2.00
21.	Mizoram	1	1.00
22.	Nagaland	3	7.50
	Total	84	139.50

Interest on HBA

1948. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to reduce the rate of interest on House Building Advance (HBA) for Government employees who have taken HBA 3-4 years back of higher rate of interest as other agencies i.e. banks and financial institutions have effected lower rate of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) The Government has reduced the interest rates on various slabs of HBA by 100 basis point from 1.4.2001 and by further 50 basis point with effect from 1.4.2002.

[Translation]

Impact of Liberalisation Policy on Industrial Sector

1949. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the liberalisation policy of the Government has not shown any effective progress in the field of industrial sector;

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

(c) whether a number of industrial units have decline since adoption of the liberation policy;

(d) if no, the facts in this regard;

(e) the number of industries in existence at the time of adoption of liberal policy, State-wise; and

(f) the number of industries (major, medium and small) existing of present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The liberalisation policy was launched in 1991 as an integral part of India's economic reforms and was based on the principals of free trade and competition. Indian industry has benefited in terms of foreign technology agreements, foreign investment inflows, increased export opportunities and substantial decline in licence requirements.

(c) and (d) As per the data available on factories covered under the Factories Act 1948, the number of industrial units has increased since the adoption of the liberalisation policy in 1991. The number of units during 1991-92 was 1,12,286 which rose to 1,31,557 during 1999-2000.

(e) and (f) The State-wise number of industrial units at the time of adoption of liberalisation policy (1991-92) and 1999-2000 for which latest data is available are given below:

State/UT	Number of units	
	1991-92	1999-2000
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	15972	13164
Assam	1625	1648
Bihar	3671	1570
Goa	243	477
Gujarat	11094	14710
Haryana	3102	4296
Himachal Pradesh	331	508
Jammu & Kashmir	240	393
Karnataka	5850	6952
Kerala	3702	4845
Madhya Pradesh	4163	3269
Maharashtra	15264	19009
Manipur	63	61
Meghalaya	29	27
Nagaland	63	147
Orissa	1566	1591
Punjab	5985	6910
Rajasthan	3689	5063
Tamil Nadu	15502	20249
Tripura	200	206
Uttar Pradesh	10124	10303
West Bengal	5679	6373
Andaman & Nicobar Island	52	22
Chandigarh	288	323
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	132	846
Daman and Diu	66	1118
Delhi	3346	3596

1	2	3
Pondicherry	245	462
Jharkhand		1423
Chhattisgarh		1380
Uttaranchal		616
All India	112286	131557

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

Note: Information in respect of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal for the year 1991-92 have been included in the State of Bihar, M.P. and U.P. respectively.

[English]

Child Adoption Procedure

1950. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of non-government organizations have pointed out that existing procedures of child adoption in the country are faulty leading to child trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

TPDS in Rural Areas

1951. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is social accounting of the Targeted Public Distribution System by gram Panchayats/gram Sabhas in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the social accounting being done by gram panchayats during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) Government of India has advised all the State Governments/UTs to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas for the supervision and the monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the fair price shop level, as a measure of social audit. Almost all the States/UTs including Bihar are implementing the guidelines for involvement of Panchayati Raj institution in the Public Distribution System.

Competition Faced by Indian Industries

1952. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian industries have been facing competition from the global competitors in he wake of withdrawal of quantitative restrictions in April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Indian industry is to be equipped suitably to face the competition; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in view of the cut throat competition being faced by the small scale industries from the countries like China and Singapore, etc.,?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were free.

Thereafter, as per India's commitment to WTO and also phase-wise programme for removal of quantitative restrictions, these restrictions over the years have been removed on items which were earlier been maintained by the country on balance of payment reasons. The balance 715 items out of the items notified to WTO were taken out of the Quantitative restrictions on 31.03.2001.

In the liberalized import regime the domestic industry will be obliged to face competition from imports subject to the applicable rate of customs duty. However, the

imports are being closely monitored and the Government are determined to ensure through the appropriate use of tariff and non tariff mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers. Some of the recent measures towards that end are as follows:—

(i) Import duties on a number of items have been increased.

(ii) Suo-moto anti-dumping investigations have been initiated in respect of import of battery cells, battery operated toys and sports shoes from China.

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

(iv) Import of 135 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/ exporters of these products to India are required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The list of 135 products includes various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders, multipurpose dry batteries and clinical theremometer.

(v) The Government has introduced a Bill for amending the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 so that Safeguard Action in the form of QRs can be applied if the situation so warrants.

The Government has also put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. Government is also aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology up gradation and improved infrastructure.

[English]

Forestry Development Project

1953. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have submitted new forestry development project for funding by Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC);

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been posed to JBIC; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be posed to JBIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Gujarat have submitted a forestry project proposal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The selection of projects for posing to JBIC for their consideration under fiscal year 2003 or subsequent loan package will depend on prioritization of all candidate projects including forestry development project from Gujarat Government.

Corruption in GIC

1954. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies regarding corruption received by the Government from the All India National General Insurance Employees Association during the last one year; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government have received two complaints dated 3.9.2002 and 4.9.2002 from the All India National General Insurance Employees Association alleging, inter alia, corrupt malpractices on the part of the certain officers of The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. and wasteful expenditure for conferences etc. The Insurance Company has reported that the allegations made by the Association against the Officers are vague in nature. As regards the wasteful expenditure, the company has reported that the expenditure incurred is well within the budget sanctioned.

[Translation]

BPL Families

1955. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated an action plan to ascertain the number of people living below the poverty line in each State in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court orders issued during the hearing of public interest petition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States covered under this action plan in the country; and

(d) the details of steps taken so far in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 28th November, 2001, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 had directed all States/UTs to complete the task of identification of BPL families latest by 1st January, 2002. Accordingly, the States/UTs were advised to complete the task of identification of BPL families if not already done. All States/UTs have reported identification of BPL families. The number of BPL households identified by State Governments/UTs is as per the statement enclosed.

Statement

The Identified Number of BPL families State-wise

State/UTs	No. of BPL Household including AAY identified by the State Govt./ UTs (lakhs)
1 2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	113.60
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1.20
3. Assam	18.85
4. Bihar	61.63
5. Goa	0.08
6. Gujarat	33.90
7. Haryana	7.68
8. Himachal Pradesh	2.98
9. Jammu & Kashmir	6.23
10. Karnataka	62.80
11. Kerala	20.58
12. Madhya Pradesh	44.87
13. Maharashtra	77.00
14. Manipur	1.29
15. Meghalaya	1.72
16. Mizoram	0.91
17. Nagaland	1.24
18. Orissa	48.57
19. Punjab	4.35
20. Rajasthan	23.74
21. Sikkim	0.44
22. Tamil Nadu	65.51
23. Tripura	2.50
24. Uttar Pradesh	105.75
25. West Bengal	47.87
26. A & N Islands	0.17
27. Chandigarh	0.23
28. D & N Haveli	0.16
29. Daman & Diu	0.04
30. Delhi	4.11
31. Lakshadweep	0.01(1285)
32. Pondicherry	0.95
33. Chhattisgarh	17.48
34. Jharkhand	22.21
35. Uttaranchal	4.30
Total	804.85

Export of Agricultural Products to Tunisia

1956. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to export several agricultural products including wheat and rice to Tunisia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to export several agricultural products including wheat and rice to Tunisia; and

(d) if so, the extent of foreign currency likely to be earned from this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) While during the 9th Session of the India-Tunisia Joint Commission meeting held in May 2002, the Indian side had inter-alia mentioned scope for export of quality tobacco to Tunisia, Government have not received any specific proposal in this regard, or in respect of any other agricultural product including wheat and rice.

[English]

Use of Disinvested Sale Proceed

1957. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans of the Government in regard to use of disinvested sale proceed of strategic sale of BALCO and other PSUs already disinvested in either expansion or modernisation of those units;

(b) whether disinvested amount so far realised are placed to meet the deficit financing of the budget from time to time; and

(c) if not, the guaranteed mechanism that these funds should be realised only for the purpose for which those disinvested units stood for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The disinvestment proceeds are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India, like any other receipt of Government of India. The expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of India, which includes outlays for infrastructure sectors, restructuring of public sector enterprises, social sectors like education, health and family welfare, etc. under both Central and State schemes, is approved by the Parliament.

Expansion of MADA Area of Rajasthan

1958. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal form Government of Rajasthan for inclusion of 28 more villages of Alwar district and 3 villages of Dholpur district in MADA sub-Block;

(b) if so, the status of proposal received by the Government from Government of Rajasthan;

(c) the likely time by which this proposal would be cleared/approved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received a proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for inclusion of 28 more villages of Alwar district and 3 villages of Dolpur district in the MADA sub-block along with some other proposals.

(b) and (c) The Government of Rajasthan has been requested to submit a comprehensive proposal to this Ministry for modification/inclusion of areas under ITDP/ MADA Pockets, which is awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of SCs/STs

1959. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any special package for the economic, educational and social development of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic provisions made for these people in proportion to their population;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) to (e) The Union Govt. has a number of schemes, which are meant for the economic, educational and social development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the strategy of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Special Component Plan (SCP) the State Government/Union Territories have been asked to prepare and implement TSP and SCP by earmarking part of the Plan fund in proportion to the percentage of STs and SCs in the States/UTs respectively. List of Schemes implemented for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is given as Statement.

Statement

List of Schemes implemented for the Development of SCs/STs by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Department of Education.

Schemes for SCs

1. Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs
2. Special Educational Programme for SCs
3. Post Metric Scholarship
4. PCR Act Atrocities
5. Hostel for SC Boys and Girls
6. National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation
7. State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation
8. National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation
9. Book Banks
10. Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers
11. Pre-Matric Scholarship
12. Coaching and Allied
13. Supporting Project to All India Nature of SCs (Research & Training)
14. Upgradation of merit of SCs/STs Students
15. Assistance to Voluntary Organization for SCs/OBCs and Minorities concentrated District.
16. National Overseas Scholarship.

Schemes for STs

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
2. Grants under first proviso to article 275(1) of the Constitution
3. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
4. Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for minor forest produce
5. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
6. Post Matric Scholarships for ST students
7. Grant in aid to Voluntary Organization working for the STs
8. Up gradation of merit of ST students
9. Educational complex in low literacy pockets for development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas
10. Girls Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
11. Boys Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
12. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas
13. Grants to Tribal Research Institutes
14. Book Bank Scheme for Students
15. Coaching & Allied Scheme for STs
16. Village Grain Bank Scheme
17. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation
18. National Overseas Scholarship Schemes for STs

Special Provisions/Incentives of Educational Development of SCs & STs Implemented by Ministry of Human Resources Development

1. Mid Day Meal Scheme
2. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan
3. District Education Programme
4. Mahila Samakhya
5. Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidhyalaya
6. Shiksha Karmi Project
7. Strengthening of Boarding & Hostel facilities for Girl students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools.

[English]

Income Tax Defaulters

1960. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the top twenty individuals and corporate bodies who have defaulted in paying income tax in recent past;

(b) whether the Government are considering to make the recovery of income tax; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A list of top twenty individuals and corporate bodies with maximum Income Tax arrears as on 30.6.2002 is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Recovery of 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 accounts of defaulters and amounts owed by debtors to such defaulters, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties of the defaulters, arrest of the defaulters and his detention in prison, appointing a receiver for the management of the defaulters, movable and immovable properties, etc.

Statement

S. No.	Name	As on 30.6.2002 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Shri Harshad S. Mehta (I.T.)	5429.57
2.	A.D. Narottam (I.T.)	3564.02
3.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd.	3192.54
4.	Shri Hiten P. Dalal	2086.98
5.	Northern Coal Fields	1857.87
6.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.	1002.72
7.	Shaw Wallace Co. Ltd.	944.69
8.	Shri Bhupinder C. Dalal (I.T.)	745.54
9.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	739.88
10.	Industrial Development Bank of India	737.39
11.	Shri Ashwin S. Mehta	640.63
12.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	569.50
13.	Shri S. Ramaswamy	564.88
14.	M/s Growmore Research & Asset Mngt. Ltd.	402.67
15.	Rolex Holdings Ltd.	389.96
16.	Sahara India Airlines Ltd.	383.58
17.	Max Telecom Ventures Ltd.	370.53
18.	GTC Industries Ltd.	367.22
19.	Triumph International Ltd.	442.88
20.	Ganapati Exp.	326.14
	Total	24659.19

Ashim Dasgupta Committee

1961. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether a High Power Committee headed by Shri Ashim Dasgupta, West Bengal Finance Minister has listed four core problems being faced by the States as a result of central policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendations of high power committee set up to look into the recommendations of Ashim Dasgupta Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action envisaged by the Government on each of the four core problems in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers headed by Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta, Finance Minister, West Bengal have in their

Memorandum, listed problems being faced by States which, inter-alia, included (i) adverse impact on the finances of the State Governments of the pay revision in the wake of Vth Central Pay Commission recommendations, (ii) larger interest burden due to states having to pay higher interest rate on central loans as compared to average cost of borrowings of Central Government, (iii) adverse impact of shortfall in Central devolution to State Governments in 2001-02 and (iv) impact of RBI stringently implementing the Ways & Means and Overdraft limits.

The High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Finance and Company Affairs set up to assess the fiscal situation of States discussed these issues and recommended certain measures which were considered at the meeting of all State Finance Ministers under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Finance and Company Affairs and subsequently, at the meeting of Chief Ministers on fiscal situation of States under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, to enable wider consultation to arrive at a consensual approach. The Government of India would be guided by the decisions taken in this meeting of the Chief Ministers.

Debt-Swap Plan

1962. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VEKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have finalised a massive debt-swap plant to reduce high cost loans over three years;

(b) if so, the details of this plan;

(c) if so, whether States have agreed to this plan for a debt swap;

(d) if not, the names of States which have disagreed with this plan with the reasons; and

(e) the final decision of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) To enable States to supplement their efforts towards fiscal consolidation, the Government of India have proposed a debt swap mechanism to facilitate States to utilize the additional 20% net collections of small savings disbursable to States during current year i.e. 2002-03, for retiring high cost debt of States restricted to Government of India's loans and advances. Those States agreeable to debt swapping during the current year would be allowed additional market borrowing to enable them to retire further high cost debt.

(c) to (e) The State Governments welcomed the principle of debt swap. Sixteen States have agreed to the proposed debt swap scheme while remaining States felt that there was need for further fine tuning the proposal as the liquidity crisis faced by them made parting with 20% small saving loans in a climate of revenue deficit, untenable.

The Government of India's approach to the debt swap proposal for the current year, would be guided by the views of the State Governments.

Movement of Natural Persons

1963. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's perception about the implication of General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) for India;

(b) whether the Government have pressed India's case for 'movement of natural persons' at WTO;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether the developed countries pressing for various other issues at WTO are agreeable to opening up of labour markets themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) establishes non-discriminatory multilateral rules which facilitate international Trade in Services. Services are an important component of the Indian economy and the GATS provides an opportunity to improve India's share in world trade in Services.

(b) to (d) India has submitted a proposal on Liberalisation of Movement of Professionals in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which identifies the barriers faced in the movement of professionals for delivery of

services and suggests strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation in this area. The paper seeks, sector-specific commitments, more transparency in administration of visa regimes, and multilateral norms for Economic Needs Tests and norms for recognition of qualifications. The issues raised in India's proposal are under discussion at the Special Sessions of the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) of the WTO. The negotiations under GATS are currently underway and the proposals in various service sectors including on Movement of Natural Persons are before the WTO member countries including the developed countries. The Agreement is applicable only to measures affecting temporary movement of natural persons for supply of service and does not apply to Natural Persons seeking access to the employment market, citizenship or residence on a permanent basis.

Counterfeit Currency and Non Judicial Stamp

1964. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether a workshop on detection of counterfeit currency, forget judicial and non-judicial stamps and passport in Hyderabad jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory and the Indian Security Press, Nashik;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the issues discussed in the workshop;

(c) whether the Government are losing thousands of crores of rupees annually because of the wide circulation of fake stamps and currency;

(d) if so, whether the Government have agreed with the views of experts of detecting counterfeit currency notes and stamps; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A workshop on detection of counterfeit security products was organised at Hyderabad by Director, Forensic Laboratory, Andhra Pradesh on 7th & 8th November, 2002. India Security Press (ISP), Nashik also participated in the workshop. The focus of the workshop was to empower the participants with knowledge to detect different counterfeit security products.

(c) It is difficult to estimate loss of revenue to the Government on account of circulation of fake stamps and currency. However, during recent years, some large seizures of fake stamps and fake Indians currency notes have been made.

(d) Views expressed by experts in the field of stamps and currency notes are considered by the Government on a regular basis with a view to enhancing security features in these Security documents to make detection of counterfeits easy.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps to curb the circulation of fake stamps and currency notes in the country which, inter-alia, including setting up a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation for exclusive of counterfeit currency notes, scalling up vigilance by the Border Security Force/Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency notes into the country; incorporation of special security features in higher denomination notes, dissemination of information on security features through print media and Doordarshan for the benefit of the public and setting up a Working Group of suggest measures to prevent counterfeiting of non-judicial stamp papers. Based on the recommendations of a High Level Committee of experts, some additional security features have been approved for incorporation in Indian bank notes which would make counterfeiting extremely difficult.

Misuse of Advance Licence Scheme by Importers of Sugar

1965. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs authorities are aware that under the present advance licence scheme for sugar import many Indian traders import refined sugar marked as raw sugar to avoid hefty duty;

(b) if so, whether the *modus operandi* of the importers involved in import of refined sugar (Marked as raw sugar) has caused substantial revenue loss to the Government;

(c) if so, whether adequate testing/analysing facilities are in place at ports to assess he consignment quality of sugar imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Indo-Russian Economic Cooperation

1966. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the Indo-Russian economic and culture co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main projects aided and approved by Russia and their year-wise progress during the last three years;

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

Jute Technology

1967. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have set up a Jute Technology Mission to improve the quality and increase the productivity of jute in the country;

(b) if so, the present trend of export of jute and its products;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to boost its export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) The Government proposes to set up a Jute Technology Mission for all round development of various segments of jute economy in the country.

(b) The export of jute goods has decreased marginally in 2001-02 in comparison to the exports during 2000-01. However, in the first six months of the current year (April-Sept' 02), there has been export of jute goods worth Rs. 406.60 crores in value terms as compared to Rs. 270.65 crores in the same period in last year i.e. an increase of 50%.

(c) and (d) Government has been taking various steps to increase the export of jute goods. These include assistance under External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme and Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme being implemented to boost the export of jute goods. The Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) also organizes specialized commodity fairs, buyer-seller meets and contact promotion programmes with special focus on potential jute products like food grade jute products, floor coverings, sacking and jute diversified products etc.

Foreign Investment Policy

1968. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any report presented by the Planning Commission for the Foreign Investment Policy for Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any move to make a new Foreign Investment Promotion Law by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Steering Group on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) constituted by Planning Commission has submitted its report in August, 2002. The recommendations of the Group, inter-alia, include: (i) Consider the enactment of a Foreign Investment Promotion Law; (ii) Urge States to enact a special investment law relating to Infrastructure to expedite all investment in Infrastructure sectors; (iii) Empower the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to give initial Central level registrations and approvals, (iv) Sectoral FDI caps should be reduced to the minimum and entry barriers eliminated; (v) The Special Economic Zones should be developed as the most competitive destination for export related FDI in the world; and (vi) Domestic Policy Reforms in the Power Sector, Urban Infrastructure and Real Estate and de-control/de-licensing should be expedited, etc.

(c) and (d) The Steering Group has made recommendation for consideration to be given to the enactment of a Foreign Investment Promotion Law that incorporates and integrates aspects relevant to promotion of FDI.

[Translation]

Linking ATM of All Banks

1969. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to interlink the ATMs of all the banks with the internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Banks formulate their own computerisation programme based on their business requirements.

Foreign Tours of UTI Officials

1970. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem "UTI adhikarion ki videsh yatra par dhai karor rupayee kharch" as appeared in 'Daily Dainik Jagran' dated the August 11, 2002;

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

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check this tendency?

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

(b) The news item refers to the expenditure incurred by UTI on foreign tours of UTI's officials as well as on publicity. UTI has intimated following expenditure on foreign visit of its officials, and publicity:—

Year	Expenditure on Foreign visit	Expenditure on publicity by Domestic Schemes
July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000	Rs. 101,30,733.00	Rs. 43,91,20,000.00
July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001	Rs. 90,37,902.50	Rs. 38,40,81,000.00
July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002	Rs. 59,63,717.40	Rs. 27,55,39,000.00

(c) Expenditures on foreign and publicity are incurred by UTI as part of normal course of its business. Officials of UTI except Chairman do not require approval of Government for their foreign visits. Chairman, UTI requires prior approval of Government in case the cumulative period of foreign visit in a calendar year exceeds 15 days.

Assistance to Institutes in Rajasthan

1971. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to the institutes set up by his Ministry in Rajasthan during the last three years alongwith the form in which these assistance have been provided;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any action against those institutes which were found fake institutes during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take the opinion of concerned public representatives prior to providing such assistance;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKERJEE): (a) No institute has been set up by this Ministry in Rajasthan during the last three years.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Central Economic Reforms Commission

1972. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to set up Central Economic Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs for creation of Central Economic Reforms Commission.

Indirect Tax Collection

1973. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indirect tax collection may not meet budget estimates;

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

(c) the concrete steps to be taken to keep pace or improve the indirect tax collection to meet the budget estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per departmental records, the excise revenue has registered 18.2 percent growth during 2002-2003 (April to October) over corresponding period of the last year. Similarly, the customs revenue has registered 11.1 percent growth during 2002-2003 (April to October) over corresponding period of last year. At this stage, it may, however, not be possible to collection for the financial year 2002-2003 as the full impact of various factors like drought in many parts of the country, exemptions given after the presentation of budget are yet to be assessed.

(c) All possible steps are being taken to achieve the budget estimate. These include rationalization of tariff structure, review and withdrawal of tax exemptions wherever necessary, plugging leakage of revenue through anti-smuggling and anti-evasion measures, monitoring and disseminating international prices of imported commodities and simplification of tax collection procedures to improve tax compliance.

Setting up of Off-Shore Banks

1974. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters have requested for setting up of off-shore banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the announcement made by the Union Commerce Minister in the EXIM Policy 2002-07 that for the first time Offshore Banking Units (OBUs) would be permitted to be set up in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Reserve Bank of India, in November, 2002, has formulated a scheme to facilitate banks operating in India to set up OBUs in SEZs. these OBUs. These OBUs would virtually operate as foreign branches of Indian banks but located in India, and would be exempt from cash reserve requirement and statutory liquidity requirements. These OBUs would give SEZ units and SEZ developers access to international finance at international rates.

Irregularities in Award of Scholarship

1975. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1946 dated July, 2002 and state:

(a) the two cases of irregularities in the disbursement of scholarships to ST students of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the separate break-up thereof;

(c) whether any action is being taken against persons involved in the irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) As reported by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, 30 different institutions were found to be involved in irregularities in the disbursement of scholarships to ST/SC/OBC students of MP and the total amount involved is Rs. 1,67,19,827. An FIR has been lodged with the police in respect of all these 30 institutions.

The information in respect of Andhra Pradesh is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in Coarse Cloth Production

1976. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coarse cloth during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is sufficient to meet domestic demand;

(c) whether some textile mills have faced closure leading to decline in production and have rendered many labours jobless; and

(d) the steps to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) The data on total production of course cloth is not separately available. However, the total and sector-wise production of cloth during the last three years is as follows:—

(in million sq. metrs.)

Sector	2000-2001	2001-2002	2001-2002 (April-Sept)	2002-2003 (p) (April-Sept)
Mill	1670	1546	778	765
Powerloom	23803	25192	12517	13391
Handloom	7506	7585	3871	2958
Hosiery	6696	7067	3416	3872
Total	38006	39845	19804	20221

(P) Provisional

(b) Yes, Sir. The per capita availability of cloth is increasing over the years. During 2001-02 per capita availability of cloth registered an increase of 4.2 per percent to 31.97 Sqr. Mtr. from 30.68 Sqr. Mtr. in 2000-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The step taken by the Ministry of Textiles to check this trend include provision of compensation to displaced workers in the mill sector through the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) and implementation of plan schemes for creation of job opportunities like the Apparel Parks and the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS).

WTO Meeting on Non-Discrimination and Development Provisions

1977. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation working Group on trade and investment had a two-day meeting in Geneva in the month July, 2002 to discuss the issues of non-discrimination and development provisions which are crucial from India's point of view;

(b) if so the decision arrived there at; and

(c) the extent to which said decisions suited to India?

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

(b) and (c) A number of Members including contributed to the discussions on these issues at the meeting and written submissions were also made. However, the discussions in the Working Group are clarifactory and educative in nature. Any decision will be taken only at the next Ministerial Conference of WTO scheduled to be held at Cancun, Mexico, during 10-14 September 2003.

Salt Works in Gujarat

1978. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of salt works in Gujarat particularly in Kutch and Saurashtra region;

(b) the details of land in each salt works in the region under the lease or ownership;

(c) whether record of labourers working in the salt works is not being maintained by the Rural Development Commissioner;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the correction steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) There are 2762 Salt Works in Gujarat. Out of which 984 Salt Works are in Kutch and 1446 Salt Works are in Saurashtra Region.

(b) The number of Salt Works and the area of land in respect of each region is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Rural Development Commissioner, Govt. of Gujarat maintains the records of the unroganised Salt Workers and the Labour Commissioner, Govt. of Gujarat maintains the records of organised Salt Workers.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Salt Works in Gujarat Region (As on 1.7.2002)

Sl. No.	Area/Distt.	Central Govt. land on lease		State Govt. land on lease		Kandla Port Trust (Central organisation)-Land on lease		Private lands (Patta) on ownership		Total land	
		No. of salt works	Area (Acres)	No. of salt works	Area (Acres)	No. of salt works	Area (Acres)	No. of salt works	Area (Acres)	No. of salt works	Area (Acres)
1.	Kutch	0	0	942	65811	41	14974	1	50	984	80835
2.	Saurashtra	1	23595	1444	196066	0	0	1	99	1446	219760
3.	Other Districts	4	1856	328	64680	0	0	0	0	332	66536
	Total Gujarat	5	25451	2714	326557	41	14974	2	149	2762	367131

[Translation]

VRS for Bank Employees

1979. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks have sought the permission of the Government to retrench old employees under Voluntary Retirement Scheme II (VRS) and to recruit technically skilled employees in their place;

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

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Government for computerisation of all branches of all the public sector banks; and

(d) the mode of meeting the demand of technical employees to cater to the need of the new working system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from one of the nationalised banks to introduce a second Voluntary Retirement Scheme to right-size the staff strength. The proposal is under consideration. There is no proposal for retrenchment of surplus staff.

(c) In order to ensure smooth customer service and to speed up decision making process, public sector banks have taken various measures for computerisation/ mechanisation of their branches/offices including installation of ATMs at major commercial, and residential

centres, popularising electronics clearing system, electronic funds transfer for corporate customers, etc.

(d) The banks have provided for recruitment of technical staff as per their requirement while formulating their recruitment strategy. Banks have also put in place training mechanism designed to upgrade knowledge and skill of their employees in order to ensure that human resource with adequate competence is available to meet the challenges of the new technology-driven work place and the expectations of the customers.

Safeguards for Ghumantu Adivasis

1980. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated September 1, 2002 under the captions "Hakon ke mohtaj Karoraun adivasis ghumantu";

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

(c) whether the Government to not provide budgetary provisions for them and are also not extending the rights to them enshrined in the Constitution; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) A new item under the heading 'Hakon ke mohtaj karoraun adivasi ghumantu' appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara dated September 1, 2002 wherein it was alleged that the so called cultured society treat the denotified and nomadic tribes as criminals and the Government do not provide any budgetary provisions for them. It was further alleged that the Government do not extend them the rights enshrined in the Constitution.

The denotified and nomadic tribes have been categorized as Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes etc. based on their socio economic conditions in the respective States & UTs. Though there is no specific earmarking of funds exclusively under the category of denotified tribes but they are entitled to benefits/concessions available under various schemes of the government in accordance with their categorization as Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes as the case may be.

[English]

Impact of WTO Agreements of Indian Farmers

1981. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether there is a general opinion that the WTO agreements on agriculture had not done justice to Indian farmers;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of farmers and to build a lobby of like minded nations to face up the developed countries in the re-negotiation round of the like minded nations to face up the developed countries in the re-negotiation round of the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which came into effect on 1 January 1995, aims to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system and provides rules and disciplines on support and protection. India's domestic policy options for agricultural and rural development have not been constrained by the commitments undertaken under the AoA. However, the experience of implementation of the AoA has brought out some asymmetries and imbalances in the provisions of the AoA. These have been highlighted by India in proposals presented to the WTO in the on-going negotiations in agriculture. The proposals generally address the need to safeguard the interests of our agricultural production and farmers during the negotiations by, inter alia, providing appropriate levels of tariff protection on imports and taking into account the food security and livelihood concerns of developing countries like India, and through increased market access for agricultural products of export interests to us.

In order to ensure that Indian farmers are not put to any hardship, the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to domestic producers through WTO compatible measures, including appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within bound levels, and imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under specified circumstances as necessary.

India is also engaged in building broad coalitions with WTO Members to achieve its objectives.

Rules for Buy Back of Shares

1982. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prior consent of the share holders has been made mandatory for the companies intending to buy-back its shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether number of companies have gone into liquidation after raising large amounts through the public issue;

(d) if so, the number of such companies during each of the last three years; and

(e) the concrete steps have been taken by the Government to protect the interest of the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Section 77A of the Companies Act, if the buy-back of shares, in any year, is higher than 10% of the paid-up capital and free reserves, the prior approval, by a Special Resolution, of the shareholders is required.

(c) to (e) The Department of Company Affairs does not separately maintain information on listed companies under liquidation.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 650 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2002 making certain alterations in the Schedule II of the Companies Act, 1956 under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6126/2002]

(2) A copy of the Gujarat State Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Gujarat State Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (Amalgamation) Order, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 653 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 2002 under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6127/2002]

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) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 73 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995:-

(i) S.O. 994 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2002 seeking to exempt all categories of posts of "combatant personnel" only of the Central Para Military Forces and Assam Rifles from the provision of the section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(ii) S.O. 995 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2002 seeking to exempt all categories of posts of "combatant personnel" only of the Central Para Military Forces and Assam Rifles from the provision of the section 47 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(iii) S.O. 1179 published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2002 seeking to exempt all categories of posts of "combatant personnel" of Armed Forces from the provision of the section 47 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(iv) S.O. 1180 published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2002 seeking to exempt all categories of posts of "combatant personnel" of Armed Forces from the provision of the section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) and (iv) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6128/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): Sir, 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 working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6129/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cotton 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. 6130/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, 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 Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6131/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6132/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 18 of the Explosives Act, 1884:-

(i) The Explosive (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 467(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2002.

(ii) The Explosive (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 483(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6133/2002]

(2) A copy of the Table Marks Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 114 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2002 under sub-section (4) of section 157 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6134/2002]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 875 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2002 notifying the Murli Agro Products Limited Vadoda, Maharashtra, as a Mill producing newsprint under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6135/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, 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 National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6136/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:-

(i) S.O. 3272 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Annai J.K.K. Sampoorani Ammal Charitable Trust, Ethirmedu, Komarypalyam, Tamilnadu" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1996-1997, subject to certain conditions.

(ii) S.O. 3273 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Federation of Indian Export Organisation, PHD House, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.

(iii) S.O. 3274 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Hamdard Dawakhana (Wakf), Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.

(iv) S.O. 3275 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Railway Minister's Welfare & Relief Fund, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.

(v) S.O. 3276 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Family Planning Association of India, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(vi) S.O. 3277 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Sterlite Foundation, Worli, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.

(vii) S.O. 3278 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(viii) S.O. 3279 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Auroville Foundation, Villupuram District, Tamilnadu" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(ix) S.O. 3280 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Council for Leather Exports, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.

(x) S.O. 3281 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Mission, West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.

(xi) S.O. 3282 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Math, West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.

(xii) S.O. 3283 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Southern Health Improvement Samity, P.O. Bhangur, Distt. 24 Parganas, West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.

(xiii) S.O. 3284 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Krishna Gopal Ayurvedic Dharmarth Aushodhalya Trust, Ajmer" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.

(xiv) S.O. 3285 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "St. John Ambulance Association, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.

(xv) S.O. 3286 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Punjab Kesari Club, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998, subject to certain conditions.

(xvi) S.O. 3287 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(xvii) S.O. 3288 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption of the "Gujarat Ecological Education Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(xviii) S.O. 3289 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, Haryana" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xix) S.O. 3290 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xx) S.O. 3291 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Foundation Aga Khan, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxi) S.O. 3292 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Bhopal Memorial Trust, Bhopal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(xxii) S.O. 3293 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998, subject to certain conditions.

(xxiii) S.O. 3294 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Friends of Moral Re-armament (India), Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997 to 1998-1999, subject to certain conditions.

(xxiv) S.O. 3295 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxv) S.O. 3296 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Swaminarayan Akharpith, Ahmedabad" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxvi) S.O. 3297 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Population Services International, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.

(xxvii) S.O. 3298 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-1990 to 1991-1992, subject to certain conditions.

(xxviii) S.O. 3299 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Bombay Gow Rashak Mandali, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-01, subject to certain conditions.

(xxix) S.O. 3300 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Auroville Foundation, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxx) S.O. 3301 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Bombay House, Homy Mody Streetm, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxi) S.O. 3302 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Social Research, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxii) S.O. 3303 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, Royal Nepalese Embassy, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxiii) S.O. 3304 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Krishnamurthy Foundation, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxiv) S.O. 3305 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "The Theosophical Society, Adder, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxv) S.O. 3306 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Population Foundation of India, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxvi) S.O. 3307 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Sree Ramakrishna Satyananda Ashram, Village Jirakpur, P.O. Bashirhat Railway Station, Distt. North 24 Parganas (N), West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxvii) S.O. 3308 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Institute of Marketing and Management, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxviii) S.O. 3309 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Cancer Relief Society, Cochin" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.

(xxxix) S.O. 3310 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "U.P. Rural Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Project Managment Unit" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.

(xl) S.O. 3311 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xli) S.O. 3312 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Hind Kusht Nivaran Snagh, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.

(xlii) S.O. 3313 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Khelaghar, Palm Avenue, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(xliii) S.O. 3315 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Centre for High Technology, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-1993 to 1994-1995, subject to certain conditions.

(xliv) S.O. 3316 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Action for Food Production (AFPRO), Janakpuri, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1994-1995 to 1996-1997, subject to certain conditions.

(xlv) S.O. 3317 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "The Society of the Franciscam Servants of Mary, Algapuram, Salem" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-1993 to 1994-1995, subject to certain conditions.

(xlvi) S.O. 3318 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Delhi Society for Mentally Retarded Children, Okhla Centre, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.

(xlvii) S.O. 3319 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Liberation Movement for Women, Kakkanoor, Tamil Nadu" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1994-1995 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.

(xlviii) S.O. 3320 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.

(xlix) S.O. 3321 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Indian International Textiles Machinery Exhibition Society, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

(l) S.O. 3322 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2002 regarding exemption to the "Punjab Calamity Relief Fund, Punjab Chandigarh" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1991-1992 to 1993-1994, subject to certain conditions.

(li) The Income Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 642 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(lii) The Income Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 643 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(liii) The Income Tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 659 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(liv) The Income Tax (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 6804 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(lv) The Income Tax (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. S.O. 1284 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31th December, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(lvi) S.O. 647 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 709 (E) dated the 20th August, 1998.

(lvii) The Income Tax (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 827 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(lviii) The Income Tax (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1046 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6137/2002]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 139 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

(i) The Scheme for Bulk Filing of Returns by Salaried Employees, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 661 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) S.O. 1206 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the class or classes of persons to apply to the Assessing Officer for the allotment of Permanent Account Number.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6138/2002]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

(i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 809 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2002.

(ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Second Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 954 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 956 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Sweet Equity) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1031 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2002.

(v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for Holding Enquiry by Enquiry Officer and Imposing Penalty) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1045 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2002.

(vi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Portfolio Managers) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1087 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6139/2002]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

(i) G.S.R. 562 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 137/2002-Cus., dated the 19th October, 2000.

(ii) G.S.R. 563 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt fully all goods imported by the developers/promoters for the purposes of development, operation and maintenance of the Special Economic Zone.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6140/2002]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

(i) G.S.R. 560 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 52/2000-CE., dated the 19th October, 2000.

(ii) G.S.R. 561 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt fully all goods procured indigenously by the developers/promoters for the purposes of development, operation and maintenance of the Special Economic Zone.

(iii) G.S.R. 742 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 8/97-CE., dated the 1st March, 1997.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6141/2002]

(6) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 1st November, 2002 issued by the President in pursuance of article 280 of the Constitution and sections 6 and 8 of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 published in Notification No. S.O. 1161 (E) regarding constitution of Finance Commission consisting of a Chairman and three members.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6142/2002]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 727 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the passengers belonging to United States who have come to India to take part in Indo-US Joint Exercise "Cope India-2002" conducted in Agra from the payment of foreign travel tax, under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6143/2002]

(8) A copy each of following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993:-

(i) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Pune (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 628 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(ii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Coimbatore (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 629 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(iii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Vishakhapatnam (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 630 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(iv) The Debts Recovery Tribunal-III Delhi (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 631 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(v) The Debts Recovery Tribunal Ranchi (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 632 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(vi) The Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 633 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

(vii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal-III Kolkata (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 634 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6144/2002]

(9) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. No. 479 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2002 notifying the change in the location of Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal mentioned therein issued under section 8 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6145/2002]

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:-

(i) The Indian Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. PEN/2/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2002.

(ii) The Union Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. Pension 3 in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2002.

(iii) The Bank of Baroda Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. HO:OSR&IR:27/108/H/611 in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2002.

(iv) The Bank of Baroda Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. HO:OSR&IR:27/1081/330 in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6146/2002]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 19 and 24 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

(ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6147/2002]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 18 and 23 of Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

(ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6148/2002]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Pratichi (India) Trust, 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 Pratichi (India) Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6149/2002]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, 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 Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6150/2002]

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, 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 Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6151/2002]

(16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Centre for Policy Research, 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 Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6152/2002]

(17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Acharyakul, Wardha, 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 Acharyakul, Wardha, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6153/2002]

(18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Centre for Development Economics, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6154/2002]

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, 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 Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6155/2002]

(20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Council of Applied Economic Research, 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 National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6156/2002]

(21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, 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 National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6157/2002]

(22) Statistical Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 40 of the Spices Board Act, 1986:-

(i) The Spices Board (Registration of Exporters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. F.No. Admn./Reg/01/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2002.

(ii) The Spices Board (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 636 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2002.

(iii) The Cardamom (Licensing and Marketing) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 645 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6158/2002]

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6159/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Trading 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. 6160/2002]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the PEC 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. 6161/2002]

[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 V. Sreenivasa Prasad I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Certification) Amendment Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 531 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2002 under section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6162/2002]

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 2nd December, 2002 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Representation of People (Amendment) (Ordinance, 2002 and consideration and passing of the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

3. Discussion and voting on:-

(i) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2002-03.

(ii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2002-03.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-

(i) The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2001

(ii) The Biological Diversity Bill, 2000

(iii) The Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Repeal, Bill, 2002

(iv) The Freedom of Information Bill, 2000

(v) The Indian Evidence (Amendment) Bill, 2002

(vi) The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill, 2002

(vii) The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2002

5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:-

(i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Extension to Kohima and Mokochung Districts) Repeal Bill, 2002

(ii) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002

(iii) The Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002

(iv) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) Need to fix accountability on Public Servant as the State Government of Kerala could not get the drought relief assistance from Centre due to non-submission of report on time.

(ii) Need for welfare scheme for workers engaged in Tailoring Industry.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur); Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) Around 12000 employees of HFCL and FCIL will be out of employment and they have opted for VSS and vacate all quarters within 31.12.2002 or to pay penal rent. Workers are already deprived of actual pay scales since 1987. They will face huge financial loss for pre-mature closure of P.F. Accounts. The Government may reconsider the order.

(ii) The pending salaries of PSU should be cleared immediately. For example, the salaries of HSCL especially for Durgapur Unit are pending since 35 months.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. There is much difference in the loan schemes of nationalised banks and cooperative banks for construction of houses. For example nationalised bank, advance loan at the rate of 8.5 to 10.5% interest while the cooperative banks give loans at 18.5% interest. There should be some uniformity between the interest rates of both the banks.

2. Insurance amount should be made available under crop insurance scheme in drought affected areas because farmers are affected. So the centre should provide this crop insurance amount to farmers after surveying the situation.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) Need to allocate Rs. 5 crore for construction of a hospital for the treatment of AIDS patients at Salem in Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Need to allocate Rs. 1 crore for the construction of road at Nainamalai Hills at Senthamangalam in Rasipuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Population of our country has gone over to more than 103 crore. Our total area compared to world is only 2.4% even then every sixth is an Indian. If the speed of increase in the population remained the same, then by 2050 our population would be more than 160 crore, although Government of India has made all efforts to control the population of the country, so there is a need of discussion for national consensus for population control.

2. It is a matter of concern that the atrocities against women specially rape and harassment are increasing, it is not only a problem of law and order, but it has its social aspect too. So, there is need to solve the problem of sexual harassment which is a product of decimation of family values, naked films and advertisements and easy availability of pornography on internet. It requires a full discussion to solve the problem.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) The coconut farmers are under starvation. I request the Central Government to include copra as an item of agricultural product to be included in the WTO Agreement.

(ii) The tea plantations in India are now closed. The workers are thrown out of employment. I request the Central Government to take immediate remedial measures towards improvement of the Plantations.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Sitamarhi-the birth place of Sita, inked to Vidarbha Gandhi Ashram and Mahila Ashram in eastern Champaran in northern Bihar, should be developed as Janki circuit and be included in national tourist map. Let there be a discussion on this subject.

2. Discussion on the subject of inclusion of Rahika-pupri-Sitamarhi Road as national highways.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Jalgaon is a main junction station of Bhusawal division of Jalgaon Central Railways a world famous Ajanta caves are at a distance of 45 kilometers and tourists from foreign countries come to visit this place. But many of the express trains do not have any halt at this station, so the foreign tourists have to face difficulties. So there is a need to give halt at station to express trains.

2. Need to start air service from Jalgaon Maharashtra.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Farmers are commuting suicide throughout India because of breaking of rural economy. There is need for social welfare schemes for farmers.

2. In rural areas employment opportunities are becoming less due to non-availability of power. So, there is need to give priority to this field.

12.11 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Spices Board

[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): On behalf of my senior colleague Shri Arun Shourie I beg to move:-

"That in pursuance of Section 3(3) (b) of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with rules 4(1) (b) and 5(1) of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Spices Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 3(3) (b) of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with rules 4(1) (b) and 5(1) of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Spices Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.12 hrs.

[English]

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STOCK MARKET SCAM AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Re. : Recommending to Rajya Sabha to appoint one Member

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint one Member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam in the Vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri Amar Singh

from Rajya Sabha and communicate to this House the name of the Member so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint one Member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam in the Vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri Amar Singh from Rajya Sabha and communicate to this House the name of the Member so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted

12.13 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra, there are many problems...*(Interruptions)*. The condition of law and order situation is not good there...*(Interruptions)*. In Maharashtra, Narainji Rane's House has been burnt...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you chance to speak one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire will speak first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you chance to express your views. I am now listening to Shri Khaire.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to the hon. Members one by one. For the time being I would like to listen to Kharie ji.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Separate notices have been given to me by both Kumari Bhawna Gavli and Shri Mohan Rawale. They will only associate with the Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, their Government should be dismissed...*(Interruptions)*

12.16 hrs.

(I) RE : LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law and order situation in Maharashtra is very serious. We have been raising this issue since Monday but today we have a chance to discuss this topic. I would like to submit that the bungalow, petrol pump, hotel of Shri Narayan Ji Rane in Kantoli are being burnt. The building has been burnt by the workers of Rashtrvadi Congress and Congress.

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 29.11.02

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

Shiv Sainkiks of Maharashtra on the instructions of Shri Balasaheb Thakre maintained peace and silence...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to submit to the Government through you that we belong to NDA. As the law and order situation is not good, so Minister of State of Home Affairs should go there...*(Interruptions)*

I would not say that there was an attack on the House of Shri Rane but police resorted to lathi charge on farmers in Maharashtra and the fishermen of Maharashtra were also lathi charged near Manori in Mumbai. In Maharashtra, there were 59 riots and in Maharashtra law and order situation is not good...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to submit that Shri Advani and Shri Swami visit to assess the situation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, I also associate myself with this.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The policy being followed by the Maharashtra Government should be changed...*(Interruptions)*. The leader of opposition who was former Chief Minister is being attacked then what may be the situation of common people...*(Interruptions)*. Shri Chhagan Bhujbal has given a statement...*(Interruptions)* that Maharashtra Government should be dismissed...*(Interruptions)*. There should be discussion on law and order situation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is true that it is a state subject, even then I am talking to you, I gave you permission because

[English]

the house of the Leader of the Opposition was burnt. So, I thought that the matter is of serious nature, therefore, I permitted you to speak. But it must be understood that the Central Government has very little to do in the matter. As regards your request that somebody should be sent to see the position, it is for the Government to decide. Since the hon. Minister of Parliament Affairs is here, if he wants to speak, he can speak on the issue.

[Translation]

Shri Mohan Rawale ji, please speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, democracy has been murdered...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): The number he is speaking about...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The issue before us is not that of murder. Please speak on the issue which is before the House.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I met the Superintendent of Police there. He informed at 12 noon. that he will provide police at all places. After that in morning at 4 a.m. Raneji, who is the Ex-Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*. You are making here a noise, let me tell you what happened there...*(Interruptions)*. Stones were thrown on his house. His manager informed him that stones were being thrown on his house. In the morning at 10.30 a.m. his house was burnt in the presence of police. It means police were also involved in it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rawaleji, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: The law and order situation in Maharashtra has got worsened. That should be discussed here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given notice of discussion? If the House agrees I can allow discussion on the subject next week.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me handle the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Before this the house of Ex-Home Minister was attacked. Then Indrajeet Guptaji went there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): What happened in the case of Babu Jagjivan Ram?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Congress men were also among 150-200 people who had attacked there...*(Interruptions)*. Their house were burnt...*(Interruptions)*. Action was taken against those people who were killed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am thinking of allowing a debate next week on this issue.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): I am not objecting to what they have said. I am simply saying that if anything has happened, law will take its own course. If anybody has been murdered, action will be taken against the murderers. If anybody has put anybody else's house on fire, action will be taken against that person also. So, it should not be treated as an issue here...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: No action has been taken so far...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The houses of an Ex-Chief Minister and the leader of opposition are burnt and you are protecting them. Those who have burnt the houses should be arrested...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Khaireji, I have said that I will find out a way to allow discussion in the House next week after Monday. Discussion will certainly be taken on your notice. Now, please sit down.

[English]

I am taking up issues one after another. I am taking up your issue also.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Home Minister should go there to know the factual position...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up the issue of Jagjivan Babu.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pramod Mahajan, would you like to respond?

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): The State Government is conducting inquiry in murder case of Sarpanch. It seems Shiv Sena has obtained licence to murder. Who is responsible for murder in Maharashtra? The murder of Sarpanch...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Nobody has been murdered there. Congress men are involved in murders.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Sarpanch was murdered there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Two men of Rashtrawadi Congress are involved in that murder...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You, please take your seat. Hon. Minister is here to respond and you are making noise, how will it work.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Minister had said in the house that he will convey the feelings of the House to the Prime Minister. Today is 29th November and what action is being taken by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak when issue comes up. At present the issue is not before the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence and cooperate.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you and rest of the Members and Shivraj ji have said if anybody has been murdered, then it is also condemnable and this should also be investigated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: We have condemned it. We are not supporting it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: But if there is incident of murder of anybody it should also be investigated. Police should look into it and punish the offender. But if the house and shops of the leader of opposition has been burnt by making this murder an issue, I am sure nobody

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

would support it. I think everybody will oppose it as the incident was a wrong one. As you said law and order is state subject and the centre has no direct responsibility in it. Hon. Members have demanded that a representative of Centre should go there to investigate. I will convey this message to Minister of Home Affairs. He will take decision according to rules and conventions...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no such precedent should be set which might create problem in future...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What happened to our demand to make residence of Jagjivan Babu a memorial...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving chance one by one.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If house of leader of opposition would have been attacked and somebody had entered his house, would we not have objected to it?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): I want to raise an important issue. I am not just concerned with an individual in a State. I am raising an issue concerning 25 crores of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The House of Leader of Opposition has been attacked there so the State Government should be dismissed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mohan Rawale, I had assured to convey your message and that has been done. Now please take your seat.

12.25 hrs.

(II) RE.: DEMAND TO DISCUSS THE 5TH REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCS AND STS

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: According to article 338 of the Indian Constitution, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is required to submit periodical reports to his Excellency the President of India. The Fifth Report has already been submitted by the National Commission on the 21st of February 2001. I am extremely sorry to place on the record of this House that in the good old days, reports of the SC and ST Commission were discussed in the Lok Sabha regularly.

The Fifth Report has already been submitted and very revolutionary recommendations and suggestions have been made by that Commission. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is supposed to inform the Lok Sabha as to what are the recommendations of the Commission, what are the disabilities and difficulties faced by these 25 crores of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I also want to inform the House that in a very important Conference of Governors from all over the country which took place before two years, the Governors complained to the hon. President that the Special Component Plan money meant only for the Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub-Plan money meant only for the Scheduled Tribes was used by various State Governments for purposes other than the ones for which it was sent by the Central Government. There was a serious complaint that the land to the landless people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not being distributed in spite of the constitutional provision.

His Excellency, the President, then appointed a Committee of seven Governors under the Chairmanship of Shri P.C. Alexander. According to my information, the report of that high level Committee has already been submitted to the President and it must have come to the Government of India also. I, as a Member elected from a reserved constituency, am very much concerned not only about in individual or a house of a particular man in a particular State, but this issue concerns 25 crores of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I want to know from the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment as to why the report of the National Commission is not discussed in this House during the last five or six years and why there is a shortcoming in this regard. We must know the reason.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I totally agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, Shri Pravin Rashtrapal. I think, the time has come to discuss this issue. For many Sessions we have not discussed issues relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I think from the Government's side we have no objection

if the Business Advisory Committee under your leadership decides to discuss this issue. We can find time even in this Session to discuss the issue of the Fifth Report of the National Commission for SC and ST and related issues. We totally support the demand made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The discussion may be kept after 15th December, so that I am available.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Naturally it will be discussed when you are present....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion on this subject about converting Babu Jagjivan Ram's residence into National Memorial has already held in the Zero Hour earlier also. There is no need to discuss this subject right now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving you two minutes to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I am saying that I am giving you permission. Raghuvansh Prasad ji, you want to ask, you can also ask.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.30 hrs.

(III) RE. : DECLARATION OF 6, KRISHNA MENON MARG, NEW DELHI, AS BABU JAGJIVAN RAM NATIONAL MEMORIAL

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): I thank you for giving permission to raise the issue of 6, Krishna Menon Marg. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present here. He gave assurance to this House that he will bring this issue into the knowledge of hon. Prime Minister. In the meantime a report has been published in the newspapers that the Government has said in a reply to the Parliament that the issue of declaration of 6, Krishna Menon Marg, residence of Babu Jagjivan Ram as National Memorial has been rejected. The orders of the Supreme Court has been mentioned time and again. I want to tell through you that I have a copy of orders of the court. If you permit, I can present that. The court said in their interim order of 10.11.1998.

[English]

"On the overall consideration of the matter, we direct that no further allotment to the houses for the purposes of trusts, memorials and political parties shall be made by the Union of India without the leave of the Court till the next date."

[Translation]

It was said in the first paragraph that:

[English]

"A decision with regard to 6, Krishna Menon Marg and 1, Moti Lal Nehru Marg be placed before this Court on the next date."

[Translation]

After that no decision was taken and 1, Moti Lal Nehru Marg was declared as National Memorial. Honourable Lal Bahadur Shastri is our leader, leader of our country, whatever has been done is good but

[English]

Why is there a discrimination against Babu Jagjivan Ram?

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)*. I want to say that 114 MPs of Ninth Lok Sabha, 267 MPs of Tenth Lok Sabha, Shri Madan Lal Khurana is sitting here, he was among them, had wrote a letter to the Honourable George Fernandes on 11th July, 2002. Honourable Sahib Singh Verma wrote on 4th July, 2002 and Bangaru Laxman has also written a letter to this House. Shri Sharad Yadav has written on 31st July, 2002 and Surajbhan has written on 26 July, 2002. Lal Bihari Tiwari ji, H.D. Deve Gowda ji, Inder Kumar Gujral and P.V. Narsimha Rao ji have also written such letters. Honourable Shankar Dayal Sharma, as President had written a letter to the Honourable Prime Minister on 22 July, 1995. Honourable K.R. Narayanan wrote a letter on 6.7.2002. Honourable Manohar Joshi, as Speaker strongly recommended on 16th September, 2002. Hundreds of MPs written letters between 2000-2002. What is the crime of Jagjivan Ramji in this regard? In spite of writting by all people only residence of Lal Bahadur Shatriji has been declared as National Memorial. The court asked to consider both places and I fail to understand why injustice is being done with Jagjivan Ram ji and why this Government...*(Interruptions)*. This is adopting such attitude towards dalits...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Babu Jagjivan Ram ji was a great freedom fighter...*(Interruptions)*. Such discrimination against him cannot be tolerated...*(Interruptions)*. The Government should tell in the House, what it has to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This is not an ordinary issue. If anybody has any objection or the House has any objection over this then anybody can speak...*(Interruptions)*. I want to make a request that the Government should give reply in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have presented this important issue very nicely. I think that there was a need to convey all this information to the Government which you have conveyed. Now, I want to see the reply to be given by the Government in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, last week, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister assured as about this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister himself is the Government. Let him reply to this.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I did not assure anything...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Last week, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister assured us that he would carry the message to the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have done it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the Government is not heeding our request. It is insensitive and irresponsible. This issue has been raised since many days, and the Government should come into the House with a reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This issue has been discussed extensively and we cannot discuss it further. There are other urgent subjects also. This is an important subject. Honourable Minister can give reply on this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, if honourable Members, listen peacefully, the information which I have, can give to the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this issue was raised in the House last time, then I said in the House that I will convey the feelings of the Members in the House to the Honourable Prime Minister immediately on that day and I conveyed that if I got certain information, I will definitely give it to the House. I want to say two things at this point of time...*(Interruptions)*. One, this is not true at least till date that there is a decision that the Government can built memorials of big leaders. But if the Government decides then the Government can built the memorial of each and every leader, this is a different thing...*(Interruptions)* Sir, in my view all leaders are big. I do not want to compare one with another, whether it is of Shastri ji or Babu Jagjivan Ram ji. This is true that all those letters about which you told had been written by the present honourable Prime Minister, Deve Gowda ji and Gujral ji, three of them became Prime Minister, but they did not do it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Nobody has asked for evacuation of that place.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Nobody has asked for evacuation but these are not memorials. Secondly, this is not true that the Government is rejecting only this proposal. Choudhary Ajit Singh has written a letter that Choudhary Charan Singh was residing in that House for so many years, so that House should be converted into a memorial. The Government did not agree with this proposal. Choudhary Om Prakash Chautala also wrote a letter that Choudhary Devi Lal was the Deputy-Prime Minister of the country and resided in that House for so many years and that should be converted into a memorial. The Government said that memorial will not be built. In the year 2000, the Cabinet of which Ram Vilas Paswan was also a member for some months took this decision...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: No, later on, in the year, 2002.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I do not know whether you were present on that day or not, but I can say with full confidence that you were the Member of the Cabinet. The Cabinet took this decision that big leaders reside in the houses of Delhi. If one place is converted into a

memorial, than so many memorials can be built and residence of Babu Jagjivan Ram can also be converted into a memorial. Big leaders are living in Delhi for many years. Some residences had been converted into memorials after their death, but the then Cabinet decided that no more residences would be coverted into memorials. I am not Urban Development Minister, I do not know the details about the Court's orders. You have raised this issue, but this is not a fact that the Government is discriminating against anybody. Choudhary Ajit Singh ji himself is a Member of this Cabinet, even then the Government said that it cannot convert that house into a memorial in spite of full respect towards his honourable father. Choudhary Om Prakash Chautala is a Member of NDA, he is a Chief Minister, but the Government said that it respect Choudhary Devi Lal, but it cannot covert that house into a Memorial because one house among the rows of other houses cannot be converted into memorial. The Cabinet has taken such decision. You have raised this issue, I will convey your feelings to the Honourable Prime Minister todays itself. Whatever decision he will take, if I come to know about that decision, I definitely let you know...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The decision was taken about Lal Bahadur Shastri but no decision has been taken about the Babu Jagjivan Ram...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The decision has been taken about two persons.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: In which year it was taken?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: In the year 1991...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Whose Government was in the year 1991? Why you are putting blame on me, ask them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: In the year 1998...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No new memorial has been erected after our Government came to power...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you please allow me to make a submission?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to make a submission on this issue?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No; not on this issue. I want to make a submission on some other issue.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had considered erecting memorials in the memory of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Ram Manohar Lohia...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Sir, regarding the submission, he had said that it would be conveyed to Prime Minister. What happened to it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAJAHAN: The Prime Minister has not expressed any opinion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Raghunath ji you are aware, I myself have written on this matter. I would like to make a request to you as well as Pramod Mahajan ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Regarding the repeated cropping up of the date 30th, Meira Kumar ji's husband gave a written undertaking to the court to vacate by the 30th. The Government did not mention any date in the court...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, the memorial will not be shifted from there...*(Interruptions)* Meria Kumar ji has shifted from there...*(Interruptions)*. I am talking about national memorial not Meria Kumar ji from there. You an evict Meira Kumarji from there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You all please sit down.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): That date is irrelevant. Meira Kumar ji has shifted from there. The Government should not have any problems since the Museum including all the photographs of Babuji are already there. The Government can take a decision in 2-4 days since the museum is housed there. Meira Kumarji and her husband have left that residence. All the leaders have memorials except the two dalit leaders. Dr. Ambedkar Sahab and Jagjivan Ramji. This will convey a wrong message to the nation. The dalits should not be neglected through such a decision. Even, now the Government can think over it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my view is that it should not be politicised. Shindeje, if I politicise the issue, it would not be good. It is 16 years since Babjee expired. After his demise you had been in power for at least ten years. Why did you not do it during your reign?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: We kept corresponding...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Your contention is wrong. You don't know...*(Interruptions)* Did you erect a memorial. .*(Interruptions)*, Did we oppose it? Rajiv Gandhi ji, P.V. Narasimha Raoji, V.P. Singh ji, Gujral ji, and Deve Gowda ji, had been Prime Ministers. No one built a memorial...*(Interruptions)*. You are pointing fingers at our government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you sit down please. Raghuvansh Prasadji. You also sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of discussion has been held on this. You want to build a memorial in the memory of Jagjivan Babu.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: There is no museum which are shifting...*(Interruptions)*. No decision was ever taken to house a museum in that house...*(Interruptions)*. His daughter lived there...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think you want a solution in this matter. Sit down. Solution can be found to all the issues in the House. You should try to understand this. But you are not tying to understand this. Can a solution be found by shouting. There is no need to shout. The honourable Minister said just now that he is in touch with the Honourable Prime Minister on this matter. Since all the a parties want a memorial build the only way out is that everyone should meet the Prime Minister collectively. If a decision has been taken it can be changed. You should strive for it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Till then do not get it vacated.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Get it vacated from whom? Ram Vilas Paswan ji is repeatedly saying not to get it vacated. Get it vacated from whom?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It has been allotted to an ex-Judge.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You should know whether anyone is in possession of it.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: All his belonging should not be removed from there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I go to the next subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This Government deliberately wants to instigate the dalits...*(Interruptions)*

12.46 hrs.

(Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and some other hon. Members then left the House)

(IV) RE.: COMBATING CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the floor. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House and, through you, the Government of which several important Ministers are present. This very House is on record having supported the Prime Minister and the entire Government on three occasions whenever there was a crisis to combat cross-border terrorism and we are still united in our resolve. We shall not do anything that remotely helps Pakistan or Pervez Musharraf to build up any campaign against India...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is this?

[Translation]

Let me also Speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): You Speak on all issues.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You should know that I represent the principal Opposition. If you do not know that, keep quiet....*(Interruptions)* Sir, when I speak with your permission, why should he interrupt me?...*(Interruptions)*

The Government made this resolve with the support of the Opposition parties. As I have said, the entire house till today is united to combat cross-border terrorism.

But there is an unfortunate development as has been reported in the *The Times of India* today. Yesterday, the Minister of Defence while replying to a question in Parliament said that cross-border terrorism, after the deployment of the Armed Forces, had gone down. I quote what he had said:

> "The mobilisation exerted military pressure on Pakistan and forced the Pakistani President to denounce support to '*jihad*' through his speeches of January 12 and May 27."

He further added:

> "Some of the terrorist organisations in Pakistan were banned, some terrorist camps in POK were closed, their accounts frozen and leaders arrested. The infiltration this year has come down considerably compared to the figures of the corresponding period of the previous year."

This is the official opinion of the Ministry of Defence given to the House. It has been further reported:

> "Curiously, MEA figures show that the period of 175 days after Pervez Musharraf's May 27 declaration of ending infiltration had seen a higher number of incidents and civilian deaths. There had been 1,624 incidents after May 27 compared to 1,403 before, and 582 civilians had been killed after that, compared to 442 before."

Now the MEA is campaigning with figures that cross-border terrorism is on the increase and activities are on. The Ministry of Defence is claiming that things have been brought down because of the deployment. This has created a total confusion to the whole approach of the Government and its entire perception.

Therefore, I strongly feel it important that no less than the Prime Minister must come next week to clear the whole thing because this kind of campaign by the Government from two doors is only adding strength to Pervez Musharraf and not the people of this country in their resolve to fight cross-border terrorism.

I, therefore, demand that the Prime Minister must dispel these misgivings and clear the whole issue whether the Defence Ministry is right or the MEA is right....*(Interruptions)* We are not creating any confusion...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like this to be taken in a lighter way. The Government is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha and two Ministries cannot have two separate perceptions on the whole issue. This is only helping Pervez Musharraf and Pakistan. Therefore, I think, the Government is accountable and since there is a conflict between the two Ministries, the Prime Minister must clear the whole issue before the nation ...*(Interruptions)*

I demand that the Prime Minister must come and clarify the whole issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): No.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why no? Sir, I want a response from the Government...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is not an issue to be taken in a lighter way...*(Interruptions)* The Government must respond because this is an issue taken up by the principal Opposition Party...*(Interruptions)* The Government cannot keep quiet on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Defence Minister will have to listen. Only then it will be done...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down. I did not call your name.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, when two Ministries differ on an issue, it is only for the Prime Minister to clarify...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Law Minister is sitting there and the Energy Minister is also sitting there. They represent the Cabinet. They must respond whether this confusion between these two Ministries is correct or whether the Prime Minister will clarify the position...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Foreign Ministry is saying that things have not been reduced while the Defence Minister is saying that things have been reduced. Sir, we want an answer on this...*(Interruptions)* I shall not keep quiet if the Government doe not respond...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today he has come out strongly against Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have been speaking against Pakistan since the past three months. I have been speaking from the time of Nehruji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly Co-operate. Everyone will get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are three Cabinet Ministers present in the House. I would request you to bring it to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the menace of wild elephants is going on in my District Bankura in West Bengal. The wild elephants are entering into my district from Dalma Hills, which is situated in Jharkhand. Sir, crops worth crores of rupees have been destroyed by these wild elephants. Even the huts belonging to poor people have been destroyed by these wild elephants.

The Government of West Bengal has been giving compensation to these people but it is difficult for a State Government to completely give compensation to them. So, I urge upon the Union Government to come out with a special financial assistance to the State of West Bengal. I also urge upon the Union Government to set up an *Abhi Aranna*, that is a, reserve forest in my district Bankura.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, I rise to raise an important issue, which cuts across all the States. The matter has also been raised in the Standing Committee. It is regarding the receipt orders from the Government of India through the Chief Secretaries that all those who are residing in forest areas must be evicted without any further delay. In fact, a date of 30th of September was given and notices have been issued.

Sir, in just one district to which I belong, 33,000 families have to be evicted. Maharashtra has thousand more such families and all the States are being affected by this. States like Assam and others have tremendous problems. Land is not available. I am specially, mentioning North Canara where we have four hydro electric projects, one nuclear power plant and now we have got the Seabird Naval Project, where all the available land has either been submerged or it has been used for rehabilitation and 80 per cent of the district is declared as forest land or reserve forest.

I would like to know where are those people to go and where is the Government going to move them. We have raised this issue earlier and some court order, some time, was being mentioned without taking the human dimension. There is going to be a law and order situation, as violent demonstrations have already been started. These are small people with half an acre or quarter of an acre with a house. There is no big industry which has come there, there is no pollution and yet such orders are being passed without the assessment of the ground reality.

I am asking the Government to take necessary steps to undo this great calamity that is falling on the common people. Sir, I want...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, you will be associated with her. Shri Naresh Puglia, you will also be associated with her. Now, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Let me finish my last sentence...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, one crore tribal people will be affected. It is a very serious problem...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I did not finish my last sentence.

I am only saying that the responsibility for keeping the country green and keeping 33 per cent forest cover cannot be imposed on some districts and the rest have no responsibility. Let the Government come with a plan and give a minimum forest requirement for each State in the country so that there is more equitable distribution of greenery and of development also for the tribal people.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Bihar. In the recent past three children of Rashida Khatun and Mohammed Illyas of Faridpur village under Satra P.S. of Muzzaffarpur district died within

15 days due to starvation. This news was highlighted by print and electronic media even the private channel telecast news of children dying of hunger, I myself went there and saw children dying in harness. The district administration, block development officer, other officers of Panchayat and elected public representatives held a meeting and submitted a report that this family of Faridpur village was the poorest of the poor. So a red card should be issued to them under Annapurna Antyodya and food for work scheme for saving their lives. This family was not given this card either under Annapurna Antyodya scheme or under food for work scheme. Even after the decision in the meeting. This news was highlighted by the media by a homeopathic doctor Mohammed Bashir then the Bihar Government concocted a story linking it a tantra-mantra and Mohammed Illyas is being implicated. Then a high court lawyer under the aegis of a human rights organisation enquired the incident and prepared a report. I have got a copy of the same with me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the Central Government that a sitting High Court judge should conduct a enquiry into the incident, homeopathic doctor should be removed and the victim should be saved.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after attaining enlightenment when Lord Buddha was going from Vaishali to Kesaria, people of Vaishali were not ready to leave him. Then he gave them a begging bowl then these people came back to their homes. Dr. Vasudev Sohani, Former Chief Secretary of Bihar and a historian has also written about it. Shri Laxmi Menon, Deputy Secretary Minister of External Affairs and Shri Haksar, who used to be the Ambassador of India in Afghanistan have found that this begging bowl of Lord Buddha is in Afghanistan. They have taken out a photographs of the begging bowl and send the same here. I would like to demand that the begging bowl should be brought back here and given to people of Vaishali.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ashes of Lord Buddha has been found containing during an excavation. It should be declared a national heritage because Lord Buddha had delivered the message of peace 2600 years ago. So this begging bowl and urn of ash should be announced as an national heritage.

MR. SPEAKER: You should conclude within 2 minutes.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Gayakvarh, Corporator and Chairman of RPI in Ambarnath in Thane district of Maharashtra was killed on 8 November. So much time has passed and no enquiry has properly been conducted in this regard.

13.00 hrs.

I would like to say that a dalit employee had been killed. So a CBI enquiry should be held in this regard. This is my demand from the Central Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar Panchayat municipal and zila parishad elections were held under pressure from Central Government and the High Court. One year has passed but still no powers have been given to panchayats. Village chief, block chief, President of the Zila Parishads and members. High Court has issued orders yesterday also that Panchayats should be given their full powers. As constitutional provisions, 29 departments lie with panchayats but the village chief, block chief, have not been given the powers, of a single department. Although the court has taken it into cognizance and asked time and again but no funds have reached them for development. Rs. 400 crore have been allocated to Bihar. The Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojna is under way in various states. This funds have been allotted for the second time. But in Bihar, even work against funds released earlier has been completed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Such a lengthy speech will not be allowed. Please conclude in one minute. I have given 2 minutes time to every member.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: In Bihar Rs. 425 crore have not been spent for drinking water schemes. I would like to demand from the Centre that the laws as per the constitutional provisions in panchayat raj should be followed in letter and spirit. The funds which have been allocated should be released, one committee should be constituted to see that the funds meant for Pradhanmantri Sarak Yojana and Panchayat Raj sanctioned by Central Government is not given direct to Bihar Government. The Bihar Government should not have in this matter. Now, you please sit down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Other members should also get a chance. Nothing, further, whatever, he speaks, will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is very right. No work is being done and no roads are being constructed there. People are dying in the state everyday. Criminals run away after crimes and police reaches leisurely. This is the main reason of no development taking place there.

I support Shri Pappu Yadav.

Mr. Speaker, Now members from Orissa will speak.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, I am rising to draw the attention of the House as well as the Government regarding a major decision taken by the oil major...*(Interruptions)* This is regarding a major decision taken by the oil major, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, which is going to affect the economy of the oil industry in this country. Not only that, it is also going to affect the economy of the poor State of Orissa. Not only that, it is also indirectly inflicting an insult on the hon. Prime Minister of this country.

Two years back, in June, 2002, the hon. Prime Minister of the country was taken to Paradip, Orissa, in spite of his illness. He laid the foundation-stone for the Rs. 12,000 crore oil refinery project at Paradip. This is one of the major projects in the country which is going to come up. The Government of Orissa has given more than, 3,500 acres of land for this project. The Government of Orissa has also been prepared to forego Rs. 20,000 crore for allowing sales tax holidays for 11 years. But, surprisingly, on some pretexts, the IOCL has decided to defer this project to the Eleventh Five Year Plan. This is going to affect the economy of Orissa. This is going to affect the oil industries of the country.

A report has come in the Press that this decision has been taken under duress, under influence by a multinational company, that is, Reliance Group which is going to expand their refinery project in a large scale. It is going to affect Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I know, I have received your Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Therefore, the Ministry of Petroleum should prevail upon the IOCL not to defer this project at Paradip, and the Ministry should prevail upon the IOCL to start the work immediately and complete it within the stipulated period...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding the extension of National Waterway No. 3 from Kollam to Kovalam.

The proposed extension of Kollam-Kottappuram National Waterway No. 3 towards south upto Kovalam for a length of 78 kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs. 86 crore has been approved in principle. The Planning Commission has earmarked only a meagre provision of Rs. 24 crore in the Tenth Plan outlay for new waterways.

The hon. Prime Minister being the Chairman of the Planning Commission, I would request him through you that he may kindly intervene in this matter and take urgent action to increase this provision to at least Rs. 100 crore.

I would also request the Government to declare the extension of National Waterway No. 3 from Kollam to Kovalam as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Thanks Mr. Speaker, Sir, I tried my level best to ensure that Parbhani All India Radio gets the status of full-fledged Kendra but of no avail.

MR. SPEAKER: If your throat is bad you can raise this subject on Monday because this is an issue connected with All India Radio.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, I can speak now.

MR. SPEAKER: Now your voice is okay.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: The people from our area are demanding for the last 20-25 years that Parbhani Akashwani Kendra may be accorded the status of full fledged Kendra. Sir, in 1983 and 1992 also the Akashwani Kendra of Aurangabad and Parbhani were ordered to be accorded full fledged status, but till now they have not got that status.

Sir, the interesting thing is that on 21.11.2002 a letter was sent by Mumbai Doordarshan Kendra stating that

Parbhani Akashwani Kendra had been accorded the status of full-fledged Kendra but on 26.11.2002 another order was issued that the status of full-fledged Kendra accorded to Parbhani Akashwani Kendra has been withdrawn. Once a letter is issued for awarding the status of full-fledged Kendra and after some days the letter is issued for withdrawing that status.

Parbhani All India Kendra is the oldest Akashwani Kendra. It was built at the time of Mumbai and Poona Akashwani Kendras. Through you, I request the Government it accord it the status of full-fledged Kendra, Sir, you direct the Government. This is my only demand.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliamentarians sitting in this House might be aware that the Ministry had asked for recommending names of five persons for TAC from their respective parliamentary constituency. I also recommended and sent five names from my consistuency to the Ministry, the acknowledgment of which was received by me, but I am surprised that till date telephone has been installed at the residence of only one person out of the five recommended persons. The telephones have been installed at the residence of all TAC. Members recommended by all Members of Parliament of India. I demand, through you, that telephones may be installed at the residence of rest of the four TAC Members immediately because time is passing out and this period will be deducted from their term of two years. My parliamentary constituency is Mohanlalganj.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the House towards an issue of urgent public importance. Kanpur is the biggest populous, industrial and commercial city of U.P. wherein a large number of labourers live. The work of judiciary has come to a complete standstill since 18 September there. There is dispute between the judges and advocates and all the cases of Kanpur city have been sent to Fatehpur which is 80 Kms. away from there. In Fatehpur only 13 courts are there while in Kanpur, there were 56 courts. For the last two months more than 50,000 citizens go to Fatehpur and only date of bearing is being given there. The work is going on since 18th of September, 2002 and both are sticking to their stands. Through you, I request the Union Government that the Government must intervene and issue order from their own side to transfer all cases to Kanpur.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency two sugar mills come under co-operative sector which have also got the award of the best sugar mills of India by the President but because of mismanagement such situation has emerged that farmers are not getting the money for supply of sugarcane.

Sir, a few days back we had a Sikh farmer who did not get the money of sugarcane and his land was eroded by the river. He committed suicide by jumping into the river. The sugarcane farmers have reached at the stage of committing suicide. In my constituency because of these two sugar mills, the future of 5 lakh people are affected. Toward off the darkness and to bring happiness to our people, through you, I request the Government that to save the interests of sugarcane farmers of my parliamentary constituency and to reopen the two mills, namely, Sarju Co-operative Sugar mill, Bilranya and Kisan Co-operative Sugar mill, Sampurnand, Rs. 70 crores may be made available to each of them as special grant so that these two mills may run and lives of the farmers may be saved.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two drawbacks in Jaipur town. One is that there is no permanent exhibition ground. Second, the way in which ropeway has been provided for going to the temple of Mansa Mata in Hardiwar, ropeway should be provided at Nahargarh, Jaigarh, Aamer, Galta in Jaipur because they are situated on mountains. Famine is prevalent in Rajasthan. Therefore, the Government there does not have the money to spend on ropeway. I want to say that ropeway should be provided there so that tourists particularly senior citizens may easily visit those places.

I urge the Government of India that it may give money to Rajasthan Government to provide ropeway at sight-seeing places in Jaipur town.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the Jharkhand Government. Most backward castes constitute 40% of Jharkhand. The most backward castes have been continuously getting reservation in Bihar. In Jharkhand also they got reservation for one year but during this year, the extent to which the most backward should have got reservation, it was not given. Deep resentment run among the people due to it.

I request the Union Government that the most backward should get the reservation as earlier.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I rise to draw your attention and through you, the attention of the

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Government in regard to the unemployment problem. This problem has assumed a serious dimension in recent years. The Government had assured about providing jobs to one crore unemployed youth. However, till now, there is no comprehensive policy brought forward by the Government. Moreover, there is no national youth policy.

Sir, today, thousands and thousands of youth are coming and staging a *dharna* in front of Jantar Mantar. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Government so that they can bring forward a national youth policy to solve their problem.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, this year there was a drought to the extent of downfall of rainfall by 40 per cent in Kerala.

Sir, all those States which could show that there was a shortfall of rain up to 25 per cent were declared drought affected and they got the benefit of Rs. 10,000 crore which has been declared by the Central Government.

Now, I cannot blame the Central Government also here because it is understood that a memorandum was not given by the concerned State Government. The Revenue Minister of Kerala in a Press Conference said that type of memorandum could not be given at that time, district-wise and sector-wise. It will be given at a later stage.

Now, the problem is that the train has already gone and it may be totally difficult to get into the train. So, what is the situation of the people of Kerala? Now, thousands and thousands of people have been affected by this problem...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, you can make your request to the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I am submitting that there should be a change of the system also. In case a proper memorandum does not come from the concerned authority, then the people in one part of our country should not suffer. Therefore, there must be a system whereby the Government of India also, in such cases, can interfere and do the needful to help the people.

Sir, I would request the Government of India, through you, that steps must be taken to give those areas also central financial assistance by way of drought relief or by way of other natural calamities' relief, even if the concerned authority fails. I would also suggest that there should be a legislation in Parliament to fix the responsibility of the persons concerned and punish them accordingly as they are causing huge loss to the people.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chhattisgarh is a drought affected area. There is famine in 16 districts of Chhattisgarh. The farmers are not getting drinking water there. At the same time, Kisan Credit cards are not being distributed there. The farmers require loan for irrigation and Rabi Crops but they are not getting even that. Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented for all the farmers there but even they are not getting that money.

Common people want to earn their livelihood. They want to sow Rabi Crops but even they are not getting this facility. I demand from the Government of India that whole Credit Card Scheme is to be implemented for the farmers in the drought affected areas of Chhattisgarh State.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I want to draw the attention of Government of India towards a serious matter through you. Even you know that indigenous Bodo-Tribal people of Assam are launching fierce agitations for a separate Bodoland State for the last several years, but even today, as Government of India and the Assam Government have not proceeded in the manner they are required to do to solve the Bodoland problem. That is why, terrorism situation in that area has become grave. I request that the Government of India should solve this problem permanently by accepting the demand of Bodoland immediately.

[English]

Sir, through your honour I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take a very concrete and effective policy decision to bring about a lasting, honourable and acceptable political solution to the burning 'Bodoland Issue'. Because over the last 50 years since Independence, all the Hills' tribal people of the entire North-Eastern Indian have already been accorded the bare minimum political right to self-determination either in the form of separate provincial States of their own or autonomous districts of their own under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. But, very unfortunately in spite of having larger population than that of the Bills - Tribal people of the entire North-Eastern Region as a whole, the plains Tribal-Bodo people of Assam have been deprived of even the bare minimum constitutional provision

under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, over the past five decades in a independence.

That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India, through you to take a very, concrete and effective policy decision to bring about a lasting and honourable political solution to the burning Bodoland issue so that the Bodo people of this great country India, also can live in this country at par, along with their own distinct language, culture, ethnic self identity, with equal status and dignity, and grow and develop themselves of their own genius at par with the rest of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: All 'Zero hour' notices are over. Therefore, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirteen minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

[English]

SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) SECOND AMENDMENT BILL
AND
HIGH COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Bills for consideration and passing. Item nos. 14 and 15.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move*

> "That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."
>
> "That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 be taken into consideration."

Sir, there are two bills pending for consideration. I would like to request that the House may consider both the Bills together. One is concerning the family pension given to the Supreme Court Judges and the other relates to the family pension for the High Court Judges. The amendments that have been sought to be made in the two Acts are the same and so the reasoning and arguments would also be the same.

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, as is being proposed by the hon. Minister, the House may consider both the Bills together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up both the Bills together.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, secondly I have also moved an official amendment with regard to the salaries and conditions of service of the Supreme Court Judges. It was a technical mistake. In the print it had been mentioned as second amendment. But there has not been any prior amendment with regard to this.

This Bill was introduced earlier but it was not taken into consideration at all. Therefore, it was reintroduced and by mistake it has been shown as Second Amendment. Now the word 'Second' should be deleted. For this, an official amendment is being moved.

The amendments that are being moved in these Bills are very simple. They are proposed to remove an anomaly that has crept in. Prior to 1986, family pension of Supreme Court and High Court judges was calculated on the basis of the last salary drawn. Later on, the judges opted for calculation of family pension on the basis of pension received. So, those judges who retired prior to 1.1.1986 secured family pension at a particular percentage of the salary received. Subsequent to 1.1.86, the judges received family pension on the basis of a percentage of their pension. Under these circumstances, an anomaly has crept in whereby the judges who opted for family pension on the basis of salary last drawn got more money, and the judges who opted for family pension on the basis of the pension they received, got less money. So, this is an anomaly that has crept in.

There was also a case in the Andhra Pradesh High Court in which the judgement was delivered. The Union of India was a party in that case. I seek the permission of the Chair to read the last paragraph of that judgement. It is a small paragraph. It says:

> "We, therefore, having resolved to the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, are of the opinion that no discrimination

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy]

can be made in the matter of payment of family pension to a Supreme Court judge *vis-a-vis* a Cabinet Secretary. We, therefore, allow this writ petition directing the Central Government to calculate the family pension payable to the petitioner on the basis of the last pay drawn by him and not in terms of the pension payable to him."

As has been pointed out, there was an anomaly in this regard also. There was difference in family pension drawn by the Cabinet Secretary and that of the judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court. So, attempt has been made in these Amendment Bills to settle these anomalies.

In Clause 2 of the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, it is mentioned:

"for the words "family pension calculated at the rate of sixty per cent of the pension admissible to him", the words "fifty per cent of his salary" shall be substituted;

for the words "and thereafter at the rate of half of the family pension so admissible", the words "and thereafter at the rate of thirty per cent of his salary" shall be substituted;....

Provided that in no case the amount of family pension calculated under this sub-section shall exceed the pension payable to the Judge under this Act."

Similarly, in the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002, it is mentioned in Clause 2:

"for the words "family pension calculated at the rate of sixty per cent of the pension admissible to him", the words "family pension calculated at the rate of fifty per cent of his salary" shall be substituted;

for the words "and thereafter at the rate of half of the family pension so admissible", the words "and thereafter at the rate of thirty per cent of his salary" shall be substituted;...

for the words "family pension shall be thirty percent of the pension admissible", the words "family pension shall be thirty per cent of his salary" shall be substituted;"

So, it is a simple amendment to see that the family pension of Judges of both the High Courts and the Supreme Court are calculated as a percentage of their salary and not as a percentage of their pension. It is a very simple matter. As I told you in the beginning itself, these Amendment Bills are only meant to correct an anomaly that has crept in.

I, therefore, seek the cooperation of the entire House in passing these Amendment Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The Business Advisory Committee has taken a decision to pass these Bills without discussion. However, Kumari Mamata Banerji wants to speak on this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): In that case, Sir, I will not take much time of the House. I will conclude my speech within five minutes.

I welcome this Bill. As the hon. Minister has already stated, it is a welcome measure. The Supreme Court also requested that these amendments be made to those Bills. I have only one request to make to the hon. Minister. Even though this Bill relates to the salary and conditions of service of judges, I would like to say that we need judicial reforms as early as possible.

Sir, if you see the list you will find that in our country lakhs of cases are pending in various High Courts, lower courts and in the district courts. Justice delayed means justice denied. The common people do not get justice in proper time.

Of course, it is our moral responsibility to take care of the Judges. If I am not wrong, I know that sometimes even the District Judges and the Sub-Divisional Judges and the local Judges have to depend on the police for their transportation to courts. Whenever they come to courts, the police send their cars for them, because they do not have their own cars. Sometimes, they depend on the police and sometimes on the local administration for providing of cars to them.

What we feel is that they should be self-sufficient. Judiciary should be neat and clean. There should be no political interference. That is why there is an urgent need for comprehensive Judicial Reforms.

Nowadays, Judiciary has become very expensive. It is very difficult for the poor people to come to Delhi from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, etc. and attend Supreme Court. With great difficulty they come to Delhi. So, more and more Supreme Court Benches and High court Benches should be set up. This matter should be taken care of. If there is a comprehensive plan of action for the Judicial Reforms, it will benefit all.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am just sharing an information. In Bengal, the huge stamp duty has been increased recently. It is about 1000 per cent. That is why for the last 15 days, the Bar Associations, the local courts, including the High Court, have ceased it work. When the Central Government is giving instructions to State Governments to reduce the stamp duty and West Bengal Government has increased it by 1000 per cent, and due to this all the lawyers, barristers, Bar Associations have ceased their work for the last about 15 days.

So, may I request the hon. Minister to kindly talk to the Bar Association—because they are the elected members of the High Court or the Bar Council—so that this matter is sorted out amicably. People should get justice. If a State Government is not willing, it is the duty of the Centre to talk to them.

With these few words, I conclude and thank the hon. Minister for bringing forth these Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, 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—Short title and commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3,-

omit "Second" (1)

(Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed,"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed,"

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the High Court Judges Amendment Bill.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, whatever arguments that I have advanced for the previous Bill, would apply to this Bill also. I seek the cooperation of the House to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The questions 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 K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.27 hrs.

REFUGEE RELIEF TAXES (ABOLITION) REPEAL BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move;

"That the Bill to repeal the Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Act, 1973, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Act, 1973, be taken into consideration."

14.27 hrs.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I know that it is a very simple amendment; it is just a repeal of the Bill.

In this context, I want to say that refugee relief taxes were imposed for the development of rehabilitation and to give relief to the refugees in the country.

But this task has not been completed fully, especially in the eastern part of the country. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the problems that the eastern part of the country is facing because after partition, huge number of people came to this side without anything. At least in the western part of the country, people had 'exchange of properties' etc. But in the eastern part, people came without anything, without even a single pie; they came fully as refugees. The Central Government took a discriminatory attitude, when they gave full rehabilitation for the western part of the country. So, the eastern part of the country was discriminated against and lakhs of people are still not fully rehabilitated. That is a serious problem for the eastern region.

The Government of West Bengal had also submitted a plan seeking sanction of Rs. 500 crore for completion of the remaining rehabilitation work for the refugees in that part of the country. But that is pending with the Government.

Now, the Government is repealing that Bill. The Government thinks that there is no need to collect taxes to do that type of work. I also know that collection of such taxes in other cases was abolished. In this context, I will request the Government to consider it and see that those people who are in lakhs, who still have no houses, no jobs and who are not fully rehabilitated, are fully rehabilitated. The Government may have a re-look in the matter and prepare proper schemes. The Government should also consider sympathetically the demand of the Government of West Bengal for sanction of Rs. 500 crore for full rehabilitation of the refugees who came from the erstwhile Pakistan.

With these few words, I conclude.

SARDAR SMIRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that since 1947, there are 30,000 Sikh refugees in Jammu and Kashmir. They had come from Pak-occupied Kashmir. They have still not got the citizenship. They are State-less people who do not have the voting right. They do not have the ration card. They cannot own property in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Government has repeatedly not signed the United Nations Convention on the status of refugees. I seek that the Government of India should sign this Convention.

There are still Tibetan refugees in India. So, I do not think there is a need to repeal this Act. Rather, this Act should be left on the Statute Book till all the problems of the refugees are solved and all the Sikhs, who are State-less, be given Indian citizenship. Their case in Kashmir should be looked into.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I appreciate the concern regarding refugees, being raised by Shri Hannan Mollah and others. Sir, you will appreciate that refugees came to India from either Pakistan or Bangladesh. Especially, in the eastern part of the country, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and north-eastern regions, the refugees have come from Bangladesh. According to an agreement between Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Mujibur Rahman and also between Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Liyakat Ali Khan, those refugees who have come to India before March 1971 are considered as Indian citizens.

The main problem is, there are a number of colonies which have not yet received the freehold right. The Government of India had accepted it in-principle and sanctioned money also for it, yet all the colonies have not been regularised. Secondly, because of political and other reasons, the refugees are not getting proper rehabilitation. I can tell you that there are a number of colonies which have not yet received the freehold right. We used to have Refugee Rehabilitation Corporation but that has also been closed. I know, Government did a number of things for the refugees. It is also a fact that

these refugees came to our country empty handed under special circumstances. So, we should consider their problem seriously. More taxes should not be imposed on them. They should get tax relief.

I would request the Minister to find out from the State Governments the number of refugee colonies that are there and out of those, how many have been regularised and how many have got the freehold right? If they have not got the freehold right, what is the reason behind it? Will the Minister take up the matter with the State Governments and let us know the latest position?

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, the hon. Members have expressed their feeling while speaking on this Repeal Bill. We have already enacted various Acts for giving relief to the refugees. The hon. Members, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, and others who have participated in the debate have given some suggestions. We have noted all those points and in due course, we will consider them carefully. As regards other matters relating to refugees, we will deal with them separately.

I am thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion. Now, I would request the House to kindly pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Act, 1973, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will 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 ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: You both the Ministers are sharing the responsibility !

The questions is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.36 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : REJECTING AWARD RELATING TO REVISION OF RATES OF OVERTIME ALLOWANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASNDHARA RAJE): I beg to move:

> "That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 6 of 1981 relating to revision of rates of Overtime Allowance and raising of the upper pay limit for admissibility of this allowance for office and comparable staff, in terms of Para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award, which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 460 crores in payment of arrears and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 54 crore per annum, will lead to diversion of scarce resources from development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy."

I am grateful to the hon. Members of this House for showing understanding of all aspects leading to the Government's decision not to accept the Award of Board of Arbitration because of severe constraints on resources. As hon. Members would have noted, this Award was given on 18th November, 1982, increasing the upper pay limit for admissibility of Overtime Allowance (OTA) from Rs. 750 per month to Rs. 900 per month. This is equivalent to amount of Rs. 2,200 and Rs. 2,500 per month as per Fourth Pay Commission scale, and

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

increasing the OTA rate to one and one-fourths (1¼) times of the rate of emoluments (as against single hourly rate).

The aforesaid Award was earlier referred to the Fourth Central Pay Commission who recommended abolition of Overtime Allowance, and, therefore, did not consider the Award. Accordingly, the Award was rejected and as per the then existing procedure a Statement was laid in the House in November, 1987. However, as per the revised JCM procedure, introduced in 1989, approval of Parliament is required to the Government decision. Hence, the need for moving the Resolution.

Different Governments have been reviewing the matter at different times since 1992, but none of them has accepted the Award in view of the adverse implications. At this juncture, I would just like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that the system of paying overtime allowance (OTA) in Government offices was recommended for discontinuance both by the Fourth and the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

There are very wide ranging ramifications and up to the year 1998-99 on account of arrears that have now been estimated at Rs. 460.25 crore, with recurring financial implication of Rs. 54 crore per annum which would adversely affect the national economy. It would also be extremely difficult to implement this Award from the date of Award (18th November, 1982) because the records of OTA claims will not be available, and a very large number of employees would have retired from service. In case of implementation, the ceiling of Rs. 900 would also need to be revised (to say Rs. 2500) with effect from 1st December, 1990, the date from which the ceiling of Rs. 750 was revised to Rs. 2200. Further, though OTA is presently being paid as per the national pay of Rs. 2200, this ceiling (and the ceiling Rs. 2500 if fixed in lieu of Rs. 900) will also need to be further revised as per the Fifth Central Pay Commission pay scales if and when the demand for revision of rates, which is being raised by the staff side in various fora is agreed to. Also, the expenditure on pay and allowances of civilian employees of the Central Government has successively gone up from Rs. 19,955 crore in 1996-97 to Rs. 26,938 crore in 1997-98, and, then to Rs. 31,066 crore in 1998-99. If the expenditure on the employees of Armed Forces, Union Territories, Autonomous Bodies, etc., is also taken into account these figures will further go up considerably. Also, the grant of extra benefits allowed earlier by the Central Government in the wake of the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations had its repercussions on the State Governments as well.

In this connection, I would also like to point out that the overtime expenditure of Government under various OTA schemes has shown a constant upward trend. This is despite the increase in overall pay package and allowances extended to various categories of Central Government employees and that too at a time when large funds are needed for modernisation of defence, education, health, and social sector schemes.

I would like to apprise the House that since the inception of the JCM Scheme in 1966, out of 168 Awards, which were given by the Board of Arbitration, in favour of the employees, 152 Awards have already been implemented by the Government. It is thus clear that Government generally accepts the Awards of the Board of Arbitration, and, rejection of an Award is proposed by Government only by way of an exception in very rare and genuine cases involving financial implications affecting the National economy or Principles of Social Justice, as provided under the JCM Scheme which is non-statutory and mutually agreed between the Government and the Staff Unions.

In the circumstances, the rejection of the Award is fully justified. I shall, therefore, be grateful to the hon. Members for rejecting the Award.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Shri G.M. Banatwalla have given notices of amendments to the Resolution moved by Shrimati Vasundhara Raje. As the notices of amendments given by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal are identical, only one of them may move the amendment.

I am, therefore, calling Shri Basu Deb Acharia, whose notice was received first in point of time, to move the amendment. I think he is absent. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is also absent. Shri G.M. Banatwalla is also absent. They have given notices; but they are not present in the House.

The question is:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 6 of 1981 relating to revision of rates of Overtime Allowance and raising of the upper pay limit for admissibility of this allowance for office and comparable staff, in terms of Para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award, which involves an

expenditure of over Rs. 460 crore, in payment of arrears and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 54 crore per annum, will lead to diversion of non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy."

The motion was adopted.

14.42 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : REJECTING AWARD RELATING TO GRANT OF SPECIAL PAY TO PRIVATE SECRETARIES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given on 4 February, 1993 by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 2 of 1991 relating to revision to grant of Special Pay to Private Secretaries (merged grades "A" and "B") of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Services in Ministries and Departments of the Government of India w.e.f. 6 October, 1987, in terms of Para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award, which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 8.83 crores in payment of arrears upto March, 2000 and recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 crore per annum, will lead to diversion of scarce resources from development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy and principles of social justice."

A statement giving the reasons the rationale for rejection has been placed on the Table. Considering the various implications, including additional financial burden, repercussion on other Departments, injustice to other categories of Government servants similarly placed, Government has not found it implementable and the Government does not have any alternative but to recommend rejection of the Award.

I request the House to approve the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Shri G.M. Banatwalla have given notices of amendments to the Resolution moved by Shrimati Vasundhara Raje. As the notices of amendments given by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal are identical, only one of them may move the amendment.

I am, therefore, calling Shri Basu Deb Acharia, whose notice was received first in point of time, to move the amendment. I think he is absent. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is also absent. Shri G.M. Banatwalla is also absent. They have given notices; but they are not present in the House.

The question is:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given on 4 February, 1993 by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 2 of 1991 relating to revision to grant of Special Pay to Private Secretaries (merged grades "A" and "B") of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Services in Ministries and Departments of the Government of India w.e.f. 6 October, 1987, in terms of Para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award, which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 8.83 crores in payment of arrears upto March, 2000 and recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 crore per annum, will lead to diversion of scarce resources from development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy and principles of social justice."

The motion was adopted.

14.44 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : REJECTING AWARD RELATING TO REVISION OF PAY SCALES OF STENOGRAPHERS, GRADE 'D'

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to move:

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given on 30 July, 1998 by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 11 of 1992 relating to upward revision of Pay scales of Stenographers Grade "D" of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service w.e.f. 6 December, 1991, in terms of Para of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 32.36 crores in payment of arrears upto December, 1999 and recurring expenditure of Rs. 6.45 crore per annum, will lead to diversion of scarce resources from development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy and principles of social justice."

A statement giving the reasons the rationale for rejection has been placed on the Table. Considering the various implications, including additional financial burden, repercussion on other Departments, injustice to other categories of Government servants similarly placed, Government has not found it implementable and the Government does not have any alternative but to recommend rejection of the Award.

I request the House to approve the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri G.M. Banatwalla have given notices of amendments to the Resolution moved by Shrimati Vasundhara Raje. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is absent and Shri G.M. Banatwalla is also absent.

The question is:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to reject the Award given on 30 July, 1998 by the Board of Arbitration in C.A. Reference No. 11 of 1992 relating to upward revision of Pay scales of Stenographers Grade "D" of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service w.e.f. 6 December, 1991, in terms of Para of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the implementation of the Award which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 32.36 crores in payment of arrears upto December, 1999 and recurring expenditure of Rs. 6.45 crore per annum, will lead to diversion of scarce resources from development expenditure to non-productive expenditure and will thus adversely affect the national economy and principles of social justice."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, there is no business before the House now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m.?

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, the Private Members' Business may be preponed instead of adjourning the House.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, it would be better to prepone the time of the Private Members' Business instead of adjourning the House.

14.46 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-Third Report

[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): On behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Pramod Mahajan, I beg to present the Forty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.46½ hrs.

MOTION RE : TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th November 2002."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th November 2002."

The motion was adopted.

14.47 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House may now take up the Resolution in the Private Members' Business. Otherwise, we may have to adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m.

The House may now take up item No. 20, namely, further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. Shri Bhartruhari Mahatab may continue his speech now.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to continue my speech which was abruptly stopped on 26th July.

I stand here to support the Resolution moved by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel requesting the Government to bring forward a suitable resolution to ban slaughter of cow and its progeny throughout the country.

I had stated earlier that this is the only land where we have the blessings of four mothers, the mother in whose womb we had spent more than nine months, the motherland where we live and dwell, the Mother Ganges which is the life support of this nation and at the same time, we also worship *Go Mata*.

I would like to remind this House that a century back, it was Bal Gangadhar Tilak who had propagated to ban cow slaughter and so also, Mahatma Gandhi in his writings in different columns. It is a pity that after 55 years of Independence, still slaughter of cow has not been banned. Whatever be the Act or the law, that has been implemented invariably everywhere but not in two States.

It is kept as a State subject. Only the Central Government has implemented a law of restricting transportation of cows from one State to the other. But, as far as my knowledge goes, it is only two States in this country—West Bengal and Kerala - which are yet to ban the slaughter of cows.

We all know that cattle play a vital role in sustaining and improving the country's agriculture-oriented economy. More than 70 per cent of transportation work in villages, in the rural areas is done with the help of the cattle. So, reducing their number drastically would seriously disrupt the life in the rural areas.

Sir, you would be astonished to know that the Government as a whole has provided—I need not say which Government—subsidies for starting export units, mechanised slaughter houses but not a single abattoir has been able to earn any resources from foreign countries. I would like to state that as cattle are vital in production of food and fodder, they form an inseparable part of our rural economy. But in the 1990s, the Government declared that meat export was a thrust area and offered incentives and subsidies for the purpose. The Government made a policy and a since then the export of meat has gone up. In 2000-01, a quantity of 2,68,000 tonnes of meat was exported from this country. It is said that this is only four per cent of the total meat production of this country. It means that 67 lakh tonnes of meat are being produced *per annum* if you take the arithmetic into consideration, in this country. A grown-up buffalo yields 75 kg. of meat. This is out of an average body weight of 330 kg. Roughly, nine crore animals are being slaughtered, it is said.

There is another interesting aspect to it, though it is not a very light one. The Planning Commission in this process has formulated its policy in the Tenth Plan. It made known its intention of doubling the earning from meat export from the present level of Rs. 1000 crore. A sub-group in the Union Agriculture Ministry has been attached for this purpose. Some months back, I had drawn the attention of the Hon. Agriculture Minister relating to the problem of meat export and its effect on the rural economy, especially on cow and its progeny. It is the economic aspect which I am dealing with. I am not going into the emotional aspect and the sense of belongingness which we have with cow and its progeny. The Government should discourage export of meat. My own humble request to the Government is that it should take steps to discourage export of meat as it is a very myopic policy. It should also discourage mindless slaughter of lakhs of dumb creatures. The plea of discouragement is not just sentimental or religious in nature as it has been proved by impartial studies that this loss for outweighs the profit which our society gains in this respect.

It is specially so after the appeal made by the *Sarsangh Chalak* of the RSS Shri Sudarshan, very recently in a conference. He has appealed to the Congress Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party and other

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

political parties to support the ban on cow slaughter. For this, we need consensus in this House. It should not be termed as a religious matter. It should not be turned into a sentimental issue also. But ban on cow slaughter should be immediately effected to. This issue was discussed in the late 1990s also and there was an agitation at that time to ban slaughter of cows, but nothing much happened.

Sir, I would like to refer to the legal aspect. The Parliament has enacted a law for this purpose. I would like to draw the attention of this House that some months back trains loads of cattle were stopped in Uttar Pradesh by the direction or instruction of the then Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. There is a law enacted by this Parliament banning the transport of cows and all its progeny from one State to another. It is only milch cows that can be transported. And there is a specific limit as to how many cows can be transported in a train bogie. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi had issued instructions to stop the transportation of cows in Uttar Pradesh as I have just mentioned and it had appeared in the newspapers. But what actually happened? Has it stopped?

I come from a State where hordes of cattle are driven everyday either to Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal or Chhattisgarh. It is happening everyday and the cattle are made to walk long distance in a very inhuman way, without even giving any fodder to them. What does actually happen to them? Who buys them? For what? How does this transportation take place? I would also like to remind Shri Ananta Nayak who represents. Keonjhar parliamentary constituency in Orissa where a dastardly act took place at Manoharpur. Why did it happen and what was the cause behind it? The person involved in it is facing prosecution now and he has got so much public support. Why did he get that? It has got a connection with the sentimental attachment which we all have with cow.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

I would like to make two or three suggestions here...*(Interruptions)* It is really very interesting that Shri Kanungo is raising this issue here. Why is a person forced to sell the cow and at what juncture? What is the percentage of milch cows that are sold in this country? It is an economic issue. I do not know whether the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India or any other State Government has got these statistics. What is the ratio of cows or its progenies that are sold? What is the ratio of bullocks that are being sold or purchased and how many milch cows are being sold? How many cows are being sold for meat, for skin, for their hides? When we are saying that we have to ban cow slaughter, I think, this is not the appropriate time to discuss all these statistics.

15.00 hrs.

But we all know that the cow and its progeny happen to be life support of the farmers or the villagers in the rural areas. That is a wealth through which they sustain their families not only by using bullocks in their paddy fields but it also demonstrates their economic strata in their society.

I would like to impress upon this House that there is a need to stop cruelty to animals and there is a need, by this House, to have, along with this, ban on cow slaughter, an Animal Rights Commission. It is very much essential like the Human Rights Commission. We have an Animal Welfare Board situated in Chennai, but we do not have an Animal Rights Commission through which we can enforce the law that has been implemented by the Parliament.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of this House with regard to a visit by Justice Ghuman Mal Lodha who is the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board, some months back.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): He was a member of Parliament.

SHRI BHARTRUARI MAHTAB: Yes, he was a Member of Parliament. Some months back he had been to Bhubaneswar and also visited Cuttack. He made a surprise visit to an insignificant village, very near to Bhubaneswar, Jadupur, where before his eyes two bullocks and a cow were killed. It was about six to eight months back. He staged a *dharna* there. The Government became panicky as it might create a law and order situation. But he stuck to this position because in Orissa we have a law in this regard.

I would like to draw the attention of this House that in a gruesome manner this thing happened in Jadupur. But the effect of that as when it came out in the newspapers, Nandankanan Zoo, I do not know whether many of us knew about it before, went without the supply of meat. Then everybody came to know that the meat was being supplied to the Zoo everyday. I do not know what happens in Delhi and other parts of the country relating to supply of meat to the Zoo. But in Orissa

everyday the meat was being supplied to the Zoo and suddenly no meat was supplied by any of the contractors of that Zoo and the carnivorous animals, who live on meat, were without food. This continued for more than one month or so.

Then the Government decided to change the law. But the law says that a cattle can be killed if it is certified by a Veterinary doctor, and it happens invariably everywhere that certificates are procured. So for people who do business of this type, that is, no meat, skin or leather, only a stamp has to be given, a certificate has to be given by that officer that a particular cow is fit to be slaughtered. It all depends on the vet. Doctor.

I think, there is a need to correct it and the Agricultural Ministry, especially in the Union Government, should also try to discourage this. But as the mode had been set 12 years back that we have to export more meat to earn more foreign exchange. That should be discouraged.

At the same time, I would also like to mention another thing that invariably there is an impression that it might not be palatable to many as there is an impression that Hindus do not take meat.

Which was the Hindu society that we are talking of? If this the same society before Mahatma Gandhi led Harijan *Andolan?* What was the Hindu society before when Mahatma Gandhi wanted to bring all the Harijans and dalits into this fold? When he fought against untouchability?

I would like to draw the attention of the Chair that in the early 1990s and in the 1980s also, people died in Kashipur, a very remote area of Raigarh District of Orissa. It was found there that the tribals and the dalits have a tendency of preserving dry meet of dead animals, especially of cows and buffaloes by putting salt, and they keep it for months together. One it develops fungus and it is not fit for consumption. If they consume it, then they develop anthraux. It is anthraux, which is the cause of large-scale deaths in those areas. It had happened in 1980s. It had happened in 1990s. It has not happened in this decade, for the last two years. This was and this is still happening in the remote areas.

The greatest contribution of Mahatma Gandhi and Harijan *Andolan* which impressed the whole society is that the Hindu society became one. Untouchability was removed. But before that, I would like to take the liberty of saying, when Swami Vivekananda went abroad in 1893-94, he claimed that Hindus were not beef eaters. At that time, perhaps he had the secluded Hindu society which was not encompassing the Dalit members as a part of the Hindu fold. but today, we have a whole Hindu society which is a larger society. In *Mahabharat* we had a mention of *kirat* but in *Ramayan* we do not have because *Mahabharat* had a larger canvas, as it is said. So, slowly the Hindu society enlarged itself as it is enlarging today also. In this 21st Century, we have a bigger Hindu society. It is time that we should consider everything from the hygienic point of view. From the hygienic point of view, I would like to say that though I am yet to come across a report but it is invariably felt in our society that taking regularly beef or cow meat leads to leprosy. I am yet to come across a medical report on that. I have consulted a number of doctors and they say that research is on. One can also find out from the reports that leprosy is prevalent in a certain section of the society. It may be because of their not coming out for treatment and it may be for something else. But I would like to mention here and also to make a request that from the economic point of view, for the strength of the society and also from the hygienic point of view, we should ban cow slaughter, forthwith.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Anadi Sahu.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Madam Chairperson, if you would kindly permit me, I would speak in Oriya. I have given a notice also.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right. You have given a notice. So, there must be a translation.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Madam Chairman, it is a strange coincidence that when you are in the Chair, I am speaking again in Oriya two years later.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I always come in the Chair when you were to speak.

*SHRI ANADI SAHU: Thank you. Madam, before expressing my view on the Resolution to ban cow slaughter, I would like to draw your attention to two aspects of our Indian culture. The first and foremost is Go and Atra, Gotra which means clan. As you know ours was a State or Cattle tenders. During ancient time the cattle wealth was recognised as major wealth in our society. If you have read the Atharb Veda (Fourth Veda) you must have come across a Mantra there. It has a very nice meaning. When someone wants to defeat others and wants to bring him under his control, he recites a mantra. Tantra started from it at a later stage.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

That mantra is : *Jitam Asmakam Udbigna Asmakam Teja Asmakam Bramha Asmakam Pashoba Asmakam Praja Asmakam etc.*

Pashoba Asmakam means, the animal wealth or cattle wealth which was treated as the major wealth at that time. The sages and saints were living in the hermitages. The cattle wealth was their main property which were spreading over a large and far area. The size of the cattle wealth and the boundary of grazing was the main yardstick of their affluence. The cattle would go up to a particular point Go Atra which subsequently became familiar as Gotra. This Gotra occupies a significant place in our society. From Gotra we are identified as to which group or clan we belong to and to whom we are related. So our identity has originated from Gotra. In addition to Gotra there is another matter called Godhuli Lagna (twilight). This moment comes before the sun sets in the sky. The scenery at that moment is very pleasant and wonderful. Evening is about to set in. The blood red coloured rays of sun are shining on the western side of the sky. Cows are rushing impatiently to their calves with lowing sound. The entire road is filled with dust raised by the hoof of the cows. The results in spread of dust above the earth space. The combined effect of all these and particularly the wandering of dust and the filtering of sun rays with blood red colour creates a very beautiful sight. Calling that moment the Godhuli lagna it has been very beautifully described by a number of writers in Sanskrit and also in the provincial languages. The Godhuli Lagna is always regarded as auspicious moment. The cow has always been given a significant place in our literature. In India a good number articles and poems have been written on cows.

Madam, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab was referring to Mahabharat. I also want to start from Mahabharat. The story is there in Ramayan and Raghuvansa also. You must have heard about Raja Dilip and the cow Nandini. Dilip, the king of Ayodhya had no son. So he requested his family priest Vaishista to find a way so that he would get a son. On hearing his request Vashista suggested the king to offer his service to the Kamadhenu Nandini. Kamadhenu means the cow which gives sufficient milk. Even now there are some cows who given 20 to 30 litres of milk like Kamadhenu. It is a reality. There is nothing impossible if you are able to do the service in a way that is needed. So, King Dilip started taking care of Nandini. One day he was moving with Kamadhenu Nandini. On the way Nandini wanted to test the king. So she created an illusive lion. The lion attacked Nandini. Dilip was a king. He was Kashatriya. The meaning of Kshatriya is to remove the Kshyata means wound or to save from injury to others. It has nothing to do with any caste. Since Dilip was a Kashatriya he thought it his prime duty to save Nandini from the lion. So he tried to take out the arrow from his quiver to shoot the lion. But he failed to do so. It was all illusion which the king could not know. When he failed to take out the arrow from his quiver he requested the lion to spare Nandini. He said to the lion, "Sir, you may eat me but please spare Nandini". On listening this Nandini cow became very much pleased with the king. Then she blessed him. As a result of that the king Raghu was born. Raghu the great son who was invincible and conqueror was this way born. The Raghu dynasty or Raghuvansha started from him. In Raghuvansha of Kalidas there is a beautiful description of King Raghu, his dynasty and different parts of Bharat under him. Bharat was part of Jambu Islands and the Kingdom then extended to far off place like Afghanistan. With the change of time countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan are no more with Bharat. They are separated from India. But in Raghu's period Pakistan and Afghanistan were part of India for many-many centuries. Why I made a mention of Nandhini and King Dilip episode? It is because I wanted to impress as how we can derive benefit if we serve the cow in a proper way.

Madam, there are hundreds of incidents which can justify how the service to cow is always beneficial. You must have studied 'Prashnoupanishad'. There is a description on question-answer there. We are fighting with each other during question hour here. But it was not like that in that period. When anybody goes to the sages and saints and wants to learn anything from them or to ask any question they first tell the man to provide service to the cows in the hermitage for sometime and at least for one year. But before putting that condition the sages tell the inquirer that the reply to his question would be given if he knows the answer. Otherwise he will not give any reply. Then the enquiring sage engages himself in the service of cows for one year and then he gets the reply and blessing of the sages of saints. So, I request the learned members here to read chapters on cows in Prashnoupanishad. It will help them very much in getting a clear picture of question hour of those days and that will help them very much here. This has proved that service to cows was the main duty in the Ashrams during those days. The sages and saints were visiting the kings. The kings were donating some gold coins, clothes and one thousand to ten thousand cows depending upon their capabilities and importance of the saint. They got the milk from the cows. The cow dung kept the hermitages clean. The gifts they got from the king helped them in earning their livelihood and in the management of the Ashrams. The cows and cow dung played prominent role

in running the hermitages. A yellow bright pigment is found from the cow when she dies. That pigment is very useful for the good health of children. That pigment is called Gorachana. There is a beautiful description of Gorachana in Bengali, Maithili and Oriya literature.

You might be knowing how Krishna was staying with Nanda. Nanda was not Raja. He was referred as Raja because of his cattle wealth. The Andas and Upanandas have to be osteopaths who set the joints or bones of any part of the cows when sustain fractures. So you can imagine how these Nandas and Upnandas were capable of serving the cows and were curing their ailments. They had very high place in the society.

AN HON. MEMBER: A nanda was a person with 10,000 cattle. An upananda was a person with 5000 cows.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: No, they are different.

There is a beautiful description on the usefulness of Gomutra, meaning the urine of the cows. The heifer urine has medicinal values. Shri Mahatab was referring to Mahatma Gandhi's views on cows. Mahatma Gandhi was telling everybody to take proper care of cows and to use cow dung to clean the house. The environment remains clean and healthy if cow dung is applied on the earthen houses. I support the views of Mahatma Gandhi and like to justify how cow dung is useful to our environment. I do not want to relate it with any religion. I am telling you the usefulness of cow dung. You know the value of cow milk and ghee. The cow milk and ghee are used in the yogna pit. When the Mantra Om Swaha is chanted at that time ghee is put on the burning fire. The cow ghee Jujube berry tree and other particles required are put in havan pit. With the burning of all these, smoke arises which smells very well and also keeps the environment clean. The smoke creates a very good atmosphere. I advise the environmentalists to organise some such function and burn the cow ghee to create healthy atmosphere. People suffering from some ailments will be cured if they inhale the air in that healthy atmosphere.

We are discussing the Resolution on the need to ban the slaughter of cows. While doing so we should not forget the feeling and facts which are linked with our culture. This does not mean that I am linking the same with religion. I do not wish to discuss religion. My point is totally different. I have always said that I am an atheist. Being an Indian I am proud of my culture. Madam, the cow and Indian culture are security to the cows. Mahatma Gandhi was always giving importance to give protection to the cows. But it is regrettable that some people attach beef acting with conversion. One should not eat beef and pigeon meat in India. Our environment does not suit such food. The reason is that ours is hot climate and these meats are very hot and do not suit our digestive system. Ordinarily many persons who eat beef suffer from leprosy. Many people have proved the adverse impact of beef. I do not want to say anything more on that point.

We should wear dresses keeping in mind our climatic condition. The warm garments always do not suit us. Some people in our hot climate even wear dresses which cover the entire body. Will it not have bad effect on their bodies? Some people who follow the religion of other countries use such kind of clothes. This is not proper. Whatever may be one's religion his dress should suit Indian climatic condition. It should have link with Indian culture. The culture means our approach, our system and it's distinctive reflections. We must adopt that. If we go by the life style and system of other countries it may not suit us. It will not fit to our Indian condition. But it is regrettable that foreign culture is adopted by some people. That looks indecent. That is why we are facing difficulties in our day to day life. There is growing derailment in every walk of life as we are blindly following foreign culture on the Indian soil.

Madam, the Resolution we are discussing is a timely one. We have to decide as to how the cow slaughter will be stopped. Some States have adopted some measures in that regard. At least 19 States and 6 UTs have taken steps in that direction. But there is a problem in its implementation as the word endeavour is used in Article 48 of the Directive Principles of our Constitution. We have not been able to prohibit the slaughter of cows and calves. We have amended our Constitution to provide compulsory education to the children between the age group of 6 and 14. In a similar way we have to amend the Constitution and particularly Article 48 of the Directive Principles so that along with organising agriculture and animal husbandry we should also be able to ban the slaughter of cows and its progeny.

Madam, the effective administration depends on the strength of the head of the State or the Emperor. If the emperor is strong enough he can provide best possible administration. As we have seen from the past in the history, whenever the emperors are strong and united they were able to provided a strong administration. If small States will run the administration according to their sweet will the Centre will not be able to fulfil the aspiration of the people. The Centre shall not be able to succeed in implementing noble causes. Therefore some such laws should exclusively be controlled by Centre. If the amendment is made in the Constitution and an Act is passed by Parliament then slaughter of cows will be

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

completely stopped though some problems may arise at the initial stage.

You might be aware of the fact that hundreds of cows are slaughtered in Haryana and sold at Nizamuddin. The transport of cows is done in a very inhuman way. As per rule, 12 cows should be accommodated in one coach for transporting them. But is this rule being strictly followed? 50 to 60 cows are huddled in one coach. This is really very pathetic and disturbing.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: They are not milchy cows.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Whether they are milchy or not the thing is that they are transported in an inhuman way. This has very bad effect on our society. It has been banned by the preventing cruelty to Animals Act. This practice must be stopped. There are laws. But who is following it. I would like to tell you one thing when late Shri Rajendra Narayan Singh Dev was the Chief Minister in Orissa. He had made an Act in 1967 seeking to ban cow slaughter. The Act was strictly enforced for sometime. But later on there was slackness in its implementation. Nobody followed it. We remained in the same darkness where we were in the past. During festive days some hundreds of cows are slaughtered in a very inhuman condition. The drains at Cuttack, Bhadrak or any other place become full of blood. Some cows are slaughtered daily but in festive days the situation becomes worse as the members increase. Lodha Commission was set up. More Commissions should be set up. But there is no meaning if the recommendations made by the Commission are not implemented. Sometimes people are agitating on the issue. The saints raised protest at the time of Kumbhamela. The practice of cow slaughter should be stopped. There was political agitation in the past in the Cellular Jail of Andaman for inhuman treatment. But there were tremendous pressure to stop such kind of treatment. In my opinion the law should be strictly enforced and then the cow slaughter will be stopped gradually. For this the minority community should see that infirm cattle are not sold away.

Madam, what is the different between rebel and revolutionary. The rebel who fights and wins becomes revolutionary but who fail is sent to prisons and even to the Cellular Jail of Andaman. On the hand the person who wins becomes famous like Lenin. So the difference between rebel and revolutionary is very little. I feel that those who are working to ban the slaughter of cows are performing an excellent task. They might face some problem while they are pursuing such work. But it is meant for the welfare of the nation and the mankind. Their efforts in this regard are therefore laudable.

Madam, I would like to take one or two minutes. We take cow milk which contains SNF. When the baby is delivered she is given cow milk. This SNF quality is not there is buffalows' or goats' milk. So the cows milk is very useful for our health. Please remember that the baby grows when it is in the womb. When the baby is born she grows with cow milk.

So, if we want a strong India we have to stop the slaughter of cows and we have to create revolution by implementing operation milk flood programme.

With these words, I thank very much and conclude my speech.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Resolution of Shri Prahlad Singh Patel asking for the ban on cow slaughter. Myself and my Party, the Shiromani Akali Dal strongly support this Resolution because we feel that the majority sentiment of this country should not be offended by slaughtering the cows. This principle is also enforced in the Directive Principles of State Policy. I would appeal to the Government of India to bring in a strong resolution for the ban on cow slaughter.

Whereas I support he ban on cow slaughter, I would also like the Government of India to include in this legislation the need for protection to the cows and how they are to be treated in a humane manner. I would recommend that the *gaushalas,* which are all over the country, should be brought under the purview of the MPLAD Scheme and the MPs in their respective jurisdictions should be held responsible for the proper upkeep of *gaushalas* and extra funds should also be allocated to MPs to see the *gaushalas* are in efficiently and with enough finances.

Whereas I support the Bill against the slaughter of cows, I also want the Government of India to bring in a stringent legislation on the pattern of POTA against the slaughter of minorities in India. I would like the Government of India to recognise United Nations Treaty against Genocide and to bring in a strong legislation against genocide and for the protection of the monuments of the minorities—the Christians, the Buddhists, the Sikhs and the Muslims. India must become a humane society and every aspect of the religious sentiments of the Indians must be respected. I must remind this House that during the period of the Sikh Empire of Maharaja Ranjit Singh from 1799 to 1846, though capital punishment was banned for most of the crimes, capital punishment was given for the crime of cow slaughter. This empire extended from

Peshawar to the River Sutlej and included Jammu and Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh. So, I think, in a secular society, we must also honour the sentiments of the majority and this is not secularism if the sentiments of the majority are not respected.

I, while fully supporting this resolution, hope that the Government of India will bring in both these legislations against the slaughter of cows and the slaughter of minorities.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore); Madam, I rise to very strongly support the resolution moved by hon. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. Already quite eloquently, hon. Shri Anadi Sahu has gone into the ancient aspect, the scriptural aspect of cow slaughter, but I will simply go into the historical aspect of it, that too what happened during the time of Mughal Emperors in India. Basically, these Mughal Emperors were Muslims, who were beef-eaters.

Madam, take the example of Babar. Babar was the founder of Mughal Empire in India. He ordered in 935 Hijra that cow slaughter should be banned.

From his death-bed, he wrote a letter to his son, Humayun, saying, "My son, Humayun, if you want to the rule over India, you must respect the cow. You must stop cow slaughter." He totally banned the cow slaughter. It is a historical fact and the letter is now available in the archives. Then, let us take the example of Jeghangir. The Mughal Emperor, Jehangir, also promulgated an order. He ordered that on two days, that is, on Sunday, when his son, Akbar was born, and on Thursday, when he himself ascended the throne, no animal should be butchered or sacrificed. The Emperor, despite being a Muslim, supported this ban on cow slaughter. Then, Akbar issued a *farmaan* in 1586 forbidding the cow slaughter throughout his Empire. He totally stopped it. Even take the example of one of the most *kattar* Muslim, we say, that is, Aurangazeb. He also saw to it that people refrained from cow slaughter during *Bakrid*.

As already said by Shri Mann, during the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Emperor, the only crime which capital punishment was awarded was this cow slaughter. As you know, Madam, during the First War of Independence in 1857, when the British Army Commanders forced the Hindus and the Muslims to teeth the cartridges, which was supposed to contain fat of cow and pig, it created a rebellion. Mangal Pande, a Brahmin, fired a shot at Sergeant Wheeler. This cow slaughter is one of the reasons for which the First War of Independence started in 1857. I mean, it is very closely associated with the psyche of the Hindus, who constitute the majority in this country.

You take the example of the Middle East. In the Middle East, beef simply is not available. The cow is rather protected because it is a very precious animal in the desert. There they rather kill the camel, but the cow is not killed.

In India, if you say that we are just killing the cows because we want protein food, we want nutritious food, then, I will ask you one thing. Do you know what sort of cow is being slaughtered? Is it of a very good quality? You have seen it yourself as to what sort of cow is being slaughtered. The cow that are old, incapacitated, and having some disease are only being offered for slaughter. Now, whoever eats that meat, he is likely to acquire those diseases. I think, it is better if those people do not take that sort of beef because it is not at all of a good quality.

Now, I will just come to my final conclusion. Whatever we may say, it might be associated with the Hindu psyche and Hindus are worshipping it, the ultimate fact is that it is basically the Hindus who sell the cow or the bullock.

When a cow grows old and is no more able to give more milk or a bullock grows old and is incapable of ploughing the land, it is the farmers, belonging to the Hindu community, who sells them. To whom does he sell those? He sells them to the butcher. It is a fact of life. It is only because a cow or a bullock becomes incapacitated after a certain period of time and the farmer is unable to provide fodder to them that he sells them. It is persons from Muslim community who buy them and butcher them. So, whatever we might say, we would have to see to it that these cows bullocks are not sold by the persons belonging to the Hindu community.

Madam, I have got two suggestions to make in this regard. I would like to appeal to the Hindu Community at large to come forward and construct *Goshalas* for the protection of the cows and bullocks. If butchering of cows and bullocks are associated with the Hindu sentiment, then why should it not be that the Hindus come forward to protect their own cows and bullocks? I do not think that just putting the blame on somebody else is going to serve any purpose. If we worship the cows, then we must take the responsibility to look after them when they become incapacitated. Do we drive out our parents and grand-parents from our houses when they grow old? If the Hindus consider cows to be their mother, then it is the Hindus who should come forward to protect them.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

We have so many *dharmshalas* in our country. Why not we also have goshalas for protection of the cows and bullocks? This is my first suggestion, specifically to be taken note of by the Hindus of this country.

Madam, my second suggestion is, why do we not gradually phase out the unproductive Indian cows and bullocks and replace them with a better version and better breed of cows and bullocks? They could be of a lesser number. But possibly such type of cows would yield more milk and such bullocks would plough the land in a much better way and also their longevity would be more. So, instead of going in for number, we could go in for quality. Nowadays, tractors gradually are replacing the bullocks in the rural areas. Even in a place like Orissa where the land holdings are small and the farmers also are poor in comparison to the farmers of Haryana and Punjab, they are phasing out the types of cows and bullocks and are replacing them with a better variety. Such a thing would help in providing a better solution to this problem.

Madam, I would like to make a suggestion about organic farming and replacing chemical fertilizer with organic fertilizer. I was a part of the Task Force formed by the Ministry of Agriculture to recommend to the Government of India about the introduction of organic farming and organic fertilizer. Wherever we went in India we found that cows are essential for development of organic compost. The excreta of cows and bullocks are required for this purpose. If one wants to prepare organic manure for one acre of land, then it would require the excreta of at least one cow or one bullock. It is beneficial in this way.

Madam, finally my appeal to the Hindu community is that they should come forward to have more *goshalas* in the country and let us replace, in a gradual manner, the number of unproductive cows with a better variety of cows. I would also like to make an appeal to all those who consume beef in India that they should also show some respect to the sentiment of the majority Hindu community of this country.

With these words, I conclude.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If you imported breeds of cows, you will have imported *Go Mata*. You will have a problem then.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): We should import high quality breeds.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not challenging the objective of the resolution because the mover has brought this resolution in the House by honouring the sentiments which are also linked with the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution. In view of the unity, multi-region, multi society, multi-language, multi-rituals, multi-rules and multi-principles of this country may be it was understood right that it should be included in the Directive Principles of State Policy. All State Governments by interacting with their society, class & religion should reach at level where the whole society thinks in the same terms.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I thought you were quoting Swami Vivekananda.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am coming to that.

[Translation]

Each and every person eats food and wears clothes of his own choice. This is the tradition of our country. One day I asked my mother Hindus worship Kali Maa, Durga Maa, but the people who worship Shiv and do not believe in Vaishnavism why they sacrifice goats and pigeon. Why don't they sacrifice lion and bear? They don't sacrifice lion and bear just because it will eat them and that is why they sacrifice pigeon and say, "Oh God!, we are sacrificing it in your name. All this is not written in our scriptures. We have ourselves made these rituals in our own interest and have taken the shield of religion. My mother laughed at my question and advised me to ask this question to Pandit Ji who comes to our home for Puja and she told me she does not have any answer to this question.

I will conclude only mentioning one thing, why only cow is treated as Mother? Nature is also our mother, Universe is our mother, World is our Mother and sea is our mother. If entire "Chandi" Shloka is read then we find a description for all this.

"Ya Devi Servbhuteshu, Shraddharupen Sansistha,

Trishnarupen Sansistha, Chhayarupen Sansistha,

Mayarupen Sansistha, Jalrupen Sansistha"

Everybody treats nature as mother. People eat beef, fish and chicken. They eat goat meat also but why do we not insist on putting ban on slaughter of goat just because Hindus believe that they are not committing any sin by eating mutton therefore, it should not be banned, let any child be drinking her milk.

I am not against the objective of the resolution I agree that to have unity in this country...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): You also please support this resolution...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If I go on your words then I should not have been in the Congress Party, I should have been sitting on the other side. The saints should be unanimous as to what does Hinduism mean? After that everything will be all right. Swami Vivekananda ji was greater a saint than the Swami ji who is sitting here. When a famine struck some young boys went to him and asked for donation for Cow Protection Association. Then Swamiji chastised them, that at this time when there is severe famine, so many people are dying and you are not worried about them and you want donation for protection of cows. The boys then replied, those who are suffering they are suffering because of their 'Karmas' of previous life. Swami ji said that if a man is dying of starvation for the sins he committed in the previous birth then may be he is born as cow because of his Karmas of previous life and is dying now. They requested Swamiji not to say so and they said that they would think about man later on but first he should take care of the cow. Swamiji said that if a mother has given birth to a son who is not taking care of men then he is not going to give any donation to them. I would like to associate myself with Swami ji's sentiments that there is not only the question of cow before the country. I have no objection if any National Policy is formulated for the protection of animals which are associated with agriculture in our country, and are beneficial for the society. But when there is a talk about one thing selectively, then, it leads to division in religion. So, the Central Government on the basis of Directive Principles of State Policy should create a balanced situation by consulting everybody in this regard, nothing happens by adopting the resolution forcibly. I have to say only this.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Madam, Chairman, the honourable M.P. Prahlad Patel ji, has moved the Bill in the House, I think he wanted to draw the attention of the House on this issue otherwise he is a member of the Treasury Bench, It is their government, and the State Minister are sitting here. If the Government had realised its importance then we would have also passed this bill like several other Bills that have been passed in the House. I think them because the Bill which he has brought from social and economic point of view, was very essential. It is not so that this Bill does not contain any important subject. Now whatever has been said by honourable Sahu ji, and Mahtabji, made us to remember about old generation in Orissa. Honourable Sahu ji has worked on administrative posts for a long time. He must have come across many issues which he must have tried to solve them.

I want to tell the honourable Minister of State through you—Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Baan, Adham Chakri, Bhikh Nidan. In ancient times, agriculture was treated as the best, business of medium, category service was placed in third category and begging in the fourth category. That is right. But had this Government which is so concerned about society and state ever pondered over this? Who says that there is no importance of the cow. Its urine and dung has some utility. When has society not accepted it. But who is responsible for it. Now cows are being slaughtered. 90% of such cows and its progeny is being slaughtered which have been sold by the owners at throw away rice when they loose their utility when they do not get milk, from them and they cannot be used for ploughing. Whose responsibility is it to ban this. It was said that there are only two states which had not drafted Bill to ban cow slaughter, but other States had done it. It should not be used to gain a political mileage. This is very important from social and economic point of view. It is being said in Bihar and other places that Yadavas are responsible for the protection of cows, State Minister Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav is not. I don't accept this.

It is not so that our financial position improved, our health improved and our production increased because of it. All these things were adversely affected when you passed ceiling law. You started the agitation. You asked to impose the ceiling on the map of India. You asked to provide land to tillers, but where are the tillers now. Now all people leaving their land and selling away their cattle to others, want to go to cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and are in search of jobs. Now the job has been given priority and profession has gone even above it.

I want to submit that you attracted our attention towards the Private Member's Bills brought by you. But you count your own party members, it will be clear how much importance it carries. You do not discuss it on political lines, the society has been adversely affected by

[Shri Rajo Singh]

it and it will be so in the future. I think it has economic and social aspects, which should be considered. Who closed the cow shed, hon. Minister for Agriculture and Hukum Dev Babu are not here. We had enough of cowsheds in our areas. The persons who did not use to keep cattle, cow or ox which he considered to be old and unuseful, used to keep these in cowshed. The farmers who used to come to purchase certain articles, certain taxes was realised from them for cowsheds. That was a very good thing. Who stopped you to monitor it?

One hon. Member has said that cowsheds have become defunct. Whosoever was responsible for these cowsheds had their organisation at the state level. You did not pay attention to those responsible for protecting the old cows from misuse. Some delay was made but no matter better late than never. Keeping these matters in view if the government will not frame comprehensive policy, it will not do. Our senior Congress leader Dasmunshiji has also described it in how own ways, all have to describe it in his own ways, but we have nothing to say regarding the principles of the government or state...*(Interruptions)* We do not know the mention of 'cow-mother' in 'Mahabharat' and 'Ramayan'. I do not want to go on why people even refer to the 'Ganges' as 'Ganga-Mother'. I want to request the Government, the Minister for Agriculture and even the Minister for State are not here, only one Minister from the Council of Ministers is here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has gone away right now by telling me that he is coming in two minutes.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: He must have gone with your permission, how can he go without your permission. I would also tell the hon. Shri Sharad Yadavji that after discussion with all the parties with regard to it, you bring a good Bill before the House. When you would bring a bill after discussion with all the parties, there will be no difficulty for the House in passing it. We have also passed many important Bills even today. Patel Saheb a very good opportunity has come, you are already observing that what happens to the private Members' Bill in Lok Sabha. After some time it would happen that Minister would rise and say that you withdraw the Bill. But the Minister must say that much that keeping in view the suggestions given by Hon. Members, he would bring this Bill before the House in this session itself from comprehensive economic and social point of view.

16.00 hrs.

If we bring this Bill after discussing with our leaders, we would pass it unanimously. Nobody would object to it. No section of society is against it. All sections of people keep cows. But you see in Delhi that for milching people keep these with them, after that they let loose them. The result is that cows stray on roads and railway tracks and they become victims of accident and die. People rear cows, milch them, their family members depend on that, even then they do it. Therefore, the government must monitor it. The government must also rehabilitate the cowsheds all over the country. We must have the feelings of rearing those till death which give us so much of benefit.

I thank Prahladji for presenting such an important resolution here and we got the opportunity to participate in it. All agree to it. With these words, I conclude.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Madam Chairman, we are discussing over an important resolution. This resolution is related with the sentiments of crores of people of the country. Likewise, it is related with the prosperity of the country. This country is predominantly an agricultural country. How important is cow progeny for the agriculture, we all know, it. For the protection of cow progeny, there should be a ban on cow slaughter. In view of this, I support the resolution introduced in the House.

Our Constitution makers, keeping in view the sentiments of the country for the protection of agriculture, it has been clarified in 48th Article of Directive Principles of State Policies.

[English]

> "The State shall endeavour to organise agricultural and animal husbandry on modern and scientific likes and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting. the slaughter of cows and claves."

[Translation]

It has been said clearly that government should think over the ban on slaughter of cow and calves and the way in which their number may be increased.'

Many types of agitations were held in the country keeping this in view. Saints and great people courted arrests. Saints and people in lakhs of numbers assembled before the Parliament House. At that time, bullets were

fixed in which many people were killed and many have to go to jails also. This incident should not be repeated. We all know it. Today there is resentment among the people due to it and they want the cow-slaughter to be completely banned. This is the country of Gautam, Gandhi, Ramkrishna and Dayanand.

Many hon. Members have given speech just now. I would not like to repeat them. Our hon. Member Rajo Singh jee was talking about its importance pertaining to agriculture. Alongwith it he was also telling about its importance related with medical field. Today new experiments and researches are being made with cow urine and dung. Many facts have come to the fore before us. The urine of cow may be used to treat the cancer patients. Many researches are carried out at several places. Many scientists and doctors are busy in this work. The urine of cow kills the germs of cancer. Likewise cow dung is useful in agriculture. The manure of its has been helping to increase the crop. But the way in which chemical fertilizer is used today, it is adversely affecting the land. My friend Shri Sharad is present here. He is an agricultural specialist. He knows that the fertility of soil is decreasing. Therefore, these fertilizers are being reintroduced and are being used again alongwith composite or biological manure (cow dung and cow urine). This type of agriculture not only increases the fertility of soil but also destroys insects thereby further enhancing the fertility of soil. From this view agriculture based on biological manure is very important...*(Interruptions)*

16.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

For the improvement of agriculture protection of cow is very essential. Therefore, it has become necessary that 'Goshalas' are constructed and financial assistance is given. The efforts of protection of cows should be made. Many State Governments have already made efforts to give full protection of cows, to encourage good breed of cows and high yielding seeds, so that there are calf's of good breed and a new revolution is instead in the field of production of milk. It is correct that we are marching towards white revolution because India is basically an agrarian country and India had made good progress in the area of agriculture...*(Interruptions)* In India, cow is being traditionally worshipped since vedic times.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the time allotted for discussion on this Resolution is already over. Now, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for half-an-hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the time is extended for another half-an-hour. Now, you may continue.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I would like to submit that we have made progress not only in the field of production of foodgrains but also in the production of milk and are marching towards white revolution. Many other countries have also made tremendous progress in agriculture. In India we have attained self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains and we are going to attain self sufficiency in the field of milk production too. So we must protect the cow and slaughter of cow should be completely banned. Most of the state Governments are in agreement on this issue and the rest may fall in line in future, because it is connected with the sentiments of the people and in thread of the hour too. I would not like to cite long examples, but even during the Mughal period slaughter of cows was banned. Therefore, I would like to appeal to one and all that if it was correct to do it then keeping in mind the peoples sentiments, why is it not essential to do it now too. I would like to urge the Government that it should consider to attend to the feelings of the people of the country and respect the spirit of the construction of the country. Even the Hon. First President and many scientists had advocated that slaughter of cow should be banned, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has moved this resolution in the context that this question is linked to agriculture also and is not merely an emotional issue. Agriculture is our mainstay and for strengthening there is a need to protect cow and its progeny. However, instead nowadays cows are being killed. I would not like to dwell at length about the cows being saughtered and whether there were slaughter houses even during the British rule and whether their number has gone up because I really want protection of cow and its progeny otherwise their number will continue to dwindle thereby having adverse effect on agriculture. Nowadays even Doctors prescribe cow milk as an alternative to mother feed.

All sorts of statements have been made advocating various types of milk viz. Buffalo, Goat, Camel etc. and

[Shri Laxminarayan Pandeya]

Doctors have recommend that even cancer could be cured with 'Go-mutra' (Cow Urine). It is also prescribed in case of ear ailments. Utility of no other animal is more than that of cow as cow's milk and Cows Urine have medical value. In India even 'Panchgai' has been elaborated upon. If we want to increase agricultural production in the backdrop of shortage of petroleum products and import of diesel for tractor etc. then remedy lies in protection of cow and its progeny. Now a days about turn is being witnessed and we are reverting back to traditional manures from chemical manures to raise production. Further, ban on cow slaughter is also necessary from the point of view of economic assets, security, health and well being of people. Many committees have given favourable reports in this regard and need to be accepted. Hon. Justice Lodha ji also gave a similar proposal, but it could not be accepted and approved because of the untimely dissolution of House.

With these words I thank you for giving me the time to speak.

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN (Basti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel that proper legislation should be introduced to ban slaughter of cow and its progeny and to give to them.

Many Hon'ble members have expressed their views about the importance and place of cow in our society. Milk, curd, cow-urine, ghee, cow dung are utilized for treatment of diseases. Cow is worshipped. Even in Charanamrit cow milk is used. All the people in the country demand that cow-slaughter be banned throughout the country. I would like to cite an example from Mahabharata. When Pandavas had to go to forests for 12 years exile and one year banishment (Agyatvas) then they had to take shelter from King Virat and disguised themselves during this period and worked in various capacities at various places. Therefore, Duryodhana got disturbed that where have the Pandavas vanished. So they were searched everywhere because had the Pandavas been discovered within 12 years then they again had to suffer 12 years exile. King Virat had a big 'Goshala'. They then tried to steal away the cows from 'Goshala'. But before this incident Kauravas came searching there and the king Virat went fighting else where and there was no other warrior left.

Only Arjun was leading a simple life in disguise. He said if the cattle are driven away like this then society and posterity will never forgive me. Then Arjuna battled all the forces of Kaurvas with his bow and arrow without caring for suffering exile for another 12 years and defeated them.

Had the only thought of his life exile he could not have fought Kaurvas. Cow was worshipped and protected even during the period that's why Arjuna behaved this way. Now we remember Arjuna for these good deeds. Since Vedic times Cow had been worshipped in this country and there was economic angle too for worshipping cow.

Sir, so many districts today experience communal disharmony and tension following the incidents of cow-slaughter. The adjoining district, Sant Kabir Nagar recently underwent serious tension in Dudhara Police Station when a cow was killed. People of two communities came face-to-face and communal violence fibred up, but people could handle well the situation. Bakra Police Station faced the same situation, whenever there is some such incident takes places, communal disharmony is caused and communal harmony is badly affected. So, it is very crucial with a view to social aspect too. Cow-slaughter should be totally banned in this country. It is a foundation stone economically, too. Bullocks plough our fields, and held farmers in growing foodgrains. It is the cow and ox only which make this country, rich and prosperous. Cow gives us milk.

Laxminarayan Pandeya ji was telling that the milk of cow is the purest and full of strength and contains all the nutrients in it. Researches have proved that cow milk strengthens the body and it improves our mental and intellectual caliber as well. Cow dung is good for quality manures which enhances production. Ten cows are enough for 10-20 families to earn their livelihood happily and comfortably. So cows are very important from the economic point of view too. It is established medically that where medical science fails, cow milk cures even incurable diseases. A number of diseases can be cured with the help of cow related products. If we think on this line, we'll find that cow influences and enhances all the aspects of life in many ways.

I strongly support the Private Member's Bill brought by Patelji and thank him. I am thankful to you, too, for giving me time to speak and I conclude.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Private Member's Bill urging Government to ban cow slaughter throughout the country brought by hon. Member, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel ji and

thank him for it as he had done a great job by bringing the proposal on such an important issue and has drawn the attention of the whole House as well as the whole country.

Sir, the foundation of Indian culture is Vedas. It has been enunciated in the Vedas that 'Adhyane te roopay namah' i.e. O Sacred Cow! I Salute thee. The Vedas have declared cow and her calf to be worthy of worship in all respects. It is because the importance and utility of Cow from the religious, social, economic point of view in context of Indian culture can not be denied. It won't be an exaggeration if it is said that cow is the only cementing factor of religion and agriculture-based Indian culture. By not giving due place to cow progeny, the country like India where 70 to 75 percent of population depends on agriculture, is following materialist life style and approach of those developed countries whose just 2 to 5 percent of population earns its livelihood through agriculture. It is nothing but a folly. By respecting all the cultures, all the religions and all the classes, India, a religion-dominant country has followed an ideal of "Sarva Dharma Sambhava". And the foundation of that religion, that culture lies in nothing but the respect for cow, cow progeny, and mother cow. Looking at such characteristics of cow in our lives, cow has been declared as 'Gavo Vishwasya Maatarah', in Aryan culture. It is said in our 'Shastras' that 'Sarva Devah Sthita dehe Sarvah Dev Mahi Hi Gau' i.e. the way to seeking the blessings of all Gods-Goddesses can be possible only by serving and worshipping Mother Cow, looking at the attributes it inheres. Our Shastras say so. If a agriculture-dominant country like India whose 70 to 75 percent of population depends on agriculture follows the materialistic approach of developed countries of West where just 2 to 5 percent people depends on agriculture, it will lose its identity. Soon we'll be among the backward countries of the world, if we follow the western countries. Since Independence we have not been able to attain the desired level of progress and development because we have forgotten our culture and our traditions. So many such examples are there before us. So many instances and stories are cited in our country sacrificing self for Mother cow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, King Daleep was in the great lineage of Suryavanshe, to which Lord Rama belonged to. King Daleep had no son. He went to his Guru, Vashishtha and told him that he was not being blessed with a son. Guru Vashistha then said that he had a 'kamdhenu' gai (cow) which has a calf, named 'Nandini'. If King Daleep would serve 'Nandini', he would be blessed with a son. King did everything to protect that cow. Even God himself came to put the King to test, and the king succeeded. When a lion tried to prey the cow, King Daleep requested the lion to leave the cow by offering himself to be preyed in place of the cow. By offering himself, the king established a great tradition of sacrifice. What I mean to say is that India has established a great tradition in the matter of protecting cow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the conflict between Gods and demons out of 14 gems attained during seachurning (Samudhra manthan), one was 'Kamdhenu' cow. Even today, we worship her. The same tradition is being followed. In such a country, where 'Kamdhenu' was attained from the Sea, King Daleep sacrificed himself and 'Lord Rama' was born. Thus cow came to be regarded as Mother cow.

As per our mythology, once, demons started terrorizing people on earth in Treta age (Treta Yug), Mother Earth went to Lord Vishnu in disguise of Mother cow and prayed that he should save the earth from demons. And then, Lord Vishnu incarnated in as Lord 'Rama' and eliminated the demons. The Earth is one of the forms of cow. Senses are also the form of cow. What is happening in a country of exemplary traditions, Slaughter-houses are being opened everyday. Daily 29,500 cows are sent to slaughter houses with every sun-rise. As long as, cows are slaughtered, there will be no peace, no harmony and no development at all in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ours is a religion-guided and agriculture dominant country. We have divided our life into four segments— 'Dharma', Artha', 'Kaam' and 'Moksha'. The foundation of all religions is Mother cow. By serving her, we get so many useful things, such as cow milk, 'gau mutra' and means of livelihood. The cow has always been important in agriculture-dominant country of ours. We are serving religion by serving cow. The cow dung the cow milk and its calves are means for carrying out farming activities.

We are earning money through her and with that money, we are able to fulfill our desires. We can achieve moksha—the fourth 'purushartha'—through cow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 16 'Sanskaras' from the time of birth to death in Hindu religion. It is said that no matter a man has done something, or nothing at all in his life, no matter he had committed some sin, knowingly or unknowingly, but when his end comes and

[Yogi Adityanath]

he makes 'gau—daan', he gets salvation, the 'moksha' i.e. he gets free from shackles of life and earth. And Mother cow leads the way to it. All four 'purushartha'—Dharma, Artha, Kaam and 'Moksha' can be achieved only through Mother cow.

Besides, Gaumata has played a vital role even in our freedom for struggle. Who does not know the reasons behind the 1857 mutiny. Indian soldiers out rightly denied to use the cartridges made of cow and pig fat. As a result, mutiny (Gadar) happened. And it ultimately paved the way for independence. Today, what is our condition, where we stand today? Not that the efforts have not been made. Our religious leaders (dharmacharayas) started a movement after 1946-47 and demanded that cow slaughter should completely be banned, a legislation should be introduced. As a result, a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Sardar Datar Singh. The Committee recommended to ban the cow slaughter completely in the country. The Committee recommended that 'as long as cows in India are slaughtered, the soul of India will find no solace or salvation anywhere", It is, therefore, necessary immediately ban the slaughter of this useful animal and all the State Governments should open the gaushalas and old cows should be sent there and cow slaughter should positively be banned within two years.

After that, the agitation for cow-protection began in 1966-67 in which 25 lakhs people alongwith Dharam-acharyas (saints) of the country demonstrated before the Parliament. This was the largest agitation in the known history of the country. These agitations sustained blows of lathis and bullets in this incidence at that time and as a result in 1967, the then Hon'ble President assured the people of the country through a Radio Message that newly constituted Government will make a law for putting completely ban on cow-slaughter. But it has not been done till day. There was a Janta Party's Government in 1977.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted for this item is also going to expire. It is the pleasure of the House to extend it till the reply of the hon. Minister?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the time is extended to that extent.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: There was a Janta Party's Government in 1977. At that time Acharya Vinoba Bhave had observed fast unto death for putting complete ban on cow-slaughter. As a result of that agitation, the then Government, through 42nd constitutional amendment have made a way for putting. Complete ban on cow-slaughter.

But, Sir, it could not be done due to lack of strong will power. It has been seen since independence that no law could be made due to lack of strong will power within Government towards our culture, nation and society.

In 1996, BJP's Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee came into power for 13 days and also in 1996, the then hon'ble President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma had made an announcement while addressing both Houses of Parliament that this Government will bring a Bill for putting complete ban on cow-slaughter, but with the fall of the Government the assurance lapsed.

Sir, now I remember that the Acharya of Kanchipuram had declared to go on fast unto death. The Government as well as the hon'ble Prime Minister then realised that as a result of his declaration for fast unto death for putting complete ban on cow-slaughter the amity of nation may get affected and the situation may deteriorate. That is why, on the instructions of Hon'ble Prime Minister a "National Commission on cattle" was constituted on 1 August, 2001. Sir, the Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice Gumanmal presented its report to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on 31st July, 2002. The whole report of the commission consists of 1500 pages. All kind of reasons have been mentioned in the report. Religious, economic and social reasons have been mention and while giving all those reasons, National Commission on cattle has expected the Government of India and has requested that there should be complete ban on cow slaughter. Sir, certainly there should be some efforts to understand that feeling.

Sir, after independence, there has been a continuous decrease in the cow progeny of Indian breed in our country. India is an agrarian country having large number of cows. The number of cow progeny in India is less than other countries. In 1991 there was 436 cow progeny per 1000 population. It reduced to 400 in 1961, 328 in 1971, 271 in 1981 and 216 in 1991 and in 1996-97 it was 156. This is the report of Indian Cattle Welfare Board.

It has reported as to how there is a continuous decrease in cow progeny and if the situation continue the whole cow progeny of Indian breed will become extinct. Out of 22 species of Indian cow progeny 6 have already become extinct and 3 are on the verge of extinction. We don't want to do research. The Government gives grant upto 100% for opening new slaughter-houses, but surprisingly if a farmer wants to take loan for research of cow progeny he is not given the loan. The pitiable conditions of Gaushala is an open secret. The land-mafias have encroached upon meadows. Even a number of Governments have allotted meadows for their vote bank.

All these work are being done but nothing has thought about cow progeny. Such kind of situation has been created in country like India. We provide loan only for Jarsey Cow which give maximum of 40 kg of milk. The cow of Gir breed are found in Girnar of Saurashtra. These specials cows were taken to Brazil. The cow of Gir species in Brazil is giving 100 litre of milk. We can not do the research, we can not do other related work. We are dependent on others. We have become worthless. Our perseverance has come to an end. We do not want to do penance, we do not want to do the research work When we depend on others then such kind of situation will be arise.

The cow of Gir breed in Brazil can give 100 litre milk. Why the same Gir breed cannot be produced here? Why you cannot improve its breed by protection and development? What our Research Centres are doing on which the Government has spend billions of rupees. Saiwal cow progeny belongs to Indian breed. Haryanvi breed belongs to Indian cow-progeny, Sindhi, Ghat Pakar and Kaafrech breed of cows are indigenous breed. Even today we see in rural areas that the farmers leave them free to graze. Even in such a situation this breed of cow gives two of four litre of milk. We want to get everything without labour.

We worship Lord Krishna. He had preached that cow progeny should be worshipped in agrarian country like India. Cow should be worshipped. He had preached that instead of worshipping King and Indra, one should worship cow which gives us milk, Ghee, curd and Salvages your sins. Panchagavya is Sulvages of sin. We have only Panchgavya Like Ganga Jal. If anybody takes cow urine, cow dung, cow ghee and cow-milk etc. with Kush Jal then his all sins will be salvaged. Please protect the mother cow which gives Panchagavya. We should worship Govardhan.

We celebrate Gopashtomi after Diwali. Each and every Hindu celebrates it. In such country cow is being slaughtered and new slaughter houses are being opened. If Planning Commission presents report or formulate any plans to export beef in this country. We are trying to earn foreign exchange by exporting beef. They do not want to make any plan for protection and development of cow progeny in India. These days some of our institutions are making different kinds of modicines by cow urine. More than 36 kind of medicines are being made by cow-urine.

Now Hon'ble Pandeya ji has said just now that one of our private institution has received patent for curing incurable disease like cancer from cow-urine. I remember that in 1998, I was participating in a programme in Kathmandu. When my programme finished I was told about a gaushala in Pashupati area in Kathmandu. The cow of indigenous breed are reared there. One Nepali servant had worked over there. He had ulcer which got bursted in his stomach Doctors diagnosed him cancer and told that he will not live for long. A research on cow urine was being concluded in Nagpur. Several medicines are being manufactured there with cow urine and cow dung. One of my workers has learned the formula in Nagpur. He took with him some packets of cow urine from there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude because one resolution of Shri Ramanand Singhjee is still pending. Even otherwise, we have to conclude the discussion on Private Member's Bill at 5.20 p.m. because we had taken it up early.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: When the doctor refused to treat him, the activist who had fetched 'cow-urine' tablets' from Nagpur thought if death is inevitable then I might give a try and eat-the tablets. He started taking two tablets of 'cow urine' for two months and within these two months his ulcer, which had developed into cancer completely vanished, he was cured. When I asked him is it true he confirmed that, this wonder has been possible by the grace of 'cow-mother' and with the help of medicine made of cow-urine'. He was told by doctors that he would not remain alive but he was alive before all and was healthy. We have got its patent only this year. We got such a big achievement from 'cow-urine' and 'cow'. We do not want to work, want to see straight away. Certainly, the hon. Member has introduced an important resolution at the instance of Hon. Prime Minister, National Commission on Cattle has submitted its report. It recommend a central law to completely ban cow-slaughter then its importance increases all the more...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am about to conclude...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. I will call the Minister now because there is another resolution to be moved by Shri Ramanand Singh.

[Translation]

You have already taken forty minutes.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Certainly a central law should be enacted on such an important subject. The laws enacted in different states have not been successful. Different states have enacted the laws—for example, West Bengal had enacted such a law. But what is going on in West Bengal. Cows are being slaughtered on roads even today. Cow smuggling is taking place in West Bengal and Bangladesh on a large scale.

I had been to Tamilnadu and Karnataka. The seer of Kanchipuram was sitting on a hunger strike. I had also gone there. All cows are smuggled out from Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka to Kerala, where there is no ban on cow-slaughter, and as a result cows are slaughtered on roads in broad daylight. the religious sentiments of the majority community of the country is directly hurt. The result is that famine and drought are taking place regularly.

A professor of Physics from University of Delhi had given its research paper. It is full of facts. I am fully religious and have great faith in cow, our culture and religion. The professor of Physics has mentioned in his research paper that the cosmos is composed of sound waves. The first sound of sound wave is 'onkar' when a cow cries, it produces the sound of 'onkar', of 'om'. Large number of cows are being slaughtered in abattoir. The chill cry of cows being slaughtered is the reason for disturbance in sound waves and that is the reason for earthquake. This conclusion has been drawn in the thesis of professor of the University of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Please allow me to speak me for a bit more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramanandjee's Resolution is still to be taken up.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The discussion will take place next day on it. He will be allowed to speak when his turn comes up.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His Resolution is also very important.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am not repeating even a single line. I am stating the facts only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you cannot tell a lie here.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Therefore, I am saying that atleast in this House you must extend your protection in this important matter...*(Interruptions)* If we do not say on cow protection on which subject would we say...*(Interruptions)*

ONE HON. MEMBER: All matters are important.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Your state is producing the biggest stigma.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude it soon. Ramanandajee is sitting there with his resolution.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: If a physicist today is accepting this thing in the present situation, certainly there must be some reason behind it. Our scriptures have long ago worshipped cow as the mother of universe- 'Gavo Viswasya Matarah'. As the other of universe, it has been said that 'Serva deva Sthitah Dehe, Sarv Devah Mahi hi Gau'. If it has been worshipped as mother, there must have been some reason behind. We forgot about the social cause, the scientific reason behind it. But one-by-one, these are unfolding before us. But by the time everything becomes crystal clear it will be too late. As I have said six breeds of Indian species have become extinct and the three are on the verge of extinction, out of 22 species. Large scale smuggling and new arrangements made by the Planning Commission for export of cow meet are certainly dangerous. It is not a good sign. Therefore, it is necessary that from religious, spiritual, economic and ecological angle cow has been worshipped and it must be accorded the respect likewise.

There was a ban on cow slaughter even during the Mughal period. I would like to recite a poem of Emperor

Akbar's Court. At that time, cows were slaughtered at many places. Shri Narharijee who was one of the gems of Akbar's Court, took a cow to the court hanging a piece of paper in its neck. Through a historical couplet he quoted certain lines which was written on that piece of paper:

"Arihun Dant Trin Dharai, Tahi, Marat Na Sabal Koi,

Hum Santat Trin Charahin, Bachan Uccharahim Din Hoi,

Hindutin Madhur Na Dekhi, Katuk Nahin Turkahin Pyavahin,

Pay Vishudha Ati Srabahin, Bacchamati Tham Na Lavahin,'

Sunahu Shah Akbar Araz, Karat Gau Zove Karan,

Kavan Chuk Mohin Mariyat, Muehun Charan Serat Charan"

That is, if the enemy keeps grass in his teeth which is a pointer of coming under enemy's refuse, even a powerful person doesn't hurt him. Cows always eat grass, then why are they killed. Again, it is not that they give sweet milk to Hindus and sour milk to Muslims. They provide sweet milk to all. Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike they don't even save milk for their calves. In this situation, oh King Akbar, they request you with folded hands, on to what crime these are being killed, when even after death they provide leather to shoes of all.

With the historical couplet, through you, I want to convey that the National Commission on Cattle also recommended in its 1500 pages report to the Government of India that there should be complete ban on cow slaughter. In this situation, in a nation like India and on the land of Ram-Krishna, Buddha, Mahavir, Ashoka and Gandhi, a central law should be enacted for a complete ban on cow slaughter so that Indian culture and its soul could be saved from being ruined.

With these words, I once again thank heartily to the Hon. Member.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me two minutes time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What will you speak in two minutes, now let the honourable Minister give his reply. The second resolution has to be taken up after that.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will take only two minutes. The resolution which the honourable Prahalad Singh has presented here, seeks to ban cow-slaughter. My suggestion is that if we consider from the humanity point of view there should not be cow-slaughter, in the same way there should not be slaughter of any other animal. A demand to put a ban on cow-slaughter is being made in the name of religion. Some days back, some dalits were taking off the skin of a sick cow at Jhajjar in Haryana. Then, on this ground they were killed. If we want to maintain secularism in the country, if the lesson of Sarvdharam is to be given to everybody in the country there should be ban on slaughter of all animals. People are adopting sectarian Hindutva but basic Hindutva is not like this. Real Hindutva does not recognise casteism. Casteism was based on work and not on religion. Religious Hindutva is not acceptable to me. If Hindu religion has to be promoted then all people should think about this that those who are Adivasis, they are also Hindus. They are not treated equally. That should be done. So, there should be consideration on humanity and not on casteism.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mother cow gives milk to everybody and treats equally to everybody so why there is its slaughter—this resolution has been brought with this objective.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The cow gives milk and hen also gives eggs, so its killing should also be stopped. That is why there should be consideration on humanity.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Will you call hen as mother?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I do not want to meddle into other's discussion. As far as the question of mother is there, you people admit cow as mother, but there is also a need to think about other animals. If you are to discuss on humanity, strengthen Hindu religion then you should not slaughter all animals. Such kind of resolution should be brought. Don't slaughter only cow but slaughter others, this should not happen. That is why I oppose this resolution. If you consider about national Integrity Sarvadharam Sambhav then also consider about other religions. You say that Muslims are like this, Christians are like that.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: You don't understand the definition of Sarvdharam Sambhav. There is the importance of cow in its root.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We should not slaughter cow, this thought is very important, but I am saying only this that we should not slaughter not only cow but all other animals also. So there should be a resolution that all animals should not be slaughtered. Maybe in buffalo or bullock. I will support when you bring such kind of a resolution. That is why, I oppose this resolution.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take one minute before the reply of the hon. Minister. In this whole discussion, there has been no discussion on the 18 point programme which was in operation sabarmati and Sevagram Ashram of Mahatma Gandhi ji under which cow slaughter was banned. It was not at all discussed and the honourable Dasmunsi gave another turn to this discussion. Everybody should support the resolution of hon. Prahlad Singh because in the struggle of independence, Gandhi ji presented his 18 point constructive programme in Sevagram and Sabarmati Ashram which includes subjects like removal of untouchability, self sufficiency and Khadi Gram Udyog. There was also a subject to cow-service and cow protection. There was also a subject of a ban of cow slaughtering. In this regard, in future the Govt. of India should convert this resolution into a law.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, honourable Member expressed his views in this regard elaboratively. All the examples of Ramayana and Mahabharat in this regard from ancient and vedic ages till date were given. When the honourable Patel made his speech in modern age he quoted the views of Vinoba Bhave ji, Gandhiji and all the leaders right from the days of struggle of Independence and of national level. Earlier to this also such type of Bills were brought. There was also discussion on them. Again a discussion is being held on it.

Honourable Member, nobody can deny the importance of cow, its dung, urine, milk, curd and sweet meal made of them in Indian culture. They shape the Indian economy in all spheres of activity viz Agriculture, economic policy, rural economy, fertility of land. People also have faith, they do worship with full devotion. We should give respect to all worships. But as far as the question of the subject related with cow and agriculture is concerned, they have their importance in agriculture and economy. Other people talk about animal husbandry but ours is a family of cow herds and I am associated with them. My cow herd family is there because God is also force of taking milk, curd and butter etc. then only he was borne in my house. He did not go to Berlin, London or Washington for milk and curd. He had gone to the bank of the Yamuna for grazing cow, buffalo and goat and had gone for milk, curd and butter. That is why, I have emotional, religious cultural, psychological and economic relations with him. We are half animals and half human beings. My god is also the incarnation of Narsimha. He was half animal and half human being. In the same way, Lord Ganesh is half animal and half human being. Honourable Ramdas Athawale, you were raising a point. In Indian culture there is elephant's head on the forehead of Lord Ganesh, and horse head on the forehead of God Ashwani Kumar. In the same way there is a lion's head on the head of the God Narsimha. I would like to tell the honourable Member that this is not the subject of discussion. These thoughts carry religious, cultural sanction. These thoughts exist since time immemorial, Ramdasji. As long as sun rises in the east, you may keep you discussing as but I cannot change my religious and cultural faith and if you have a commitment you will also not change. In this universe, as many times cataclysm may take place, we may take rebirth several times but our commitment is with us and a Muslims commitment is with him. A Christian's Commitment is with him. Therefore, discussion cannot solve this problem. Regarding the questions raised by the rest of the other Hon. Members, I agree with their sentiments with all their logics. But government is not run by sentiments as there are constitutional duties of the Government. We are guided by the Constitution, the law of the Parliament and the present articles of the constitution. If constitution is amended by the laws made by the Parliament or any instruction is given by the House in majority, then it is the duty of the government to follow it. It is a fact that discussion was held. The commission constituted by us on 2nd of August, 2001 has submitted its report on 31st July, 2002. He has given many important suggestions and the commission has pointed out 50 such points which are important. We have constituted an expert Committee to take action on these points by the department.

The scope of the commission was multi dimensional and diverse. The expert Committee was constituted to take action on the report of the commission. The Committee did not only limit itself to the ban on slaughter of the cows but also on their development, progress protection etc. When the report from the expert Committee comes up, the govt. would discuss on the basis of the report of the Committee and then we would take a decision on it.

17.07 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Hon. Member, Shri Prahlad Patel and other hon. members have opened about the article 48. In article 48 of the Directive Principles of State Policy, it has been said that the State will organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and will take steps to stop the slaughter of cows and calves and other milching beasts of burden in order to protect and develop their breeds. In order to implement it, 23 states after independence framed laws differently. On those laws, state govt. implement in their own ways. Whether those laws are implemented or not, certificates are taken from doctors or not or it is smuggled, then it is the responsibility of the government to implement rules. State Govts. must implement the laws made by the legislature and alongwith it. I can say that if all State Govts. implement laws, upto 95% to 98% success can be achieved in stopping cow-slaughter. But it is unfortunate that those laws are not being implemented. The six states which have not passed the laws are Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram Tripura and Lakshdweep. The same arguments are given which are given here, for example, there is the majority of non-vegetarian, they do not regard them venerable...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: In West Bengal?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Laws have been enacted in West Bengal. Where Acharya Vinoba Bhave jee had gone on fast, the then Government had assured Vinobajee and on account of the 50th constitutional Amendment was brought in the House on 18.5.79. But coincidentally the House was dissolved and that law could not be passed. From the time, many cases here come from Bihar and U.P. continuously and they have been sent to High Court and Supreme Court...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Everybody, knows all these things, therefore, there is no point in telling all these...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: It is the duty of the Government to inform the House about the points discussed here. If we will not provide information on the part of the Government, we shall be failing in our duty. I am providing information from my own side that the government have taken such steps but the government has not succeeded in it. We shall not discuss in detail on the decisions given by High Courts and Supreme Court on the cases brought before them but I would like to say about the questions raised by the Hon. members in this regard. If Parliament enacts a law after making a consensus with State Govts. and after taking into account their suggestions, that law will be effective and will be complied by the States. If their concurrence is not taken, it will not be good.

We work for reaching consensus with State Governments under the framework of federal structure, whatever party remains in power at the centre. An issue is brought before the Govt. Hon. Pateljee and many hon. members have discussed it. I want to inform you the reason behind it. The states which have not enacted ban on slaughter of cows have registered on increase in the number of cattle as per the data of 1982-1992 and the states which have enacted laws in this regard have registered a decrease in the number of cattle. The 'Angol' of Andhra Pradesh, 'Gid' and 'Rantha' of Gujarat and 'Bechud' of Kerala are considered better breeds of cows. Last time when I was the Minister of Agriculture, Nanaji Deshmukh told me that a project was underway in the Agriculture university of Kerala. Satisfactory progress is being registered in saving that breed.

Sir, in the end I would say only this much that programmes are being run by the Govt. of India that where the number of cattle are registering decline, better breeds should be protected and promoted. The cross breed cows are not fit for our needs. We have come to the conclusion that cross-fertilisation must suit to our needs as well. The cross breed of foreign cows gives us milk but its calf is not suitable for agriculture. It cannot carry the burden of plough. On the one hand, there is one breed, the calf of which is kept for the production of meat, for example, the goat. But the cows of Indian breeds were not only good but their calves were also sturdy in agriculture. Therefore, two viewpoints are involved in it. Here two types of agriculture takes places. Here scholars more knowledgeable than we are sitting. There are two methods of agriculture—one is horse power and the other is ox-power. The agriculture in India and all of its instruments, belong to ox-power.

At other places, machine is run and that is based on horse power. The cost of ox here is based on breed. Rural transport, traffic takes place through ox. The data gathered from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh make the situation clear. In West Bengal from 1982 to 1992, there has not been

[Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

decrease in the number of cattle but there has been decrease in the number of cattle during the period...*(Interruptions)* Swamijee, there is the separate context of land-reforms.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Stringent law should be enacted to punish those who abandon the high breed cattle on roads after their exploitation, because this is the biggest crime.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Detailed discussion was held in the commission, constituted in this regard. Those who abandon their cattle should also make arrangements for the upkeep of such animals. Shri Akhilesh ji, you very well know, the real farmers and those engaged in animal husbandry neither leave their cattle wandering nor sell these to the butchers. Those who are engaged in dairy business and sell milk...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, your reply will continue because two and a half hours allocated for this subject are over. Whenever the issue is taken up again reply will continue. Now, as per rules, half-an-hour discussion is to be taken up.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is a sensitive and serious question. Please allow it to be over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two and a half hours are over and we could not take more time than this. We would now take up half-an-hour discussion. The reply of the hon. Minister would continue next time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up item No. 23, that is, Half-an-Hour discussion. Now, I call Shri Naresh Puglia to initiate the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, please give me just one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called Shri Naresh Puglia to initiate the discussion, and I will not take up any other issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Please allow him to initiate the discussion...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I have a submission to make. After the Government business was over the House was adjourned for 15 minutes, but I had requested that private members' business may be taken up. Shall we assume that there was no listed business?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two and a half hours allotted for this are over. The hon. Minister's reply will continue next time. Whenever the discussion on this resolution is taken up again the reply of the hon. Minister would continue.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: At half past five half-an-hour discussion could be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for it is over. We are following the rules. We are moving as per the time calculated. Two and a half hours was allocated for discussion and the allotted time is already over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a resolution is listed in my name too and I would like to know whether it would be taken up today or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per rules, the situation would come before you.

17.20 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Old Incomplete Railway Projects

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to starred question No. 41 pertaining to 'old incomplete projects', the hon. Minister of Railways had given a reply on 21.11.02 but the hon. Members were not satisfied by the reply. Thus, hon. Speaker, allowed half-an-hour discussion on the subject. I thank you for allowing to participate in this half-an-hour discussion.

The hon. Minister of Railways is a well informed Minister. He pays complete attention to the points which

come to his notice regarding the work of his Ministry and tries to diligently solve all the problems, but he has failed in securing funds from the Union Government for 'ongoing projects' in the country. As per the rail budget of year 2002-2003, 1331 kms. of broad gauge railway line is being laid in the country. Out of this 214 kms. is new railway line, 867 kms. is gauge conversion and 250 kms. is doubling of rail line. The hon. Minister had promised that during the rest of four years of 10th plan, 5000 kms. of new railway line will be laid, but put a rider depending on the availability of funds.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Department of Railway is an important department of the country in which 16 lakh employees work. Daily 1300 trains are run in the country, in which one crore 20 lakh passengers travel. Likewise, one million ton of goods are carried by goods trains daily. When the country became independent length of the railway line of the country was 54,000 kms. and today it has increased to 63,000 kms. During these 55 years, only 9,000 kms. have been added to the rail-routes. When the country became independent, the population of the country was 30,000 crores but now it has increased to more than 100 crores compared to the population growth, length of rail routes has not increased much. The amount of funds required for laying railway lines is not forthcoming from the Planning Commission and the Union Government. Through you, I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister that keeping in view the increasing population the extension of railway is less as compared with that of roads. Especially, the Hon. Prime Minister of NDA Government has earmarked rupees 65 thousand crores for 13 thousand crores for 13 thousand kms. of roads for connecting metropolitan cities and for connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This must be underlined that Rs. 5 crore is needed for constructing 1 km. of road, while rupees one to one and a quarter crore is need for laying one kilometer of rail line. In Garh—Chiroli area of my constituency, in Maharashtra, Rs. 67 crores have been spent for laying 52 K.M. rail line. I mean to say that there is so much difference between road transport and rail transport. There is no pollution in train routes, and the number of accidents are very less. Although we read time and again that there is so much difference between road transport and rail transport. There is no pollution in train routes, and the number of accidents are very less. Although we read time and again that the train accidents take place and put blame on railway department while rail accidents occur in less number in comparison to road accidents. It is seen that thousands of people are killed daily in road accidents within the country. If you see it in comparison to train accidents then we will have to widen the network of railway lines, while observing the increasing graph of population in the future in the country. On the one hand we are making four lanes and six lanes roads. But we have not provided additional railway lines and have not converted two lanes into four lanes except the Mumbai-Thane area where two lanes have been converted into four lanes. This is the misfortune of the country.

I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether a company from outside is being given contract for construction of roads. I believe the contract is being given to a Malaysian company and Rs. Five crores is being spent per kilometre and a provision of Rs. 65 thousand crores has been made for that. As, there is a B.J.P.'s Minister for Road Transport in N.D.A. The Ministry does not have any shortage of fund and on the other hand our honourable Nitish Kumar who is in Samata Dal, lawyers says that he will be able to lay the railway-line only when he gets sufficient funds. It is your responsibility to make arrangement for the funds. You are the part of the NDA and inspite of being the Minister of such an important department if you cannot make arrangement for funds for your department then what is the reason behind this, this you will have to tell to the House. I hope that you will definitely make efforts in this direction in view of increasing population of the country. Ruling party and the opposition will cooperate with you in this work, if railway-lines are laid then the opposition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that railway has done many wonders in goods transport and this is very economical. We transport all types of goods like cement, Iron, wheat, patrol, diesel, Kerosene, by railways. But we don't keep this fact in view while expanding railway network. Last time when I was in Rajya Sabha in 1986, at that time we had demanded for new railway line. At that time, an order was given by the Chairman. By laying railway lines between Chanderpur to Gondia and from Gondia to Jabalpur, the trains going to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal via Nagpur-Itarasi-Jabalpur, will have their distance shortened by 118 k.m. The work on Chanderpur-Gondia line has been completed. Provision in this budget has been made for construction of one-two bridges on Gondia-Jabalpur line. A lot of time and fuel will be saved if that line is completed. Therefore, I hope in view of the national saving, such lines will be laid which will shorten the distance and definitely top most priority will be accorded Gondia—Jabalpur line.

[Shri Naresh Puglia]

I would also like to give example of another line. Different committees have been constituted. Rakesh Mohan Panel has also been made. They have submitted a report to the hon. Minister where certain information have been given. The members of Parliamentary Committee of Ministry of Railways have also given some suggestions to you. We demand new railway lines for most backward areas. The Planning Commission has selected 25 districts in backward areas within the country. In the Garhchiroli district of my Constituency and Gondia and Bhandara districts of Maharashtra naxalites and terrorist activities are on rife. The Govt. has made provision of additional Rs. 15 crores for 25 districts for providing employment and another scheme...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Puglia ji whether Bihar comes in those 25 districts.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Bihar does not come in that.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: You keep Bihar ahead in abusing and you are praising planning commission here. After all what it does.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: The districts of Bihar would not have been added in the list as a large number of Ministers belong to Bihar. We have given you the Honourable Minister, what for you require funds. The Planning commission has identified 25 most backward districts and for them Hon'ble Minister is going to give additional Rs. 15 crores. National Integrated Development Scheme has been started by the Rural Development Department in those 25 districts. If such kind of big projects can be taken up by the Rural Development Ministry in these 25 districts and for which additional funds will also be provided. I would like to submit that Gorhchiroli district which is close to Chanderpur. There from Desaiganj to Gondia-Chanderpur a railway line passes through tribal district. There 38 percent is tribal and undeveloped area. Rs. 67 crores is needed for construction of this line. Priority could be given to 25 backward districts by connecting Garhchiroli-Desaiganj railway line. Whenever I have written a letter to Hon. Railway Minister in this regard. I got only one reply that this railway-line is not economically viable.

Sir, Railways is the only public undertaking of the Govt. which is serving nation and if it also thinks in terms of profit making and not laying the railway lines which are not economically viable, then who will lay such lines and run the trains in tribal areas on uneconomical routes?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Naresh Puglia, we are discussing about the old incomplete project. It is not a full-fledged debate. Kindly restrict yourself to the subject and be brief.

[Translation]

Speak about old railway lines and please conclude.

[English]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Sir, I want to include virtually Desaiganj also. Sir, I am just concluding.

[Translation]

Sir, I am speaking about old lines only, but simultaneously it is very necessary to make railway-line in new areas where there is a tribal population, even I am also adding them. These backward areas about which I am talking, have not been developed in the last fifty years from the railway point of view and if you disregard by saying that they are not economically viable then they will not be developed upto next fifty years.

Sir, the report which is submitted by the Parliamentary Committee, its panel has also said that.

[English]

Railways has suggested modifications to the new formula by the Railway Allocations Funds on State-wise basis for completion of the projects.

The Panel has said that the population component of the formula should be replaced with criteria such as backwardness of the State, and its revenue generation share to the Railways.

[Translation]

Sir, Hon. Minister should keep an eye on backwardness also. He should also try to make the railway network in the 25 backward districts in the whole country. I hope that as N.D.A. Govt. has sanctioned Rs. 65 crores for that, in the same way he will also have to give more funds for this. He has started the work at many places. The work of Rangia Division is going on in Assam. Hon. Minister himself have already visited there. The work is going slowly because of less provision of funds. In the same way, Mangalore-Bangalore railway-

line is also the old part of projects, he will also have to think for that.

Sir, on one hand hon. Minister of Railways is introducing new trains to which we welcome but on the other hand he is not increasing the railway lines. My submission is that with the introduction of new trains, the Government should also announce the construction of new tracks. We must think about modernisation of old tracks. Electrification of tracks is also slow. Railways have done a good work for supply of power. Railways have talked with officials of NTPC from the point of view of self sufficiency. New projects are being taken up. This is a very good development. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for this purpose. I hope that a power project of four thousand megawatt capacity can be installed for meeting the requirement of Railways as a number of power projects are coming up in private sector as the coal belt lines in the Central India.

Sir, I would like to submit that when you have full support of Members why you fail in getting money for Railways. Through you, I would like to submit that since Railways are most important carrier of goods and passengers transport, in order to remove obstruction in the way of transport in the country the coming 25:50 years, the railways network should be increased and for this purpose more and more fund should be taken from the World Bank and Asian Bank and all the projects which are 10 years old should be completed. I would like to specially mention the Garhchirauli-Desaiganj Railway line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, I would like to conclude. I would like to express my thanks to you for the opportunity you gave me to initiate the discussion.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indian Railways rolled into the 150th year. This is one of the huge railway networks in Asia and it is rated as the second largest in the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chennithala, you have to ask specific question only and you are not supposed to make any speech. You have not given notice in time to raise question, but still I am allowing you now, as a special case.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I am not making a speech, Sir. I am coming to the question.

In 1998, a White Paper had been presented by the Government of India regarding financial crunch faced by the Railways. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the steps taken by the Railway Ministry to find out enough resources to complete the on-going projects. We were told that we need Rs. 50,000 crore for timely completion of the pending projects.

If the current projects are to be completed at the current rate of funding, it will take 40 years to complete them. Every hon. Member of the House is demanding new railway lines. At the same time, there are old pending railway lines which are yet to be completed, which are not completed so far because of financial crunch.

As rightly pointed out by Shri Naresh Puglia, the budget allocation is coming down; support from the Finance Ministry is coming down; and generation of internal resources is also not to the expectation. In this peculiar situation, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the plans for completing the on-going projects. May I know whether the Railway Ministry is contemplating to have ADB loan or any other foreign aid or some other private participation to complete these projects? We came to know that the PMO has cancelled certain cold projects because of non-availability of the funds. So, the House should know how many projects were cancelled by the PMO, what are the real reasons for that and what is the idea of the Railway Ministry to complete the on-going projects?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhilesh ji, you have also been given time on special request. So please confine to the questions only.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indian Railways carries largest quantity of goods compared to all other railways of the world. I have no hesitation in saying that hon. Minister of Railways is discharging the duties successfully.

Hon. Minister is follower of Dr. Lohia. He is a product of J.P. movement. Improvement of backward areas have been his priority. In this context, I would like to submit that the pace of work of gauge conversion in the most backward areas should be increased along with it. The areas which do not have railways line should certainly be provided the facility of railway line.

I would like to draw your attention towards Maharajganj district and headquarters, where even now

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

there is no railway facility. I should be connected Maharajganj district headquarters with railway line. In the previous budget, special efforts were made for gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Anand Nagar Gownda line. Though the work of this line has begun but it is very slow. I would again request you to speed up the work so that it is completed in its time schedule.

With these words, I would again like to request you to take initiative with the Union Government so that Railways are given priority, as Railways are most convenient mode of transportation. Shri Naresh Puglia has just said that Government of India has made available rupees 65,000 crore for construction of road but nothing has been given to Railways. I think Minister of Railways does not know the trick which the Minister of Transport know since the Minister of Railways has been brought up in different conditions. Therefore, it seems that his Ministry has been neglected. I wish you to get you more and more money allotted for Railways considering it reality.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Naresh Puglia has raised some questions about backward areas. He said that Planning Commission has identified 25 districts. Accordingly to the data collected by my Ministry, the Planning Commission has identified 100 districts which are very backward. Although we do not have such list, but when a question is asked that backward and tribal areas are being neglected. We gathered data. There are many ongoing railway projects. Some of these projects are socially desirable projects and some railways projects are such which have high rate of return. These projects were in two classes—remunerative and unremunerative. Remunerative projects are very much there but in place of unremunerative projects socially desirable projects have been started. We made some changes. The areas which are backward from social point of view and which are not connected with rail network are covered under socially desirable projects so that they are also developed. Some projects would link ports. In this way all types of projects have been implemented. There are 126 on going projects of laying of new lines and gauge conversion out of which 92 projects are socially desirable projects for the development of backward areas.

[English]

Out of 126 projects, 92 projects are socially desirable projects which do not fall under the category of remunerative projects.

[Translation]

So it is not proper to say that no project has been implemented for the development of backward areas. The Ministry is instead being criticised that railways have taken up of unremunerative projects. So, it is advised that unremunerative projects should be given up and rest of the remunerative projects should be completed. ...*(Interruptions)*. There are a number of specialists who keep on giving advice whether you accept it or not. If we accept their advice 92 out of 126 projects have to be withdrawn. But we are not accepting their view. No Government of any party has accepted their advice. It is not that only NDA Government is doing so, but it is being done from very beginning. It has been a convention. Projects are undertaken in view of the demand and need of the people. Rs. 35,717 crore will be required to complete 126 projects and for the completion of 92 projects, for the development of backward regions, Rs. 27,124 crore will be required. Out of 126 projects meant for laying 16,809 kms. new rail lines or converting metre gauge and narrow gauge lines into broad gauge, 92 projects targeted for laying 11,482 kms rail lines are meant for the development of backward and under-developed regions. However, the charge that the Ministry of Railways is only taking up laying of profitable projects is totally wrong. Though experts base their criticism on figures yet I do not agree with their conclusions based merely on statistics because if they declare the projects unremunerative, then this criticism is not prudent and socially unacceptable.

As far as the question of funds is concerned for gauge conversion, doubling and MTP projects, Metropolitan Transport projects for the cities, and electrification projects there is a need of approximately 40 thousand crore rupees to complete the on-going projects. Probably 228 projects are on-going projects and out of it more than 220 projects deal with doubling, gauge conversion, MTP and electrification. Rs. 40 thousand crore are required to complete all these projects, but from where to bring the money. One of the sources of financing is internal sources generated through planning and the other is budgetary support from the Government of India. However, to the Government of India perpetually dividend is to be paid. Another source is borrowings through Indian Railway Finance Corporation from the market for purchasing rolling stock i.e. locomotives, coaches and wagons. Even in this regard plans are to be formulated. Further, if funds are available then money needs to be put in Depreciation Reserve Fund, so that there is no compromise regarding the safety. Even for renewal of

assets money needs to be kept aside, but for the last few years no such allocation has been made. As a result of which renewal became overdue and for it separate provision was made. However, later on I will dwell on the issue at length. Funds need to be allocated for plant and machinery. Desired progress cannot be made in the face of resource crunch.

It is a general complaint that the Ministers of Railways give preferential treatment to their constituencies and neglect other areas thereby creating regional imbalance. That's why this time a formula has been worked out for allocation of funds on the basis of area, population and need for funds. In the formula 15% weightage has been given to population, 15% weightage has been given to area and 70% weightage has been given to requirement for funds for completing the projects. On the basis of this whatever funds were available were distributed. I mentioned about it in the budget speech too. Money was allocated for MTP too as per the promise made that 1/3 requirement will be fulfilled by us if 2/3 funds are provided by the States. For North-Eastern States 10% funds need to be kept aside and out of the balance funds are allocated to the rest of the States. That's why this year nobody can complain about regional imbalance in the matter of allocation of funds. For, this has been done on this basis only.

I would like to thank the hon. Members who highlighted that more funds need to be allocated for railways in comparison to roads. All such assertions bear fruit as is evident from the increase in plan size and all time high budgetary support.

During the last few years the budgetary support dwindled, but now it is slowly increasing. However, it should not be construed that now things are turning for the better. Things are definitely improving in comparison to the past. So, no complaint could be definitely made. Yet the persistent efforts of the hon. members can bring more assistance in the years to come. Therefore, the Railways now is taking up more and more projects. In reply to the main question, I had not enumerated the projects, but now during half-an-hour discussion I want to enumerate all the projects viz.• new lines, gauge conversion and doubling of rail lines. In all 1300 kms. of doubling, gauge conversion and new lines will undertaken. All these activities were not progressing satisfactorily in the past, but now things have firmed up and monitoring is also being undertaken. Our efforts are directed towards achieving the targets and seeking more funds.

I would like to mention two more points. There was anxiety about security. It was discussed that there are no funds for assets renewal and adequate funds are not put into the Depreciation Reservation Fund. The Railway Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Khanna was constituted in 1998. The Committee gave the report and recommended that Government of India should do something for the renewal of the assets and one time grant should also be given. It had recommended Rs. 15,000 crore. However, last year when the issue was put before the Hon. Prime Minister he set up a special Railway Safety Fund with a corpus of Rs. 17,000 crore. Out of the total amount Rs. 5,000 crore will come through surcharge on passengers and the Government of India is giving budgetary assistance worth Rs. 12,000 crore. Around more than one-year back nobody could have imagined of receiving assistance from the Government of India. However, all this happened and Non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund worth Rs. 17,000 crore was set up only for asset renewal. After identifying projects it was already laid on the Table of the House as Green Book. The work on this started from first October last year. This year also provision has been made and that's why funds are being disbursed. Last year I found that certain projects could not be completed due to resource constraint. Even last year funds were allocated by the Government of India for the 'last mile' projects. That's why now special railway safety fund has been set up. The hon. Prime Minister on 15th August had announced certain initiative steps whose main features are two—one, national railway development for busy corridors i.e. Golden Quadrilateral and its diagnoses from the point of view of identifying separate bottle-necks. Third line and fourth line has to be layed in some places, middle section is not electrified somewhere so it has to be electrified and after that track structure has to be strengthen. The biggest problem is related to its operation. There is a big difference between the speed of goods train and the passenger train. It decreases the capacity of railway line. Goods train has to be stopped due to passenger train. As a result of it freight traffic does not reaches its destination on time which creates discontent. This situation is improving now. We are trying to improve track structures which are busy particularly golden quadrilateral so that goods train could pass through them at the speed of 100 kilometre per hour. It will end speed difference between goods train and passenger train. Both goods train and passenger train could pass through these tracks. It will decrease speed differential and increase capacity as a result goods will also reach its destination on time. There is a component of rupees 8000 crore to strengthen then the golden quadrilateral.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Second is our port. There are various bottlenecks in interline. To remove these bottlenecks there is a component of rupees 3000 crores. In the same way an announcement has been made to construct four bridges which will be built on the Brahmputra river, the Ganga river and the Kosi river etc. A provision has also been kept for them. An announcement of Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojna has also been made and it has been said that there would be non-budgetary initiative in this.

I am glad to tell you that negotiations are going on between the Ministry of Railway, the Ministry of Finance and A.D.B. We are trying to construct a special purpose vehicle for that. We will construct a separate special purpose vehicle for it. Negotiations are going with A.D.B. and if it would successful A.D.B. will provide funds for this purpose. For taking funds for this purpose we will approach financial institutions in the country. In this way we will complete some important projects. Hon. Prime Minister has announced all this and in his initiative there is another thing that 40,000 crores rupees are required to complete railway projects. More than 25 years time would be taken to complete these projects. That is why he has said that we will identify some necessary projects and will try to complete them in ten years. I want that all pending projects should be completed in ten years. But all things would not work according to me. Funds has to come from some sources and we will have to collect our own resources. We are trying to do and we are also trying to tell our planners and policy makers that we have to progress. We have to compete with whom, our neighbouring, China is progressing very fast, we could not think about competing with America and Europe but we should think about competing with China.

It has come to our knowledge that in its tenth plan China is planning to construct approximately ten thousand kilometre long railway line. We had said that if China is laying 10,000 K.M. railway line how does it affect us. Then it was decided that we have to construct more than 5,000 kilometre long railway line so we are laying approximately 1300 kilometres railway line and we have also started to identify the places. But everything will depend upon the funds which would be allocated to railway in tenth plan. So in the reply of main question we had said that everything would depend upon this. But due to our efforts budgetary support has also been increased. A fund of rupees 17000 crore has also been made for safety. We had mentioned all these things in Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojana.

Besides this there was a project of Jammu and Kashmir. We used to give funds for that. Assistance is being given for that by going beyond this plan. The project of laying railway line from Udhampur to Barhamula is in process and the Prime Minister has said that the trains will be introduced in Kashmir valley till 15 August, 2007. All initiatives have been taken in this regard. Its work is going on in two parts. This money is in addition to the fund which is being given for the project of Jammu and Kashmir. Some projects are important from strategic point of view and Defence has also given an offer to give funds for them, Defence is also giving money for these projects.

Besides this there are some States like Jharkhand, which has six projects. We will keep it in which term, for exact term we have to turn over the page. Its total cost is 2000 crore rupees. Government of Jharkhand has said that they will give two third funds for it. Railway is giving one-third funds because all projects have to be completed in five years. In this way money is being collected from various sources.

K-ride was built in Karnataka. Four projects were identified. Equity will be given by Govt..of Karnataka. An S.P.V. is also constructed. I was in Bangalore last Sunday in regard to K-ride. Chief Minister and I was present there. Shareholders agreement was signed there. Besides this Govt. of Karnataka has also taken three other projects. These projects would be completed on two-third and one third basis. In Mumbai the Govt. of Maharashtra has 49 percent equity in Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation and Railway has 51 percent. They are trying to complete it by demanding funds from the world bank. In Chennai, Govt. of Tamil Nadu is giving one third money for M.R.T.P. and we are giving one third money for it. In Kolkata metro, Govt. of Bengal is giving one third money and we are giving two third for it. In this way various State Govts. are giving money in various places. Private sector has participation in our various projects. A line is being laid for Pipava post for which a special purpose vehicle has been built. They are giving fifty percent for it.

18.00 hrs.

They have built in a line in Mundara port, but we will operate it. Agreement has been signed for its operation. From strategic point of view we are trying to collect money from private sector, and other sources. Now State Governments are also coming forward. The Govt. of India has considered project of Kashmir as National project and is giving funds for it separately.

Besides this budgetary assistance has also increased this year. We can say that this time the Govt. has given more attention towards railway. But more money would be needed to fulfil all the demands. This work would be completed with your assistance only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Why are you not taking loan from the world bank? If you are taking loan for road, why are you not taking it for railway? Why are you not taking loan from Asian Development Bank?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We have said that there is a proposal of special package for the components which are under Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojna.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: You are taking 65-65 thousand crore rupees for roads why are you not taking it for railway?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Only the Minister of Transport can tell about 65 thousand crore rupees but when I was the Minister of Transport the figure was 54 thousand crore rupees. Subject to correction he would tell that how much loan they have taken. As far as Railway is concerned negotiations are going on with A.D.B. Our team has come back after having discussion with A.D.B. and it seems that its result is positive. World Bank is giving assistance for the development of Mumbai suburban railway. Agreement has been signed for M.R.V.C. line. Final decision was taken on 6 Nov. but funds would be provided by the Ministry of Finance. Last Sunday I was in Bangalore to sign on K. ride, Chief Minister of Karnataka was also there to launch it. In this way all efforts are being made to collect funds so that bottlenecks could be removed and on the other hand we could have enough money. At the same time we could have so much fund that we could finish those project in time which are related to remote and backward areas. My proposal is that all sanctioned projects should be completed within ten years, I do not know my this proposal would be successful or not. Your cooperation and support is required for our Govt.'s strategy in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 2nd December, 2002 at 11 a.m.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, the 2nd December, 2002/ Agrahayana 11, 1924 (Saka).

PLS. 40. XXVIII.9/2002
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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Tenth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.