

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Fifth Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XV contains No. 1 to 10)

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CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

....

Friday, August 1, 1997/Shravana 10, 1919 (Saka).

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86/33	1610	1618
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	TRIPATHI	MANI TRIPATHI
233/17	LT.GENERAL PRAKASH MANI	
	TRIPATHI	
191/8 (from below)	SHRI BAS DEB ACHARIA	SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
206/11	SHRI BHAKTA CHARNA DAS	SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS
208/27	SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI	SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
229/30	SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJE	SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
246/7	(SHRI CHITA BASU	(SHRI CHITTA BASU
278/3	SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT	SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT

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CONTENTS

Eleventh Series, Vol. XV, Fifth Session, 1997/1919 (Saka)

No. 8, Friday, August 1, 1997/Sharavana 10, 1919 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMN
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 142-144	1-20
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 141, 145-160	20-38
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1546-1775.	38-216
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	216-226
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	226
MOTION RE : FIFTEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS	
ADVISORY COMMITTEE— <i>Adopted</i>	234-235
BILL-INTRODUCED	
Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill	235-237
Shri Shyam Behari Mishra	235-236
Shri Raghuvans Prasad Singh	236-237
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Issues of seeking Army assistance by the CBI for execution of a Warrant of Arrest in Patna	
Shri Indrajit Gupta	246-247
OBSERVATION RE : INSTALLATION OF NEW CAMERAS IN THE CHAMBER	254-255
MOTION RE : ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY	
Shri Narayan Athawalay	255-266
Shri Pramotes Mukherjee	256-258
Shri G. M. Banatwalla	259-264
	264-266
MOTION RE : TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS—<i>Adopted</i>	
	266
RESOLUTION RE : ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS—<i>Withdrawn</i>.	
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	266-290
Shri Satya Deo Singh	266-269
Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma	269-276
Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat	276-280
Shri Suresh Prabhu.	280-282
	282-285

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

SUBJECT	COLUMN
Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar	285-287
Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona	287-290
STEPS FOR ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION.	290-300
Shri Shri Ram Chauhan	290-295
Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan	295-300
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	300

LOK SABHA

Friday, August, 1, 1997/Sharavana, 10, 1919 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Tea Cultivation in North-Eastern States

*142. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total area under tea cultivation in the North-Eastern States;
- (b) whether the Government propose to expand the area of tea cultivation in these States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total area under tea cultivation in the North Eastern States is 234789 hectares.

(b) and (c) In order to bring more area under tea plantations, Tea Board has been operating a number of developmental schemes which inter-alia provides financial assistance in the form of long term loan, capital subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loan and grants in aid to the producers. Among other developmental schemes, a scheme viz. New Tea Unit Financing Scheme is also in operation specially for the non traditional areas of the North Eastern States. The Scheme inter-alia provides loan and subsidy to the tea growers in the region.

A special thrust has been given to North Eastern Region during the ensuing 9th Plan period. In this connection, Tea Board proposes to take up a new scheme namely Tea Development Scheme for the North Eastern States for the control of jhum cultivation with a total proposed outlay of Rs. 75.80 crores. Over 25% of the total outlay for the 9th Plan period of the Tea Board has been proposed to be allocated for tea development schemes for the North Eastern States.

SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,

tea and crude oil play a vital role in the economy of Assam. Although Assam is blessed with natural resources, it is into economically developed to the desired level.

The hon. Minister, in reply to my original question has stated, *inter alia*, that the total area under tea plantation in the North-Eastern States is 2,34,789 hectares. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the break-up of the total area, namely, 2,34,789 hectares spread over each State, particularly Assam.

I welcome the measures adopted by the Government in order to bring more area under tea plantation; some measures are in operation, especially for the non-traditional areas of Assam. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details of these schemes, especially for the small tea growers who produce green leaves.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants a detailed break-up of area in the various States that are now being used for tea plantation.

I agree with him that Assam is the major producer of tea. Out of 2,34,789 hectares, Assam itself covers 2,27,120 hectares, Tripura 5,928 hectares, Manipur 343 hectares, Arunachal Pradesh 1151 hectares and Nagaland 237 hectares. The total comes to 2,34,789 hectares.

Now I come to the other part of his supplementary. He suggested that we should give a lot of thrust to the North-Eastern States. In fact, we are also working out a plan for giving a subsidy of nearly Rs. 55.8 crore and a financial outlay of loan up to Rs. 20 crore in order to encourage more than 20,000 hectares to be developed in this area.

SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Sir, I congratulate the Government for taking up a new Scheme, namely, Tea Development Scheme for North-Eastern States for control of jhum cultivation which has a total proposed outlay of Rs. 75.80 crore. Out of this amount, 25 per cent will be spent during the Ninth Plan period. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether fifty per cent of that amount will be allotted to Assam because Assam produces fifty per cent of the tea in this country. The All Assam Students Union is sitting on *dharna* today at Guwahati to press their demand for solution to the various tea related problems. I would request the Government to respond favourably to this also.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will examine the proposal put forward by the hon. Member that we should be able to provide substantial amount of assistance to Assam. While examining it, we should also keep in mind that we have to develop other States also. You please look at the data which I have given now. It shows that Assam has the largest developed area. The other States also require some development. But we will definitely examine the proposal of the hon. Member.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Sir, there is sufficient scope for tea plantation in the hilly States of North-East, like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram. What special steps are being taken by the Government to extend tea plantation in these States?

In southern Assam there are several sick and weak tea gardens of which some have already been abandoned. The tea Gardens under Tea Trading Corporation of India are totally mismanaged. The condition of tea labourers of such gardens are lamentable. What measures are being taken by the Government to revitalize such sick and weak tea gardens? What measures are being adopted by the Government to improve the conditions of the labourers of such sick and weak tea gardens?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have taken all the necessary measures in order to improve the development of these areas because, as I said, these are backward areas. Whatever help that is required, whether loan or technological assistance, will be provided. We are keeping our entire Tea Board to work and see that they get maximum support.

Regarding the problems of labourers, in these areas there are some problems like insurgency etc. But security arrangements have been made. In spite of that, this area will get maximum support from the Tea Board and the Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, my hon. friend could not just explain the position.....(Interruptions) These tea gardens, as you must be aware, were bought by the Government of India. They were functioning well. Then, for some other reason they went back. I do not want to go into the details. Today labourers are facing starvation. The tenders were called and the parties were selected. Somebody went to the court. Now that court case is also over.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): When was that over?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : It was over about two months back. I do not want a reply from you. But kindly take action on the decision taken by our erstwhile colleague, Shri P. Chidambaram.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why don't you put it in the form of a question ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : So, I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to implement the decision taken by the previous Commerce Minister, if all the hurdles in the way have been removed.

Secondly the Tea Research Association is one of the oldest tea research centres in the country which is being run by donations from Tea Board and others. There is a move to close it down. May I get an assurance from the Government that the Tea Research Association which serves the tea industry to produce better tea and make more production will not be closed down ? You have written me a letter that it is

having your consideration. So, you kindly assure us that this Association is not going to be closed down.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : I will definitely examine the request of the hon. Minister and we will look into the matter sympathetically.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : This is a vague reply. The hon. Member has asked a definite question.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : He asked me whether I will be able to implement the decision taken by the previous Government(interruptions)

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : The Government has been examining it for the last ten years.....(interruptions)

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : We will examine it today. We are having a meeting today...(interruptions)...We will invite hon. Members also. We are trying to resolve the whole issue to make things proper. The meeting is still continuing and we are going to finalise it.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Tea is cultivated in more than two lakh hectares of land. Will the Minister tell the total production during the last three years and productivity in that area ? I am told that productivity is going down in that area.

The second part of my question is, to increase the productivity of tea in the entire North-East, whether the Government is trying to improve the Toklai Research Centre in that area. It is reported that the Toklai Research Centre at Jorhat is going to be closed down and the workers are agitating for a long period. Will the Minister take definite steps to see that the Toklai Research Centre is not closed down, rather it is further improved so that the Toklai Research Centre which played a pioneering role in the cultivation of tea, is maintained and improved ?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The hon. Member wants the productivity of the area. The productivity of Assam is quite good but other States are still to improve in this regard. That is why, our research people are also looking into that area and we will give a lot of support.

Coming to the research station, we have recently appointed what is called, the Restructuring of Toklai Research Station Committee. They are examining the possibilities of how it could be strengthened and what type of support is required from the Government. As soon as the report comes, we will examine it and try to take action.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Assam contributes more than 50 per cent of the total tea produced in the country and the quality of tea produced in Assam is one of the best and there is lot of demand for Assam tea in the export market. Till today, most of the tea produced in Assam has been auctioned outside the States despite the State of Assam having all the required infrastructure facilities for augmenting export. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the action initiated by his Ministry to augment export activities from Guwahati.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Assam tea is also exported substantially. The prices of tea has also gone up very high this year. About the auction which the hon. Members has mentioned, we are having auction at Calcutta, Guwahati, Silliguri and other places. There are auction centres at different places. If there is a need to have further places of auction, we will also have some more places.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : But the facilities in Assam are sufficient to have the auction there. Why is tea being shifted to other parts for auctioning? This is my question.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : No, no. We are putting it on the basis of its availability and the people's participation. We have it even at Cochin, Kunoor and Coimbatore. That meets our production and the position of facilities available. If there is more demand, we will also provide more facilities.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : It is because the headquarters of the tea gardens are located outside the State and they are not willing to shift. That is the reason why auction is held outside the State. Most of the prime lands are with the tea gardens. Because of this reason, the State is deprived of its legitimate revenue.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : At Guwahati also, we have a station. At Silliguri there is a station where facilities are available. Probably, they have to take it. If there are facilities, we would do it again.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure that tea is mostly cultivated in North-Eastern States of the country and the Government is making continuous efforts to increase its production. But through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce to this fact that tea production is continuously declining due to constant increase in the incidents of terrorism in Assam or North-Eastern States, kidnapping of the owners of tea gardens and increasing tendency of threatening the labourers working in tea gardens. Result of all this is that the export of tea is also being affected. I would like to know whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards protection of the tea gardens, the persons engaged in its cultivation and those financing therefor?

[English]

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : As far as security arrangements are concerned, whatever is possible within our limits, we are taking all precautions. We have also requested the State Government to give us some more assistance to develop the area. We are prepared to invest more money. We are prepared to develop that area. But from the security point of view, the States Government should also come forward to give us assistance.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is also an important factor. It is creating obstacles in production.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, there is no

doubt that there is an urgent need to increase the land under tea cultivation in the North-Eastern States. But a peculiar situation has arisen. Both rubber and tea are competing for lands in the States in the North-East India. For tea and rubber, you require similar kind of high land with certain amount of rainfall. Tea required land with slightly higher rainfall. And rubber requires slightly lower rainfall.

Now, there is no doubt that tea is more lucrative plantation crop. It is much more lucrative than rubber. The North-Eastern States are eminently suitable for tea cultivation. Both the Tea Board and the Rubber Board are under the Ministry of Commerce. There is a need for a coordinate approach, so that there is no competition which may prove to be counter-productive in the matter of land under these two plantation corps.

I would like to know from the Minister whether there is a policy for a coordinated approach between the Tea and the Rubber Boards for land in the North-Eastern States because, other things being equal, priority has to be given to tea crop. Land has to be allotted for tea plantation much more than for rubber plantation. Therefore, there is a need for a coordinated approach without which land suitable for tea may go towards rubber. It would be a loss not only to the North-Eastern States but also to the entire country.

I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is coordination between the two Boards. Is there a demarcation of land suitable separately for tea and separately for rubber in the North-Eastern States? How does he propose to increase land under both these crops in a coordinated manner in the North-Eastern States?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, the hon. Member has brought forward a very important and useful suggestion. As far as tea is concerned, as he has suggested, it has a major export thrust. As it is, we have about 2,35,000 hectare under this crop.

We are still trying to encourage more and more tea export. But in the case of rubber, right now we have rubber plantation in an estimated area of 40000 hectares.

I would also like to bring to the notice of hon. Member that there are also about 10,000 hectare of coffee plantation in this area. I am trying to coordinate between the Tea Board, the Coffee Board and the Rubber so that they could work jointly and see which area is better suited for the cultivation of which crop and where the productivity could be more and where there could be improved productivity as well and also to find out which of the three crops should be encouraged in this area.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : At present there is no coordination between these Boards.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there are three tea gardens of TTCL in Assam and one in the Duars region of West Bengal. The workers of these tea gardens as well as the staff of the Head Office of TTCL are not getting their salaries since May, 1997. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether he would take steps so that these workers and employees get their salaries within one week.

They have not received their salaries since May, 1997. As per the Payment of Wages Act, the Government of India is bound to pay the salaries to its employees, staff and workers within one month. But the workers of TTCL are not getting their salaries. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would take steps to release the salaries of the employees or not.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, the hon. Member and myself had a discussion this morning on this in my office. We are making an arrangement for all these things. We would have another discussion and, I think, this would be sorted out.

Foreign Collaboration in Automobiles

*143. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Auto-Companies which have been

granted licences to manufacture motor cars in India with foreign collaboration have failed to meet their export obligations;

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

(c) the total number of motor cars manufactured by them during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of motor cars sold in India and exported; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enforce obligations undertaken by these Companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government has not fixed any formal export obligation on the joint venture Automobile Industries signing Mou with Government for import of CKD/SKD Kits. However, the six car manufacturer companies have projected their exports for five years in their respective Mous signed with DGFT. Their export projections and actual exports during last two years are as under :-

(In value)

	Name of Mou Co.	1995-96		1996-97	
		Projected Export	Actual	Projected Exports	Actual
1.	DCM Daewoo	14 (Millions US\$)	NIL	19 Mn. US\$	NIL
2.	Pal-Peugeot	11-do-	NIL	33 Mn. US\$	NIL
3.	Mercedes Benz	NIL	NIL	NIL	1.20 Mn. DM (export of cars)
4.	PAL (UNO)	NIL	NIL	5.50 Mn. US\$	NIL
5.	General Motors (Components & other items)	28.64 Mn. US\$	28.64 Mn. US\$	17.50 -do-	NIL
6.	Mahindra Ford	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

(c) The total number of motor cars manufactured by them during last three years are as under :-

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
DCM Daewoo Motors	NIL	9155	17514
Pal-Peugeot	NIL	10306	8887
Mercedes-Benz	NIL	1051	1649
PAL (UNO)	NIL	NIL	1531
Mahindra Ford	NIL	NIL	3606
General Motors	NIL	NIL	7482

(d) The number of motor cars sold in India and exported during last three years are as under :-

Name	Domestic Sales			Exports		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. DCM Daewoo	—	9045	16866	—	—	—
2. Pal Peugeot	—	10287	7646	—	—	—
3. Mercedes Benz	—	387	1885	—	—	30
4. PAL (UNO)	—	—	1458	—	—	—
5. General Motors	—	—	7482	—	—	—
6. Mahindra Ford	—	—	3606	—	—	—

(e) This does not arise since no formal export obligation has been made enjoined upon these joint venture companies. However, the fulfilment of export commitments made by these firms themselves is a factor for consideration while granting further licences to these firms. Further licences of these firms shall be issued only after a review of their performance on the five parameters including export commitments made by them.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : In part (a) and (b) of the reply given by the hon. Minister, it has been stated that there is no formal export obligation on the joint venture Automobile Industries. In part (e) of the same reply it has been mentioned that they have got some parameters for giving licence and export is one of the parameters while giving the licence.

There is a report in 1995-96 and 1996-97 where these companies themselves have declared that a certain percentage of manufacture would be exported but answer to export is 'nil' on all the heads.

I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has called for an explanation from these companies for the failure of not having achieved their target which they themselves had committed to.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, recently we have entered into an agreement with them where in the first three years they are supposed to indigenise up to 50 per cent. Later on, they would indigenise up to 70 per cent. The export obligation is only a formality because they have paid the entire duty for the component imported without any concession at all.

If you look at the way as to how we operate, we are trying to develop these things and these are really very important. What we are trying to see is that they should be able to fulfill more and more of the export obligation by using the skilled labour in this country and more production should also be encouraged so that internal development and employment potential also goes up.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, my original question is whether the Government has called for any explanation from them or not. What are the reasons for

not achieving the target to which they have committed themselves? What are the reasons for which they are not exporting? Why is there a failure? Is it because of price competition? Or, is it because of their quality? What are the reasons for their not being able to export to which they have committed themselves?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : We are calling for a coordination meeting for these people. We want to discuss it and find out as to how this matter could be finally settled.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : That means so far you have not asked for any explanation from them for not achieving their targets.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : We are calling them for a discussion.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : We are not expecting such type of answers from the Ministry. I would like to know the reasons as to why they are not exporting. You have only said that they are not exporting. But what are the reasons behind that? I would like to know the reasons for their failure and whether the Government is taking any step to see that the committed export would take place or not. You are simply giving them licences on the pretext that they are exporting something. You are happy with their proposals and are thus giving them licences. But ultimately they are not exporting and you are not taking any action. Is it the way of function here?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : There is a lot of delay because of some problems in getting all the components, manufacturing skills and so on. They have represented to us saying that they would like to discuss it. We are going to organise a meeting with them and then we would finalise the procedure to be followed.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : What about my second supplementary question?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I thought this was your second supplementary question.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Our general complaint is that we never get specific answer.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anyway, put your second supplementary question.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Before giving licences to the car manufacturers does the Department hold consultations with the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Environment because the number of cars in one year is coming to the tune of 40,000 vehicles on the road? You are not increasing the width of the National Highways or the width of roads in the cities in that proportion. So, while issuing the licences do you take into consideration the need for consultation with the Departments concerned?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : This is an item which comes to us through the Ministry of Industry. Once they recommend the names, we get into negotiations with them. You may look at what happened in the case of Maruti. We are able to export a number of cars now. Slowly the components started developing in our country. So, they started manufacturing cars not only for internal consumption but more for the purpose of export.

Of course, infrastructural development in another item that we are taking up. This is the other part of it. Our needs are increasing day-by-day and we are fortunate enough to have skills available in our country. So, we are tapping our skills for the purpose of export.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Deputy Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister gives a clear picture as to where our country has landed in regard to the automobile industry. I request the hon. Minister of Finance and Industry to go through this answer. It is a very revealing answer. It is true that when we signed the MoU there were no obligations. It was not necessary. You may look at the figure of the cars being manufactured by different companies. Of course, it does not mean that the cars are being manufactured totally indigenously. Almost all the parts are being imported and the expenditure on import is very high. In 1995-96, DCM Daewoo motors alone manufactured 9155 motor cars and in 1996-97 the figure went up to 17,540. It is obligatory that these parts are imported. There is an obligatory system in the Department of Commerce that when we import things worth a particular amount, things worth the same amount should be exported also. That obligation has not been fulfilled. Our automobile industry is out of gear now. The joint venture companies are manufacturing cars in our country by importing parts. These cars are being sold here and the export obligation is not fulfilled. I do not know why the Ministry of Commerce tries to cover up these defaulting companies. There is a very clear default, which you would notice if you go through this paper. I would like to know how is the Minister going to deal with these defaulters.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : We are going to have a discussion with them and further grant of licences for these vehicles would depend upon the obligation that they fulfil. This is only an initial stage(interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : You have already sold 17,000 cars.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : You may take the case

of Maruti cars. In this case of Maruti, 85-90 per cent of the parts are being manufactured in our country. DCM has exported more than 35,000 vehicles from this country. Initially a lot of problems were there. We are calling for a review meeting to have a discussion with them.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India's leading tractor manufacturing company 'Eicher' had also decided to provide mini Car by manufacturing it through joint venture. But it was declared only day before yesterday that they will not manufacture the mini Car. My submission is that today, there is great demand of mini Car in all over the world. But mini car is more essential for India, since, big Cars like Tata Sumo, Tata Sierra, cover too much space, and are in no way suitable for Indian roads and due to this reason, the number of accidents cases are also increasing in India day by day. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to why 'Eicher' Company has decided not to manufacture mini Cars despite obtaining licence therefore? Whether the Minister has decided not to provide the facilities sought for by them? I would like to know the reasons due to which "Eicher" Company has not provided mini Car despite obtaining licence therefore?

[English]

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, a lot of competition is coming into the car industry in the country. We want the customer to have a very efficient and a high quality car at a reasonable price. Those manufacturers who are able to compete with others are able to produce more, and those who are not able to withstand the competition are not able to produce. In view of the fact that Maruti is able to expand its capacity and increase its production while offering its cars at competitive prices, a few other manufacturers might have, probably, felt that they would not be able to compete with them. What we are looking for is more and more competition. If you just take a look at the two-wheeler industry you will find as to how many companies have come in and what is the level of competition today.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Members of Parliament are given Rs. 50,000 as car loan. Will you please tell me which car I can get for that amount?(Interruptions)

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : In fact, Eicher has not given any proposal to us. If there is a proposal, we will examine that.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Proposal has been received. They have refused day before yesterday.....(interruptions) The Hon'ble Minister is misleading the House. He had granted licence to 'Eicher' company and it was about to provide that Car. But three years have elapsed, it has not manufactured any type of Car. Hon'ble Minister is misleading the House. Have you cancelled the licence?.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Reply can also be even given by keeping silent.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Sir, the hon. Minister, in his statement, has stated that a formal export obligation was not there but it was projected. But, this projection must have influenced the issuance of licences. Though in the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 the projected exports were of the order of 33 million dollars for Daewoo and 44 million dollars for Pal Peugeot, nothing has been done. The hon. Minister says further that their performance will be considered while issuing fresh licences. In total, 42000 cars were made in the year 1996-97 of all the six models and the hon. Minister also says that there was 85 per cent indigenisation. But I find that it is all CKD and SKD kits which are coming into the country for all these six models. I would like to know as to what is the percentage of indigenisation. I say this because there is a lot of capacity available. What is the licenced capacity for all these six models, how much has been installed and how much percentage has yet to be installed?

The hon. Minister has referred to five parameters in the answer which, he says, will be influencing the question of further licensing. Which are those five parameters?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, the five parameters are—equity participation, production capacity, level of indigenisation, import component, and export obligation. These are the five obligations based on which we are going to decide. On the question of indigenisation, in the case of first three years, as I said, it would be 50 per cent and then by the fifth year, 70 per cent of the components would be indigenised. This is the plan on which they should be able to do. However, Hyundai has come to us with proposal that they will be able to do 70 per cent indigenisation in the first year and go to 100 per cent indigenisation the next year. It is a new proposal which has come. We are giving preference to those who want to do maximum indigenisation. This is the way we are going about it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Only last Friday, we have asked a question as to what was the import intensity of exports. He very proudly mentioned the case of electronics. Here is a case which disproves the statement or the best wishes of the hon. Minister. My question is simple. What is the value of imports for these sectors? What is the fraction of the import value to the output value? Is there an outgo of profit in terms of foreign exchange? What is the value of that outgo? Is it not ceasing to be a joint sector operation? Increasingly, are they not becoming subsidiaries of foreign companies? To what extent they have become subsidiaries, starting as joint sectors? Now his statement is about DCM-Daewoo. His reply mentions only about Daewoo. Because it is Daewoo which is now owning it completely.

There are three things, namely; change in the ownership pattern that is taking place; the export of profits — I am using the word 'export' — what is the amount; and what is the import content in the output value up to now?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Last year, we exported

about 60,700 vehicles of the total production. We have exported various components and vehicles worth nearly Rs. 7,500 crore of foreign exchange.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am not talking about Maruti. I am talking about these six companies. How much have they imported? You have said that they have not exported. What is the foreign exchange outgo for the output of these six companies? What is the outgo in terms of profit?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : I have overall picture about vehicles that are being exported and imported. If the hon. Member wants details about individual companies, I will have to collect them and send him the same.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Have you changed the composition of ownership?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Profits and all that you have said are the basis of our taxation policy which is going on.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What is the amount ?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : I do not know the exact figure. They have to declare the exact figures of profit. Then only will we come to know the figures.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : From joint sector they have become subsidiaries!

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Some companies are able to stand on their own and some others are in the joint sector.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is very clear from the answer provided by the hon. Minister that there was no clear export obligation as such on the companies. So he cannot penalise them for the failure. You are also considering various other applications now from many other companies. It looks like you the worldwide car manufacturers are rushing into India to manufacture cars, Is the Government coming out with a clear policy which will make incumbent on the new car manufacturers to commit themselves to a complete export obligation to begin with, so that such confusion does not arise? What is the component of imports? If there is no export obligation, how much has been the outgo on account of imports for the SKD and CKD cars?

There is another reason. There is a car manufacturer in Maharashtra. The workers who have been employed are not a party to the MoU and they are now suffering. Probably they are fearing of loss of jobs only because there is no SKD and CKD kits available with the company. On the one side, the Government is saying that there is no commitment and on the other side, the workers are suffering on account of loss of production. Is Government thinking of safeguarding the interests of the workers in this regard?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The hon. Member wants to know as to what is the obligation of these people who are putting up the project. It is very clear that in the case of Hyundai,

as I said, they are coming out with 70 per cent of vehicles. Secondly, if you are giving any concession for import duty, of course, automatically, there is an export obligation because none of them are getting any import concession. They are paying full Duty. That is why, that is an obligation which is only just a formality and the same is not compulsory. If they ask for Duty concession, then they have to do it. None of these people have taken any duty concession. They are paying full Duty on whatever is imported. It is only a formality that we are doing but we are insisting on the indigenisation of 50 per cent or 70 per cent as per the programme so that the Indian industry is developed, India production goes up and the employment potential will go up. That is the objective. That is the main object on which we are moving.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, from the answer it is very clear that all these companies are coming to India to exploit Indian market. I fail to understand why the Government failed to formalise export obligation, at least, to the extent of outflow of foreign exchange due to import of these components by these companies. There is no point in crying now. It is because there is no formal export obligation. Now, how can you enforce it and ask them to export? This, certainly, is a failure of the Government.

In view of this, are you prepared to make it obligatory on these companies to export not to the extent of their projected commitment but to the extent of their import? I know why they have projected their commitment. It is just to get the files easily moved in your Office. You do not go by their projected commitment. At least, you enforce that to the extent they import, they should export so that the net foreign exchange outflow is not there. The Industry Minister is here, he can better answer this question.

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, what the hon. Member has said is very relevant. In fact, in view of that, we are calling a review meeting for considering further import of components, and the question of winding up of these things. We will take up all these aspects, then finalise and enforce it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it should be taken as an assurance from the Government.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, in part (e) of the reply, if you read the lines very carefully, it is mentioned:

"This does not arise since no formal export obligation has been enjoined upon these joint venture companies."

So, this was not there within the parameters of the MoU. We do not know what was the total MoU. Five parameters have been discussed in this august House. However, the fulfilment of export commitments made by these firms is a matter for consideration while granting further licences. So, what was the commitment made by them in the MoU; whether that commitment was fulfilled by them or not; if not, how can the Government give a misleading reply?

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Sir, as I mentioned very clearly, this export obligation depends upon the concessions that we are giving, whereas for all these things we are collecting

full duty. Once they paid the full duty their obligation is also reduced. In spite of that we are again calling them for a further review meeting in which we want to finalise further strategy as to how go about it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It should not have been mentioned here like this.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of Coal India Limited

*144. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the suggestions given by K.S. Chari Committee constituted for coal industry on 'Integrated Coal Policy' to ensure disposal of disputed bills and also ensuring the recovery of amount of Coal India Ltd. which is outstanding against power sector;

(b) the action taken by the Government in view of the suggestions of Chari Committee; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for recovery of outstanding dues of Coal India Ltd. towards power sector and dispute between the two parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy do not contain suggestions on disposal of disputed bills or on ensuring the recovery of coal sales dues of Coal India Limited (CIL).

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government/ Coal India Limited to recover the outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards :

(1) Coal India Limited (CIL) have been advised to supply coal to power utilities only against advance payment or letter of credit. Cash and Carry Scheme is being implemented with greater rigour since 1.1.97.

(2) Coal India and its subsidiary coal companies have been persistently following up with the consumers in diverse sectors for settlement of dues.

(3) Recovery of dues by way of adjustment against energy bills is also being done in respect of certain Power utilities. State Government have been requested to persuade/enable SEBs to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest.

(4) Umpires have been appointed for resolving the disputed dues between the coal companies and SEBs.

(5) Government has recently decided to deduct outstanding dues as on 31.12.1996 of public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power/Railways/Coal/Atomic

Energy through Central Appropriation with the stipulation that the appropriation be restricted annually to a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan Assistance for the concerned State irrespective of the number of years that it may take for the outstanding dues to be cleared.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to ask a supplementary question regarding the answer given to my main question. In reply to question 'A' and 'B' would you be pleased to state whether total amount of Rs. 2804.72 crores is outstanding against power sector as on 31.1.97.

Out of which Rs. 1404.23 crore is disputed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, coal India Ltd. is seeking foreign investment. A loan of rupees one Billion dollar was sanctioned. The Chari Committee had recommended that the project could be completed by taking financial assistance from foreign countries and through recovery of outstanding dues from the power plants or steel plants. A water management project of Rs. 2200 crore was operated in BCCL which is a unit of coal India. The money involved in the Gajli Khan accident, took place two years ago, was totally misused. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to have the answers of question 'A' and 'B'.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the answers to questions from 'A' to 'C' as hon. Member has asked, has been laid on the table. I do not understand what does he want to know. I could not understand his question.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, In a written reply on report received through other sources, it has been stated that BCCL has shown an outstanding amount of rupees 170 crores against SAIL. We would like to know how and when coal India will be able to recover the dues outstanding against the Power sector, by what time its payment will be made, so that coal India may get some relief with regard to import of coal as well as loan being taken from other countries. Madam Minister, I am talking about the settlement of the disputed bills as mentioned in the report of Chari Committee, but what can I do, if you do not understand.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : We have taken various steps to recover the amount involved in disputed dues. As per the decision taken by the committee of secretaries on 17.3.94 CIL has suggested the different Electricity Boards that in case they want to get supply of coal either they should open IRLC or they should make advance payment from 7.6.95 onwards. Almost all the Electricity Boards have complied the orders. Cash and carry system has been implemented strictly from 1.1.97 onwards and we have taken initiative to make deduction from central assistance, In pursuance of the instructions of the Government of India, the entire undisputed outstanding amount as on 21.5.90 will be deducted from the assistance being given by the Central Government Rupees 1093.44 crore have been recovered under this order. CCEA in their meeting held on 7.2.97 has taken a decision that the outstanding dues upto 21.12.96 against the Ministry of power, railways, coal

and atomic energy will be recovered through deductions made from the assistance to be given by the Central Government. But a restriction has also been imposed that the amount to be recovered will not be more than 15% of the Central assistance to be given in a year. The Government have appointed the umpires for the disputed amount, who will give their decision after hearing both the parties. It is hoped that after the decision of the umpires some solution in regard to the disputed amount of Rs. 635.300 crores would come out. We have appointed Shri R.K. Tikkoo, Shri V.Krishnan, Shri Vijay Raghwan and Shri R. Srinivasan as umpires....(Interruptions) You are pressurising us. Hearings in regard to BTPS, RSEB, KPCL and MSEB have already been completed. Most of the hearings have been completed. The remaining hearings are in progress. Phase II-B has been referred to HSEB. In future, while assessing the performance of Chairman cum Managing Director of coal mines, it will be seen that how much outstanding dues are recovered by them? To expedite the recovery of the dues, the Chairman cum Managing Director would monitor the position every week. After implementing the cash and carry system, maximum area wise recovery of dues has been made during 1.1.97 to 30.6.97 out of which(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sufficient information has already been given.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : There has been sufficient increase in the recovery of dues against the Department of Electricity. Through the cash and carry system(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : At present the outstanding amount is 2804.72 crore rupees. This has been assessed by the Chari Committee 10 years ago. At present, this amount has not been assessed. How would it be recovered when low quality coal is supplied to Power Plants and Steel plants....(Interruptions) How much amount has been recovered so far out of 2804.72 and 1404.23 crore rupees and by which time the remaining amount would be recovered.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I told that we have formulated various programmes. We have made efforts to realise our dues from cement plants, steel plants and Department of Power....(Interruptions), We receive many complaints about the quality of coal. A Joint Company has been established with the help of Loading and Coal Control Agency to solve this problem. Equal number of Officers of concerned Electricity Boards and Coal Company have been appointed for collecting and checking the coal samples from time to time. This decision was taken by the Secretary, Department of Energy in the sitting held on 24.4.96. Under this decision....(Interruptions)

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : As the hon. Minister has stated in Part 'C' of the question that officers have been appointed to settle the disputed dues between the State Electricity Boards and coal Company, I would like to know the names of the State Electricity Boards and the amount

out-standing against each of them. I would also like to know that on which level the Committee has been formed and by when these matters would be settled.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The Bihar Electricity Board owes Rs. 80.99 crores as on 31.12.96. Out of this, the disputed amount is Rs. 30.7 crore and the undisputed amount is Rs. 50.29 crore. As on 30.6.97, the total dues were to the tune of Rs. 133.26 crore. Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board owes Rs. 390.76 crore. Punjab State Electricity Board owes undisputed amount of Rs. 59.68 crore. Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board owes Rs. 70.83 crore, Haryana State Electricity Board owes Rs. 47.06 crore, Rajasthan State Electricity Board owes Rs. 14.55 crore, Maharashtra State Electricity Board owes Rs. 116.76 crore, Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board owes Rs. 80.92 crore, Gujarat State Electricity Board owes Rs. 244.49 crore, West Bengal Electricity Board owes Rs. 7.9 crore, Andhra Pradesh 02% and West Bengal Power Development Corporation owes Rs. 117.19 crore as undisputed amount.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is enough.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while mentioning the outstanding amount against the various States, the Hon'ble Minister has also mentioned the outstanding amount against Madhya Pradesh. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister through you that whether this outstanding amount is a disputed amount for which adjudicator has been appointed and he has been unable to settle the matter. Whether it is a fact that this amount is outstanding because of the low quality of Coal supplied by C.I.L. What action has been taken against the officer who was found responsible for the supply of such disputed coal?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our total dues upto 31.12.96....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has inquired about Madhya Pradesh.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have appointed many umpires to take a decision in regard to Rs. 603.00 crore and the disputed dues will be settled shortly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has asked that whether the supplied coal was of low quality ?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : We have written to the States for joint sampling, for which many States do not agree. Many of them have gone to courts about joint sampling and the court have also stated that there should be joint sampling at the loading point of C.I.L. and some States do not agree to it also. So far as the supply of low quality coal is concerned, efforts have been made to improve the quality through various methods. This is correct that our officers are looking into this dispute.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : Sir, sub-standard coal is

being supplied to the power plants located in and around Talcher, Orissa. 'Sub-standard' will be a very harsh word. It is non-specification coal by Coal India. I would like to know, because of the supply of non-specification coal supplied whether disputes have been raised by these power plants as a results of which bills are not being paid. If that be so, what steps the Ministry is taking to settle these disputes?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She has already mentioned the steps taken to settle these disputes.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the problem of low quality coal is concerned, the Coal Companies are setting up coal handling plants to solve the problem.

12.00 hrs.

So that the coal to be supplied be uniform in size. The total capacity of C.H.P. in 1995-96 was 223.5 million tonne which was increased to 240.74 million tonne in 1996-97. We are trying to increase its capacity further. Besides, to redress the weight grievances, we have about 124 electrical and mechanical weighing centres at our rail loading points which also have the facility of electronic print out. As have been asked about specific power plant, I will conduct an inquiry into it.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : Sir, that is not answer.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Illegal Transaction of Foreign Exchange

*141 **SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :**

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected any cases of illegal transaction of foreign exchange in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details and the number thereof ?

(c) the amount of foreign exchange recovered during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal transaction of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) : Zone-wise figures of cases taken up for investigations and the amount of foreign exchange recovered during the last six months by the Enforcement Directorate are as under :-

Zone	No. of case detected during January to June, 1997	Amount of foreign exchange recovered (Rs. in lakhs)
Delhi	432	31.05
Mumbai	506	78.70
Calcutta	384	4.36
Chennai	629	51.29
Jalandhar	222	29.59
Ahmedabad	327	49.27
Bangalore	18	0.00
Total	2518	244.26

The data are not maintained State-wise.

In addition to the above seizures, Customs Field Formations and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) also detected 1035 cases of attempt to smuggle out foreign exchange worth 33.39 crores which amount was seized by them. State-wise break up to seizures is given below :-

State	(Rs. in Lakhs)
Value of Foreign Exchange (Figs. are provisional)	
Andhra Pradesh	15.56
Assam	5.60
Delhi	307.40
Gujarat	65.14
Karnataka	19.55
Kerala	114.20
Maharashtra	1486.53
Meghalaya	5.19
Mizoram	1.70
Punjab	51.48
Rajasthan	0.15
Tamilnadu	1044.98
Tripura	11.51
West Bengal	210.86
Total	3339.85

(d) The Government maintains a strict vigil to keep a check on illegal transactions of foreign exchange. Appropriate action as envisaged under the law is taken as and when such cases are detected.

Reduction of Bank Rate by RBI

*145. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently reduced the rate of interest;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether this measure is likely to give a boost to the industrial activity in the country; and
- the impact of reduction in interest rate on the profitability of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) and (b) With a view to aligning the bank rate to the changing economic conditions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the bank rate by one percentage point from 11 per cent per annum to 10 per cent annum with effect from the close of business on June 25, 1997. All interest rates on advances from the Reserve Bank such as export credit refinance, and general refinance to banks which are specifically linked to the bank rate were also revised downwards.

(c) and (d) Interest rate is one among several factors responsible for influencing industrial activity. Cost of credit forms one part of the total cost of operations and therefore lowering of interest rates would influence investment Sentiment and thereby the industrial activity. There are, however, other factors, such as infrastructural support, availability and cost of raw materials, pick up in overall demand and flow of funds from the non-banking sources, which together wield a strong influence on the level of industrial activity.

Profitability of banks is dependent mainly on the spread available to them between the average cost of funds and the average earnings on their deployment besides other factors such as the levels of non-performing assets, provisioning requirements and cost of operations. To the extent the spread between the cost and earnings is maintained by lowering interest rates offered on deposits in line with lowering of lending rates, bank's profitability may not be adversely affected.

Bank Loan for Higher Education

*146. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether some nationalised Banks have launched schemes of financial loans to students for higher studies in and outside India;
- If so, the details thereof alongwith conditions etc. of such loans;
- the details of such loans granted for studies in India and abroad, separately, during the last three years, year-wise and bank-wise; and

(d) the details of the recovery thereof?

Loan above Rs. 25,000/- and up to Rs. 2,00,000/-

13.50% per annum

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):
 (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that nationalised banks have formulated schemes to provide educational loans to needy students for higher studies in and outside India. While banks have different norms, generally no margin money is required for such loans upto Rs. 25,000/-, while for loans over Rs.25,000/-, margin money ranging from 15-25% may be required to be paid. Further, banks generally stipulate repayment by monthly instalments commencing one year after completion of the course or one month after taking up employment by the student, whichever is earlier.

For loan above Rs. 2,00,000/-

Banks are free to determine the rates of interest.

While educational loans are granted on clean basis, guarantee/collateral security is taken on the merits of each case.

A statement indicating details of figures of outstanding of education loans for the period ended March 1994 to March 1996 by nationalised banks, as provided by RBI, is attached. The RBI have reported that the percentage of recovery of these loans varies from bank to bank, ranging from 22% to 89%.

The rates of interest on such at present are as under :-

Loan up to Rs. 25,000/-

12% per annum

Statement

*Outstanding Loans given to Education by Nationalised Banks for the period ended
 March, 1994, March, 1995 and March, 1996*

(Rs. in 000's)

S. No.	Name of Bank	March, 1994		March, 1995		March, 1996 (Provisional)	
		No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	117	34362	106	6495	101	7188
2.	Andhra Bank	906	63040	725	51435	887	55100
3.	Bank of Baroda	3531	117213	3157	126000	3329	83760
4.	Bank of India	3573	86057	3915	96086	3940	112842
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	641	12630	1056	26346	1077	21756
6.	Canara Bank	21692	549407	22996	651571	25498	857763
7.	Central Bank of India	2697	25232	2694	31534	3257	71911
8.	Corporation Bank	596	12885	708	17233	676	18238
9.	Dena Bank	1020	11028	1005	14382	922	15544
10.	Indian Bank	360	5820	531	34310	1157	71616
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1051	16080	1221	36533	1189	30163
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	88	3108	88	3196	284	4491
13.	Punjab National Bank	769	20915	763	20278	586	25489
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	51	727	27	1710	27	1645
15.	Syndicate Bank	8186	129098	7573	125018	6313	110945
16.	United Bank of India	819	8825	734	9008	763	9526
17.	Union Bank of India	990	21960	1073	30737	1221	45848

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	UCO Bank	461	10958	687	9576	687	9576
19.	Vijaya Bank	835	12180	892	21608	946	33554
	Total	48563	1141525	49951	1313056	52860	1586955

[Translation]

Coal Supply by CCL

*147. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received some complaints against Central Coalfields Ltd. regarding large scale irregularities committed in the marketing of Coal to power plants/industrial units;

(b) if so, the details of major complaints received in this regard and the number of cases assigned to the intelligence/CBI for investigation and the number of complaints investigated during the last three years;

(c) the number of irregularities disclosed during the above period and the amount involved therein alongwith the action taken against the culprits; and

(d) the details of the measures proposed to be taken for effective marketing, scrapping the premium and to check blackmarketing due to imbalance in the demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) : In January, 1997, Ministry of Coal received some newspaper reports that during the raids conducted by the Income Tax Department on 17.1.97 at Ranchi and other places, involvement of some officers of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in irregular supply of soft coke and non-coking coal was found with a coal trader of dubious distinction. Coal India Limited has been asked to conduct a thorough investigation to bring out the facts of the case. No other major complaint has recently been recieved by Ministry of Coal against the company regarding supply of coal to power plants and industrial units.

(b) The measures being taken by the nationalised coal companies, including CCL, for these purposes includes:-

(i) Frequent surprise check at different sales centres and loading points.

(ii) Rotational transfer of sales staff from sensitive to non-sensitive places.

(iii) Installation of electronic weighbridges with automatic weight punching device.

(iv) Inspection of coal consuming industrial units whenever complaints are received about misuse and black-marketing of coal.

(v) Review of systems and procedures relating to sales and marketing of coal.

Loan to Farmers

*148. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small farmers to whom loan has been provided to install tubewells in the country by the Regional Rural Banks during the last three years, till date, State-wise, particularly in the tribal, rural and backward areas of Gujarat;

(b) the number of small farmers belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes among them;

(c) the details of the difficulties arising in the distribution of loan during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that loans for sinking tube-wells are generally availed of by farmers having large holdings, while small and marginal farmers normally avail of loans for other minor irrigation activities such as dug wells and pumpsets.

NABARD extends refinance support to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) against their landings for minor irrigation purposes including tube-wells, dug-wells, pumpsets and other minor irrigation activities in favour of small and marginal farmers constituting their target clientele group. The State-wise amount of refinance disbursed by NABARD in favour of RRBs, during the last three years, under minor irrigation, is furnished in Statement-I. NABARD has reported that disaggregated data in the manner sought for, particularly regarding Scheduled Casts (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries under the category of small and marginal farmers, is not available with them. However, the State-wise details of total loan outstanding together with number of SC/ST beneficiaries assisted by the RRBs for various activities including minor irrigation, as at the end of March, 1994, 1995 and 1996 (latest available) are given in Statement-II. Further, as reported by NABARD, none of the RRBs in Gujarat are reported to have financed installation of any tube-wells in the State during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Some of the major constraints observed in financing of tube-wells and steps taken by NABARD to remove such constraints are given below.

i) The land holding of small farmers is too small compared to irrigation command of tubewells. The irrigation water thus cannot be fully used within the land holding of the small farmers.

ii) The investment cost of tubewells is normally very high and beyond the repayment capacity of the small and marginal farmers.

iii) There are delays in energisation of pumpsets by State Electricity Bords. NABARD has taken up with respective State Governments for speedier connections to pumpsets installed by farmers.

iv) Large number of blocks have been classified as dark and grey areas thereby restricting the financing of tubewells. In Gujarat, as many as 45 blocks have been classified as dark and 35 as grey (as classified in the year 1994). NABARD has requested State Governments for carrying out macro-level studies to identify pockets where it is possible to set up minor irrigation structures.

v) There has been over-exploitation of ground water in certain pockets due to unregulated siting of minor irrigation structures in the absence of legal provisions. In Gujarat exploitation of ground water has exceeded 100% of annual recharge in 29 Talukas spread over six districts of the state and as such scope for financing minor irrigation schemes in these districts has been largely restricted.

vi) In Gujarat, large tracts of land in the coastal areas have the problem of sea water ingress and salinity.

vii) Failed well compensation scheme (FWCS) is not in operation in some of the State including Gujarat as a result of which small farmers find it difficult to manage the risk of failure of wells. NABARD has been pursuing with the State Governments for introduction of FWCS.

Statement-I

State-wise disbursement of Refinance in NABARD in favour of Regional Rural Banks under Minor Irrigation during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Andhra Pradesh	398	332	389
Assam	4	2	5
Bihar	358	356	348
Gujarat	113	125	136
Haryana	7	17	19
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	5
Jammu & Kashmir	10	6	2
Karnataka	971	763	850
Kerala	195	297	435
Madhya Pradesh	328	312	390
Maharashtra	64	206	300
Orissa	157	178	300
Punjab	43	60	—
Rajasthan	192	220	654
Tamil Nadu	6	5	13
Uttar Pradesh	1535	1646	1409
West Bengal	44	52	27
TOTAL	4425	4577	5282

Statement-II

State-wise Outstanding Loans/Advance of RRBs to SCs/STs as at the end of March 1994, 1995 & 1996

		(Rs. in lakhs)					
Sl. No.	State	Loans & Advances outstanding as on					
		31.03.94		31.03.95		31.03.96	
		No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	366014	13243.98	265856	10057.04	266495	11232.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4585	171.10	5757	204.04	-	-
3.	Assam	74544	2594.84	77052	2936.49	81262	3823.99
4.	Bihar	279179	6284.00	507874	12068.31	617720	17196.28
5.	Gujarat	77270	2564.91	77060	3104.26	94323	4336.34
6.	Haryana	26793	1331.60	46722	2109.00	47665	2393.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	13315	669.83
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	7489	288.10	—	—	7047	371.00
9.	Karnataka	151659	4965.23	145038	5574.23	171374	7242.46
10.	Kerala	41254	894.00	42155	1029.00	37097	1809.60
11.	Madhya Pradesh	424542	11870.09	512416	14031.94	432316	14901.85
12.	Maharashtra	99308	3542.58	104634	4022.01	106456	3912.63
13.	Manipur	—	—	686	30.32	—	—
14.	Meghalaya	18299	805.20	—	—	20734	1172.12
15.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	10393	1009.25
16.	Nagaland	1170	70.51	1187	72.15	1188	84.98
17.	Orissa	188626	3738.47	348588	7990.09	391590	9326.32
18.	Punjab	47360	2267.25	28922	1639.50	35901	1838.00
19.	Rajasthan	206748	6655.94	207988	7708.82	193040	8517.65
20.	Tamil Nadu	28369	1105.74	17459	875.97	42756	2209.98
21.	Tripura	101610	2649.22	105367	3075.09	106531	3478.76
22.	Uttar Pradesh	434349	16188.03	659310	28118.30	687482	33595.53
23.	West Bengal	97327	2414.28	322259	9063.42	399998	12547.52
Total		2676505	83645.13	3476330	113709.98	3764683	141670.30

[English]

Vigilance Cell for Monitoring Banks

*149. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI propose to set up a Vigilance Cell to monitor banks; and

(b) if so, the main objectives behind the constitution of this cell alongwith the functions and the composition of the proposed cell?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that there is no proposal to set-up a Vigilance Cell to monitor banks.

(b) Does not arise.

Autonomy of Navaratnas

*150. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to

state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant full operational autonomy to the nine Navaratnas among public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the areas of management in respect of which such autonomy is likely to be granted;

(c) whether a policy different from the existing one is proposed to be followed in the matter of the Board level appointments of the said Navaratnas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said enterprises are proposed to be taken out of the purview of the Government vigilance, audit and investigation agencies; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government have granted greater autonomy and operational freedom to nine public sector enterprises (Navaratnas) subject to certain conditions and guidelines. Greater autonomy has been granted to incur capital expenditure, enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances, to obtain technology and know-how, to effect organisational restructuring, creation and winding up of all posts upto Board level, to structure and implement schemes relating to personnel and human resource management, to raise capital

from domestic and international markets, to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries subject to certain financial limits.

(c) and (d) The selection and appointment of full-time Directors and Part-time Government Directors would continue to be done as per existing practice. However, the selection of non-official part-time Directors in these Navaratna companies would be done by a Search Committee already set up by the Government to facilitate the induction of professional non-official part-time Directors of impeccable stature and background.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal at present to take them out of the purview of Government vigilance, audit and other investigating agencies.

Industrial Policy for North-Eastern Region

*151. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to formulate a separate Industrial Policy for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with salient features of the Policy?

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) the benefit expected from this new policy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal to formulate a separate industrial Policy for North-Eastern Region is under consideration of the Government. The final decision in this regard is expected to be taken shortly. The Policy package will accelerate industrial development in the North-Eastern Region.

Export of Gold Jewellery

*152. Dr. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under Import Policy Scheme, 1996-97, gold is given on loan to exporters by MMTC for converting it into ornaments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total quantity of gold so given during 1997 till July for such conversion;

(c) whether gold jewellery exported to Dubai was fake and returned back after over a year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty firm/officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Exim Policy, 1992-97, MMTC as one of the nominated agencies was issuing gold on loan basis to the exporters in EPZs/EOUs and in DTA for manufacture and export of gold jewellery against specified bank guarantees and continued to do so during 1996-97. Total gold supplied by MMTC to the exporters on loan for manufacture and export of gold jewellery in 1997 till 15.7.1997 is 5091 kgs.

(c) to (e) Five Export parcels involving two parties were recalled in Feb, 1996 to India from Dubai for verification. These parcels were opened in the presence of officials from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Central Intelligence unit of customs and discrepancies were found in these parcels. Investigations have been started by the Customs Department and the DRI against these parties.

Bank Scams

*153. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scams which have taken place in the Public Sector Banks during the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) the *modus-operandi* adopted in each case;

(c) the number and details of bank officers involved in these scams;

(d) the action taken in the regard by the Government;

(e) the present status of enquiry in respect of each scam; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide a fool-proof banking system to the public ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f) The information relating to number of frauds detected in public sector banks, amount involved and action taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in frauds during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 is given below :-

	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4
Number of frauds	2266	1890	1954
Amount of involved (Rs. in lakhs)	20007.88 +Uganda Shilling 9844000	11551.12	31937.63
Action Taken against officers			
(a) No. of employees convicted	50	33	46

	1	2	3	4
(b) No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty		1248	1160	1207
(c) No. of employees dismissed/discharged removed		360	301	331

Withdrawal from deposit accounts through forged instruments, fraudulent encashment of negotiable instruments by opening accounts in fictitious names, misappropriation through manipulation books of accounts, frauds in clearing transactions, misuse/overstepping of lending/discretionary power and frauds in foreign exchange by providing fake import bills etc. are some of the methods used in perpetration of the frauds.

The Public Sector Banks at the Instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for prevention of frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the RBI.

Fiscal Deficit

*154. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the fiscal deficit has been reduced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether a source of International Monetary Fund has stated that India's fiscal deficit is likely to remain too large; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):
(a) The fiscal deficit of the Government of India which was 7.4% of GDP in 1993-94 was reduced to 6.1%, 5.5% and 5.0% of GDP in the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (RE) respectively.

(b) IMF, after consultation with India in July, 1997 have noted that while India's overall economic performance had remained broadly favourable, the targeted reduction of fiscal deficit in 1997-98 might be difficult to achieve if the anticipated revenue receipt did not materialise.

(c) The fiscal deficit in 1997-98 (BE) is estimated at 4.5% of GDP. Government would endeavour to contain the fiscal deficit by increasing receipts and restricting expenditure.

Anti-Dumping Duty

*155. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Commission has imposed anti-dumping duty on import of cotton-type bed lines and unbleached cotton grey fabrics from India at the highest duty of 27.3% in comparison with the import duty from Pakistan at the rate of 8.2%;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on export of the said Product;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with European Commission; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The European Commission (EC) has decided to impose provisional anti-dumping duties at rates ranging from 3.9% to 27.3% on the imports of cotton type bed linen originating in India and at the rates ranging from 6.5% to 8.2% on those from Pakistan. The provisional anti-dumping duties have come into effect from 13th June, 1997 for a period of six months. These measures have adverse impact on Indian exports, as the bed linen is an important constituent of our Textile exports to European Union market.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has taken this matter with the European Union through the Indian Embassy but no response has been received so far.

Dumping of Surplus Waste

*156. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign countries are indulging in dumping the toxic-waste, electronic graphite etc., in the country;

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

(c) the precautionary measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder investigates into the allegations of dumping in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The recommendations of the Designated Authority are announced by way of Gazette Notifications and are appealable before the Customs, Excise, Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT).

The Designated Authority has not received any complaint with regard to dumping of toxic waste and electronic graphite. The Designated Authority has, however, received a petition alleging dumping of graphite electrodes from USA, China PR

and Europe, and the case is under investigation. The Authority has announced preliminary findings, recommending imposition

of anti dumping duties, provisionally, the details of which are given below :

Products originating in or exported from	Name of the exporter	Size of the graphite electrode	Amount Duty (Rs. per MT)
Germany	a) SGL Carbon AG	28"-30"	NIL
		22"-26"	9021
		All other sizes	20933
	b) Exporters other than above	All sizes	20933
France	Any exporter	All sizes	29695
Italy	Any exporter	All sizes	21645
Austria	Any exporter	All sizes	27347
Spain	Any exporter	All sizes	17125
Belgium	Any exporter	All sizes	16918

Appointment of Judges

*157. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken an important decision to reverse the guidelines of the Supreme Court of 1993 regarding appointment of judges;

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

(c) the impact of this decision on general public and independence of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts. The Government felt it necessary to amend the Constitution to reiterate and spell out the intent of the framers of the Constitution clearly and unambiguously with a view to keep it beyond the pale of any controversy. Accordingly, the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 was circulated to members of the Lok Sabha in March, 1997.

(c) The provision of the draft bill evoked a mixed response from Members of Parliament, legal and constitutional experts and other public figures. These reactions are being considered by the Government.

As of now, the status quo has been maintained since 1993 in the matter of appointment and transfer of judges.

Regional Imbalances

*158. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalisation has only accentuated the regional imbalances in the country;

(b) if not, the parameters to show that the regional imbalances have declined; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The information on economic indicators at the regional level is not being centrally maintained. However, data on per capita Net State Domestic Product in the pre liberalised period (1990-91) and 1993-94 do not indicate any accentuation in regional imbalances in the country across the states. With the industrial licensing under the new Industrial Policy, locational decisions are left to the commercial perception of individual investors.

Export of Granite

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

(a) the countries to which granite is being exported at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to impose restriction on export of granite;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) the reasons for imposing restriction on its export; and

(e) the steps taken to provide relief to the domestic granite processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The countries to which granite in various forms is exported are Italy, People's Republic of China, Japan, Belgium, Taiwan, USA, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, U.K., UAE and Netherlands.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Loan to Priority Areas by Nationalised Banks

*160. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nationalised banks have been directed to provide 40 per cent of their total loan to priority areas;

(b) If so, the details thereof, the reasons therefor and when these directions were given to banks;

(c) whether according priority to development of industry and agriculture has become necessary in the present changing scenario and the need of capital investment in these sectors is being felt more;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the banks to increase the percentage of loan to priority areas;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the effect thereof on the profitability of Regional Rural Banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) At present, nationalised banks are required to lend 40% of their net bank credit to the priority sector. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in pursuance of the report of the 'Working Group on the modalities of implementation of the priority sector lending the 20-Point Programme', the banks were advised in October 1980 to achieve a target of 40% of net bank credit by March, 1985. The main objective of directed lending and to priority sector is to assist the weaker sections and the small borrowers under important segments of the economy. Against the target of 40 per cent, the lending of public sector banks as on the last

Friday of March 1995, March 1996 and March 1997 is as given below :

As on the last Friday of	Percentage of priority sector lending to net bank credit
March 1995	36.56
March 1996	37.75
March 1997	41.72

(c) and (d) Under the priority sector, banks have been advised to achieve a sub-target of 18 per cent to agriculture in view of the importance of agriculture to our economy. Lending to SSI Sector is also part of Priority Sector lending.

(e) and (f) The target for priority sector lending of public sector banks is considered adequate. There is no proposal at present to increase the target beyond 40% of net bank credit.

(g) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were originally allowed to lend only to the Target Group comprising small and marginal farmers, land less labourers, rural artisans and other weaker sections of society. Subsequently, they were allowed to lend upto 60% of their incremental lending during the year to Non-Target group borrowers. After a review in 1997, RRBs have been advised that from the financial year beginning 1st April, 1997, the advances of RRBs to priority sector borrowers should constitute 40% of their outstanding advances as in the case of commercial banks. From 26th August, 1996, interest rates of RRBs have been deregulated. These measures, including reallocation of loss making branches, more liberal Branch Licensing Policy, better avenues of business (fund and non-fund) and investment of surplus funds and reduction in transaction costs is expected to improve the profitability of RRBs.

[English]

Deposits in NBs

1546. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of deposit received by the Nationalised banks (NBs) during the year 1996-97, month wise;

(b) the total amount of loans advanced by nationalised banks every month during the year 1996-97;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the nationalised banks are flush with funds and are unable to find profitable avenues to the increasing deposits; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure full utilisation of the increasing deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Guidelines for Health Insurance Companies

1547. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to lay down some guidelines for health insurance companies;
- (b) if so, the details of such guidelines;
- (c) the time by which such guidelines are likely to be made effective; and
- (d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Under the existing Insurance Laws the general insurance business is an exclusive privilege of General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India and its four subsidiaries. The intension of Government has been announced in the Budget Speech to enable general insurance industry to float joint ventures and also to allow the entry of selected Indian Companies in the health insurance sector. Comprehensive regulations will be made and enforced by the Insurance Regulatory Authority for all the health insurance service providers.

CII Study on Domestic Savings In India

1548. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whehter the Confederation of Indian Industries study on domestic savings in India has suggested a multi-pronged approach to give a fillip to low savings ratio in India;
- (b) if, so whether the study states that higher domestic savings checks external liability to a large extent and lowers the dependence of foreign savings;
- (c) if, so the other suggestions made in the study report;
- (d) whether the government have examined them; and
- (e) if, so the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The other major suggestions made in the study report for increasing the level of savings in the country, inter-alia, include, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the financial institutions for mobilisation of savings, tapping the potential in the rural area; de-regulation of borrowing and lending rates; curbing the growing dis-savings by government and reduction in fiscal and revenue deficit.

(d) and (e) : The Central Government Budget for 1997-98 contains various measures/policy changes which are likely to have a positive impact on savings. In making policy changes the suggestions received from various institutions/individuals

are considered keeping in view the emerging economic situation.

Suggestion made by Andhra Pradesh in Law Ministers's Conference

1549. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the main suggestion regarding setting up of Supreme Court Bench in Andhra Pradesh and increase in the number of High Court judges made by the State Government during the Law Minister's Conference held recently;

(b) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the State Government had made a severe criticism regarding the slow progress in judicial reforms;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to constitute a six Members Committee to go into this question; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Representations/suggestions have been made by the various Bar Associations, State Governments and other Organisations, from time to time, for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court in various states, including Andhra Pradesh. According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President from time to time, appoint. As such, the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard. No action is contemplated by the Central Government till such a proposal is received.

The Judge strength of all the High Courts, including Andhra Pradesh High Court, was received in 1995 on the basis of guidelines formulated on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India. The Judge strength of Andhra Pradesh High Court was accordingly increased from 36 permanent/Additional Judges to 39 permanent/Additional Judges. As per the resolution passed in the Conference of the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of States, the next review of Judge strength of High Courts will be due in 1998.

(c) The State Government expressed concern over the delay in disposal of cases in Courts and suggested that serious thought should be given to maintain public confidence in our judicial system.

(d) and (e) A Committee consisting of Law Ministers of six States namely Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Rajasthan was set up for follow-up action.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Rajasthan

1550. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes which are being implemented with the World Bank assistance in Rajasthan and the project-wise details about the present status thereof;

(b) the assistance provided in each case;

(c) the details of projects pertaining to the State pending with the Union Government for approval and since when; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The details of ongoing World Bank aided projects in the State of Rajasthan is as follows :-

(In US\$ million)			
Name of the Project	Donor Agency	Amount	Utilisation as on 31.5.97
1. Rajasthan	ADP	IDA	113.41 55.904

Besides this State sector project, there are various multi-state and central sector projects in which State of Rajasthan is one of the beneficiary. These include Integrated Watershed Development (Plains), Dam Safety, Eco Development, Population-IX, Cataract Blindness control, National Leprosy Elimination, National AIDs Control, Vocational Training and Technicians Education projects.

(c) and (d) A number of projects, in which State of Rajasthan may be one of the beneficiary, have been posed to the World Bank for possible assistance. These are National Malaria Control, Reproductive and Child Health Services, Rajasthan State Highway, Rajasthan Water Resources Consolidation, Rajasthan Water Sewerage, Jaipur Water Sewerage & Sanitation and Reform & Restructuring of Rajasthan Power Sector. These projects are at various stages of processing and the details including the amount and the time likely to be taken in respect of these projects will depend upon finalisation and agreement on various conditions between Government and the World Bank.

[English]

Letters from MPs regarding Non-Banking Finance Company

1551. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters from Members of Parliament pending with the Government since March, 1997 regarding functioning of a major Residuary Non-Banking Finance Company;

(b) whether the Government have taken any final view in the matter raised in the letters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is expected to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The question refer to "a major Residuary Non-Banking Finance Company". Since it is not clear to which RNBC the question relates, it has been possible to frame an appropriate reply.

Acquisition of land by Coal India Limited

1552. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in the possession of different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited by virtue of the (i) Lease-hold land (ii) Land purchased directly from the land owners (iii) Land acquired under Land Acquisition Acts (both Central and State Acts) (iv) Land acquired under C.B.A. Act (v) Vested Land received from the respective State Governments (vi) Vested Land in possession without obtaining prior permission from the respective State Governments, subsidiary-wise;

(b) the number of families affected due to acquisition of land during each of the last three years, subsidiary-wise;

(c) the number of families rehabilitated out of them so far;

(d) the number of claimants still to be rehabilitated; and

(e) the reasons for delay in offering them rehabilitation and the time by which all the families are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Frauds in Bihar

1553. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3273 dated March 14, 1997 regarding "frauds in Bihar" and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 6-11-1996 refers to a sum of Rs. 257 crores being written off as bad debts by Bihar State Co-operative Bank (BSCB). It had been reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) that there had been no write-off of any loan as bad debt by BSCB. However, the departmental audit report of the bank for the year 1993-94, received in March 1996, revealed certain irregularities in sanction of loans to four Regional Weaver's Unions amounting to Rs.1.45 crores in 1986-87 and 1987-88. BSCB has, on the basis of the audit report and on the basis of verifications, decided to file cases against concerned persons. The matters is reported to be followed up by the Vigilance Cell of the Co-operation Department of the State Government of Bihar.

Rubber Processing Unit

1554. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a rubber processing unit in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the present policy, no permission or Industrial Licence is required to set up a rubber based industry. Government does not propose to set up a rubber processing unit in Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

1555. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the counter guarantee of Rs. 49.50 crores, as mentioned in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5498 dated 9.5.97 relates to earlier loans taken by the Company from the financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Burn Standard Co. Ltd. has not been receiving any further working capital requirement against this counter guarantee from the banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) has been enjoying the credit facilities from United Bank of India (UBI) for Rs. 49.50 crore since 1990. However, on the request of Union Bank of India (UBI), the Government has given counter guarantee of said amount. No additional working capital beyond the above has been sanctioned by the bank.

World Bank Loan

1556. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented in Andhra Pradesh with the assistance from the World Bank and the extent to which the assistance has been utilised during the last three years;

(b) whether a team of officials of the World Bank had discussions with the State during May, 1997 and discussed the modalities regarding utilisation of the assistance extended to the State;

(c) if so, whether the World Bank has given some suggestions in regard to utilisation of funds and implementation of the schemes proposed to be adopted in the State;

(d) if so, the main suggestions made by the World Bank and the extent to which the State Government has agreed to implement these;

(e) the total loan which the World Bank has agreed to provide; and

(f) the steps being taken to utilise the loan fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The details of on-going State sector World Bank aided projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as follows :-

Name of the Project	Amount	(in US\$ million)		
		Utilisation		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. A.P. First Referral Health Systems	125.68	1.50	0.49	6.12
2. A.P. Forestry	77.64	5.46	2.60	14.08
3. Hyderabad Water Supply	89.36	2.60	8.22	16.47
4. Illrd A.P. Irrigation	325.00	The Loan has been declared effective on 3.7.97.		
5. A.P. Hazardous Mitigation Emergency Cyclone	150.00	The Loan is not yet effective.		

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) A number of projects, in which state of Andhra Pradesh may be a beneficiary, have been posed to the World Bank for possible assistance. These include A.P. Economic Restructuring, A.P. Power Sector Reform, Hyderabad Water

Supply-II and District Poverty Initiative Projects. These projects are at various stages of processing and the details, including the amount and the time likely to be taken in respect of these projects, will depend upon finalisation and agreement on various conditions between Government and the World Bank.

Foreign Trade Barriers

1557. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the US Government on Foreign Trade Barriers, as appeared in Economic Times, dated 3rd April, 1997;

(b) if so, what is Government's reactions to the contents of this report; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that exports to US do not suffer and that India is able to effectively safeguard its interests and to negotiate successfully at the WTO and bilateral consultations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The USA Trade Representative (US TR) releases a report on foreign trade barriers on an annual basis, which is examined in the Government for possible steps to ensure that unilateral action is avoided and Indo-US bilateral trade continues to grow.

(c) The Government takes various steps to ensure that exports to USA do not suffer and that any action taken by the USA based on their analysis is consistent with the provisions of the WTO Agreements. Further, the Government itself also identifies non-tariff barriers imposed by India's major trading partners including USA. Such barriers are then taken up bilaterally with our trading partners to ensure that market access of Indian exporters is not unreasonably hindered. In case of any inconsistency or discrimination, India has a right to approach the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism for redressal.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units In Delhi and Karnataka

1558. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of export oriented units which have been set up in Delhi and Karnataka with details of their export commitment;

(b) the details of the units which have been able to meet their export commitment with their earning through export;

(c) the details of the units which have not been able to meet their export commitment and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the performance of these export oriented units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As on 31st March, 1997, 28 Export Oriented Units were in production in Delhi and 152 Export Oriented Units were in production in Karnataka. At the time of seeking approval for the scheme EOUs indicate export projections for a period of 5 year which differs from unit to unit. However as per provisions of the Exim Policy EOUs are required to export a minimum stipulated FOB value of their production during 5 years as prescribed for various sectors under the policy.

(b) Export Oriented Units have a 5 year period to fulfil export projections. However, the monitoring of their performance is done on annual basis subject to their having completed one year or more of production. Accordingly export performance of 126 units out of a total of 180 units in production in Delhi and Karnataka monitored upto the period 1995-96 reveals that 69 units have achieved above 50% upto 100% of their export projections. Value of goods exported by these units during this period was Rs. 102.79 Cr. in respect of EOUs in Delhi and US \$ 807.84 Mn. In respect of EOUs in Karnataka.

(c) 57 units have shown a shortfall more than 50% in meeting their export projections. The reasons for these are mainly lack of adequate markets and managerial/financial problems.

(d) The performance of Export Oriented Units is reviewed by the Government annually on the basis of monitoring reports of Development Commissioners of Export Processing Zones. Since the units have a minimum five year period under the scheme to fulfill their export projections, cases of marginal shortfall in achievement are kept under which by Development Commissioners while cases of serious default are referred to Director General of Foreign Trade for penal action under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

[English]

Recovery of Loans in Maharashtra

1559. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recovery of loans made by the various public sector banks located in Maharashtra, particularly in tribal and backward areas;

(b) the extent to which the recovery of loans is less or more in comparison to other States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more loan facilities to the tribal people of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Local Head Office of SBI in Trivandrum (Kerala)

1560. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal of the Union Government for opening a Local Head Office to State Bank of India at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) While the Government of Kerala have made requests for the formation of a separate circle of State Bank of India (SBI) for Kerala, SBI presently, has no such proposal to form a separate circle for Kerala. However, the discretionary power of the Deputy General Managers in-charge of zonal Offices have been considerably enhanced and some branches have been brought directly under the control of functionaries at the Local Head Office (The branches located in the State of Kerala fall under the administrative control of Chennai Circle). This arrangement would expedite decisions both in credit and in general matters.

Andrew Yule Group of Companies

1561. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees of the Andrew Yule Group of Companies are planning the first over strike to protest against financial irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of financial irregularities;

(c) the details of the other demands of the Joint Action Committee and the outcome of their meeting with the Chairman of Andrew Yule Group of Companies; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Andrew Yule & Company Limited (AYCL) has not received any strike notice to protest against financial irregularities.

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

(c) The other demands of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) mainly relate to the spinning off of the Engineering Division of the Company and its conversion into a Joint Venture. It was suggested by the Joint Venture Company (JAC) that the proposal should be reconsidered and ways

and means for making operations of Engineering Division viable may be explored. The Management of the company held discussions with the Unions and explained the urgency for financial and business restructuring and sought their active cooperation. The representatives of the Unions sought some more time for the studying the issue and presenting their views at the next meeting.

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

[Translation]

Closed Textile Mills of Indore

1562. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of textile mills are lying closed in Indore and the cases of which are under consideration of the B.I.F.R. and since when their cases have been under consideration;

(b) the number of textile mills in respect of which a decision has been taken to revive them and whether arrangement has been made for mobilising resources for their revival; and

(c) the number of textile mills of Indore, out of the sick mills, which have been given permission to sell their own land to meet the expenses incurred on salaries of labourers and other financial liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) There are two mills in Indore, viz. M/s Hop Textiles and M/s Hukumchand Mills which are reported to be closed from 6.6.86 and 9.12.91 respectively. These mills have also been registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 1987. BIFR has recommended a draft scheme in respect of M/s Hope Textiles, and has recommended winding up of M/s Hukumchand Mills.

(c) The statistics are not maintained centrally.

[English]

Kerala Board of Revenue Abolition Bill, 1996

1563. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a Bill passed by the Kerala assembly namely "The Kerala Board of Revenue Abolition Bill, 1996" for obtaining assent of the Hon'ble President of India; and

(b) If so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provisions of the Bill are being examined by the Central Government.

Enquiry into CRB Scam

1564. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the inquiry into the CRB Capital Markets Ltd. is progressing satisfactorily;
- (b) if so, the time by which the report likely to be available with the Government;
- (c) whether monitoring of inquiry is being done; and
- (d) if so, the agency/agencies thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The main activities of CRB Capital Markets Ltd. (CRBCML) were hire purchase, leasing finance and merchant banking. A complaint was received in December, 1996 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. regarding default of repayment of deposits by CRB Capital Markets Ltd. Global Trust Bank Ltd. has also reported to RBI in March, 1997 about development of Letter Credit opened by a group Company. Further, CRBCML fraudulently overdraw its accounts with the State Bank of India, Mumbai Main Branch (MMB) for payment of interest warrants, deposit refunds and brokerage warrants by an amount of over Rs. 58 crores. Keeping in view the findings of the inspection carried out by RBI between November, 1996 to January, 1997 and the subsequent developments, especially relating to the SBI, the RBI issued prohibitory orders in April, 1997 under section 45MB(1) & (2) directing the company not to accept any further deposits and not to alienate any assets without prior permission of RBI. RBI filed a winding up petition in the Delhi High Court under section 45 MC of the RBI Act on 21.5.1997. A provisional Liquidator has been appointed by Delhi High Court. The Liquidator has initiated action to crystallize the assets and liabilities of the company.

In view of these developments, the Government has asked the regulators, i.e. RBI and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to undertake a thorough internal review of the regulatory actions in regard to these companies to see if there have been any lapses in application of regulations to CRB group of companies or in responding to warning signals, so that these deficiencies can be corrected. Government has also advised the State Bank of India to ascertain whether there was any internal failure to act on early warning signals emanating from the defaults in the payment arrangements with CRB Capital Markets Ltd. At the operative level an inter-departmental group comprising representatives of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), RBI, SEBI, and the State Government has been constituted to ensure concerted action. RBI has also issued detailed instructions to banks prescribing the procedural safeguards to be taken into account while providing "at par" payment facilities to companies."

In so far as the criminal investigation and other legal proceedings are concerned, it is not possible at this juncture to fix any definite time frame for their completion.

Facilities Provided to Handicapped Persons

1565. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the facilities being provided to handicapped employees in various departments under his Ministry; and
- (b) the number of handicapped youths appointed under Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Silk

1566. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for production of silk in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the quantum of silk produced during the above period;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to boost the production of silk; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) A target to produce 21,400 tonnes of raw silk per annum was fixed for VIIIth Plan Period.

(b) The production of raw silk during the 1996-97 was 14,093 tonnes (provisional).

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Boards (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/incentive financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project. (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North-Eastern Region etc. in association/collaboration with the States.

Purchase Centres of JCI

1567. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether inspite of persistent requests from the Members of Parliament for the last number of years, the jute

purchase Centres have not so far been opened by Jute Corporation of India in North Bengal areas of West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the target date by which these are likely to be opened in various areas of above states; and

(c) The remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the jute growers from the clutches of middle-men, who purchase the jute at a very cheaper rate and make money by sell the same to Jute Corporation's Purchase Centres at higher rate?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Jute purchase centres of the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) have already started procurement under Price Support Operations in North Bengal and Assam from 25.7.1997. As regard Meghalaya, manpower and storage space are in total readiness, and necessary funds have also been provided for Price Support Operations. Procurement in Meghalaya will start on arrival of raw jute in the market.

(c) The Government have released requisite funds of JCI to undertake Price Support Operations. JCI have prepared action plan to enter the market to purchase jute directly from the growers.

Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta

1568. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deposits of Azad Hind Bank, Burma has transferred their deposits to Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta;

(b) whether the Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta Branch has been merged with Imperial Bank of India (now State Bank of India);

(c) the total amount deposited and transferred to Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta Branch;

(d) the name of the persons to whom the balance amount yet to be paid; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for payment of their amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there are no deposits of cash, jewellery and ornaments with RBI, Mumbai in the name of erstwhile National Bank of Azad Hind, Rangoon. RBI have further reported that their enquiries with the State Bank of India have been revealed that there is no record available with them regarding the merger of Azad Hind Bank with the Imperial Bank.

Conference held by Election Commission

1569. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission held recently a Conference of various political parties on the revision of Electoral Rolls and Voter Identity Cards;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at the Conference; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) According to information made available by the Election Commission of India, a meeting with various political parties was held to ascertain their views on various aspects of electoral process to enable the Commission to formulate proposals in this regard. The meeting, inter alia, discussed the issues of revision of electoral rolls and voter identity cards. No formal decisions were taken at the meeting. The Commission has since decided to undertake summary revision of electoral rolls in all the States/Union territories (except Assam) with reference to 1.1.1998 as the qualifying date. In Assam, intensive revision of electoral rolls is in progress.

[Translation]

Sale of Soft Coke

1570. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued directives to sell the soft coke allotted to Government of Bihar through public distribution system;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether the utility certificate regarding the soft coke supplied to Bihar has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) As per decision taken by the Government the distribution of soft coke has now been decontrolled and consequently Ministry of Coal is not making State-wise allocation any longer.

[English]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST/OBCs in Various Banks

1571. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of vacant posts in Group D in the reserved categories of SCs, STs and OBCs have been lying vacant in various banks i.e. State Bank of Patiala, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Canara Bank and Bank of Baroda in their Delhi/New Delhi offices since long; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government concerned authorities to fill up the said reserved vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) As per reports received from the banks mentioned in part (a) of the Question, the position of backlog are as follows :-

	Backlog in the Category of		
	SCs	STs	OBCs
State Bank of Patiala	3	4	5
Oriental Bank of Commerce	2	—	9
Canara Bank	2	4	20
Bank of Baroda	—	—	3

Necessary action for filling up the backlog vacancies in these categories have already been initiated by Oriental Bank of Commerce and State Bank of Patiala. The other two banks have reported that they are also taking necessary action for filling up these vacancies during the current year.

[Translation]

Fund for Construction of Chambers in Supreme Court

1572. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for welfare of advocates and betterment of the legal profession;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount earmarked therefor during the current financial year;

(c) whether the amount earmarked for the purpose is being utilised for construction of additional chambers for the advocates in Supreme Court;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Cases against Additional Session Judges

1573. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of on going cases in Tis Hazari Court in which Additional Session Judges are them-selves involved;

(b) if so, whether the Government expect a Sub-Ordinate Civil Judge to give verdict against his superior in the interest of justice when the ADJ's are working in the same court; and

(c) if not, the step taken by the Government to ensure justice in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Commercialisation of Ganga Water

1574. SHRI KACHARU BHARU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ganga water is being commercialised and a number of companies are engaged in filling up the bottles with Ganga water for sale and export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Government is aware of sale of Ganga water in the traditional form. Bottling and export through commercial companies has been reported in the press. Under the current Export Import Policy, there are no restrictions on export of mineral waters and aerated waters (ITC HS Code : 22011000) and other water (including natural waters - ITC HS code : 22019009.

[English]

Import of Virgin Polymers

1575. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that virgin polymers are imported under the declaration of scrap or recycled plastics at Kandla port; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No import of virgin polymers declared as scrap or recycled plastics at Kandla port has been noticed.

Jute Corporation of India

1576. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed support price of raw jute for the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The action plan prepared by JCI procure jute during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b) Pursuant to the decision of the Central Govt. to fix the minimum support price for TD-5 grade of raw jute grown in Assam at Rs. 570/- qtl. for the 1997-98 jute session i.e. July/June, the corresponding minimum support prices for all grades of jute for various up-country markets in different jute growing States have been fixed by the Jute Commissioner in the light of normal market price differentials.

(c) The Government have released requisite funds of JCI to the undertake price support operations. JCI have prepared action plan to enter the market to arrest the falling prices of raw jute effectively.

Appointment of Disabled on the Board of Directors

1577. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the steps taken to get disabled persons nominated to the Board of Directors of Nationalised banks and private sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Nomination of directors on the Boards of nationalised banks and other scheduled commercial banks are made in accordance with the provisions of the relevant statutes governing such nominations. These statutes do not specifically provide for appointment of disabled persons on these Boards.

[Translation]

Directions to Commercial Banks to provide more Loan to Agricultural Sector

1578. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the Commercial banks to provide more loans to the farmers for encouraging the modernisation of Agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited/likely to be benefited as a result of the said directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) As per extant instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all scheduled commercial banks are required to provide 18% of their net bank credit to the agriculture sector. As of March 1997, on a provisional basis, the total advances to

the agriculture sector from all public sector commercial banks aggregated Rs. 31,012 crores (16.35% of Net Bank Credit against stipulated 18%), which shows an increase of about 17.7% over the level of Rs. 26,351 crores for the year 1995-96. Further, under the Special Agriculture Credit Plans (SACPs) RBI has advised scheduled banks to keep up a growth rate of 25% over the disbursements made in the previous year and has fixed target for SACP for the current year at 16,097 crores as against estimated achievement of Rs. 10,172 crores during the year 1995-96. Further, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has also advised the co-operatives and Regional Rural Banks for attaining required growth in the flow of ground level agricultural credit.

Some of the important steps taken to strengthen the institutional arrangement for augmenting flow of credit to agriculture include, inter-alia, augmentation of NABARD's share capital to Rs. 2000 crore over the next five years, setting up of Rural Infrastructural projects, allocation of an amount of Rs. 270 crore during the current year for restructuring of RRBs, establishment of State Level Agriculture Development Finance Companies (SLADFCs) to promote investments in commercial and high-tech farming and establishment of local area banks.

(c) At this stage, it will be difficult to estimate precisely the number of farmers benefited likely to be benefited as a result of the proposed measures.

[English]

Study on Soft Drink by BICP

1579. SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have commissioned a Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices Study on the soft drink industry during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms of reference;

(c) whether a report has been submitted by the BICP;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its findings;

(e) the names of each bottler from whom information was sought by BICP; and

(f) the details of information sought and the information provided by these bottlers ?

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

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Lok Adalat in Rural Areas

1580. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start mobile Lok Adalats in rural areas at large scale;

(b) If so, whether any directive has been prepared by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir. But, nevertheless, Lok Adalats are being organised by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards/State Legal Services Authorities etc. both in rural and urban areas. It has always been the effort of the erstwhile Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes as also of the National Legal Services Authority (which has replaced the Committee) to intensify the holding of Lok Adalats and other Legal Aid Programmes in rural areas. This is being impressed upon the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards etc. by the Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority from time to time. By their very nature, there cannot be mobile Lok Adalats.

The recent Law Minister's Conference have decided to hold intensive Lok Adalats from 15th August 1997 to 15th August, 1998.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[Translation]

Ban on Export of Herbs

1581. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Jansatta dated July 1, 1997 captioned "Jadi Bootiyon Se Banne wali Dawaon ke Niryat Per Rok";

(b) if so, whether the Government has imposed a ban on export of herbs grown in the country and other items which are used in manufacturing of medicines;

(c) if so the items which have been banned for export; and

(d) the report in respect of availability of these items for use in the manufacturing of medicines and the actual requirement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, under the Exim Policy 1997-2002, export of certain species of plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts obtained from the wild has been prohibited. However, export of cultivated varieties of these species including their derivatives and extracts (including value added herbal formulations), except that of Red Sanders, is freely allowed

subject to production of certificate of Cultivation from the designated authorities. List of such species of plants is available under Appendix 2 Schedule 2 of the book titled "ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items 1997-2002", which is a published document.

The information about the availability of these plants and their products as well as the actual requirement thereof is not available with this Ministry. However, these species have been included in the Prohibited List of Export on the ground that their availability in nature has sharply declined.

[English]

Representation from Opium Growers

1582. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for seeking concessions from the opium growers of Madhya Pradesh regarding less opium production to the crop disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Applications alleging damage to poppy crops have been received from the opium growers in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) More than 1000 applications were received from the cultivators reporting damage to poppy crops. However on verification by the Departmental Officers, no damage to these crops was found. A number of applications were also received from the cultivators requesting for uprooting of unlanded and damaged poppy crops under departmental supervisions. These were attended to and the uprootings conducted as per the requests made by of the cultivators.

(c) The Government is not aware of any particular crop disease on account of which the production of opium in Madhya Pradesh has been affected. On the contrary, the average yield per hectare in Madhya Pradesh during the crop year 1996-97 has been an all time high of 55.5 kgs./hectare.

Photo Identity Cards

1583. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on photo identity cards by the Union Government and by various State Governments State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of these cards are defective;

(c) the action taken against the photo identity card agencies responsible for poor work;

(d) whether these identity cards will be used for ensuing elections;

(e) if not, the persons held responsible for incurring this wasteful expenditure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP):

(a) The amount released so far by the Union Government to various State Governments for the scheme of photo identity cards is given in the statement attached. The information on the total amount spent by various state Governments is being collected from them and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) According to Election Commission of India, only 2.37 % cards were found defective.

(c) No payments are made to the agencies for defective cards.

(d) to (f) The question of Election Commission's authority of insist on the prerequisite of issue of identity cards before a poll is sub judice before the Supreme Court.

Statement

Total amount released so far by the Central Government to various State Governments for the Scheme of Photo Identity Cards

S. No	Name of the State	Total amount released by the Central Government
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35,10,00,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,28,75,120
3.	Assam	12,47,23,000
4.	Bihar	35,53,92,000
5.	Goa	55,76,000
6.	Gujarat	22,51,20,508
7.	Haryana	7,60,85,000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,77,77,000
9.	Karnataka	22,09,53,000
10.	Kerala	7,50,00,000
11.	Madhya Pradesh	25,00,06,000
12.	Maharashtra	47,98,79,884
13.	Manipur	2,79,10,244

1	2	3
14.	Meghalaya	2,49,34,000
15.	Mizoram	1,10,35,000
16.	Nagaland	2,50,00,000
17.	Orissa	17,75,00,244
18.	Punjab	10,73,52,000
19.	Rajasthan	18,00,00,000
20.	Sikkim	45,64,000
21.	Tamil Nadu	34,44,55,000
22.	Tripura	1,15,50,000
23.	Uttar Pradesh	73,68,03,000
24.	West Bengal	29,91,76,000

Note : The scheme is not being implemented in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Committee on Capital Account Convertibility

1584. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set up a Committee on capital account convertibility;

(b) If so, the details of the members and the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the time by which the report of the Committee is likely to be tabled in the House; and

(d) the impact thereof the macro and micro economic situation of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. C. Rangarajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, on February 28, 1997 appointed a Committee on Capital Account Convertibility consisting of (i) Shri S.S. Tarapore, Chariman (ii) Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, Member, (iii) Shri M.G. Bhide, Member, (iv) Dr. Kirit Parikh, Member and (v) Shri A.V. Rajwade, Member. The terms of reference of the

Committee were : (a) to review the international experience in relation to Capital Account Convertibility and to indicate the pre-conditions for introduction of full Capital Account Convertibility, (b) to recommend the measures that should be taken to achieve full Capital Account Convertibility, (c) to specify the sequence and time frame in which such measures are to be taken, (d) to suggest domestic policy measures and changes in institutional framework with the specified sequencing and (e) to make such other recommendations as the Committee may deem relevant to the subject. The Committee was required to submit its report by May 30, 1997.

(c) Copies of the report have been already supplied to the Parliament Library.

(d) Capital account liberalisation is expected to augment the availability of capital stock to supplement domestic resources and thereby lead to higher growth, reduction in the cost of capital and improved access of international financial markets. It is also expected to allow residents to hold an internationally diversified portfolio. Capital account convertibility is also expected to lead to more efficient financial intermediation and improvement in the quality of financial assets, and specialisation in financial services.

Fraud by Shipping Company in export of Rice

1585. SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI L. RAMANA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has recently been cheated by a shipping company which decamped with an export consignment of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of the rice; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Against STC's export contract dated 19.7.95 with the Ministry of Food, Govt. of Bangladesh for supply of 50,000 MTs of non-basmati par-boiled rice, a quantity of 11,025 MTs was shipped by M/s. Doon Valley Rice Ltd., Karnal on back-to-back arrangement. The vessel "Mv Yanmit" chartered by the party carrying a cargo of 6,500 MTs of rice valued at approximately Rs. 6 crores disappeared from the port of Chittagong without delivering the cargo to the consignee. Meanwhile, M/s. Doon Valley Rice Ltd., Karnal received the payment from M/s. Janta Bank, Bangladesh by manipulation in utter violation of L/C assignment stipulations. The Min. of Food, Govt. of Bangladesh recovered the value of cargo already paid for by them to M/s. Doon Valley Rice Ltd. from

the payments due to STC under the contract. Since M/s. Doon Valley Rice Ltd. failed to deliver the cargo to the consignee resulting in default on their part in fulfilment of the export obligation, the party is liable to refund the export proceeds of the cargo to STC for which legal proceedings are underway.

(c) Besides appointing a Shipping Consultant to assist STC in shipping matters, appropriate steps are also being taken by STC, particularly on the nature of insurance cover and class of shipping companies etc. to minimise such risks.

[Translation]

Industries Damaged due to Earthquake

1586. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some industries of industrial estates and scattered small industries were damaged by the earthquake that reged the Narmada Valley region of Madhya Pradesh on May 22, 1997.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the nature of damage caused, location-wise;

(c) whether the terrified entrepreneurs are shifting their industries due to the fear of earthquake and the proposed industries have been withdrawn;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the above region has been relegated by 20 years in the race of industrial development;

(f) whether the Hon'ble Minister and development's officers visited the region under reference and conducted survey of the region;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith outcome of the survey;

(h) whether any decision has been taken to declare the blocks of the above region as backward areas and to give incentives for industrial development; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Damage to buildings of 107 industrial units has been reported by the State Government.

(b) The damage reported is mainly in the structures of the buildings. The State Government has requested the banks to provide loan at reasonable rates of interest to the damaged industrial units.

(c) There is no evidence of such situation arising so far.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) No such decision has been taken by the Government of India.

(i) Does not arise.

[English]

Oriental Finance and Exchange Company

1587. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation has been paid to the depositors till now who had been defrauded of crores of rupees in 1987 by the Oriental Finance and Exchange Company (H.O. Madras);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the action taken against the directors of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as per their records, a large number of cases were filed by the aggrieved creditors (depositors) of Oriental Finance and Exchange Company in different courts, including an insolvency petition involving Shri Sajan Varghese, Managing Partner of the said firm. The affairs of the firm were entrusted to a Receiver through a court order. RBI have no information about payment of compensation if any, made to depositors.

[Translation]

Bank Draft Facility Between India and USA

1588. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement on draft issuing service by banks between India and America has been granted approval;

(b) if so, the main details of the agreement; and

(c) by when the said agreement is likely to be more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Correspondent relationships relating to issue of drafts by banks is a matter between the banks concerned and not between countries.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Gold used for Jewellery

1589. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gold used for jewellery manufacture in India does not exactly confine to the normal prescribed standard for gold;

(b) whether there is some foul play with customers by traders; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to correct this mischief by the traders across the country?

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

Special Plan to Promote KVICs

1590. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission have introduced any special plan to promote Khadi and Village Industries in the country during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned by the Commission to the States during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the KVIC has relaxed norms for sanctioning the loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Khadi and Village Industries Commission is continuing its various special schemes (Rural Employment Generation Programme) consisting of District Special Employment Programme, National Projects, 125 Block Development Programme, Thrust Areas Scheme etc. during the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) There is no relaxation in terms for sanctioning loans. However, disbursements made by KVIC during 1996-97 to its implementing agencies with State-wise break up are given in the Statement attached.

Statement

*Funds Released by KVIC of Loan and Subsidy (Grant)
During the Year 1996-97*

(Rs in Lakhs)

Zonal Board	Loan	Grant	Grant Total
1	2	3	4
Central			
1. U.P.	3112.49	70.76	3183.25
2. M.P.	455.49	41.11	496.60
Eastern			
3. Orissa	247.34	2.22	249.56
4. Bihar	277.43	33.63	311.06
5. Sikkim	—	—	—
6. West Bengal	2167.32	113.79	2281.11
7. Andaman & Nicobar	6.19	—	6.19
Western			
8. Gujarat	852.30	11.34	863.64
9. Maharashtra	901.53	1678.69	2580.22
10. Goa, Daman & Diu	63.97	5.47	69.44
Northern			
11. J & K	349.99	—	349.99
12. Punjab	1276.44	147.44	1423.88
13. UT Chandigarh	—	—	—
14. Haryana	956.30	—	956.30
15. H.P.	204.93	45.11	250.04
16. Rajasthan	877.44	73.51	950.95
17. Delhi	42.44	—	42.44
North East			
18. Assam	162.45	3.60	166.05
19. Meghalaya	338.85	—	388.85
20. Tripura	3.67	—	3.67
21. Nagaland	837.74	—	837.74
22. Mizoram	1038.13	1.00	3139.13
23. Manipur	286.81	26.43	313.24
24. Arunachal Pradesh	40.51	—	40.51

	1	2	3	4
Southern				
25. Andhra Pradesh		421.44	55.84	477.28
26. Karnataka		1124.50	14.21	1138.71
27. Kerala		2397.28	119.73	2517.01
28. Pondicherry		25.00	—	25.00
29. Tamilnadu		1049.47	8.80	1058.27
30. Lakshadweep		32.65	—	32.65
Departmental (Trg)		566.08	564.51	1130.59
REGP Disbursement		484.14	6633.93	7118.07
Others		—	24.86	24.86
		20600.32	9675.98	30276.30

[Translation]

Security Exchange Board of India

1591. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Security Exchange Board of India has demanded enquiry into the functioning of seven other not-banking financial companies keeping in view the C.R.B. Capital Market Scam; and

(b) if so, the names of these seven companies and the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a), does not arise.

Family Courts

1592. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether family courts have been set up in some states of the country;

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

(c) the details of criteria fixed in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some more family courts in the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) As per available information, 66 Family Courts have been set up in 14 States/UTs. The breakup of these Family Courts is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) The Family Court Act 1984 is an enabling Act. On the basis of a specific request, made by the concerned State Govt., the Central Government extends the jurisdiction of this Act to that State Government. The State Governments, after consultation with their concerned High Courts, may establish Family Courts by a notification for every area in the State comprising a city or town whose population exceeds one million or in any other area in the State as it may deem necessary. The State Government of Punjab and the NCT of Delhi have decided to set up 2 Family Courts and 15 Family Courts respectively.

Statement

State/UT wise Breakup of The Family Courts

1.	Andhra Pradesh	07
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	02
4.	Karnataka	05
5.	Kerala	05
6.	Maharashtra	13
7.	Manipur	01
8.	Orissa	02
9.	Pondicherry	01
10.	Rajasthan	05
11.	Tamil Nadu	06
12.	Sikkim	01
13.	Uttar Pradesh	16
14.	West Bengal	01

[English]

Disinvestment Commission

1593. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIP SINH GAEKWAD :
DR. T. SUBBARAM REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has made any recommendations for disinvestment of Public Sector Undertaking shares this year, with a view to bridge the Budget deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision of the Government thereon;

(c) the details of recommendations in the reports of the Disinvestment Commission; and

(d) the main reasons for not fully implementing the recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended varying levels of disinvestment/strategic sales in 12 Public Sector Enterprises as per Statement attached. For the current financial year, Government have approved of disinvestment in Gas Authority of India (GAIL), Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), in addition to the disinvestment in IOC, which had already been cleared earlier. These disinvestments are in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission and the levels have been determined keeping in view the requirement and future plans of the companies, and the budgetary targets of the Government.

Statement

(A) Summary of Recommendations on Individuals PSUS

S.No.	Name of PSE	Gist of recommendations
1.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Strategic sale of 40% equity
2.	Bongaigaon Refineries	Strategic sale of 50% shares.
3.	Container Corporation of India	Disinvestment upto 49%
4.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	Disinvestment of 25% of total equity
5.	HTL Ltd.	Strategic sale
6.	Indian Telephone industries Ltd.	Strategic sale
7.	India Tourism Development Corporations	Strategic sale of Specific hotels
8.	Kudremukh Iron ore Co. Ltd.	Strategic sale upto 74%
9.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	Strategic sale
10.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	Disinvestment upto 49% i.e. 14.73%
11.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	Disinvestment upto 49% after restructuring
12.	Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.	100% equity through strategic sale

Rebate on Khadi Products

1594. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rebate of @ 10% + 20% being allowed on Khadi and Village industries products is being withdrawn from the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to continue giving such rebate on the Khadi and Village industries products?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has been announcing the rebate (subsidy) policy from year to year on Khadi and Khadi related items. The rebate order for the year 1997-98 has been issued on 16.5.1997 allowing normal rebate @ 10% upto 14.8.1997 and a special rebate @ 15% from 15.8.1997 to 14.8.1998 on Khadi and Khadi related items. The special rebate has been announced due to the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence.

Export Promotion Industrial Parks

1595. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the Export Promotion Industrial Parks in Orissa;

(b) if so whether these Parks are proposed to be set up in collaboration with the some foreign companies;

(c) if so, the details of those foreign companies; and

(d) the total hectares of land identified for purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A proposal of the Orissa Government to set up an Export Promotion Industrial Park at Bhubaneswar, District Khurda, has been approved for Central assistance under the Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme. The Park is being set up by the Orissa Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.50 crores. Under the EPIP Scheme Central assistance upto 75% of the Capital cost of the project, excluding cost of land, but limited to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores per park is provided.

(b) to (d) No foreign collaboration in the project has been indicated by the State Government. The area proposed to be developed as EPIP is 205 acres.

Bakulia Colliery

1596. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bakulia Colliery at Saltora P.S. in West Bengal is likely to be opened shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Bakulia Project can be considered for opening only if the DVC agree to pay a price which would yield a return of 16% at 85% capacity utilisation.

PNB Loan to SCs/STs/OBCs in Madhya Pradesh

1597. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned by the Punjab National Bank as loan or cash credit for working capital during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 to tribals, harijans and backward classes;

(b) the number of SC and ST small scale industrialists applied during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for working capital loan or cash credit facility, in the State;

(c) the number out of these sanctioned loan or cash credit facility during the above period; and

(d) the number of applications rejected even after completion of all the formalities during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) As reported by Punjab National Bank the total amount sanctioned as loan or cash credit for working capital to SCs, STs and Backward Classes in Madhya Pradesh during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was as under :-

(Rs. in lacs)		
Year	No.	Amount
1994-95	3995	596.16
1995-96	3990	581.54
1996-97	3592	674.36

The number of SC and ST Small Scale Industrialists who applied and number out of these sanctioned working capital loan or cash credit facility during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98, as reported by Punjab National Bank is given below :-

Year	No. applied for	No. sanctioned
1996-97	976	390
1997-98	231	129

(d) Punjab National Bank has reported that no applications have been rejected after sanction where borrowers have completed requisite formalities including documentation.

Smuggling of Antiques and Artifacts*[Translation]*

1598. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the loopholes of the existing laws to prevent the smuggling of the antiques and artifacts in view of the facts emerging from the recent events of auction of Indian antiquities by renowned auctioneers abroad;

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

(c) the number of cases reported and worked out in 1996 together with the estimated value of antiques;

(d) whether the Government have also taken up the matter of theft and sale of Indian artifacts with the countries involved in the sale of these goods; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The existing arrangement for the registration of antiques and the mechanism for coordinations between the concerned agencies have been reviewed for stepping up vigilance to prevent smuggling of antiquities.

(c) The matter is still under investigation.

(d) and (e) The Indian High Commission at London have been requested to look into the alleged smuggling of antiquities and their auction by Sothebys in London in early 1997.

Public Interest Petitions

1599. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Public Interest Petitions in Supreme Court and High Courts during the last three years and the number of petitions out of these disposed of, State-wise;

(b) whether the development work has been affected by Public Interest Petitions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of these petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Concession to the Exporters

1600. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister propose to extend some additional concessions to the exporters to boost the export to the Latin American countries;

(b) if so, whether any committees have been constituted to furnish vital information to the exporters aiming at the Latin American markets and to provide additional concessions to them; and

(c) if so, the time by which these committees are likely to submit their reports in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Committees to recommend (1) additional incentives and (ii) to recommend promotional measures for increasing our exports to the Latin American region have been constituted.

(c) The Committees have submitted their reports.

*[English]***Praga Tools Limited**

1601. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Praga Tools Limited, Hyderabad is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Praga Tools Ltd. was unable to meet the orders placed by Germany, U.S.A., U.K. etc;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the revival of the company?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Company had orders from U.K. & Germany which could not be met in 1996-1997 due to financial problems.

(e) In principle approval has been given to Praga Tools Ltd. to convert it into a Joint Venture company.

Stock Investment Scheme

1602. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister

of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2265 dated December 6, 1996 regarding "stock invest scheme" and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been received and examined;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the punishment awarded to the managers of the branches of the private and public sector banks and the management of the private sector banks, bank-wise/branch-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Public Sector Banks have reported that they do not accept photocopies of stock invest (SI) instead of original stock invests from the promoters. These banks are not aware of any instance where financiers of the stockinvest have supplied the photocopies of the stockinvests bearing the same number to other various promoters.

However, an instance has been brought to the notice of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by the Delhi Stock Exchange (DSE) about the misuse of the stockinvest of the public issue of a company where the Registrar to the Issue accepted six applications alongwith the photocopies of SIs. RBI has already written to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to take appropriate action against the Registrar.

RBI has initiated a series of steps to curb the irregularities in the operation of SI Scheme, the details of which are given below:

1. Banks are permitted to issue Stock Invests only to individuals and mutual funds.
2. A ceiling per individual per capital Issue for issue of Stock Invest has been laid down as corporates were found availing SIs using individual.
3. Acceptance of share applications unaccompanied by original stockinvest/cheques, furnishing declaration to appropriate authorities and treating such applications as valid applications are not in order.
4. The bankers' lien on the deposit account to the investor in respect of an unused stockinvest instrument should not be lifted before the expiry period of four months.

RBI have reported that penalty of Rs. 5 lakhs each was imposed private sector banks/public sectors under Sections 47A of the Banking regulation Act, 1949 for violations of their instructions on the Stock invest Scheme. Erring branches of some of the private sector banks are prohibited from issuing Stock Invest for a period of 3-6 months.

Action has been taken / is being taken by these banks

as per the conditions governing the services of employees/officers of private/public sector banks.

Vacant Posts of Judges

1603. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
 SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :
 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
 SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :
 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of additional posts of Supreme Court and High Courts Judges created and filled during the last three years, Court-wise;

(b) the details of posts of Judges lying vacant in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and the date from which these posts are lying vacant, Court-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) The procedure for such appointments involves consultations among several constitutional authorities. Every effect is being made to fill existing vacancies at the earliest.

Sl. No.	High Court	Addl. posts created from 1.7.1994 to 30.6.1997	Fresh appointments made from 1.7.1994 to 30.6.1997	Posts of Judges/Addl Judges lying Vacant on 1.7.1997
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	1	20	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10	18	1
3.	Bombay	5	27	8
4.	Calcutta	2	19	11
5.	Delhi	1	10	3
6.	Gauhati	1	5	1
7.	Gujarat	2	10	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	3	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	4	3
10.	Karnataka	7	19	4
11.	Kerala	4	13	2

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4	19	5
13.	Madras	4	21	3
14.	Orissa	1	6	1
15.	Patna	1	9	7
16.	Punjab & Haryana	—	7	5
17.	Rajasthan	6	13	1
18.	Sikkim	—	1	2
Total		49	224	70
II Supreme Court		—	12	5

Production and Export of Handicrafts

1604. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMJIB BISWAL :

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRI RAJESH RAJAN ALIAS PAPPY YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production and export of handicraft items;

(b) the funds provided by the Government under various schemes for the purpose during each of last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for promoting handicrafts in their respective States during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The steps taken by the Government to boost the production and export of handicrafts items include: market development support; training; exhibition; setting up of crafts development centres; design development; sponsoring of sales-cum-study team abroad; organisation of buyer-seller's meet; participation in international fairs and exhibitions, overseas publicity; publication of catalogues and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair and Carpet Expo annually.

(b) The funds provided by the Government under various schemes for the promotion of handicrafts during the last three years, state-wise, is as per statement attached.

(c) to (e) No proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for promoting handicrafts in their respective States during the last three years. Nevertheless, 44 proposals were received by the Government from State Corporation of Uttar Pradesh and 3 proposals were received from State Corporation of Bihar during the last three years under the scheme of training; marketing assistance; exhibition & publicity, workshop-cum-housing; group insurance and marketing development support. Out of those proposals, 43 proposals from the State of Uttar Pradesh were approved by the Government.

Statement

		(Rs. in Lakhs)		
Sl. No.	State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94.00	63.18	36.61
2.	A & N Islands	1.53	1.50	1.38
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.56	3.71	1.34
4.	Assam	39.61	130.74	106.83
5.	Bihar	17.28	26.44	28.43
6.	Delhi	112.27	202.31	69.47
7.	Goa	7.09	5.08	8.64
8.	Gujarat	51.05	80.42	45.65
9.	Haryana	43.35	33.47	62.80
10.	Himachal Pradesh	44.21	99.55	64.32
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.61	40.61	21.49
12.	Karnataka	33.40	21.89	71.12
13.	Kerala	38.91	70.02	67.55
14.	Madhya Pradesh	99.83	127.51	70.27
15.	Maharashtra	37.70	40.79	37.86
16.	Manipur	11.26	15.43	9.30
17.	Meghalaya	3.80	6.41	2.73
18.	Mizoram	7.00	1.70	3.01
19.	Nagaland	7.17	11.90	6.18
20.	Orissa	80.27	110.50	85.22
21.	Punjab	15.80	23.75	16.41
22.	Pondicherry	1.93	3.86	3.00
23.	Rajasthan	32.48	50.52	18.19
24.	Sikkim	1.77	2.14	1.17
25.	Tamilnadu	71.72	82.33	84.15
26.	Tripura	21.56	12.94	16.27
27.	Uttar Pradesh	383.62	606.20	297.78
28.	West Bengal	62.47	64.03	83.10
Total		1369.25	1938.93	1320.27

Note : Figures do not include grants released for multi-state activities.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Gold

1605. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

SHRI RAM SAGAR :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold is being smuggled into the country in large quantity;

(b) if so, the approximate quantum of gold is being smuggled into the country each year and the assessed market value thereof;

(c) the quantum of gold seized during the last two years, till date and the value thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check gold smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Intelligence available and seizures effected do not indicate large scale smuggling of gold into the country. There are no official estimates regarding the quantum of gold being smuggled into India. However, as per estimates published in "Gold Field Mineral Services", published in U.K. in 1997, the quantum and value of gold smuggled in the last two years are as follows:-

Year	Quantity In Tonnes	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1995	128	6201
1996	109	5657

(c) The details of gold during the last two years till date are as follows :-

Year	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	1148	5676
1996-97	1033	5323
1997-98 (till 30.6.97) (figure is provisional)	304	1343

(d) Field formations are alert to prevent and detect smuggling including smuggling of gold. Specific measures taken include targetting of intelligence, depolymet of Colour Baggage X-ray machines at Ports, Airports & land custom stations and further liberalisation of gold imports allowing import upto 10 kgs of gold to eligible passengers.

Production of Textiles

1606. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant increase in the production of textile in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantum of textile produced during each of last three years by mill sector, powerloom sector and handloom sector, separately and the value thereof; and

(c) the total foreign exchange earned through export of textile by each sector during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantum of textiles produced during each of the last 3 years by mill sector, powerloom Sector and Handloom Sector have been as under:-

Year	SECTORS (ML Sq. Mtrs.)		
	Mill (Quantity)	Powerloom (Quantity)	Handloom (Quantity)
1994-95	2,271	15,976	6,180
1995-96	2,019	17,201	7,202
1996-97 (Prov)	1,886	19,596	7,301

(Exact value can not be estimated)

(c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Foreign Exchange Earnings by Mill, Powerloom and Handloom Sectors during the last three years

THE PRODUCT WISE EXPORT TEXTILES

A. COTTON TEXTILES		(Value Million Kg.)		
		Mill	Powerloom	Handloom
1994-95	Fabric	12009.44	14045.64	3179.59
	Made-Ups	36,53.58	13632.47	11794.02
1995-96	Fabric	14512.12	16574.98	2553.04
	Made-Ups	4883.36	16100.05	12358.32
1996-97	Fabric	15771.87	20139.86	2548.53
	Made-Ups	5567.67	20223.73	15040.44

B. SYNTHETIC TEXTILES (Value in Rupees)

	Mill Made and Powerloom	Handloom
1994-95	24510.34	124.76
1995-96	31033.27	60.73
1996-97	31953.68	207.42

C. WOLLEN TEXTILES

	Mill and Powerloom	Handloom
1994-95	4513.65	861.65
1995-96	6250.69	356.61
1996-97	10063.59	304.21

[English]

Non Banking Finance Companies

1607. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to avoid mandatory registration with the Reserve Bank of India, (RBI), several dubious Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) merged with manufacturing units within their group and also a number of companies are non-functioning;

(d) if so, the names of these NBFCs; and

(c) whether the Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a list identifying these NBFCs, which got themselves registered with the R.B.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they do not have any specific information about NBFCs getting merged with manufacturing units within their group.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that as many as 37,478 companies have applied for a certificate of Registration. Preliminary scrutiny and processing of the application has been initiated by RBI.

World Bank Loan

1608. SHRI D. P. YADAV : Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) total loan of World Bank outstanding against India, as on date;

(b) whether due to the inflation it is increasing day by day and it is more than the per capita income; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to reduce this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total loan of the World Bank (including non-government loans) outstanding against India as on 30.6.97 is as under :-

	(in Rupees Crores)
IBRD	31,880
IDA	63,587
Total	95,587

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Dumping Activities

1609. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received increasing number of complaints of dumping activities;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received investigated during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of measures taken to establish a strong and efficient Administrative Agency to look into the complaints and carry out regulatory activities effectively; and

(d) the details of most significant achievements of the Anti-Dumping Authority during 1996-97 and the position of complaints under investigation, particularly for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The details of the complaints investigated during the last three years are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) With a view to establish a strong and efficient machinery to look into the petitions for imposition of Anti-Dumping and other Duties, the Government is contemplating setting up a Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties. The Anti-dumping system is not envisaged for any particular state but for the entire domestic industry.

Statement**Anti dumping cases initiated in India against overseas suppliers****1994-95**

Products	Country	Date of Initiation	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1. Potassium Permanganate	China	30.12.94	Final Duty imposed on 5.9.95

1	2	3	4
2. Isobutyl Benzene	China	7.1.94	Final Duty imposed on 31.8.95
3. 3,4,5, Trimethoxy Benaldehyde (TMBA)	China	11.8.94	Final Duty imposed on 20.10.95
4. Theophylline Caffeine	China	30.8.94	Final Duty imposed on 30.10.95
5. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Japan	28.10.94	Final Duty imposed on 14.11.95
6. Bisphenol-A	Brazil, Russia	30.12.94	Final Duty imposed on 26.12.95

1995-96

1. Sodium Ferrocyanide	China	11.10.95	Final Duty imposed on 20.12.95
2. Dead Burnt Magnesite (DBM)	China	16.5.95	Final Duty imposed on 20.12.96
3. Low Carbon Ferro Chrome (LCFC)	Russia Khaza-khstan	6.6.95	Final Duty imposed on 24.1.97
4. 8-Hydroxy-quinoline	China	4.3.96	Final Duty imposed on 1.4.97
5. Bisphenol-A	USA	20.11.95	Final Duty imposed on 29.4.97
6. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Germany Korea (RP)	14.3.96	Provisional Duties imposed on 31.1.97

1996-97

1. Catalysts	Denmark	6.9.96	Provisional Duties imposed on 20.6.97
2. Acrylic Fibre	USA, Thailand, Korea RP	13.9.96	Provisional Duties imposed on 25.4.97
3. Graphite Electrodes	USA China Spain Italy, Germany Belgium Austria	30.9.96	Provisional Duties recommended to Ministry of Finance on 9.6.97

1	2	3	4
4. PVC Resin @	Brazil, Mexico, South Korea & USA	30.6.96	Under Examination
5. Bisphenol-A@	Japan	30.9.96	Under Examination
6. Newsprint	USA Canada Russia	20.12.96	Provisional recommended to Ministry of Finance on 11.6.97
7. PTA	Indonesia, South Korea Thailand	20.12.96	Under examination for Provisional Duties

@ Review Cases

[Translation]

Loan to Farmers

1610. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total loan provided to farmers by the public sector banks in the country during 1993-96 and in the current year, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : With a view to augment the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced, effective from the year 1994-95, the system of drawing up of special Agriculture Credit Plans (SACPs) by public sector banks. Under the self-targets for agricultural lendings promoted by the SACPs the aggregate flow of credit to the agriculture sector has increased from Rs. 5,400 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 12,717 crores in 1996-97. The year-wise performance of public sector banks, under SACP has been as under :-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Target	Achievement
1994-95	9531.37	8255.66
1995-96	12121.19	10172.45
1996-97	14253.48	12716.48

(Data Provisional)

The anticipated level of disbursements under SACP during the current year is estimated to be Rs. 16,000 crores.

Further, as of March, 1997, on a provisional basis, the total advances (outstandings) to the agriculture sector from all public sector commercial banks under priority sector advances aggregated Rs. 31,012 crores (16.35% of Net Bank Credit against the stipulated target of 18%) which shows an

increase of about 17.7% over the level of Rs. 26,351 crores for the year 1995-96.

[English]

Sharing of Tax

1611. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided recently to increase the share of States in all tax-revenue from the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) : The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) had recommended an alternative scheme of sharing of Centre's tax revenue between the Centre and the States. The Ministry of Finance had brought out a discussion paper on the alternative scheme and tabled this paper in Parliament on December 20, 1996. The alternative scheme of TFC has been discussed in the meetings of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council and during the third meeting of the Inter-State Council held on July 17, 1997, it has been decided to adopt the consensus to accept the alternative scheme of 29% devolution w.e.f. 1.4.1996 proposed by the Tenth Finance Commission with one modification. The percentage share of vertical devolution may also be reviewed by successive Finance Commissions instead of freezing it for fifteen years, as suggested by the T F C. Further, this percentage may be reviewed sometime in December, 1997 or January, 1998 with a view to consider improvement in the States' share.

Violation of Article 14 in Case of Undertrials

1612. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of prisoners in the country comprise 90 per cent undertrials who are presumed guilty and deprived of the benefits admissible under the law of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for violation of Article 14 of the Constitution; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Silver

1613. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the value of illegally brought silver seized during the current year and the details of places where it was seized;

(b) the number of persons arrested in each case;

(c) whether involvement of some gangs of smugglers have been detected in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof AND the modus operandi of smuggling by them; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such type of smuggling?

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

Expert Group of Income Tax

1614. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expert Group of Income Tax has suggested to adopt Singapore model in regard to the incidence of tax evasion;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the expert group; and

(c) the extent to which these have been considered and are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Expert Group set up to rewrite Income-tax Act has suggested that Section 33 of the Singapore Income tax Act with a few changes should be adopted in the Indian Income-tax Act as a special anti-avoidance provision which will cover cases other than the cases of outright tax evasion. The Group's recommendations are contained in Chapter-VIII of its report.

(c) Presently, the Expert Group is preparing a draft Bill based on its recommendations. After the Bill is ready, it is proposed to throw it open for public debate and thereafter a new Income-tax Bill, with suitable modifications, it likely to be introduced in the Parliament in the Winter Session later this year.

Rubber Cultivation

1615. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated rubber cultivation in the country;

(b) whether there is any plan to increase the production in the non-traditional areas;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of assistance being provided to farmers from the Rubber Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The estimated area under rubber cultivation in the country, at the end of 1996-97 was 5,33,000 ha.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the 9th Plan period, the Rubber Board targets to bring additional 35,000 ha. under rubber cultivation in the non-traditional areas.

(d) The Rubber Board provides free technical assistance to all categories of growers at all stages of rubber planting, maintenance, harvesting, processing of latex, etc.

Apart from this, planting grant @ Rs. 8,000/- per ha. for growers owning up to 2 ha. in traditional areas and upto 5 ha. in non-traditional areas and also incentive for use of advance Planting materials @ Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 4,000/- per ha. for general and SC/ST category of growers, are also given to the growers.

In addition to the above, the Board also renders financial assistance to growers under different extension schemes for the scientific upkeep of plantations and proper processing of latex produced from rubber plantations.

Meeting at Geneva Over Indian Import

1616. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of talks held recently at Geneva between India and its major partners contract over Indian Import on consumer and other goods; and

(b) revised plan to face the situation as well as objections raised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) As per the decision taken at the meeting of the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held on 20-21 January, 1997, India presented a plan for the elimination of quantitative restrictions maintained for balance of payments purposes to the WTO on 19 May, 1997. This Plan was considered at the resumed consultations with India of this Committee on 10-11 June, 1997, when due to divergence of opinion among Members of the Committee on the length of the plan and on the issue of disinvocation of balance of payments cover by India, it was agreed to suspend the deliberations till 30 June -1 July, 1997.

At the resumed consultations also divergence of views on the overall time period of plan and on the number of tariff lines to be freed during the earlier years of the plan persisted. The resumed consultations concluded without consensus on 30 June -1 July, 1997.

Australia, Canada the European Communities, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America, in separate requests, have sought formal consultations with India under Article XXII of GATT 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) alleging that continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports for balance of payments purposes by India when there have been improvements in India's balance of payments is inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO. India has accepted the requests for consultations.

Review on Flow of Credit to Small Scale Industries

1617. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks particularly the Bank of Baroda have been asked to review the progress of action plan announced by the Government in the budget regarding flow of credit to Small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all the public sector banks including Bank of Baroda were advised by it to implement the Seven Point Action Plan to improve the flow of credit to Small Scale Industries. (SSI) Sector announced in the Budget for the year 1995-96. Banks have also been advised by RBI to send monthly progress reports. Progress made in the implementation of the Plan is being reviewed periodically by RBI.

Cotton Control Orders

1610. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modify the Cotton Control Orders, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by what time the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) : A Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25th July, 1997 to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, as amended. With the repeal of said Act, in need be, the Cotton Control Order, 1986 may be amended.

[Translation]

J.K. Jute Mills

1619. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the outstanding bonus for the lay off period of 1995-96 to labourers of JK Jute Mill (Kanpur, U.P.) has not been paid by the management which resulted in agitation by the labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) to (c) As per available information JK Jute mills was closed from 15.4.1994 to 28.9.1995. Management had not paid salaries and wages during the period the mill was closed. No bonus was paid for the clousre period. Though there was claim for bonus by the workers, however, there was no agitation due to non payment of bonus to the workers. The matter was referred to the State Government for settlement. As per the advice of the State Labour Commissioner a bipartite settlement is under process and yet to be finalised.

[English]

Performance of Coal Sector

1620. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the poor performance of coal sector has adversely affected the Steel and power sector;

(b) if so, whether a panel has been set up to review the performance of coal sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the performance of coal sector is likely to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal companies under Coal India Limited (CIL) have shown improved performance both in terms of achieving the production targets set for them and also in maintaining the despatches to the core sector consumers to the desired level. During the year 1996-97 coal production from CIL has increased by 13.40 million tonnes over production achieved during 1995-96. Similarly, the production during the first three months of the current year have also increased by 3.85 million tonnes as compared to the same period last year. The achievement against the target is 102.5%.

Commensurate with the increased production, CIL was able to maintain supplies to the core sector consumers like power etc. The growth in coal supplies to power sector during the year 1996-97 was 12.53 million tonnes. As a result of improved despatches to power houses, coal stock at various power houses has reached an all time high level. The trend

of improved off-take is being maintained in 1997-98 and the growth in the first quarter of the current year as compared to the same period last year has been around 6.4%.

Supply of coal to steel plants is being maintained at more or less a steady level and efforts are being made to improve the quality by reducing the ash percentage.

(b) The performance of the coal sector is regularly reviewed internally, by the Ministry and by the Consultative Committee and the Standing Committee of the Parliament.

(c) By 2001-02 the coal production in India is estimated to increase to 352.35 millions tonnes.

PNB Glits Ltd.

1621. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the PNB Glits Ltd. a largest subsidiary, of Punjab National Bank, has done business of Rs. 10,000/- crore in its first year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this company has done business mainly in Treasury Bill and Government Securities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this company has done profit of Rs. 26.81 crore before paying tax and Rs. 16.12 crore pure profit in the previous financial year 1996-97 upto 31st March, 97;

(f) is so, the details thereof ;

(g) whether that company has announced 20% dividend to shareholder this year; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to extend this profitable company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. PNB Glits Ltd. is the target subsidiary (on the basis of capital subscribed by the bank) of the Punjab National Bank (PNB). The total turnover of the company was approx. Rs. 10825/- crores during 1996-97. Treasury bills and government securities contributed 95.9 per cent of total turnover. Thus, the company has dealt mainly in treasury bills and government securities.

(e) to (h) Yes, Sir. The subsidiary has reported a profit of Rs. 26.81 crores before tax and Rs. 16.12 crores profit after tax for the year 1996-97. The company has declared a dividend of 20 per cent to its shareholders proportionate to the duration of holding. As this is a subsidiary of PNB, no action is required on the part of the government.

Irregularities in Export of Rice

1622. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the irregularities committed in the export of rice from 1993 onwards;

(b) if so, the extent to which the loss suffered by the country on this account;

(c) whether the Government instituted any enquiry against all these officers and firms involved in this fraud; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) 18 complaints relating to export of sub-standard rice/delay in shipments/non-shipment of consignments have been received in the Trade Disputes Cell of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade since 1993. It is not possible to estimate the profit/loss suffered as the shipments are made by exporters as per the terms and conditions of the contract entered in to by them with the overseas buyers.

(c) and (d) As per the Export-Import Policy, export of Basmati and Non-Basmati (fine and superfine varieties) are permitted without quantity and price restriction. The exports are undertaken by the exporters. The mechanism to deal with the complaints through the Regional Standing Committees on Quality Complaints is as under :-

"The complaints of foreign buyers alleging supply of sub-standard quality goods against Indian exporters received in the Cell are referred for investigation and settlement to Regional Standing Committees on Quality Complaints set up for the purpose at Ahmedabad, Banaglore, Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Ludhiana and Madras. If the disputes are settled to the satisfaction of foreign buyers through conciliation and/or if the Regional Committee after considering the facts of the case, decides that there is no fault on the part of Indian exporter/manufacturer and/or that the complaint is not genuine, the case is dropped. In cases where the Committees fails to settle the dispute amicably and conciliation does not take place and the Committee finds that the fault lies with the Indian exporters or that they are not cooperating, such cases are decided by the Committee to be dealt with under the penal and adjudication provisions of the FTDR Act/rules applicable and the cases are then referred for adjudication."

All the complaints have been subjected to the above procedure. 3 cases have been settled/closed, 3 cases are subjudice and 1 firm and their proprietor/directors have been debarred from receiving any export licences and/or making export of goods in any way for a period of two years w.e.f. 16.04.1996.

Customres and Excise Duty

1623. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Federation of Indian Textile Engineering Industry regarding anomaly in the customs duty structure and reduction in excise duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Representations were received from Federation of Indian Textile Engineering Industry (FITEI) regarding customs and excies duty structure on textile machinery. FITEI had represented that customs duty on raw materials like steel, plastic, synthetic rubber etc. required to manufacture textile machines may be reduced from 30%/40% to 20% to bring it on par with customs duty on textile machines. Similarly, customs duty on parts required to manufacture specified textile machines, which attract customs duty of 10%, may be reduced to 5%. Further, excise duty on textile machines, especially weaving and knitting machines, may be reduced from 13% to 8%.

The representations received from FITEI were considered. Basic customs duty on parts of specified textile machines was reduced to 10% to bring it on par with basic customs duty on complete specified textile machines.

Government has not found it feasible to reduce customs duty on raw-materials required to manufacture textile machines and to reduce excise duty on textile machines.

Excise Scam

1624. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "400 crore excise scam unfolding" appearing in the Indian Express dated July 6, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for this scam; and

(c) the reaction of the Government and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to punish the culprits and guilty officials and to recover the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the investigations carried out by the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion, a show-cause notice has been issued in August '96 to M/s Shree Chandra Tobacco Ltd. and M/s G.T.C. Ltd. for alleged evasion of Central Excise duty of Rs. 18.76 crores. In addition, cases of evasion have been detected against M/s G.T.C. and their franchise units during 1995 and show-cause notices demanding Central Excise duty of Rs. 364.86 crores were issued to these units. Evasion is a clandestine activity and the assessee indulges in such activities for unlawful gains.

(c) The Government is committed to take stern action against the evaders and any official who is found to have colluded. The evaders are liable for paying the duty, mandatory penalty and interest on the quantum of duty found to be evaded in terms of the provisions of Central Excise Act, 1944 and they are also liable for prosecution. In all, one Assistant Commissioner, 19 Superintendents and 25 Inspectors have been placed under suspension. Regarding recovery, proceedings can be initiated only after the show-cause notices are adjudicated.

Banks Strike

1625. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the strikes in Banks all over the country have been increasing for the last two years;

(b) whether these bank strikes put heavy loss to the exchequer;

(c) whether frequent strikes by the Banks have thrown banking operations out of gear;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to ban bank strikes in future;

(e) if so, whether any such legislation is being considered by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected from the banks and will be laid on the Table of the house.

Tea Estate Under TTCI in Jalpaiguri

1626. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Looksan Tea Estate under TTCI in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal has not been provided capital grant since handing over it to TTCI in order to improve the condition of the garden and increase the productivity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Government has not disbursed capital grants to Tea Trading Corporation of India for development of any of the tea gardens owned by the Corporation. These gardens are however, eligible for assistance under various developmental schemes of the Tea Board and these have been availed of by TTCI for Looksan Tea Estate.

(c) In view of persistent losses suffered by TTCI's Garden Division, the Government had decided to dispose of all the five tea gardens under TTCI. The sale process could not be finalised due to legal constraints and financial difficulties of the prospective buyers. The Government is seized of the position and is exploring various options.

Janata Cloth Scheme

1627. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where centrally sponsored hank yarn and Janata Cloth Schemes are being launched;

(b) the amount of allocation made to those States and the amount of subsidy granted/provided under those schemes during the last three years;

(c) the extent to which the main objectives of those schemes have been achieved in those States; and

(d) the steps taken to effectively implement those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme was in operation during the period 1995-96.

the Janata Cloth Scheme is in operation during the year 1997-98 in eight States namely, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Under these schemes, statewide financial targets are not allocated. Statement of releases made under these schemes during the last three years is attached.

(c) Janata Cloth Scheme has provided sustained employment to handloom weavers and also switched over some of the weavers from production of Janata Cloth to Non-Janata Cloth.

Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme helped in mitigating the hardship caused due to steep hike in cotton yarn prices.

(d) Implementation of these Schemes has been reviewed, from time to time, in the meeting held with the officials of the State Governments and by the State Governments at its level.

Statement**Statewise releases under Janata Cloth Scheme and Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme**

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Janata Cloth Scheme			Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Andhar Pradesh	1159.76	107.23	108.19	162.50	80.80	—
Assam	571.86	413.23	341.15	76.15	199.65	—
Bihar	263.10	80.60	87.72	30.00	55.06	—
Gujarat	147.15	27.49	6.54	23.25	22.12	—
J & K	20.39	42.63	7.71	2.81	12.97	—
Haryana	—	—	—	0.75	—	—
Karnataka	855.76	676.71	760.24	251.90	18.77	—
Kerala	—	—	—	65.09	102.48	—
Madhya Pradesh	288.93	256.08	102.95	35.48	41.44	—
Maharashtra	885.84	584.89	342.71	35.00	27.72	—
Manipur	—	—	—	6.10	7.06	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	0.74	1.67	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	7.98	—
Orissa	354.69	478.46	157.34	106.09	296.83	—
Punjab	—	—	—	4.39	2.66	—
Rajasthan	105.54	27.87	49.54	17.50	85.16	—
Tamil Nadu	900.83	581.47	962.35	677.28	1117.93	—
Tripura	84.53	36.97	51.61	12.50	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	374.29	457.05	211.89	291.06	229.86	—
West Bengal	818.40	655.14	271.23	368.59	714.03	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	2.50	5.89	—
Total	6831.07	4425.82	3461.17	2169.68	3030.08	—

*[Translation]***Increase in Foreign Trade**

1628. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have increased its foreign trade during the last three years;
- If so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- the target fixed for foreign trade during 1997-98; and
- the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per DGCI&S estimates India's foreign trade during the last three years is as follows :-

	Foreign Trade of India	
	US\$ Million	
	Exports	Imports
1994-95	26330	28654
1995-96	31797	36678
1996-97	33106	38548

(b) Country-wise details are voluminous and contained in DGCI&S Publication titled "Foreign Trade

Statistics of India" March, 1996 and March 1997 which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) For 1997-98 a target of exports of US\$ 39 billion has been envisaged.

(d) Trade Promotion is a continuous and sustained process and measures are continuously being taken by the Government to promote trade through policy and promotional measures. For instance, the new Exim Policy for 1997-2002 has considerably simplified the policy and procedures; imports are being gradually liberalised to facilitate availability of raw materials and inputs to the export sector besides widening and modernising the indigenous production base; country-specific initiatives have also been undertaken to promote trade; Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme has been implemented to support the State Governments in their export promotion effort; an India Brand Equity Fund has been created to create a better image for Indian products abroad; interactive discussions with Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and trade and industry are being held to evolve measures to boost exports; interest rate on export credit has been reduced and it has been decided to set up an empowered Export Promotion Board to resolve the issues and problems facing exporters in achieving better inter-Ministerial coordinations.

[English]

Export of Cotton

1629. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE :
SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE :
SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cotton bales exported from the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for allotting the quota of cotton export for States;

(c) whether any limit has been fixed for each State for the export of cotton on uniform basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to enhance the limit of export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) The Government does not allot quota of cotton export to States out allots export quote to the various State Marketing Federations and State Government Corporations. The details of cotton exported from the country by various State Marketing Federations/ Corporations are indicated in the Statement attached.

(b) to (f) Export quotas for cotton are announced by Government after taking into consideration all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, consumption by the mills, small spinners and non-mill sector, likely surplus, price trends etc. Government endeavours to balance the interests of the cotton growers on the one hand and on the other, the cotton consuming sectors, particularly the decentralised sector, so far an export of 13.42 lakh bales has been released in the (1996-97) cotton season.

Statement

Agency-wise details of quantity of cotton exported during the last three years

(in lakh bales of 170 Kg. each)

Name of Fed./Corp.	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Rajasthan Fed.	0.150		
Gujarat Fed.	*0.061	0.003	0.51785
Haryana Fed.	0.110		0.04770
Mah. Fed.	0.500		4.19776
Kar. Fed.	0.304		0.00600
M.P. Fed.			0.08925
M.P. Corp.			
A.P. Fed.			0.03400
A.P. Giridan			
Punjab Spin Fed.	0.185		
Punjab Fed.	0.200		0.13843
Total	1.510	0.003	5.03099

*Spill over of 1992-93

Fluoride Project

1630. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted fluoride project of main/other habitation to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not clearing these projects; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. of Rajasthan has submitted a project proposal for providing water supply to 61 fluoride affected villages in Ajmer District at an estimated cost of Rs. 45.86 crores.

(c) and (d) This project is in continuation of an old project which was approved during 1992-93 at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.80 crores for providing drinking water to 644 villages. The components of the earlier project namely headworks, pump house, treatment units, pipeline etc. are designed for carrying the requirement of subsequent phase also. Since the components of the earlier project are still to be taken-up for implementation, the Central Government has already informed the State Government regarding a low progress of the earlier project. The project now submitted is under consideration of the Government and a team will visit the project areas both for old project and the new project and will also review the progress of the first project. The report of the team will be put to the Screening Sanctioning and Review Committee for consideration.

Import Duty on Cable

1631. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the duty differential allowed for Raw Materials for manufacturer of cables over that on finished cables;
- (b) the estimated cost structure of the domestic cable industry vis-a-vis the external competitors; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to restructure the import duty on the cables so that large scale imports which results in huge outgo foreign exchange is contained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Cables attract peak rate of basic customs duty of 40%. Major raw materials required for manufacture of cables, i.e. aluminium and copper attract basic customs duty of 20% and 30% respectively.

(b) Cost structure of domestic cable industry vis-a-vis external competitors is not readily available and is being ascertained.

(c) There is no proposal at present to restructure the import duty on cables.

Changes in the Exim Policy

1632. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started reviewing the new Exim Policy and incorporating some suggestions put forward by the Industry;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions put forward by the Industry and to what extent these have been reviewed by the Ministry;

(c) whether the problems faced by the Gems and Jewellery exporters are likely to be reviewed in the light of the new Exim Policy; and

(d) the time by which the new Exim Policy is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) The review of Exim Policy is a continuous exercise which is based upon suggestions received from Trade and Industry. Amendments are made in the Exim Policy for making it more exporter friendly and also to make it more effective instrument of export promotion. So far, 8 Notifications and 26 Public Notices have been issued making amendments in the Exim Policy and Handbook of Procedures respectively.

The problems faced by Gem & Jewellery exporters were reviewed and Notification and Public Notice have already been issued. EOU/EPZ units in Gem & Jewellery sector are not allowed DTA state by making a payment of applicable duties either by EOU/EPZ a units or by the DTA buyer. Regional offices of DGFT located in Cuttack and Surat have now been allowed to operate the Gem & Jewellery Scheme.

The new Exim Policy is effective from 1.4.97 and is valid up to 31.3.2002.

Rise in the Prices of Tea

1633. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the abnormal rise in the prices of tea during the last two months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring down the tea prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Average auction prices of teas at Indian auction centres have increased by approximately 16% during last two months viz. May-June 1997 as compared to April 1997. However, retail prices of large selling varieties of tea have not registered significant increase during the same period.

Prices of tea are not controlled. They are determined by demand and supply position in the market. However, in order to stabilise the prices, Tea Board has held discussions with the tea industry on the current tea price situation. The industry has been advised to ensure availability of sufficient tea in the market and strict compliance with the Tea Marketing (Control) Order 1994. A close watch is being kept on the situation.

[Translation]

Royalty on Coal

1634. SHRI RAJESH RAJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA :

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of royalty on coal to be paid by Union Government to Bihar and other States as on March 31, 1997;

(b) the value of coal extracted from the coal mines during each of the last three years, and the amount of royalty paid thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to frame any law to establish the supremacy of States over mines located in the States and to encourage development through revenue and royalty receipts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Royalty on coal is not payable by the Union Government. As per the provision in Section 9 (1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation &

Development) Act, 1957, the royalty is payable to the concerned State Government by the holder of a coal mining lease. Therefore, in respect of the coal mines operated by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) royalty is paid by these companies to the State Governments. As on 31.3.1997 the amount of royalty to be paid by the CIL to West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra and Assam are Rs. 2.27 crores, Rs. 12.74 crores, Rs. 2 crores and Rs. 0.87 crores respectively. No amount of royalty is payable by CIL to Bihar and Madhya Pradesh as on 31.3.97. The amount of royalty to be paid by SCCL to Andhra Pradesh as on 31.3.97 is Rs. 28.56 crores.

(b) The value of coal extracted from the coal mines of CIL and SCCL and royalty paid thereon, State-wise, are given below :-

State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Value	Royalty	Value	Royalty	Value	Royalty
West Bengal	1018.06	9.59	1121.93	7.82	1430.51	10.87
Bihar	2718.85	613.18	3048.75	658.33	3552.73	682.77
Orissa	771.91	104.08	946.73	180.79	1089.03	185.33
Maharashtra	915.49	159.70	1041.64	217.90	1699.41	200.29
Madhya Pradesh	3066.96	438.91	3466.10	666.77	4181.66	684.14
Uttar Pradesh	526.61	87.30	617.30	113.50	700.17	121.41
Assam	74.21	0.42	66.55	21.59	82.06	9.92
Andhra Pradesh	1361.51	144.53	1395.11	175.28	1797.98	234.79
Total	10453.60	1557.80	11704.11	2041.98	14533.55	2129.52

The figures of royalty payments for 1996-97 to West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Assam are provisional. The figures of value of coal and royalty payments in respect of Andhra Pradesh are related to SCCL mines only.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to Part (c) of the question.

(e) The Central Government derives the power to fix the royalty rates on coal under section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulations & Development) Act, 1957. Section 2 of the Act has a declaration that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union Government should take under its control the regulation of mines and the development of minerals.

Appointment of Auditors in Non-Banking Finance Companies

1635. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to non-banking finance companies to appoint auditors to study cash flow statements and balance sheets of such companies;

(b) if so, the other details of the instructions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue such instructions;

(e) If so, the time by which these instructions are likely to be issued to ensure that the small depositors will not suffer; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported

that in terms of Section 45MA(3) of the RBI Act, 1934, RBI is empowered to cause special audit of NBFCs and the Bank may appoint auditors to conduct special audit of NBFCs and direct the auditors to submit the report to the Bank. Accordingly, the Board for Financial Supervision has recently approved the proposal for special audit of NBFCs with asset size of Rs. 5 crore and above. The inspection by special auditors will be done as a onetime exercise in view of the need to have detailed assessment of the asset side of NBFCs.

[English]

Export of Tea to Russia

1636. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the estimated annual export of tea to Russia;
- (b) whether the export of tea to Russia is expected to be reduced drastically due to recent steep hike in duty on imported packaged tea by the Russian Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to see that Indian tea export to Russia does not put hard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The estimated export of tea to Russia in 1996-97 was 42.03 mn.kg. valued at Rs. 297.16 crore.

(b) and (c) Under a new resolution enacted by Govt. of Russia and announced by Russian State Customs Committee on 30.4.1997, Customs Duty on import of all packets teas (both black & green) was increased from existing rate of 10% to 20% w.e.f. 1st June, 1997.

The Increase in duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

(d) The Russian authorities have been requested to review, the increase in customs duty on packet tea so that export of packet tea from India is not adversely affected.

Export Committee Under DGFT

1637. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any Export Committee under DGFT to recommend measures to boost the exports by small scale units as outcome of the

sluggish export performance at small scale sector in the recent period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to harness huge export potential of small scale sector;

(c) the details of action plan worked out for 1997-98 for boosting the export performance; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen Regulatory Monitoring mechanism to ensure that the financial exchanges under various schemes are not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Core Group on exports in the small scale sector has been set up under the Chairmanship of DGFT on 1.7.97. The Core Group has members from the government, trade and industry. The first meeting of the Core Group will be held shortly.

(c) Based upon the recommendation of the Core Group, an action plan would be drawn up for promotion of exports from SSI sector;

(d) A number of offices of DGFT have been computerized. Steps have been taken to computerize the offices have not been computerized so far. Regular monitoring under various schemes is being carried out.

Rehabilitation of Indian Bank

1638. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised rehabilitation package of Indian Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether the Indian Bank has improved its performance during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Bank has prepared a draft strategic Revival Plan. Scrutiny of the Revival Plan has been initiated with a view to its finalisation.

(c) The balance sheet of the Indian Bank for the year 1996-97 has not yet been published. RBI has given Indian Bank time till 15th August 1997 for publishing the balance sheet for 1996-97.

Foreign Exchange for Shipping Sector

1639. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to earmark foreign exchange annually for the acquisition of ships;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether gross borrowings under external commercial borrowings were 3.9% but the allocation to the shipping industry was less than 4% during 1995-96;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the shipping sector is no longer getting adequate support from the Government in raising their funds either by way of direct loans or guarantees;
- (f) if so, whether any final decision for foreign exchange funds for the shipping sector has been taken; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Approval under External Commercial Borrowings to the Shipping Sector during the last 3 years are as under;

Year	Amount (in USD Million)
1995-96	105.404
1996-97	145.880
1997-98	83.120 (upto 30.6.97)

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Investment of Indian Corporates in Abroad

1640. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have recently liberalised the norms governing Indian Corporates investments abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to our country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the existing fast track route under which the RBI issues approvals for proposals of Overseas Investments upto US \$ 4 Million on the basis of export track record, Govt. have introduced two new fast track routes for Overseas Investments in Joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries abroad by Indian Companies where the investment is funded out of Exchange Earner's Foreign Currency (EEFC) Account upto a maximum of US \$ 15 million and for investments upto 50% of Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) raised with the Govt's approval.

Investment from balances in EEFC accounts would be permitted by Authorised Dealers (ADs). The ceiling of US \$ 15 million is inclusive of the ceiling of US \$ 4 million under the existing fast track. Investments under the two new fast track routes would also not be subject to the obligation of neutralising investment amount through inward remittances over five years.

(c) The above liberalisation has been announced with a view to encouraging Indian corporates to globalize, and in the line with the Govt's policy to move towards capital account convertibility.

DGFT's Instructions to Banks

1641. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has written to all banks seeking data and names of exporters who have failed to repatriate proceeds and bring in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details of the data received so far by the DGFT; and

(c) the action taken against the errant exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Recently the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), Ministry of Finance have reported that a number of exporters have not repatriated their export proceeds on the basis of information received by them.

DGFT have immediately issued instructions to its Regional Licensing Authorities to obtain necessary details from Regional RBI Authorities and investigate the matter for taking appropriate action.

The exporters who are found to have defaulted in repatriating their export proceeds within the time specified by the RBI, shall be liable to action, *inter alia*, under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, as stipulated in Para 11.3 of the Export & Import Policy 1997-2002.

Produce of Bivoltine Silk

1642. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether JICA in Japan has selected some districts in Karnataka to produce special bivoltine silk;

(b) if so, the names of the districts selected alongwith the amount of assistance provided to produce special bivoltine silk in these districts; and

(c) the number of silk weavers likely to be benefited in these districts from the Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project Phase II of JICA, Japan in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following four districts in Karnataka have been selected to produce special bivoltine silk under the JICA project:-

1. Mandya
2. Tumkur
3. Chitradurga
4. Hassan

Assistance to the project is provided by JICA in the form of technology transfer through the services of experts, training of Indian counter-parts/CSB staff and by providing equipments.

(c) Since the project is confined to verification of technology developed in Phase I, it is not expected to bring in additional benefits directly to the weavers at this juncture. After the verification and popularisation of the technology, high quality cocoons would be available for production of quality grade silk.

Focus of Asia Society

1643. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three days conference on the focus of Asia society was held on March 5, 1997 in which a number of Asian countries and the Chief Executive Officers of International companies attended the Conference;

(b) if so, the main decisions taken in the Conference; and

(c) to what extent these decisions have been helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir, the conference was held in New Delhi from 6-8 March, 1997.

(b) The conference, discussed, among other things, the positive aspects of the Central budget presented in February, 1997 and the optimistic prospects for the Indian economy in the 21st century. It also discussed the greater opportunities and challenges of accelerated trade liberalisation for the Asian nations, need for partnership between India and the U.S. to address persisting problems of significant dimensions, Importance of a more involved business relationship between India and China and the significance of forums like APEC. Furthermore, India's backlog in infrastructure development, the slow and inadequate financial market reforms, lack of clear policies and rigid bureaucracy was also mentioned. The conference stressed that for the reforms to be a success, there is a need to provide basic amenities to India's rural population. The role of an enhanced education system and PSU restructuring, and the need to bring down the high cost of money were additional factors mentioned in the conference.

(c) India's policy of economic reforms is giving due

emphasis on, inter alia, infrastructure development, removal of unnecessary red tapism and growth with social justice.

[Translation]

Currency Branch in Bhopal

1644. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open a currency department in the Bhopal branch of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the time by which this department is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that it has been decided to have a fully mechanised Issue Department at Bhopal and necessary steps have been initiated. RBI have further reported that it is difficult to set time-limit for starting the Issue Department.

Hindi in Bank Branches

1645. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches in the A,B,C categories of the Nationalised Banks which are operating and the number Cut of categories A & B branches which perform their 75 or 100 percent work in the Official Language i.e. Hindi or how much work they do in this language;

(b) the position of the work being carried out in Hindi in these banks of 'C' category;

(c) the number of house magazines being brought out by these banks in Hindi, English, Hindi-English and other languages and whether these banks propose to bring out the special issues of these magazines on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Independence; and

(d) whether the modern gadgets in these banks are bilingual and the percentage of the work being done in the Hindi using these gadgets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The proforma prescribed by Deptt. of Official Language to monitor the progressive use of Hindi in banks does not contain specific column for collecting information regarding the number of branches of banks where 75 or 100 percent work is being done in Hindi. The data furnished by RBI relates to 'A', 'B' and 'C' regions for the banks as a whole. Bankwise percentage of correspondence in Hindi in regions A,B & C during the quarter ended March, 1997 is furnished in Statement-I attached.

(c) Information on magazines published by nationalised banks in region A,B, & C as provided by RBI is furnished

in Statement-II attached. As regards information on the banks' proposal to bring out special issues of their magazines on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Independence, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Most of the electronic typewriters have bilingual facilities and some of the personal computers have bilingual software for word processing. The percentage of work done in Hindi on electronic typewriter and PCs in nationalised banks is furnished in Statement-III attached.

Statement-I

*Percentage of Hindi Correspondence
in Nationalized Bank*

(As on Quarter ending March, 1997)

Name of Bank		Region A	Region B	Region C
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Bank	92.36	82.53	56.38
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	87.2	70.60	39.00
3.	Indian Bank	58.95	53.31	16.20
4.	Allahabad Bank	98.50	87.01	54.11

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	93.96	81.9	43.2
6.	Corporation Bank	67.60	48.43	50.10
7.	Canara Bank	85.63	86.80	66.80
8.	Dena Bank	97.96	80.66	71.89
9.	Punjab & Sind Bank	60.5	20.3	9.0
10.	Punjab National Bank	97.56	90.90	53.00
11.	Bank of India	96.69	89.28	70.49
12.	Bank of Baroda	97.62	86.09	62.82
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	90.34	85.90	52.68
14.	United Bank of India	69.16	48.70	27.57
15.	UCO Bank	89.00	70.00	34.00
16.	Union Bank of India	94.23	85.88	66.60
17.	Vijaya Bank	91.40	67.36	58.10
18.	Syndicate Bank	67.00	64.05	49.03
19.	Central Bank of India	98.85	90.47	62.28

Statement-II

Total number of Magazines published

(Quarter ending March, 1997)

Name of Banks		Total Publication			Bilingual			English			Hindi		
Region		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Bank	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Indian Bank	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1
4.	Allahabad Bank	8	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	8	—	4
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Corporation Bank	1	1	3	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Canara Bank	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Dena Bank	3	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
9.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
10.	Punjab National Bank	11	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	3	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11.	Bank of India	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Bank of Baroda	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
14.	United Bank of India	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	UCO Bank	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Union Bank of India	22	15	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	22	14	17
17.	Vijaya Bank	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Syndicate Bank	—	—	8	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3
19.	Central Bank of India	8	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Statement-III

*Percentage of Work done in Hindi on
Electronic Typewriters and Computers*

(Quarter ending March, 1997)

Name of Banks		% of work done of computer								
		% of work on Electronic Typewriter			Gist			Bilingual Software		
	Region	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Bank	—	—	20	—	25	—	—	—	6
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	50	50	—	2	3	2	—	—	—
3.	Indian Bank	—	35	—	20	115	—	—	—	5
4.	Allahabad Bank	100	87	54	56	42	—	—	—	27
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	73	45	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Corporation Bank	67	66	44	—	3	15	48	5	—
7.	Canara Bank	80	70	50	10	—	5	55	20	15
8.	Dena Bank	96	65	86	—	42	12	21	—	—
9.	Punjab & Sind Bank	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Punjab National Bank	60	75	—	8	10	5	—	—	—
11.	Bank of India	80	75	82	—	—	—	60	8	68
12.	Bank of Baroda	85	60	20	3	—	—	28	20	20
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	86	65	20	—	49	—	67	—	27
14.	UCO Bank	60	50	45	—	15	—	32	—	25
15.	United Bank of India	25	10	10	5	5	10	5	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16. Union Bank of India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Vijaya Bank	100	66	48	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Syndicate Bank	29	50	25	3	10	—	—	—	3
19. Central Bank of India	71	56	26	—	19	—	40	—	15

*[English]***Currency Note and Coins**

1646. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Mints and Currency Note Printing Presses in the country and the capacity thereof, location-wise;

(b) the location of mints and currency note printing presses under construction and the likely capacity thereof indicating the time by which these mints and presses likely to start their production;

(c) the procedure for supply of adequate number of coins and currency notes to various centres along with the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of coins/notes; and

(d) the proposed plans to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The details of mints and currency note printing presses in the country and their capacity are as under:

Name of Unit	Location	Existing annual capacity (in million pieces)
1) India Govt. Mint	Mumbai	750
2) India Govt. Mint	Calcutta	750
3) India Govt. Mint	Hyderabad	400
4) India Govt. Mint	Noida (UP)	2000
5) Bank Note Press	Dewas (MP)	1875
6) Currency Note Press	Nashik	4000

Reserve Bank of India is also setting up two more note printing presses, one at Mysore in Karnataka and other at Salboni in West Bengal. One line of machine (phase-I) has started production in both these presses from 1-6-96 and 11-12-96, respectively. When fully commissioned by the end of 1999, their annual production capacity will be 9900 million pieces.

The India Government Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and

Hyderabad are under modernisation for increasing their capacity as under:-

Name of Unit	Expected date of completion of Project	Capacity after modernisation (in million pieces)
1) IGM, Mumbai	31-12-98	1000
2) IGM, Calcutta	31-12-97	1000
3) IGM, Hyderabad	31-12-97	700

(c) and (d) The coins/notes are supplied to various centres through Reserve Bank of India currency chest branches of banks. With a view to increase production of coins/notes in the country, Government has taken the following steps:-

- (i) Modernisation of Government of India Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad;
- (ii) complete coinisation of Rs.1; Rs.2; Rs.5 and diversion of spare capacity to printing of higher denomination of notes;
- (iii) modernisation of existing two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas;
- (iv) setting up of two more note-printing presses under the direct control of Reserve Bank of India (i.e. one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni in West Bengal); and
- (v) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (of a total face value of Rs.1,00,000 crores) and 1000 million pieces of coins (of a total face value of Rs.130 crores) as a one-time measure.

International Container Depot in Maharashtra

1647. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the International container depot in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the International Container Depots set up/being set up/being set up by the private parties; and

(c) the details of the International Container Depots likely to be set up in the Western part of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) the details are given in Statement-I attached.

(b) The details are given in Statement-II attached.

(c) An Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce since 1992 to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Inland Container Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the country. Setting up of Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSSs) is an ongoing process. The proposals are considered by the IMC as and when received, on merits and viability consideration and as such no pre-determined targets envisaged.

Statement-I

Details of Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations in Maharashtra

- (a) Maharashtra—Walbander, Pune (3), Bhandup, J.N. Port, Mulund, Nhava Sheva (2), Dronagiri Node (4), Aurangabad, Nagpur (2), Jalgaon, Waluj, Jashkar (Nhava Sheva), Chanje (Near Sheva)

[Figure in brackets indicate total number]

Statement-II

Details of Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations by private parties

- (b) Nhava Sheva (2)* Dronagiri, Jashkar (Nhava Sheva), Dighi (Pune), Chanje (near Sheva)

*[Out of the two at Nhava Sheva, one is functioning. All others are under implementation].

Advance Ruling Authority

1648. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Since when is the Authority on Advance Rulings for the NRIs has started functioning;

(b) The number of NRIs sought advance rulings from the Authority during the last one year;

(c) The details of the NRIs residing in different countries claiming NRIs status and sought advance rulings from the Authority; and

(d) The revenue so far earned by the Government from the NRIs seeking such advance rulings from the Authority during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Authority for Advance Rulings for Non-Residents has been functioning since 15th July, 1994.

(b) Twenty Non-Resident Indians have sought advance rulings from the Authority during the last one year.

(c) The details of the NRIs alongwith their country of residence, who have sought advance rulings, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Authority gives rulings on proposed transactions which may or may not be acted upon by the NRIs. Therefore, there may or may not be revenue effect of the Rulings.

Statement

Names of NRIs and the country of their residence, who have sought advance Rulings from the Authority for Advance Rulings w.e.f. 01.08.1996 onwards

Sl. No.	Name	Country of Residence
1.	Mr. Sunil Hariram Makhija	UAE
2.	Dr. Suresh Bhandari	USA
3.	Mr. Rishi Prakash Gupta	UAE
4.	Narayanan Pudukode Parameswaran	UAE
5.	Usha Narayanan	UAE
6.	Mr. Lachman Alimchand Bhatia	UAE
7.	Mr. Ajay Kumar Rathi	USA
8.	Dr. Maharaj Krishan Wanchoo	USA
9.	Mr. Gadhamsetty Subramanyam	UAE
10.	Mr. Ganesh Shravan Patel	UAE
11.	Mr. Jamnadas Odhavji Sheth	UAE
12.	Mr. P.R. Subramanian	UAE
13.	Mrs. Sarda Subramanian	UAE
14.	Mr. Sunil Stanislaus George Rebello	UAE
15.	Mr. A.S. Mani	Bahrain
16.	Dr. Prajesh Kumar Sinha	Zambia
17.	Dr. Anjali Sinha	Zambia
18.	Devabhaktuni Durga	UAE
19.	Shri Nihalchand Chunilal Chauhan	UAE
20.	Mr. Tejinder Singh Sethi	UAE

Excise Duty Evasion

1649. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOL) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 4377 dated March 21, 1997 regarding Excise duty evasion and state:

- (a) if the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The information has since been collected.

(b) Under the Central Excises Law, it is not necessary to obtain permission from the Commissioner of Central Excise to manufacture parts of branded goods. However, the duty exemption scheme for small scale units does not cover any goods bearing a brand name or trade name of another person. Cases have been booked against 109 industrial units manufacturing branded goods for alleged evasion of central excise duty amounting to Rs. 741.64 lakhs during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. In this regard, Show Cause Notices have already been issued to 95 units.

(c) On the basis of the information received, the Assurance given to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4377 has been fulfilled on 29.5.97 within the stipulated time of 3 months.

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

National Savings

1650. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a downward trend in National Savings/collections since 1995-96;
- (b) if so, the extent of decline;
- (c) the causes of the downward trend;
- (d) whether the rate of interest offered on National Savings Securities are lower than that of commercial banks;
- (e) if so, the difference in the said interest rates;
- (f) whether the Government propose to consider increasing the interest rate on National Savings Securities; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The gross collections in the various small savings schemes launched by Govt. of India show an increasing trend in 1996-97 over 1995-96. Final figures for 1996-97 are awaited.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

- (e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration with Government.

Income Tax Tribunal

1651. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a demand for setting up of a bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A demand has been made for setting up of a Bench of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal at Vijayawada.

(c) It has not been found possible to accede to this demand. However, Government has recently approved the setting up of a Bench of the Tribunal at Visakhapatnam.

Manufacturing of Tyre by Multinational Companies

1652. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have permitted Multinational companies to manufacture tyre in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the companies to whom permission has been accorded;
- (c) whether the Government held any discussions with the indigenous tyre industry prior to granting permission to the said multinational companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the interest of indigenous tyre industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) As per the present policy, no permission or Industrial Licence is required to manufacture tyres and other rubber products in the country. Some of the Indian tyre manufacturers like M/s. Goodyear India Ltd., M/s. Dunlop India Ltd., M/s. Bridgestone ACC India Ltd. etc. have gone in for financial as well as technical collaboration with foreign companies to manufacture Automotive/Radial tyres. The details of foreign investment/technical collaboration are published in the SIA Newsletter from time to time, copies of which are regularly placed in the Parliament House Library.

- (c) to (e) Do not arise.

Rubber Parks

1653. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Rubber Parks in various parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The Government has approved the proposal of Rubber Board to set up a Rubber Park at Irapuram in Ernakulam District of Kerala in association with Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA).

(b) The park aims at developing 100 acres of land providing infrastructure facilities such as electricity and water, centralised testing and certification of quality of rubber products, common treatment and discharge of factory effluent, communication facilities etc. for establishment of rubber and rubber wood based industries. There is no proposal to set up any other Rubber Park in the country, at present.

Mahila Courts

1654. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mahila Courts set up in the country to deal with the cases of various atrocities on women, State-wise;

(b) whether these courts are disposing of such cases efficiently;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to increase the number of such Courts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum

1655. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum filed from 1.8.91 to 30.6.93; State-wise; and

(b) the details of Investment involved and employment proposed to be created in such memoranda?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) 9,893 Industrial Entrepreneurs

Memoranda were filed/acknowledged with a proposed investment of Rs. 2,20,064 Crores and employment proposed to be created for 19,98,130 persons during the period from 1.8.91 to 30.6.93 State-wise details of proposed Investment and employment proposed to be created in these Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

*State wise details of items Filed from
01/08/91 to 30/06/93*

State Name	No. of IEMs Filed	Investment (Rs. Cr.)	Employment
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	566	18296	125421
Assam	26	364	2814
Bihar	104	2853	12890
Gujarat	1410	31994	274459
Haryana	706	8742	130677
Himachal Pradesh	95	3612	32093
Jammu and Kashmir	17	99	6421
Karnataka	362	10418	61111
Kerala	71	2268	16731
Madhya Pradesh	692	24212	187613
Maharashtra	1689	40979	311450
Meghalaya	2	9	217
Nagaland	1	1	140
Orissa	68	1749	31857
Punjab	682	8523	193350
Rajasthan	658	11329	143353
Tamil Nadu	644	10789	94800
Tripura	3	1038	1345
Uttar Pradesh	1227	27086	226476
West Bengal	356	6636	79415
Sikkim	6	10	358
Andaman & Nicobar	4	261	2180
Chandigarh	8	114	3034
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	90	1118	10255

1	2	3	4
Delhi	235	4823	31301
Goa	49	1068	7630
Pondicherry	52	317	5318
Daman & Diu	70	1356	5421
Total	9893	220064	1998130

Misuse of Export Promotion Scheme

1656. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DGFT to clamp down on misuse of export promotion scheme – Advance licensing – EPCG schemes to be monitored" appearing in the "Economic Times" dated July 10, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and the facts of the matter;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints of large-scale misuse of provisions of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details of major cases of misuses detected during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government there-on ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news report briefly outlines the action plan of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade:-

(i) for a strict monitoring of export obligation in respect of cases under the Advance Licensing (QABAL and VABAL) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Schemes. In terms of these schemes, duty free import of inputs/capital goods etc. have been allowed against prescribed export obligation which were to be fulfilled within specified periods of time; and

(ii) for strengthening the enforcement wing of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade so that appropriate penal action is taken against exporters who have defaulted in fulfilment of export obligation.

(c) The Government has come across a fairly large number of cases under the Advance Licensing Scheme where the exporters have not fulfilled their export obligation within the permitted period of time allowed by the DGFT for this purpose. However, under the EPCG scheme, the number of cases of non-fulfilment of export obligation is very small.

(d) Major cases of misuse detected during the last three years relate to:

(i) Non-fulfilment of export obligation and unauthorised disposal of imported goods;

(ii) Cases detected in the plastic sector and on import of Brass Scrap, where misdeclaration and suppression of facts in the applications for licences were found;

(iii) Misdeclaration regarding availment of MOD-VAT at the time of seeking transferability;

(iv) Over-invoicing of exports, specially of polyester fabrics.

(e) Appropriate action have been taken as under :

(i) In cases of bonafide default in fulfilment of export obligation, defaulters were given opportunity to regularise the default by payment of Customs duty, interest and surrender of Special Import Licences;

(ii) In cases of unauthorised disposal of imported material, penal action was initiated to cancel the licences or to impose fiscal penalties.

(iii) To scale down the value of licences in case of misdeclaration of c.i.f. prices of inputs in the application;

(iv) Guidelines have been issued to deal with bonafide cases where MODVAT had been wrongfully availed and subsequently reversed;

(v) "Sensitive List" was expanded by bringing Brass Scrap and selected plastic inputs within its ambit;

(vi) where the facts of the cases so warranted, cases were handed over to specialised agencies, such as, the Enforcement Directorate and C.B.I. etc. for further investigations.

[Translation]

Financial Crimes

1657. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

SHRI B.L. SHANKER :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

SHRI P. SHANMUGAM :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Panel will devise strategy to combat financial crimes" appeared in the "Times of India" dated July 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent this panel is likely to curb the menace of black money in the country;

(d) the amount of black money as per IMF assessment and as per assessment of Government prevalent in the country as on July 31, 1997;

(e) the percentage of its constitute the whole gross domestic product (GDP) of the country as on July 31, 1997; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to minimise it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Economic Intelligence Council has been constituted with a view to strengthen coordination and evolving an integrated strategy to combat economic crimes. The Newspaper report in the Times of India of July, 4, 1997 gives some information on the working of this Economic Intelligence Council. A better coordination among the various enforcement agencies will enhance the success of measures designed to curb the menace of black money in the country.

(d) to (f) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money at present in circulation in the country. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy had estimated black money between Rs. 31,584 crores to Rs. 36,784 crores in the year 1983-84. Thereafter no authentic study has been made on this subject. The Govt. have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures as deemed appropriate from time to time to curb growth of black money. The rates of taxation have been progressively rationalised. Besides, the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at curbing the generation of black money. These include, inter-alia, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of account in appropriate cases under Section 44AA and 44AB, restriction on cash transactions under section 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of property under chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters were made. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys and searches etc. to detect tax evasion.

[English]

Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

1658. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an aggregate amount of Rs. 1439.51 crores is due from the Union Government to the Government of Maharashtra since April, 1993 to March, 1997 under the Centrally sponsored scheme for providing grant to the States for developing infrastructural facilities of capital nature for the judiciary;

(b) if so, the reasons for accumulation of such a huge amount of dues; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear these dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir. The expenditure in respect of High Courts and subordinate Courts, which also includes the provision of infrastructural facilities, is to be met by the concerned State Government. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary was introduced from 1993-94 with the aim of augmenting the resources of the State Governments. The scheme is confined to construction of Court Buildings and residences for the Judges. The amount received from the Planning Commission is allocated to the different States/UTs on the basis of the criteria laid down for this purpose by the Planning Commission. On the basis of these criteria, an amount of Rs. 1279.30 lakhs had been released to Maharashtra from 1993-94 to 1996-97. For the current Financial year 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 315.71 lakhs has tentatively been allocated to Maharashtra, out of which the first instalment of Rs. 158.00 lakhs has already been released. One of the main criteria of the scheme is that the State Government must come forward with a matching share to the amount released by the Central Government. However, the State Governments are free to spend additional amounts depending upon their resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Visits of Judges

1659. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Hon'ble judges who visited foreign countries and the countries they visited during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount incurred on such visits by the Union/ State Governments or any other State agency; and

(c) whether such visits were official or otherwise and the period, they remained abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Selection Committee for PMRY

1660. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is participation of banks in the Selection Committee constituted under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) launched by the Government;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken by the banks in disposing of the loan cases under PMRY;

(c) whether the banks returned the cases relating to loans sanctioned by the loan Committee; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

August 1, 1997

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that while banks are associated in the process of Selection of borrowers under PMRY as members so the Task Force Committee (TFC) formed for the purpose at District/Sub-Divisional/Block Levels, all banks in a district/block may not be members of the TFC.

(b) to (d) As per extant guidelines, applications for sanction of loans upto Rs. 25,000/- are to be disposed off within fortnight and those which are above 25,000/-, within 8-9 weeks. RBI have further reported that the decision to extend credit is left to the bank branch processing the loan applications. The reasons for returning the loan applications by banks, inter-alia, include (i) income of borrower exceeding the limit (ii) borrower already assisted under other schemes (iii) borrower already gainfully employed (iv) borrower being a defaulter to other banks and (v) Project being not viable/bankable. It has, therefore, been provided in the PMRY guidelines that TFC should sponsor applications equal to 150% of the target fixed to enable banks to achieve targets allotted even after rejection of a portion of applications sponsored to them. Banks have also been allowed to receive the applications directly from eligible borrowers and forward the same to the TFCs with their views on the viability of the project/activity so that TFCs may sponsor such applications to the same bank branches for sanction of loan. The banks have been advised by RBI that they should indicate the specific reasons for rejection of applications sponsored to them by the TFCs.

Import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

1661. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FERA authorities are aware that the Commissioner of Customs in a case under investigation by SIIB New Customs House, New Delhi pertaining to import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks from China had ordered for considering the price list of M/s Sumec China Jiangsu Machinery and Equipment Import and Export (Group) Corporation, China as the base for valuation of ROB imported from China by other importers who had on the basis of invoices of other suppliers from China by grossly getting the invoices under-invoiced of the same item have cleared their consignment;

(b) if so, the reasons for not complying with the above orders and releasing the withheld consignments on the basis of valuation done on the basis of price list of M/s China North Industries Beijing Corporation, China which is 30% less in value than the Sumec China prices thereby causing a huge customs duty loss to the Government and other agencies; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard as the difference in the invoiced prices has been transferred to the suppliers by way of Hawala transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In a case of

import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks, where the Bill of Entry was filed in October, 1996 by a Delhi based importer, it was observed that, on a comparison of the prices between the supplier, M/s. China North Industries Beijing Corporation, with those of M/s. Sumec China, the prices of the former were, on an average, lower by 18.71%. A show cause Notice was accordingly issued, wherein it was proposed to enhance the assessable value from Rs. 22.46 lakhs to Rs. 26.67 lakhs. At the time of adjudication, however, the assessable value furnished by the importer was accepted, on the ground that the goods supplied by M/s. Sumec were different, in respect of both quality as well as quantity, from the ones supplied by M/s. China North Industries. The prices declared by the assessee were found to be arrived at through normal negotiations, and were based on commercial considerations and the invoices were also certified by the Chinese Embassy in India, as well as the China Council for promotion of International Trade.

Since the declared value has been accepted, no action is proposed to be taken against the importer and therefore, the question of referring the matter to the FERA authorities does not arise.

Export to Indonesia

1662. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the different items exported to Indonesia at present;

(b) the total export of those items during each of the last three years, item-wise; and

(c) the projection made for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The basket of India's exports to Indonesia is highly diversified. The details of some major items of India's export to Indonesia during the last three years are as follows :-

(Value in US \$ Million)				
S.No.	Product	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	1	2	3	4
1.	Oil Meals	92.32	101.56	132.82
2.	Cotton raw Incl. waste	10.31	6.37	73.33
3.	Primary & semi-finished Iron & Steel	25.76	42.72	53.78
4.	Sugar & Molasses	NIL	35.16	52.79
5.	Groundnut	12.70	31.27	48.23
6.	Machinery & Instruments	24.51	41.54	35.47

	1	2	3	4
7. Inorganic/Organic/ Agro Chemicals	17.44	17.79	19.97	
8. Processed Minerals	2.70	9.48	19.92	
9. Dyes/Inter- mediates & coaltar chemicals	10.72	18.06	16.45	
10. Aluminium other than Products	1.42	2.84	15.13	
11. Iron & Steel Bar/ Rod etc.	0.48	14.38	12.90	
12. Manufacture of Metals	9.80	13.63	11.35	
Total (incl. others)	271.86	661.30	584.57	

(c) Commoditywise projections are not made in respect of any single country.

Norms for Foreign Exchange

1663. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any method to verify that the amount advanced in foreign exchange by the financial Institutions is actually spent in full by the Industry to which it is advanced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some cases of violation of above norms come to the notice of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that foreign exchange loans are advanced by it for import of goods or for project-related rupee expenditure. In case of imports, letters of credit (LC) are opened by IDBI in favour of Overseas suppliers. On shipment of goods, payment in foreign currency is made by IDBI directly to the suppliers' bank, as per LC terms. In case of foreign currency loans for projects-related rupee expenditure, loans are disbursed in rupees by selling foreign currency in the inter-bank market, to meet the project expenditure already incurred to be incurred by the company. An auditor's certificate for expenses incurred towards the project is obtained for all such foreign currency loans.

(c) IDBI has reported that there has been no violation of norms by its assisted companies.

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

[Translation]

Funds for Welfare Schemes

1664. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on various welfare schemes by Coal India Limited during the last three years; and

(b) the details of work undertaken through this money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The amount spent on various schemes of welfare by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during the last three years had been as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

1994-95	830.94
1995-96	1029.19
1996-97 (Prov.)	1,106.95

(b) The aforesaid sums were spent on welfare activities like housing, water supply, medical facilities, educational facilities and community development in and around the coalfield areas.

[English]

Fake Companies

1655. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Ek Telephone Ek Fax Aur Ek Issue' appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated July 7, 1997;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of the antecedents of such companies verified by the Government before allowing their entry into the market;

(d) whether the Government have taken any concrete action against these companies; and

(e) the details of such companies which have vanished after taking the money and the name of such companies alongwith amount deposited with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) SEBI has informed that all public issues of companies are subject to SEBI guidelines for disclosures and investor protection. The objective of the guidelines is to ensure full disclosures so that investors take informed decisions. Whenever instances of material non-disclosure or misstate-

ments come to the notice of SEBI, the issue process is reversed and the issuers are asked to refund the issue amount to the investors. According to information furnished by SEBI, in the public issue of M/s. G.R. Industries Ltd., all material information about the company, promoters etc. had been disclosed. As regards rights issue by Tata Vashisti Detergents Ltd., SEBI has informed that there has not been any such rights issue by the company so far.

(e) According to a study done by SEBI for the year 1994-95, most of the companies that raised money from the public are in existence. The study revealed that out of 828 companies that came out with par issues in 1994-95, six companies had refunded the monies to the public. Of the remaining 822 companies, 802 were complying with the listing requirements. In respect of the remaining twenty, SEBI has taken up the matter with the Registrars of Companies and the Stock exchanges. In the same year, 382 companies came out with premium issues and out of these two companies had refunded the monies to the public. All the remaining 380 companies are complying with the listing requirements.

India on the Watch List of US

1666. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United State Government has again put India on the priority watch list under the later's special 301 provision;

(b) if so, whether India has strongly protested on the US decision;

(c) if so, whether both the countries are members of the World Trade Organisation which provide an appropriate forum for discussion and resolution; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Unlike the classification of priority watch list and the watch list are not classifications created by the US law, but are an administrative practice. No legal consequences for the US administration flow from the placing of any country in either the watch list or the priority watch list. It is only for countries identified as priority foreign country that the United States Trade Representative is bound to initiate an investigation into the complaints, request consultations with the foreign government and finally determine the cases and the action to be taken against the country.

Updation of Indian Penal Code

1667. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law Commission has been working in the direction of updating the Indian Penal Code to remove lacunae therein and to bring about speedy disposal of criminal cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The Law Commission has undertaken a project for Revision of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 with a view to reforming the law and updating it. Since the Indian Penal Code deals with substantive offences and their punishment, the matter of speedy disposal of Criminal cases is outside the purview of the revision of the Indian Penal Code. However, the question of speedy disposal of cases has been considered at length by the Law Commission in their 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure which has already been laid on the Tables of Parliament.

Pending Cases of Claims of Health Insurance

1668. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the process of reimbursement of claims of Health Insurance to make the scheme more people oriented and effective;

(b) if so, the number of unsettled claim cases are pending with the Government; and

(c) the time by which their claim cases are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) had, in July/August, 1996, made certain amendments in the Med-claim Insurance Policy to make the administration of the scheme and the claims settlement procedure simpler. The overall limits of reimbursement have been enhanced and various sub-limits, such as, room charges, Doctors' fees, medicines and diagnostic charges etc. have been removed to make the policy more customer friendly. This simplification will help in prompt settlement of health insurance claims on compliance of requirements by the claimants.

(b) The GIC has reported that the estimated number of health insurance claims pending with the four subsidiary companies of GIC, as on 31.3.1997, is around 34,048.

(c) The four subsidiary companies have issued instructions to all their operating offices to process the pending claims of health insurance on a priority basis to expedite their disposal.

Footwear Industry

1669. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether footwear industry has great potential for increasing its exports;
- (b) whether this industry suffers from inadequate power supply, poor communications and lack of link roads;
- (c) whether industry association of Agra has given the list of their requirements to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

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

(b) While many footwear production centres in the country are well-connected with latest communication and transport systems, problems of infrastructure, and/or inadequate power supply are region specific and seasonal.

(c) to (e) From time to time, the Industry Association represent to the Government Departments concerned for redressal of their grievances. Agra Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Chamber and Agra Chapter of the Council of Leather Exports have reportedly taken up the problems of erratic power supply and infrastructure in Agra with the concerned district authorities in Agra.

[Translation]

Separate Counters for Ladies in Banks

1670. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Governments propose to open separate counters for ladies in banks keeping in view the incidents of misbehaviour with them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said counters are likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to open separate bank counters for ladies.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Import of Second Hand Goods

1671. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the second hand capital goods are being brought in the country in abundance;
- (b) whether any High Powered Committee has been set up to enquire into the facts in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations of the said Committee; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Under the current Export Import Policy, import of second hand capital goods is permitted without an import licence by actual users only.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Munidihi Project

1672. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several quarters in Munidihi Project under B.C.C.L. have been damaged due to caving in of land forcing shifting of the office of the General Manager to other place;
- (b) if so, when the land was caved in and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that gas and fire has spread in the Munidihi Project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) During 1991-92, a few quarters in Munidihi Project of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) were affected on account of planned subsidence due to depillaring operations by Long Wall caving method. The office of General Manager was also shifted.

(c) In Munidihi Colliery, a degree III gassy mines, methane gas is released during mining operations, which is diluted to safe statutory limits by adequate ventilation in the working. There has been no spread of fire in Mndih Colliery.

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

(e) All the precautions are taken at the surface where subsidence is planned due to extraction of underground coal seams at Munidihi Colliery.

[English]

Loans to Small Industrial Units

1673. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small industrial units in Gujarat to which loans have been provided by the Nationalised banks during 1994, 1995 and 1996; and

(b) the amount of loans provided during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, loans provided by the nationalised banks to small scale industries in Gujarat outstanding as on the last Friday of March 1993, 1994 and 1995 (latest available) were as under:

(Rs. crores)

Last Friday of	No. of accounts	Amount outstanding
March 1993	115630	1400.45
March 1994	106571	1542.25
March 1995	107831	1938.26

Investment Made by Nationalised Banks in N.E. Region

1674. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of investment of the Nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions, operating in North-

Eastern Region for the development of industries in the States of the said Region during 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise and Bank-wise; and

(b) whether the Government have any plan to liberalise the terms and conditions for grant of loan by Nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions to industries set up in the States of North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The loans of the public sector banks to SSI sector in North-Eastern States outstanding as on the last Friday of March 1995, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are as given below:-

State	Rs. in Crore
1. Assam	219.04
2. Manipur	28.24
3. Meghalaya	8.31
4. Nagaland	19.27
5. Tripura	17.33
6. Arunachal Pradesh	4.32
7. Mizoram	5.35

RBI have reported that the present information system does not generate the bank-wise break up of State-wise data. The State-wise and Institution-wise details of assistance disbursed by all India Financial Institutions in the States of North Eastern Region during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 as furnished by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) are given in the Statement attached. The report submitted by an Expert Committee appointed by the Union Government is at various stages of scrutiny.

Statement**Assistance disbursed by All India Financial Institutions to North-Eastern-Region****1995-96**

(Rs. Crore)

State	IDBI	IFCI	ICICI	SIDBI	IBI	SCICI	RCTC	GIC	AIFIs
Arunachal Pradesh	0.40			1.05	1.02				2.47 IDBI : Industrial Development Bank of India
Assam	43.84	15.19	29.30	17.45	13.36		0.51	0.05	119.70 IFCI : Industrial Finance Corporation of India
Manipur	2.29								2.29
Meghalaya				1.97					1.97 ICICI : Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
Mizoram				0.44					0.44

State	IDBI	IFCI	ICICI	SIDBI	IBI	SCICI	RCTC	GIC	AIFIs
Nagaland				1.13	3.90				5.03 SIDBI: Small Industries Development Bank of India
Tripura				3.39					3.39
NER	46.53	15.19	29.30	25.43	18.28	0.00	0.51	0.05	135.29 SCICI: Shipping Credit and Investment Corporation of India

1996-97

Arunachal Pradesh				0.90					0.90 RCTC: Risk Capital & Technology Finance Corporation
Assam	25.30	107.46	90.28	6.49	5.70	6.84			242.07 GIC : General Insurance Corporation of India
Manipur				2.06					2.06
Meghalaya				4.36					4.36 AIFIs : All India Financial Institutions
Mizoram				0.94					0.94
Nagaland	0.17		7.54	1.25	0.40				9.36
Tripura				4.71					4.71
NER	25.47	107.46	97.82	20.71	6.10	6.84	0.00	0.00	264.40

Tea Gardens under TTCI

1675. SHRI R. B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the two big tea gardens in Darjeeling hills, under the Central Government undertaking (T.T.C.I) are being totally abandoned since last so many months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the workers of these tea gardens are not getting their wages for months together; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of financial difficulties, salaries and wages could not be disbursed to the workers in the estates in question. This resulted in agitation by workers leading to the management not being allowed to run the gardens effectively.

(c) Owing to resource crunch and lack of production the workers of these gardens have not been paid salaries etc. for about two years now.

(d) It had been decided by the Government to dispose of the gardens. The sale process could not be

finalised due to legal constraints and financial difficulties of the prospective buyers. The Government is seized of the position and is exploring various options.

Security Presses

1676. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the security presses in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal are fully utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether highly sophisticated printing plants imported from Germany are not operated;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether the Mysore Security Press remains inoperational;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against Bank Note Press, Dewas's annual capacity of 1875 million pieces, the production during 1996-97 was 1810 million pieces. One line of machine (Phase-I) has been commissioned in Salboni Press in West Bengal, under the control of Reserve Bank of India, with effect from 11-12-1996. Till June, 1997 this Press has produced about 320 million pieces of Rs. 10/- denomination notes in one shift. The Press has also started a second shift from 1-7-1997.

(c) Two new lines of machines imported from M/s De La Rue Giori, Switzerland, have been installed in Bank Note Press, Dewas. These are scheduled for commissioning towards end of September, 1997.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Memo on CRB Scam

1677. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Delegation of Bharatiya Janta Party, Mumbai submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister on 31st May, 1997 and followed it with detailed discussion on 4th June, 1997 in respect of CRB Scam;

(b) the details of the memorandum and the demands made therein;

(c) the Action taken proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the Results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) A memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister during his visit to Mumbai on 31st May 1997 by representatives of a delegation from Bharatiya Janta Party. The memorandum, inter-alia, demanded promulgation of an Ordinance giving priority to the claims of small investors, attachment and auctioning of properties owned by CRB group, arrest of directors of CRB group, provision of insurance coverage to deposit holders of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) opening of special branches of liquidators and setting up of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the scam. The Prime Minister also met the delegation of BJP on 4th June 1997 in this regard.

In view of rapid growth of NBFCs and keeping in view the recommendations of the JPC enquiring into the irregularities in the securities related transactions and recommendations of the Shah Committee, the RBI Act, 1934 was amended in January, 1997. The amendment, inter-alia, provides for mandatory requirements for registration, minimum net owned funds of Rs. 25 lakhs, maintenance of liquid assets, compulsory transfer of certain proportion of profits to reserves and empowering the Company Law Board of look into the cases of non payment of deposits. RBI has been vested with additional power including the power to

direct companies in matters relating to balance sheet, direct special audit of NBFCs and to file winding up petition in respect of NBFCs as per the provisions of the Companies Act.

The following action has been taken with respect to the issues raised in the memorandum.

(i) RBI has filed a winding up petition in the Delhi High Court (DHC) under section 45 MC of the RBI Act, 1934 on 21.5.97. A provisional liquidator has been appointed by DHC. The liquidator has initiated action to crystallise the assets and liabilities of the company and the claims of the depositors would be settled as per the law under the directions of the Court.

(ii) An investigation into the several group companies under Section 209A of the Companies Act has been ordered.

(iii) On a petition filed by Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) the High Court of Mumbai has directed appointment of an administrator to act in accordance with the directions of the Court.

(iv) The matter is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (RBI).

(v) The examination of feasibility of introducing a deposit insurance scheme for the depositors of NBFCs is one of the terms of reference of the working group constituted by RBI in September 1996 to examine the appropriate instrumentalities for supervision of NBFCs. The working group is yet to submit its report.

(vi) RBI has also been taking steps to put in place a suitable regulatory mechanism for the NBFCs including setting up of on-site and off-site surveillance in line with the recommendations of Khanna Committee.

Export Park in Andhra Pradesh

1678. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision to set up an Export park at Pashamylaram in Medak district of Andhra Pradesh functional by July, 1997;

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

(c) if so, to what extent this will help in promoting the Export from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) With the objectives of involving the State Governments in export promotion and in building up of infrastructural facilities for export oriented production, a proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government to set up an Export Promotion Industrial Park at Pashamylaram, District Medak has been approved for a Central assistance under the Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme. The Park is being set up by the Andhra Pradesh Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.57

crores. Under the EPIP Scheme Central Assistance upto 75% of the capital cost of the project, excluding cost of land but limited to maximum of Rs. 10 crores per park is provided. Andhra Pradesh Government has indicated that they are making all efforts to complete the infrastructural work by the end of December, 1997.

(c) Creation of good infrastructure for Production and selection of units which can ensure a minimum of 33% of production for exports, for location in the Export Promotion Industrial Park, is expected to help promote exports from the State where such parks are located.

[Translation]

Election Petitions

1679. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of election petitions filed in Supreme Court and various High Courts during Lok Sabha Elections, 1996, Court-wise;

(b) the number of petitions disposed of and the number of petitions still under consideration of the Courts, Court-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken for quick disposal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Government has referred the issue of pendency of election petitions to the Law Commission for a comprehensive study.

Statement

General Election to the House of the People held in April/May, 1996 number of election petition filed, disposed of, pending in the High Courts and appeal in the Supreme Court

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Election Petition in the High Court			Appeals in the Supreme Court		
		Filed	disposed of	Pending	Filed	disposed of	Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	4	—	4	—	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	4	—	4	—	—	—
7.	Haryana	2	—	2	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	1	—	1	—	—	—
11.	Kerala	1	1	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5	—	5	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	9	1	8	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	5	4	1	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	1	—	1	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6	—	6	—	—	—
25.	West Bengal	2	—	2	—	—	—
26.	A & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	3	—	3	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total		50	9	41	—	—	—

*[English]***Reinstatement of Coal Workers**

1680. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers in different collieries allowed to join their duties with compensation inspite of Tribunal Awards for their reinstatement during each of the last three years, subsidiary-wise;

(b) the number of workers in different collieries allowed to join their duties without compensation inspite of the Tribunal Awards for their reinstatement, subsidiary-wise;

(c) the number of workers still not allowed to join their duties inspite of Tribunal Awards for their reinstatement, subsidiary-wise;

(d) the number of cases pending for settlement, subsidiary-wise;

(e) the time by which these are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Number of colliery workers allowed to join their duties with compensation by different subsidiary companies after the Tribunal Awards is as under:

YEAR

Company	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
ECL	NIL	NIL	NIL
WCL	NIL	NIL	NIL
MCL	1	1	NIL
NCL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CMPDIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CCL	1	1	NIL
BCCL	6	12	22
SECL	2	—	—

(b) The number of workers who have been allowed to join their duties without compensation after the awards of the Tribunal for their reinstatement are given below, subsidiary-wise.

Company	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4
ECL	4	—	1
WCL	24	30	12

1	2	3	4
MCL	1	NIL	NIL
NCL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CMP DIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CCL	4	3	NIL
BCCL	82	20	23
SECL	NIL	NIL	NIL

(c) The number of workers not allowed to join their duties inspite of Tribunal Awards for their reinstatement, subsidiary wise, are given below. All these cases have been challenged in High Court.

ECL	—	NIL
WCL	—	NIL
MCL	—	1
NCL	—	NIL
CMPDIL	—	1
CCL	—	1
BCCL	—	222
SECL	—	NIL

(d) The number of cases pending for settlement are given below:

ECL	—	4
WCL	—	NIL
MCL	—	NIL
NCL	—	NIL
CMPDIL	—	NIL
CCL	—	1
BCCL	—	4
SECL	—	16

(e) Time for settlement cannot be specified as this depends on each case and the stand of the union/workmen for settlement.

Replacement of Torn/Spoiled Currency Notes

1681. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed all banks to receive torn/spoiled currency note from the customers for replacement;

(b) If so, the details of arrangements made by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the action taken against the banks which are refusing to receive torn/spoiled currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has advised all the Public Sector banks to accept soiled, cut and mutilated notes not only from their customers but also from the general public.

(b) Under the scheme of delegation of powers under the RBI (Note Refund) Rules, the arrangements for accepting soiled, cut and mutilated notes are as under :

i) all soiled, slightly cut and notes cut into two pieces but where all essential features like name of the issuing authority, guarantee clause, promise clause, signature (of the Governor/Secretary), Ashoka Pillar emblem/Mahatma Gandhi Portrait, watermark and serial number on the note are available are to be accepted by all branches of the public sector banks not only for exchange but also in the payments towards Government dues, deposits, etc.

ii) the other mutilated notes are to be accepted for exchange by all the currency chest branches of the public and private sector banks. The number of such branches are around 4000 all over the country.

(c) when instances of refusal accept soiled, cut all mutilated notes by any bank are brought to the notice of the Government/Reserve Bank, the bank concerned is directed to extend the exchange facility to the members of public.

Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

1682. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Burn Standard Co. Ltd. have received any non-plan assistance from the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether the Government have considered any proposal for immediate provision of non-plan assistance to the company to meet the financial crunch arising out of the delay in sanctioning revival package;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Burn Standard Company Ltd. was provided non-plan support of Rs. 6.30 crore during 1995-1996.

(c) to (e) No non-plan provision for the Company could be made due to budgetary constraints and non-financialisation or revival plan.

Subsidy for Sericulture

1683. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to extend subsidy for taking up drip irrigation for sericulture at par with horticulture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for 50% central subsidy per unit cost or Rs. 12,000/- per acre, whichever was less to provide drip irrigation for mulberry gardens for the benefit of farmers in the Rayalseema area in Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently the State Government had suggested a unit cost to Rs. 70,000/- per hectare with 50% subsidy for drip irrigation to mulberry gardens limited to 2 hectares per farmer and to cover all the sericultural farmers in Andhra Pradesh, irrespective of the size of their land-holdings.

(c) The Central Silk Board (CSB) has submitted a proposal to the Central Government to provide drip irrigation covering 3,600 hectares of mulberry for implementation during the IXth Plan. The proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Tasar Silk

1684. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for Indian Tasar Silk has increased in the foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand the production area to tasar silk and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The value of tasar silk goods exported have declined from Rs. 25.31 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 19.23 crores during 1996-97, registering a decline of 31.9%.

(c) Tasar Silk is produced in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The State Governments have been implementing schemes for the development of tasar sericulture under their Plan programme. The Central Silk Board (CSB) supplements their efforts by implementing a number of schemes for the development of tasar silk industry and extending R&D support, organising training programmes, arranging for the supply of tasar silkworm basic seed, rendering extension services etc. The expenditure under the central sector towards the development of the tasar silk industry during the last 3 years is as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Expenditure
1994-95	6.15
1995-96	6.88
1996-97	8.72

[English]

Per Capita Loan to Maharashtra

1685. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) amount of per capita bank loan in the country, State-wise, particularly for Maharashtra and during the last three years;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to increase the per capita bank loan in the country particularly for Maharashtra, especially in tribal areas; and

(c) the outcome of the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) State-wise amount of per capita bank credit outstanding of scheduled commercial banks as on March 1995, 1996 and 1997 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) Bank of Maharashtra, the Convenor Bank of the State of Maharashtra has reported that to improve the socio-economic status of tribals, the State Government have established an Integrated Tribal Development Project as Nasik with its offices in various tribal populated districts. For increasing the per capita bank loan, State Government have established Tribal Research and Training Institute wherein training on entrepreneurship development is given. This aids the process of credit disbursement to tribals. The bank has further reported that performance of all banks in credit disbursement under annual credit plan 1996-97 in the tribal concentrated districts ranges from 72% to 131%.

Statement

State-wise Per Capita Outstanding Credit of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the Last Friday of March 1995, 1996 and 1997

S.No.	Name of State	As on the last Friday of		
		March 1995	March 1996	March 1997
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	660	769	868
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2107	2419	2749

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	379	361	393
4.	Assam	607	693	711
5.	Bihar	558	615	683
6.	Chandigarh	47351	67581	11731
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	585	751	881
8.	Daman & Diu	1772	3213	3583
9.	Delhi	26567	27018	26605
10.	Goa	5708	6052	6638
11.	Gujarat	2151	2910	3127
12.	Haryana	1830	2213	2337
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1257	1353	1395
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1756	1730	1991
15.	Karnataka	2773	3281	3763
16.	Kerala	2478	2901	3110
17.	Lakshadweep	314	382	423
18.	Madhya Pradesh	897	1201	1255
19.	Maharashtra	6559	7797	7965
20.	Manipur	485	566	668
21.	Meghalaya	525	496	579
22.	Mizoram	354	409	465
23.	Nagaland	762	711	778
24.	Orissa	823	955	1006
25.	Pondicherry	2953	3168	3238
26.	Punjab	3380	3758	3969
27.	Rajasthan	989	1126	1225
28.	Sikkim	778	818	841
29.	Tamilnadu	3934	4946	5424
30.	Tripura	735	743	766
31.	Uttar Pradesh	821	905	956
32.	West Bengal	2081	2325	2407
	All India	2420	2820	2971

Kerala High Court Bench

1686. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Calicut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received to set up such a Bench in Northern (Malabar) region of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE : (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A representation has been received from the Malabar Chamber of Commerce for the setting up of a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Calicut. Action on such representations is taken by the Central Government only after a proposal is received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala.

Special Duty Allowance

1687. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for payment of special Duty Allowance to the officers and employees working in the North-Eastern Region introduced in the year 1983 was withdrawn in respect of employees only;

(b) if so, the reason for such discriminatory decision and the time from which such withdrawal was effected;

(c) whether an uniform policy for payment of SDA not being followed by all Central Government Offices and Undertakings in the North-Eastern Region;

(d) if so, the present status of SDA payment in all such offices and the action taken to restore uniformity in the interest of providing natural justice and equality in governance;

(e) whether the PSUs under oil sector in the NER are enjoying the North-Eastern Allowance and Remote Locality Allowance since 1991; and

(f) if so, the details of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The scheme for payment of special Duty Allowance (SDA) to the Central Government employees posted in the North-Eastern Region which was introduced in 1983 has not been withdrawn. Under this scheme, SDA is payable to those who have "All India Transfer Liability" and have been posted to the N-E region from outside. The term "All India Transfer Liability" of the employee(s) has to be determined by applying the tests of recruitment zone, promotion zone, etc., i.e. whether recruitment to service/cadre/posts has been made on All India

basis and whether promotion is also done on the basis of an All India common seniority list for the service/cadre/posts as a whole.

(c) and (d) The above policy of SDA is required to be followed by all Central Government Offices in the North Eastern Region. The payment of this Allowance has been extended to Central Public Sector Undertaking employees as per the rates applicable to Central Government employees working in the North-Eastern States by the PSUs concerned/Admn. Departments.

(e) and (f) The North Eastern Allowance/Remote Locality Allowance are being paid to all eligible Central Public Sector employees.

Gratuity Limitation

1688. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4629 dated September 6, 1996 regarding Gratuity ceiling in PSUs and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the issue of enhancement of gratuity ceiling for employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided to enhance the maximum amount to gratuity from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

ICICI's Non-Banking Financial Company

1689. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICICI is going to launch its own non-banking financial company;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main features of the proposed company;

(c) whether this company is likely to function on the lines of other non-banking instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the areas where this company is likely to give financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) ICICI has reported that ICICI Credit Corporation Ltd. (I-Credit) has been incorporated on March 27, 1997 and has obtained the certificate for commencement of business on April 25, 1997.

(b) to (e) I-CREDIT has been formed by ICICI to establish ICICI Group's presence in consumer financing,

factoring and hire-purchase and to further ICICI Group's presence in leasing.

Deferment of Investment Proposals

1690. SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPS) held since March, 1, 1997;

(b) whether the Ministry concerned sought deferment of any investment proposals falling under the administrative purview of the Ministry at any meeting of the FIPB; and

(c) if so, the financial impact of each such deferral on : (I) the foreign investor and the investment proposal concerned, (II) on the Governments objective of attracting 10 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the period from 1.3.1997 to 26.7.1997 twenty meetings of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board have been held.

(b) Consideration of foreign investment proposals are sometime deferred at the request of the Administrative Ministries and sometimes due to the reasons peculiar to the proposal like lack of information from the applicant companies etc.

(c) The meetings of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) are held every week and investment proposals are considered in a time schedule to minimise delays.

Technical Development in Industrial Sector

1691. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have felt the necessity of research and technical development in the industrial sector to make more competitive in the International Market;

(b) If so, the amount released by the Government to encourage technical development and research during the Eighth Plan period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have issued certain directives in regard to technical development in industrial sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The amount released year-wise under the Programme Aimed at Technological Self-Reliance (PATSER) Scheme implemented through Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, during the Eighth Five Year Plan is as under :-

Year	(Rs. in cores)
1992-93	1.69
1993-94	2.17
1994-95	6.01
1995-96	3.59
1996-97	6.47
Total	19.93

(c) to (e) Several initiatives have been taken to provide incentives and support measures such as Income Tax Relief on R & D expenditure, Weighted Tax Deduction for Sponsored Research, Customs Duty Exemption to Research Institutions, Non-Commercial Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations, Five Year Tax Holiday to Commercial R & D Companies, Excise Duty Waiver, Accelerated Depreciation Allowance, Technology Development Fund, Direct Funding of R & D Projects in Industry by Government Departments, National Awards for R & D for Outstanding Achievements, and Commercialisation of Public Funded R & D.

Demonstration-cum-Training Centre

1692. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has established a Demonstration-cum-Training Centre at Sualkuchi in Assam to demonstrate the improved silk reeling;

(b) if so, the number of persons trained so far at the said Training Centre; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make people aware that such a Training Centre is functioning at Sualkuchi?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) Yes, Sir. A Demonstration-cum-Training Centre (DCTC) to train silk reelers and reelers-cum-weavers in improved techniques of silk reeling and spinning along with a post-cocoon Technical Service Centre has been established at Sualkuchi.

(b) A total of 351 persons have been trained so far in the improved technologies of silk reeling and spinning at this training centre.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Central Silk Board to ensure that the people are aware of such a training centre at Sualkuchi :-

(i) One large-scale demonstration covering the

improved muga silk reeling technology improved technology of weaving, degumming and dyeing and five demonstrations on improved version of tasar and maga reeling machines and improved degumming/dyeing technology and the recipe used for degumming and dyeing were organised in Sualkuchi in March 1997.

(ii) Survey on silk reeling and weaving units by visiting each unit.

(iii) Testing and quality assessment of cocoons and raw silk tendered by reelers and weavers.

All these activities have given wide publicity about the functioning of both the DCTC and post cocoon Technical Service Centre.

Advertisement for VDIS

1693. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a high-profile advertisement campaign about the tax amnesty scheme as part of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) announced in the 1997-98 budget;

(b) if so, whether the publicity campaign for VDIS likely to be assigned to private advertisement agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the expenditure proposed to be involved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The government has launched a multimedia publicity campaign for creating greater public awareness on the features and opportunities offered by the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997.

(b) and (c) The publicity of this Scheme has been entrusted to two leading private agencies after evaluating their technical merit and competence. The multimedia publicity would cover advertisements/publicity through newspapers, TV, magazines, posters, direct mailing, tele marketing etc. The total cost of the multimedia publicity would be approximately Rs. 30 Crores.

[Translation]

Development of Tea Gardens

1694. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for the extension of tea gardening in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last two years;

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

(c) if not whether the Government propose to carry out such surveys in these States;

(d) if so, the time by which these surveys are likely to be conducted; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Surveys for extension of tea plantation were carried out in UP in the year 1990 and in Bihar in the year 1996.

In UP, 25 Distts. spread over Garhwal Kumaon and Terai regions were surveyed. Of these 14 districts were found suitable for planting tea. Estimates indicate that approx. 50,000 hect. can be brought under tea plantation in these areas. Two project proposals prepared by Hill Development Deptt., Govt. of UP have been submitted to Tea Board in March, 1997. These are under discussion between the Board and the State Government.

In Bihar, survey was carried out in Kishanganj Distt. and it was found that planting of tea can be done if proper irrigation facilities are made available.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Accident Insurance Scheme for NRIS

1695. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt Accident Insurance Scheme for all Non-Residential Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the General Insurance Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Money Involved in CRB Scam

1696. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY :

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of losses suffered by investors including banks/companies alongwith the number of investors in the CRB scam;

(b) whether the Government have been able to recover the amount from liquidation of the CRB Companies;

(c) if so, the arrangements made by the Govt. in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per the information available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) various financial institutions has an estimated exposure of Rs. 152 crores (provisional). Furthermore, as per RBI, the Company had issued over 1,30,000 fixed deposit receipts amounting to Rs.186 crores (provisional).

(b) to (e) RBI has filed a winding up petition in respect of CRB Capital Market Limited in the Delhi High Court under Section 45 MC of the RBI Act on 21.5.1997. A provisional Liquidator has been appointed by the Delhi High Court. The Liquidator has initiated action to crystallise the assets and liabilities of the company. The issue of settlement of claims of creditors would be subject to the directions of Delhi High Court and relevant provisions of law.

[Translation]

Special Courts for FERA Cases

1697. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up special courts for expeditious disposal of the FERA cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) No proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up Special Courts for FERA cases.

Seizures of Goods

1698. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of goods like gold, silver, narcotics, electronic items, clothes, foreign exchange etc. seized at national/international airports and other parts of the country during each of the last three years and current year State-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in the smuggling of the said items; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to check such activities?

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

Seizure of Brown Sugar

1699. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 7 kgs brown sugar worth seven crores of rupees has been seized on Indore-Bhopal route;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any probe in this matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 7.070 kgs. of brown sugar (heroin) was reported to have been seized by P. Station Khajuri Sadak, Distt. Bhopal on 20.2.97. However no precise valuation of narcotic drug which are often of indeterminate strength and composition and are liable for destruction can be made.

(b) Yes, Sir. The follow up investigations were initiated by MP Police immediately.

(c) The three accused were arrested. Investigations are in progress. Crime No. 2497, U/s 8/18/21 of NDPS Act, 1985 has been registered against them.

(d) Government of India is fully aware of the problem of narcotics trafficking and have taken several steps in this regard which include re-activation of enforcement

agencies throughout the country, training of the officers, holding of regular Coordination Meeting, development of bilateral agreement with several countries and holding of talks with Pakistan and Myanmar.

[English]

Funding of Infrastructure Projects

1700. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to overcome the bottleneck in funding the infrastructure projects a meeting was held in Delhi between Secretaries of power, Telecom, Surface Transport and chiefs of IDBI, IFCI and Chairman of various nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main decisions arrived at the meeting;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up an inter-institutional Group under the aegis of IDBI in this respect;

(d) if so, the composition and the main terms and conditions of the Group;

(e) whether this Group is also likely to suggest ways and means for infrastructure in the state sector also;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which this board is likely to be helpful in funding the infrastructure projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (g) In a meeting held on July 15, 1997 at New Delhi on infrastructure financing wherein representatives of various Ministries, major financial institutions and selected public sector banks participated, it was decided to nominate Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) as the nodal agency for coordinating among institutions by forming an Inter Institutional Group (IIG) which will study the issues connected with financing of infrastructure projects. The IIG has constituted four sub groups to study financing issues relating to four sectors viz. power, telecom, ports and roads. These sub groups would also interact with concerned Ministries/Departments. The IIG will study various issues such as financial constraints, funding pattern, risk mitigation, bankability of projects etc. It is not proposed to have State by State Plans but infrastructure sector would be looked at for the country as a whole.

[Translation]

Appellate Tribunals for Customs/Excise

1701. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an appellate tribunal to solve the cases related to customs duty and central excise duty;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which this tribunal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT) is already an existing Tribunal constituted under the Finance Act, 1980 for hearing appeals against the orders of Commissioner (Appeals) in Customs/Excise matters. Proposals for constitution of a National Tribunal for Customs and Excise, in the light of the recommendations of the Law Commission in its 115th Report, can be considered only after an indepth study of the existing Tribunals is made by the Law Commission, in the light of the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Shri L. Chandra Kumar Vs Union of India (CA 481/89).

[English]

Judicial Action Against Companies

1702. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the departmental and judicial action is being taken against some companies for the evasion of excise and customs duties involving an amount of more than one million thousand of rupees;
- (b) if so, the details of such companies, State-wise and particularly in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the companies against whom such cases are pending for more than three years in Central Excise Gold Control Appellate Tribunal, High Courts and Supreme Court, as on date; and
- (d) the effective steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for immediate recovery of amount?

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

Forged Drafts of Foreigners

1703. LT. GENL. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 23, 1997 captioned "Lakhs withdrawn through forged drafts";

- (b) the facts of the matter reported thereon;
- (c) the *modus operandi* of the withdrawal through forged drafts;
- (d) the reasons for which the banks concerned in India could not detect the criminal conspiracy by some foreginers at the time of encashment of these forged drafts; and
- (e) the effective measures being taken by the Reserve Bank of India to prevent such heavy amounts being withdrawn through forged drafts by unscrupulous persons and plugging the lacunae in the existing procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Diversion of Funds

1704. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the alleged diversion of Central Government funds for development schemes in West Bengal to unauthorised Personal Ledger Accounts (PLAs) for the last five/six years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have enquired into the matter;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the measures/action taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received in regard to financial irregularities in the State of West Bengal including that of alleged diversion of Central Government funds for development schemes in West Bengal to unauthorised Personal Ledger Accounts (PLA's).

Audit Report of Union Government for the period ending 31st March, 1996 on performance Reviews on selected centrally sponsored schemes which was presented in Parliament on 8th may, 1997 incorporates some points relating to procedural irregularities including diversion of Central funds and its deposit in non interest bearing Personal Ledger Account, misutilisation and non utilisation of funds, ineffective monitoring and evaluation etc. in respect of a number of States including West Bengal.

(c) to (e) The funds for centrally sponsored schemes are released by different central Ministries who administer these schemes. As per the procedure, the concerned Ministries are required to respond to the points highlighted in the Audit Report. Reply of these Ministries on the irregularities pointed out in the report, duly vetted by "Audit" will be placed before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

Gold

1705. SHRI N.S. V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total indigenous production of gold along with its value in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the total consumption of gold in the country during the said period;

(c) the total import and export of gold and gold Jewellery during the said period; and

(d) the total quantity of gold confiscated during the said period alongwith its value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total indigenous production of gold in India during the last three years is indicated below.

(Year)	Gold Production (in Kgs)
1994-95	2369
1995-96	2036
1996-97	2904

(b) The gold imported into the country and the indigenous production of gold in India may be considered as a rough estimate of total consumption of gold in the country. The details are furnished in reply to part (a) & (c) of the question.

(c) The total import of gold and gold jewellery into India is as follow :

Year	Legal Import (in Tonnes)
1994	205
1995	278
1996	324

The value of total export of gold jewellery during the last three financial years is as follows:-

Year	Value (in US \$ million)
1994-95	421.20
1995-96	480.40
1996-97	511.80

(d) the details of gold confiscated during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Value of Gold confiscated (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	35.90
1996-97	44.50
1997-98 (up to May 97)	6.01

Foreign Exchange Dealers

1706. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has recently been discovered that some licenced dealers in foreign exchange have withdrawn crores of rupees on forged documents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the modus operandi of committing the fraud;

(c) whether the role of some Reserve Bank of India officials is also suspected in this matter; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Enforcement Directorate has taken up investigations relating to withdrawal of foreign exchange by some money changers/ authorised dealers suspectedly against forged documents. Adjudication proceedings have been initiated in five cases.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cess on Export of Spices

1707. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed any cess on export of spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been representations from exporters to remove this cess; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Presently, cess on export of specified spices is collected under the povisions of the following Acts:-

	Rate of Cess
(i) The Agriculture Produce Cess Act, 1940	0.5 Ad Valorem
(ii) The Spices Cess Act, 1986	
a) Spices in raw form	2% AD Valorem
b) Spices in the form of curry powder, spice oils & oleoresins other mixtures where spice content is predominant	1% Ad Valorem

loss of public sector banks for the years 1996-97, 1995-96 and 1994-95 are given below:

(Amt. in Rs. crores)

Year	Operating Profit	Net Profit
1996-97*	8909.02	3009.58
1995-96	7568.87	(-)-371.36
1994-95	5628.33	1115.82

(-) indicates loss

- figures for 1996-97 are provisional.

Review of taxation burden on exports, including cess, is an ongoing process and as and when considered necessary, exemptions on specified items are notified with a view to make our agricultural exports more competitive in the international market.

Cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins has been exempted.

Profit earned by SBI/Nationalised Banks

1708. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nationalised Banks including the State Bank of India have earned considerably high profits during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the corresponding figures of the preceding two years;

(c) how far the increase in profits is attributable to decrease in the rate of interest on depositors, money, including small-savings and term deposits; and

(d) the reasons for anti-depositors and anti-savings policies of the banks, aimed at serving the interests of the business and trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the operating profit/net profit/

(c) and (d) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the increase in the profit of public sector banks is not attributable to the decrease in the rate of interest on depositor's money including small savings and term-deposits but is on account of number of factors such as better fund management, reduction in provisions for NPAs, writing back of excess depreciation on investments due to lowering of YTM on approved securities, recovery of NPAs etc.

RBI have further reported that they have not conducted any specific study on the impact of lowering of deposits/ lending rates on the profitability of banks.

Primary Capital Market

1709. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital mobilised from Primary Capital Market by various types of issues and bonds during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for lower capital mobilisation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the capital market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Based on the information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) the total capital mobilised from primary market by various instruments during the last three years is given below :-

	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	No.	Amount (Cr.)	No.	Amount (Cr.)	No.	Amount (Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Equity	1593	17969.90	1661	14684.88	843	7844.42
Par	(942)	(5529.09)	(1181)	(4958.21)	(695)	(3432.63)
Premium	(651)	(12440.81)	(480)	(9726.67)	(148)	(4411.79)
CCPs	07	124.30	08	145.16	05	74.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1						
Pref. Sh.	03	32.90	00	0.00	00	0.00
FCDs	77	5412.84	32	993.68	17	258.55
PCDs	30	2356.25	15	2182.11	03	221.55
NCDs	22	1222.34	14	480.60	07	405.79
Bonds	00	0.00	06	2085.56	10	5400.00
Others	03	513.95	02	231.65	02	70.75
Total	1735	27632.48	1738	20803.64	887	14275.98

Note :

C.C.Ps-Cumulative Convertible Preference Shares

Pref. Sh- Preference Shares

F.C.Ds. - Fully Convertible Debentures

P.C.Ds- Partly Convertible Debentures

N.C.Ds- Non-Convertible Debentures.

(b) Primary market activity in terms of raising of capital by companies is influenced by performance of secondary market, performance of real sector, investment plans of companies etc.

(c) In order to encourage investment in the capital market, the following steps have been taken by Government.

- (1) Dividend in the hands of shareholders is now exempted from income tax;
- (2) To encourage investment, the limit of investment under section 88 of the Income Tax Act is increased from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 70,000 where investment is made in approved debentures or equity shares of public companies engaged in the area of new infrastructure facility or in the power sector. Investments in mutual funds which, in turn, invest in the above debt instruments would also be eligible for the rebate.
- (3) Long term capital gains is exempted from tax if net consideration received or accruing from the transfer of the capital asset is invested in specified assets for three years or alternatively, if the entire capital gains are invested in specific assets for seven years.
- (4) Enactment of the Depository Legislation and setting up of the depository to start scripless trading in the secondary market; and
- (5) Reduction in the minimum application size to Rs. 2000 from Rs. 5000 to encourage small investors to subscribe to new issues.

MMTC Projects in Orissa

1710. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has any proposal to launch three major projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of these projects;

(c) whether the Government propose to start those projects during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the location, the estimate cost and the employment generation potentiality of those projects;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) MMTC is the major promoter in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited which is setting up 1.1 million tonnes per annum steel wire rods, steel billets and pig iron plant at Kalinganagar in Jaipur District of Orissa. The other promoters participating in the project are Govt. of Orissa, MECON and some foreign investors. MMTC also propose to take up an equity for setting up a plant for manufacture of Blast Furnace grade metallurgical coke with an installed capacity of 8.82 lakh tonnes per annum at Kalinganagar, Jaipur District of Orissa in the same complex as NINL. The third major project for which feasibility studies were conducted by MMTC relates to conversion of present fair weather port at Gopalpur to deep draft all weather port. This project is now being pursued by the Government of Orissa and MMTC has no further role in it.

(c) Both NINL and KMCL project are scheduled to start production by 2000-2001.

(b) The details are as under :-

	NINL	KMCI
(i) Location	Kalinganagar	Kalinganagar
(ii) Capital outlay	Rs. 1510 crores	Rs. 480 crores
(iii) Employment generation potentiality	Around 1700	Around 350

Bench of Supreme Court

1711. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government examined the feasibility of setting up a bench of Supreme Court in southern States;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up additional benches in important places in the States;

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

(d) whether any representation for setting up of such a bench has been submitted by the Bar Association, State Governments and other organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the Government there-to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (f) Representations have been received from various Bar Associations, State Governments and other Organisations, from time to time, for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court at various places. According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time appoint. As such, the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard. No action is contemplated by the Central Government till such a proposal is received.

Improt of Processed Food by European Countries

1712. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :

SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union Buyers have been purchasing processed Indian food worth crores of rupees every year through U.K.; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government or the Industry to sell Indian food products directly to European Union Market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Processed food products are being exported to European Union including U.K. Some of the Steps taken to promote exports of processed food products, including to markets in the European Union, are :-

(a) Arranging promotional campaigns in the potential markets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

(b) Organising Buyer-Seller Meets in important Markets.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Coal Sector

1713. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to scrap the list of 56 odd coal blocks earlier identified to be offered to private investors for commercial exploitation;

(b) if so, the reasons for scrapping the list;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any fresh list of coal blocks which could be offered to private and foreign investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Chari Committee on privatisation of coal sector, which allowed 100% equity participation by private investors and upto 50% by foreign investors for commercial mining;

(f) if so, the names of private and foreign investors who have been permitted for investment in coal blocks and the details of the coal blocks that have been offered to the private sector or foreign companies for exploration; and

(g) the time by which the exploration of coal mines is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

(e) to (g) The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy did not recommend privatisation of the entire coal sector and therefore the question of the Government taking such a decision does not arise. However, on consideration of the report of the Committee, the Government have taken the following decisions subject to legislative approvals:-

(i) To permit any Indian company to mine coal;

(ii) Setting up of an Independent Body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite resources

in the country by Indian companies in the private and public sector including the Government organisations; and

(iii) Entrusting the same Independent Body with the responsibility of allocation of new coal and lignite blocks on the basis of a competitive bidding process in which Indian companies in the private and public sector including the nationalised coal companies may participate.

The legislative proposals have not yet been introduced in the Parliament and therefore the process of inviting the competitive bids from the Indian Companies in the private and public sector and allowing foreign investment in the Indian companies for commercial mining of coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption, have not yet started. The Government have not taken any decision to allow any foreign company to participate in exploration and mining of coal and lignite in the country.

[English]

Protection to Patents

1714. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI:

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a World Trade Organisation Committee on Disputes Settlement Panel has recently concluded in which the committee observed that the protection provided to patents by India was inadequate;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Under the dispute settlement provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a panel is currently considering a complaint by the United States of America to the effect that India has not fulfilled its obligations under Article 70.8 and Article 70.9 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights which envisage that a WTO Member who does not provide patents protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products, as on the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement on 1 January, 1995, shall provide a means by which applications for product patents in those fields of technology can be filed and provide exclusive marketing rights subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The matter is before the Panel and the final Report of the Panel is awaited.

(c) Does not arise.

Section 139 of Income Tax Act

1715. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

SHRI L. RAMANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been prepared for filing return of income under section 139 (1) of the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is wide spread apprehension particularly among the retired salaried class that it may become an instrument of harassment at the hands of income tax officers; and

(d) whether the Government propose to issue instructions for not harassing the people filing returns under Section 139 (1) and make adequate propaganda of the places where Income Tax returns are to be submitted, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A new simplified Return Form (Form No. 2C) has been devised and issued for those who are required to file return of income under the proviso to section 139 (1) of the Income Tax Act. The instructions for filling up the aforementioned Form, which have been attached to the return, inter alia, specify who have to file such a return to which cities the new proviso to section 139(1) is applicable, the last date by which the return should be filed and rates of tax. The guidelines also explain the various steps for filling up the return. These instructions have also been published alongwith the return in all major newspapers in the country.

(c) It is not correct that any apprehension exists among the retired salaried class that it may become an instrument of harassment at the hands of income tax officers.

(d) There will be no harassment to persons who file returns under the proviso to section 139(1). Publicity regarding the places where the returns of income-tax are to be filed is being carried out in each city. Special counters have been opened to receive the returns under this provision and to process the return quickly.

[Translation]

Free Trade Zones

1716. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Free Trade Zones in view of increase in export from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these zones are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE : (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The term "Free Trade Zones" (FTZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in the Indian context are synonymous. There is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up any new FTZ/EPZ in any State including Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. However, EPZs can now be established by State Governments or in the joint/private sectors.

Investment by NRIs

1717. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to investment made by Non-resident Indians, balanced development is not taking place; and

(b) if so, the efforts made to boost the investment of NRIs in backward areas of the country, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the policy of the Government NRIs are permitted to invest anywhere in India and, therefore, the location of the project depends upon the choice of the investor.

(b) For the development of backward areas,

Government is operating the Growth Centre Scheme; Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, apart from the incentives being offered by the State Government under their own policy.

[English]

Import of Pulses

1718. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value and quantity of pulses of different categories imported during each of the last three years;

(b) the value and quantity of pulses exported during the above period; and

(c) the details of the general policy of the Government on the import and export of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Data on value and quantity of different categories of pulses imported/ exported during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-Nov 96) is given in the Statement attached.

(c) Under the current Export and Import Policy 1997-2002, pulses are freely importable. However, Export of pulses/ processed pulses can only be made against export licences issued in this behalf against ceiling released each year. In addition processed pulses can also be exported by EOU/EPZ Units or by Advance Licence holders under duty exemption scheme after processing the pulses imported by them.

	IMPORTS						EXPORTS					
	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Peas (Pisum sativum)	144964	12,267	173038	18,540	70441	8,627	446	79	1188	153	155	29
Chickpeas (garbanzos)	58127	8,501	13762	4,139	70307	8,501	171	20	445	82	—	—
Beans of the species Vigna mungo (L)	43932	5,296	62409	9,169	7860	1,189	21	4	1	Neg.	25	3
Small red (Adzuki) beans (Phaseolus or Vigna angularis)	—	—	509	70	219	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney beans incl. white peas beans	38592	4,233	13443	2,033	15094	2,236	7	1	—	—	—	—
Lentils (mosur)	60817	6,458	26736	4,390	51441	9,243	16633	2,673	22718	4,736	9239	2,294

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grams (excl. split)	5890	876	3075	388	3220	347	1152	222	3366	637	241	49
Gram dal (grams, split)	990	118	179	21	215	31	9325	1,776	7962	1,648	3709	770
Moong	52377	6,053	25011	3,501	20672	3,156	8697	1,540	9673	2,010	6440	1,593
Tur(Arhar)	80189	6,553	82461	13,223	89541	14,007	5372	1,005	4242	1,099	2511	726
Urd	13768	1,665	69953	11,292	20255	3,416	6003	1,182	7444	1,947	5469	1,413
Others	54426	5,254	15068	1,790	34240	4,742	2880	538	4320	869	1353	298

Source : D.G. C.I. & S. Calcutta

Indo-Bangladesh Border Trade

1719. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Committee attached with the Ministry of Commerce have since examined the potentialities of India-Bangladesh border trade;

(b) if so, the essential features of the report;

(c) the recommendations thereof; and

(d) the actions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) The Seventeenth Report of the Parliament Standing Committee on Commerce (1995-96) on "Emerging Trade Prospects with Bangladesh" of December'95 examined various aspects of India-Bangladesh trade including border trade which is covered by para 43-45 of the Report. The observations of the Standing Committee related to the provisions for Border Trade in Article IV of the Indo-Bangladesh Trade Agreement of 28.3.1972 which could not be implemented due to hesitation on the side of the Bangladesh Government on various grounds. The Standing Committee however did not make any recommendations on Border Trade with Bangladesh. The Report was presented to Rajya Sabha on 15.12.1995 and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 22.12.1995.

A Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce is looking into the various aspects of the development of potential for commerce in the North-Eastern region by encouraging trade with neighbouring and South-East Asian countries including the possibilities of border trade with Bangladesh. The Sub-Committee is yet to present its Report.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of ST/SC

1720. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :

DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant under his Ministry/ departments as on date;

(b) whether some candidates from other categories have been working on the reserved posts;

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

(d) the action being taken to clear the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) In the Ministry of Coal and its subordinate offices, as on date, 3 posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and 4 posts reserved for Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(d) These vacancies have been intimated to the concerned recruiting agencies for making selection.

[English]

Under Invoicing of Import

1721. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is investigating a number of export houses, suspected of large scale under invoicing of imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the companies under investigation of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, it will not be in public interest to disclose the names of the companies, since this may adversely affect the on-going investigation.

(c) Twenty four companies are presently under investigation. However, it will also not be in public interest to

disclose the names of the companies, since this may adversely affect the on-going investigation.

Outstanding Amount Against Big Industrial Houses

1722. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major industrial houses of the country against which Government's amount is outstanding at present, with details of amount;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to recover this amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Government is not maintaining any list of industrial houses as the industrial houses are not required to get themselves registered, consequent upon the omission of Section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act, 1969) by the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1991 with effect from 27.9.1991. Therefore the "Industrial houses-wise" information regarding recovery of outstanding dues is also not maintained.

(b) and (c) Field formations have been directed to take necessary administrative and legal measures envisaged under the statutes to recover the outstanding amount. Concerned courts are also requested for early hearings and vacation of stay orders.

Sugar Export

1723. SHRI NARAYANATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Financial Express dated July 9, 1997 captioned "Government move to decanalise sugar exports fail";

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for mid-course policy correction, if any; and

(d) the details of pragmatic plan of action proposed for promotion of export of sugar to improve financial performance of sugar units in the country for clearance of mounting sugarcane arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority issued a Trade Note on 25.04.1997 inviting applications for issue of Registration-Cum-Allocation Certificate (RCAC) for export of 1,55,658 Mts. of sugar. Till 29.07.1997, RCAC's for export of 1,29,155.50 Mts. of sugar have been issued. The exports of sugar depend upon a host

of factors such as international prices, expectations of buyers and sellers regarding future international prices, international demand and supply position, consumer preference and other terms and conditions of trade. The total quantity of sugar earmarked for exports is expected to be exported. With export earnings, the liquidity position of the sugar mills is likely to improve which would enable them to meet their financial obligations including clearance of sugarcane arrears.

Waiver of Obligations from World Trade Organisations

1724. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has turned down the suggestion of the industrialised nations to seek a waiver of obligations annually from the World Trade Organisation General Council;

(b) if so, whether the Indian stand was not acceptable to delegations from the US and the European Community;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the countries which supported India's stand; and

(e) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) At the resumed consultations, on the plan presented by India for the phased elimination of quantitative restrictions on imports maintained under the provisions of Article XVIII:B of the GATT 1994, in the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with India held on 30 June- 1 July 1997, there was disagreement, inter alia, on the issue of disinvocation of Article XVIII:B by India. Some developed countries, in particular the European Communities and the United States of America, wanted India to announce that as the foreign exchange position had improved, India no longer has any justification for retaining the balance for of payments cover. This was not agreed to by India as there would then be no legal cover for residual quantitative restrictions and India would be vulnerable to disputes in the residual period of the plan. The developed countries had proposed that India may seek, from the General Council, a waiver of obligations every year under the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation. India's view was that there was a clear Provision in the Understanding of Balance of Payments provisions of GATT 1994 that in those cases in which a time schedule has been presented for the removal of restrictive measures taken for balance of payments purposes, the General Council may recommend that, in adhering to such a time-scheduled, a Member shall be deemed to be in compliance with its GATT 1994 obligation. This provision, in India's view provides comparable legal certainty to both India and its trading partners. Brazil, Peru and Pakistan supported the Indian stand on disinvocation. The consultations with India concluded without consensus.

Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States, in separate requests have sought formal consultations with India under Article XXII of GATT 1994 and WTO understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) alleging that continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports for balance of payments purposes by India when there have been improvements in India's balance of payments is inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO. India has accepted the requests for consultations.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industries by India in Nepal

1725. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some issues were discussed between the Government of Nepal and the Government of India during the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Nepal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Nepal have made any offer for Indian entrepreneurs to invest and set up industries in Nepal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) During the visit of Indian Prime Minister of Nepal from June 5-7, 1997 the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal held discussions on a number of subjects covering bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest which included the 1950 Treaty, Border regulation and security, cooperation in Water Resources Project, trade, Transit, investments and civil aviation.

(c) and (d) During Commerce Secretary level discussions in July, 1996, Government of Nepal requested for removal of restrictions on Indian Investment in Nepal in Indian currency. Accordingly, the Government of India has established a "Special Nepal Window" to facilitate approvals for Indian investments in Nepal. The general limit of US \$ 4 million for "fast track clearance", by Reserve Bank of India for investments abroad in freely convertible currency, has been raised to Rs. 25 crores for Indian investments in Nepal in Indian currency, which has been appreciated by the Government of Nepal and recognized as an important step for contributing towards expansion of industrial production base in Nepal.

National Income

1726. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of contribution of agriculture sector in the National Income during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the percentage of loan provided to the agriculture sector out of the National Income during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per the revised estimates of Gross Domestic Products 1996-97 released by Central Statistical Organisation the shares of "agriculture and allied activities" in GDP at factor cost (at 1980-81 prices) were 26.9 per cent and 26.6 per cent respectively in 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(b) The total institutional loans (of cooperatives, commercial banks, and regional rural banks) disbursed for agriculture and allied activities were Rs. 22,032 crores (8.3 per cent) and Rs. 28,653 crores (9.8 per cent) respectively during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Names of Sick Industries

1727. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such sick industries in which a huge loan amount of the nationalised banks is outstanding State-wise; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to enable the banks to recover the said loan amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of non-small scale industries (SSI) sick units (enjoying an aggregate bank credit of Rs. 10 crores and above as on 31.3.1996) and Bank credit outstanding against these units State-wise is given in the Statement attached. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks, information relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(b) RBI has reported that under existing guidelines, banks provide need based working capital to sick industrial units. Detailed guidelines have also been issued by RBI regarding formulation/implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/weak industrial units found potentially viable for their revival. Rehabilitation package, inter alia, provides for funding of existing dues of banks and financial institutions with extended period of repayment thereof in a phased manner, interest concessions, grant of fresh term loan as also fresh working capital facilities. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) takes necessary action in respect of non-SSI sick units for determination of preventive ameliorative, remedial and other measures and for enforcement of such measures under the provisions of SICA. The banks have also been advised by RBI to implement the rehabilitation packages approved by BIFR in relation to sick industrial units. The performance of the banks in the matter of rehabilitation of sick units is monitored by RBI.

Statement

State-wise number of Non-SBI Sick Industrial Units and Bank Credit outstanding as on 31.03.1996

Rs. Crore

Name of States/ Union Territories	Number of Non-SBI Sick Industrial Units	Amount Outstanding
1. Andhra Pradesh	234	1037.42
2. Assam	37	116.57
3. Arunachal Pradesh	1	1.77
4. Bihar	56	103.19
5. NCT of Delhi	26	125.97
6. Goa	4	11.42
7. Gujarat	117	670.07
8. Haryana	63	305.56
9. Himachal Pradesh	20	38.72
10. Jammu & Kashmir	7	27.89
11. Karnataka	114	493.34
12. Kerala	69	412.38
13. Madhya Pradesh	99	323.86
14. Maharashtra	337	1688.84
15. Meghalaya	2	1.31
16. Manipur	1	2.37
17. Nagaland	1	1.30
18. Orissa	53	194.72
19. Punjab	37	137.35
20. Rajasthan	61	229.58
21. Sikkim	1	6.35
22. Tamil Nadu	129	762.63
23. Tripura	6	9.13
24. Uttar Pradesh	173	993.58
25. West Bengal	225	1080.37
Total	1873	8775.69

Union Territory

1. Chandigarh	12	32.85
2. Daman & Diu	1	1.98
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	4.22
4. Pondichery	8	8.54
Total	23	47.59
Grand Total	1896	8823.28

*[English]***Review of Criminal Procedure Code**

1728. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has called for a radical review of criminal procedure code to make them time specific for effective expeditious disposal of cases;

(b) if so, whether this subject was also discussed during the Law Ministers Conference held in June, 1997, in New Delhi;

(c) if so, the decisions taken on the issue at the Conference;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the criminal procedure code;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action initiated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) During the Conference of State Law Ministers, held at New Delhi on 30th June and 1st July 1997, State Government representatives, including those of Andhra Pradesh, pleaded for procedural reforms in the criminal law in the context of the discussion on the 154 Report of the Law Commission on Cr. PC.

(c) to (f) There was a board consensus in the meeting on the need for speedy reforms and an informal group of six State Law Ministers has been set up to go into specific amendments required to be made in the Cr.PC.

Investment in Hindustan Photo Films

1729. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the Government on Polyester X-ray Project of Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. so far;

(b) the date of commissioning of the Project;

(c) the time and cost over runs and reasons for the same;

(d) the working capacity made available and action taken by the Government to optimise the capacity utilization in the plant; and

(e) the maximum capacity utilisation achieved so far and the capacity utilisation planned for next year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Government has so far invested Rs. 227.76 crores towards the polyester X-ray Film project.

(b) The plant has been commissioned on 31.3.1997.

(c) The time and cost over runs were 5½ years and Rs. 510.84 crores respectively. The factors responsible for the time and cost overrun are as follows:-

- (i) Faulty initial feasibility report and non preparation of project report.
- (ii) Delays in :-
 - (a) Award of civil contract.
 - (b) Construction and other works by the contractors
- (iii) Availability of power from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board
- (iv) Funds crunch
- (v) Cost escalation
- (vi) Exchange rate/Duty Variation.

(d) Government released Rs. 26.16 crore in 1996-97 to Hindustan Photo Films towards working capital for the existing plant and the polyester X-ray project.

(e) The capacity utilisation in the Polyester X-ray plant during the first quarter of 1997-98 is 3.4%. The capacity utilisation planned for 1997-98 and 1998-99 is 22%.

Market Development Assistance

1730. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appeals for Marketing Development Assistance to the Handloom Societies have been preferred to the Handloom Development Commissioner by the Handloom Societies in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu during the last three years alongwith list of societies;

(b) the number of appeals allowed by Appellate Authority;

(c) the amount involved in these appeals, with the list of societies State-wise, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons for delay in disbursing the funds under Marketing Development Assistance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The number of appeals preferred to the Handloom Development Commissioner by the Societies of the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu is "NIL".

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pace of Reforms

1731. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has warned the Government about slow pace of reforms; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the pace of economic development of the country and to what extent the steps taken have improved the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As part of the Article IV consultation exercise, the IMF Board recognised the potential of India. They felt that the recent slow down in industrial production and exports was, to a considerable extent, a consequence of the partial nature of the reforms which had contributed to infrastructure bottlenecks and continuing constraints in the financial sector. They expressed the need for the authorities to be more vigilant and monitor closely the macro-economic developments. The IMF has not warned the Government about slow pace of reforms.

The Government is taking all measures to increase the pace of economic development.

Import of Natural Rubber

1732. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import natural rubber during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-US Economic/Commercial Sub-Commission

1733. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-US economic/commercial sub-commission had meeting in December, 1996;

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

(c) whether the US has agreed to invest more and also increase trade between the two countries;

(d) if so, the extent to which US investment has been more in 1997 in comparison with 1996;

(e) the projects in which the US has made more investment; and

(f) the extent to which the trade between the two countries has improved/likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) The second meeting of the Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission was held on 17th December, 1996 at Washington, USA. The meeting provided an opportunity to both Indian and US sides of the Sub-Commission to discuss and review the existing linkages between the economies of the two countries with a view to identify the areas of Indo-US cooperation. At this meeting, it was agreed to create fora for exchange of experiences in regulation of the provision of infrastructure services and to encourage agency to agency technical cooperation and assistance in power and surface transport sectors. The Sub-Commission also recommended to explore possibility of creation of a mechanism for capital market development which would encourage conferences and meetings for discussing relevant issues.

Approvals of Foreign Direct Investment proposals from USA amounted to Rs. 100558.70 million in the year 1996 as compared to Rs. 45743.64 million in the year 1997 (January-April). India's trade with USA has been increasing every year at an impressive rate, and was US \$ 9.917 billion in 1996-97 as compared to US \$ 9.381 billion in 1995-96. The exports to USA during 1996-97 have shown a growth of over 18.55% in US dollar terms and imports have registered fall by nearly 12.62% in US dollar terms. Growth in exports to USA of 18.55% in US dollar terms is higher than India's overall export growth rate i.e. 6.57% in US \$ terms.

Small Scale Industries

1734. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of small scale industries named Laghu-Udyog Bharati, Delhi has submitted any memorandum to the Government last month regarding problems being faced by the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government there-on?

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

(b) The memorandum submitted by Laghu Udyog Bharati, dated 23rd June, 1997 refers to news item published in the Pioneer on 14th June, 1997 regarding "hinting at dereservation of 80 SSI items" and requests the Government to invite them for such a meeting if any, to express their views.

(c) An appropriate reply has already been sent to Laghu Udyog Bharati, Delhi.

DA/Wages of Kanpur Mill

1735. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual supervisory expenditure of Mills under N.T.C. B.I.C., TAPCO and Vegetable Oil Corporation in Kanpur at present

(b) whether the pay scales and other allowances of textile mill employees in Kanpur have not been revised since 1985 where the pay-scales of supervisors and officers of these mills are being amended as per rules;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revise the pay and allowances of the employees of these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The annual supervisory expenditure of mills under NTC, BIC, TAFCO, and HVOC located in Kanpur is as follows:-

	Rs. in crore
1. NTC	1.19
2. BIC	4.51
3. TAFCO	2.19
4. HVOC	0.35

(b) to (d) The monthly paid clerical and other staff of the textile mills of NTC in Kanpur have claimed parity of their pay scales with the staff of the head office. They have filed writ petitions in the courts and their case is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

As far as the mills of BIC and its subsidiaries in Kanpur are concerned, on submission by the petitioners of these mills that they had no surviving grievance, their writ petitions were dismissed as withdrawn by the Supreme Court.

The pay scale of supervisors and officers of the mills located at Kanpur are revised from time to time as per the orders of the Department of Public Enterprises.

Income Tax Law

1736. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to rectify the infrastructural weaknesses of Income Tax and Excise departments to motivate recovery of taxes;

(b) if so, the details of the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether the Government thinks lacunae in the existing Income Tax and other taxes laws; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bottlenecks in the existing laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, in the case to decided of Central Excise & Customs field formations, it has been decided to enhance the budget provisions under office expenses to provide them better facilities. The improved facilities are likely to augment the recovery of taxes.

(c) and (d) Tax Laws are regularly updated taking into account the need to the hour, development in trade and industry and judicial pronouncements.

Garment Export Policy

1737. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether their is any proposal under Government's consideration for overhauling the garment export policy in its operational aspects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to be overhauled; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for development and technological upgradation of textile industry to make it internationally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration for overhauling the garments export policy in its operational aspects.

(b) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation of the textile industry through technological upgradation. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund for textiles and jute industries are being worked out.

Dumping of Newsprint by Foreign Countries

1738. SHRI SUBRAHAMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision in regard to the complaints received from the India Newsprint Manufactures, Association;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also initiated investigation in December last year into the charges for dumping newsprint by certain countries like Russia, Canada and the US;

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(d) whether the investigation is being instituted by his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final action is likely to be taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE : (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the rules made thereunder initiated investigation on 20.12.96 for alleged dumping of newsprint by USA, Canada and Russia. The Designated Authority has notified the preliminary findings in the Officials Gazette on 11.6.97 recommending imposition of provisional anti-dumping duties on newsprint from the said three countries.

Under the anti-dumping investigations are required to be completed within one year from the date of initiation, which can be further extended by six months. The final decision in the case of newsprint will be taken within the prescribed statutory time limits.

[Translation]

IDBI Loan to Private Jet Planes Company

1739. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge loan amounting to crores of rupees payable to the Industrial Development Bank of India is outstanding against a private company engaged in operation of jet planes;

(b) if so, the name of the private company and the amount of loan outstanding against it alongwith the date since when it has been outstanding;

(c) the basis on which the loan was advanced to this company;

(d) whether the interest is also proposed to be charged on this loan;

(e) if so, the total amount of interest as on date; and

(f) the time by which and the manner in which the Government propose to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a), (b), (d) and (e) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it had sanctioned and disbursed assistance of Rs. 3.45 crores to one private air operator, who had jets in the fleet of aircrafts. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and

financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(c) IDBI has reported that the loan was sanctioned to the private air operator after assessing the economic, commercial and financial viability of the project.

(f) IDBI is initiating recovery proceedings against the company.

[English]

Export of Tea

1740. PROF. JITENDRANATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to which the Government is exporting tea;

(b) the quantity of tea exported during each of the last two years, year-wise country-wise; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned through this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Indian tea is exported to almost all importing countries of the world. Major importers of Indian tea are Russia and CIS countries, U.K., Germany, Poland, U.A.E., Iran, Arab republic of Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia etc.

(b) and (c) A statement of country wise export of tea from India is attached.

(Quantity : Million Kg.)
(Value : Rs. Crore)

Country	1995-96		1996-97	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5
Russian Fed.	66.08	443.08	42.03	297.16
Kazakhstan	3.34	21.73	2.87	18.63
Ukrain	3.19	23.43	0.60	3.69
Azerbaijan	0.03	0.23	0.40	0.21
other CIS	3.11	21.84	8.07	55.34
Total CIS	75.85	510.31	53.61	375.03
U.K.	21.71	133.71	25.19	176.31
Ireland	2.52	16.94	3.19	22.26
Netherland	2.66	25.48	2.33	23.80

1	2	3	4	5
Germany	7.18	99.35	6.67	100.40
Poland	10.57	63.74	8.53	55.20
USA	3.54	31.25	5.05	59.42
Canada	0.42	2.69	0.72	4.44
UAE	16.84	137.35	21.54	152.69
Iran	3.29	26.91	4.29	27.84
S.Arabia	0.99	9.93	3.19	31.96
Jordan	0.12	0.77	0.73	3.40
A.R.E.	6.54	33.46	6.68	35.69
Morocco	—	—	0.05	0.32
Tunisia	—	—	0.67	3.15
Afghanistan	0.85	6.12	0.75	6.04
Hongkong	0.08	0.77	2.63	14.97
Singapore	0.59	3.44	0.66	4.20
Nepal	0.35	2.00	0.52	2.56
Sri Lanka	0.51	2.44	2.57	12.21
Turkey	0.47	3.74	0.92	7.37
Japan	2.10	28.80	2.44	38.14
Pakistan	0.25	0.97	0.22	0.66
Liberia	1.65	9.51	2.98	16.63
South Africa	0.29	1.35	1.28	11.46
Australia	0.65	4.52	1.06	6.58
Other Ctry.	6.99	45.53	17.04	95.65
Total	163.65	1191.19	132.26	1005.27
USMn\$	(356.10)		(347.01)	

Funds for Coal Sector

1741. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of fund has been enhanced in Ninth Plan for the development of different major coal fields;

(b) if so, to what extent increase has been made than the Eighth Plan;

(c) the funds earmarked for Ninth Plan and released so far for the development of coal resources in Orissa; and

(d) the details of various schemes prepared for the purpose to be taken up during Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. However, Working Group on Coal and Lignite has recommended an outlay of Rs. 22,543.13 crores for 9th Five Year Plan as against approved outlay of Rs. 12357 crores for coal and lignite (including power sector) in the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 1800 crores (Provisional) has been proposed for 9th Five Year Plan period for development of coal resources by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., which operates in Orissa. For the year 1997-98, an outlay of Rs. 317.14 crores has been envisaged for Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. Funds are not released for this purpose by the Govt. as outlay of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited is not dependent on its budgetary support.

(d) Details of various schemes of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, which operates in state of Orissa, for which outlay of Rs. 1800 crores has been proposed for the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Project	Outlay
Existing Project	465.56
On-going Project	422.32
New Projects	538.27
Total Mining	1426.15
Non-Mining	373.85
	1800.00

[Translation]

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

1742. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various projects being implemented in rural areas by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) the number of industries in Uttar Pradesh granted loans during the last one year;

(c) the details of pending applications for grant of loans; and

(d) the time by which the Government likely to provide loans to all industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) KVIC provides assistance for implementing 112 village industries besides Khadi in rural areas, as defined by KVIC Act. List of Village Industries is given in the Statement attached.

(b) During 1996-97, KVIC disbursed Rs. 3112.49 lakhs as loan and Rs. 70.76 lakhs as grant to the U.P. State under its normal programme. The major programmes being implemented in U.P. State are for Cottage Pottery, Lime, Handmade Paper, Aggarbati, Cane & Bamboo, Ghani Oil, Gur Khandsari, Processing of Cereals and Pulses, Fruit Processing, Fibre, Cottage Soap, Leather, Carpentry & Blacksmithy and Polyvastra apart from Khadi. In addition, KVIC also sanctioned some projects under their Project Approach for village industries. The position as on 15.6.97 is as under :-

Industries	No. of Projects sanctioned		Fund sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Fund released
	Indivi- dual	Insti- tutional		
1. Rural Engg. Inds.	—	2	10.24	—
2. Processing of Cereals & Pulses	—	2	23.71	4.91
3. Handmade Paper	3	—	41.61	—
4. Non-edible Soap Industry	—	1	7.07	4.67
5. Village Oil Industry	1	1	11.77	3.74
6. Gur & Khandsari	10	—	5.40	—
7. Beekeeping	1	1	4.50	—
8. Fruit & Vegetable Processing Industry	2	1	21.88	—
Total	17	8	126.18	13.32

(c) As on 15.6.97, 90 individual projects and 121 institutional projects of various industries having project cost more than Rs. one lakh have been referred to the Banking Division of KVIC for appraisal. Against this, 43 individual and 57 institutional projects have been cleared. The remaining 47 individual and 64 institutional projects are under process.

(d) There is no time specified for providing loan to projects. The projects will be financed after appraising the economic and technical feasibility and also subject to fulfilment of various conditions laid down by KVIC for sanctioning funds.

Statement

Industries Under the Purview of the KVIC

I. **KHADI** (Cotton, Silk and Wollen) and Dann Carpet (Exclusively for Sikkim and N.E. States)

II. VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

Group - I : Mineral Based Industry : (1) Cottage Pottery Industry (2) Lime Stone, Lime Shell and Lime products Industry (3) Stone Cutting, Crushing, Carving and Engraving for Temples and Buildings (4) Utility articles made out of stone (5) Slate and Slate Pencil making (6) Manufacture of plaster of paris (7) Utensil washing powder (8) Fuel Briquetting (9) Jewellery out of Gold, Silver, Stone, Shell and synthetic materials (10) Manufacture of Gulal, Rangoli (11) Manufacture of Bangles (12) Manufacture of Paints, Pigments, Varnishes and Distemper (13) Manufacture of Glass Toys (14) Glass Decoration-cutting, designing and polishing (15) Gem cutting.

Group-II : Forest Based Industry : (16) Handmade Paper (17) Manufacture of Katha (18) Manufacture of Gums and Resins (19) Manufacture of Shellac (20) Cottage Match Industry, Manufacture of Fire works and Agarbattis (21) Bamboo and Cane work (22) Manufacture of Paper Cups, Plates, Bags and other paper containers (23) Manufacture of Exercise Book Binding, Envelop making, Register making including all other stationery items made out of paper (24) Khus tattis and Broom making (25) Collection, Processing and Packing of forest products (26) Photo Framing (27) Manufacture of Jute products (under Fibre Industry).

Group-III : Agro Based and Food Industry: (28) Processing, Packing and Marketing of Cereals, Pulses, Spices, Condiments, Msala etc. (29) Noodles making (30) Power Atta Chakki (31) Daliya making (32) Mini Rice Shelling unit (33) Palmgur making and other palm products industry (34) Manufacture of Cane Gur and Khandsari (35) Indian Sweets making (36) Raswanti-Sugarcane Juice Catering unit (37) Beekeeping (38) Fruits and Vegetable Processing, Preservation and canning including pickles (39) Ghani Oil Industry (40) Menthol Oil (41) Fibre other than Coir (42) Collection of forest plants and fruits for medicinal purpose (43) Processing of Maize and Ragi (44) Pith work, manufacturer of pith mats and garlands etc. (45) Cashew processing (46) Leaf cup making (47) Milk Products making unit (48) Cattle feed, Poultry feed making.

Group-IV : Polymer and Chemical Based Industry: (49) Flaying, curing and tanning of hides and skins and ancillary industries connected with the same and cottage leather industry (50) Cottage Soap Industry (51) Manufacture of Rubber goods (dipped latex products) (52) Products out of Rexin PVC etc. (53) Horn and Bone including Ivory products (54) Candle, camphor and sealing wax making (55) Manufacture of packing items of plastics (56) Manufacture of shampoos (60) Manufacture Hair Oil (61) Detergents and washing power making (non-toxic).

Group-V : Engineering and Non Conventional Energy : (62) Carpentry (63) Blacksmithy (64) Manufacture of Household aluminium utensils (65) Manufacture and use of manure and methane (Gobar) Gas from cow dung and other waste products (such as flesh of dead animals, night soils etc.) (66) Manufacture of paper pins, clips, safety pins, stove pins, etc. (67) Manufacture of decorative bulbs, bottles, glass etc. (68) Umbrella assembling (69) Solar and wind

energy implements (70) Manufacture of Handmade utensil out of Brass (71) Manufacture of handmade utensil out of copper (72) Manufacture of handmade utensil out of Bell metal (73) Other articles made out of Brass, Copper and Bell metal (74) Production of Radios (75) Production of cassette recorder whether or not fitted with Radio (76) Production of cassette recorder whether or not fitted with Radio (77) Production of voltage stabilizer (78) Manufacture of electronic clocks and alarm time pieces (79) Carved wood and artistic furniture making (80) Tin smithy (81) Motor winding (82) Wire net making (83) Iron grill making (84) Manufacture of Rural transport vehicles such as hand carts, bullock carts, small boats, assembly of bicycle, cycle rickshaw, motorised carts etc. (85) Manufacture of musical instruments.

Group-VI : Textile Industry (Excluding Khadi): (86) Polyvastra which means any cloth woven on handloom in India from yarn handspun in India from a mixture of man made fibre with either cotton, silk or wool or with any two or all of them or from a mixture of man made fibre yarn handspun in India with either cotton, silk or woollen yarn handspun in India or with any two or all of such yarn (87) Manufacture of Lok Vastra cloth (88) Hosiery (89) Tailoring and Preparation of Readymade Garments (90) Batick works (91) Toys and Doll making (92) Thread Balls and Woollen Balling, Lacchi making (93) Embroidery (94) Manufacture of surgical bandages (95) Stove wicks.

Group -VII : Service Industry : (96) Laundry (97) Barber (98) Plumbing (99) Servicing of Electronics wiring and electronics domestic appliances and equipments (100) Repairs diesel engines, pump sets etc. (101) Tyre vulcanising unit (102) Agriculture servicing for sprayers, insecticide, pump sets etc. (103) Hiring of sound system like loud speaker, amplifier, milk etc. (104) Battery charging (105) Art Board painting (106) Cycle repair shops (107) Masonry, (108) Band troupe (109) Motorised local boat (Fibre glass) for Goa only. (110) Motor cycle to Fly as taxi (for Goa only) (111) Musical instruments (for Goa only) (112) Vermi Culture and Waste Disposal.

[English]

C.D. Ratio of Commercial Banks in Rajasthan

1743. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the C.D. Ratio of the Commercial Banks operating in Rajasthan is as per the norms of Government of India and Reserve Bank of India:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Task Force to ascertain the reasons for low C.D. Ratio and to suggest measures for improvement in the C.D. Ratio was constituted by the RBI for Rajasthan;

(d) if so, whether the Commercial Banks operating in the State followed the recommendation of the Task Force and if not, the action taken by the Governments and RBI against the defaulting Banks;

(e) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government and RBI to impress upon the banks to increase the investment in the State so that C.D. Ratio of the State could be improved as per norms; and

(f) if so, the action taken by RBI and the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The credit deposit ratio of commercial banks in Rajasthan is 44.2 per cent as on the last Friday of March, 1997 as against the all India average of 57.3 per cent. Reserve Bank of India have advised commercial banks that they should achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an all India basis. Banks have also been advised that while it is not necessary that this ratio should be achieved separately branchwise, district-wise or region-wise, the banks should nevertheless ensure that wide disparity in the ratios between different States/ Regions is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. However, the credit deposit ratio in particular State or Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity of the State/ Region which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation power, rail, road transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural and industrial production.

(c) to (f) The Task Force on Credit Deposit Ratio for Rajasthan was constituted by Reserve Bank of India in 1993. The Government of Rajasthan had also taken up the matter with the Union Government in March 1996 regarding low credit deposit ratio in Rajasthan. The bank has since reported that the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by Reserve Bank of India are being followed up for implementation by commercial banks operating in Rajasthan and the progress thereof is discussed in the meeting of SLBC/ Steering Committee from time to time.

Detection of F.D. Account in Allahabad Bank

1744. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2186 dated December 6, 1996 regarding detection of F.D. account in rural branch of Allahabad Bank and state:

(a) whether the CBI has since completed its investigation into opening of accounts without observing the necessary formalities;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(c) the number of bank officials found guilty and punished for opening the bank accounts without observing the necessary formalities in private and public sector banks; and

(d) the number of accounts in private sector banks still in operation even after the demise of the account holders giving the full details thereof of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1997

1745. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1997 indicated India for having failed to prosecute major narcotics offenders;

(b) whether the Report also indicated that India has become a major centre for international narcotics trafficking;

(c) If so, the main points mentioned in the Report;

(d) whether the Government have examined the Report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) U.S. State Department's Annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for 1996 has lauded India's efforts against drug trafficking. It has, however, also drawn the attention of the Government of India to the fact that it has achieved limited success in prosecuting major narcotics offenders.

(b) to (e) Government of India's comments on the International Narcotics Control strategy Report for the year 1996 are given in the Statement attached.

(f) Government of India is fully aware of the problem of narcotics trafficking and have taken several steps in this regard which include re-activation of enforcement agencies throughout the country, training of the officers, holding of regular Coordination Meeting, developing of bilateral agreement with several countries and holding of talks with Pakistan and Myanmar.

Statement

Government of India's Comments on International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1996

The U.S. Government's State Department issued its annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for 1996 on 28th February, 1997. The U.S. President has certified India to be fully cooperating with the U.S. in its anti-narcotics efforts. The Report is a requirement of U.S. Congress outlining the international narcotics control strategy of the U.S. Administration and satisfies the mandatory certification requirement of 32 identified major drug producing and transit countries.

The Report recognizes India's unique position as a world's largest producer of licit opium and as an important transshipment point for heroin from South West Asia and South East Asia. It mentions in positive terms of the high level cooperation between the Government of India and the U.S. Government. The positive remarks finding place in the Report is a clear vindication of India's efforts in the drug enforcement field and the initiatives announced by the Government with regard to licit opium cultivation.

The Report also lists out major accomplishments to the credit of Indian law enforcement agencies, particularly the narcotics Control Bureau and the Central Bureau of narcotics with regard to several measures taken to reduce illicit trafficking and diversion of licit opium into illicit channels, like:-

- (a) raising the minimum yield of opium that farmers must deliver for the fifth consecutive year to the Government in order to retain a license;
- (b) offences relating to embezzlement of opium by licensed cultivators treated on par with other trafficking offences under the NDPS Act and Rules;
- (c) controlling availability of precursor chemicals with cooperation from the industry;
- (d) setting up of three new zonal units at Chandigarh, Jammu and Ahmedabad by the Narcotics Control Bureau;
- (e) proposed legislative measures to curb and prevent money laundering.

The Report also takes cognizance of the priority accorded to the coordinating activity of the Narcotics Control Bureau in the field of narcotics law enforcement and narcotics interdiction.

It may be mentioned that India has a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Government for reducing demand, preventing illicit use of and trafficking in drugs and matters relating to licit trade of opiates besides a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperative measures to increase awareness of and support for efforts on to combat production, distribution and use of illicit drugs. Periodical meetings of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group take place to strengthen narcotics control efforts of both the countries.

Closure of PSUs

1746. SHRI BAS DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down unviable Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the details of such unviable undertakings; and
- (c) the broad details of policy of the Government in regard to unviable undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sick PSUs are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for suitable decision.

(c) The policy of the Government on public sector undertakings have been spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme.

Disinvestment Commission

1747. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government had appointed a Disinvestment Commission to advise the Government on how and in which Public Sector Enterprises dilute its stake to 49% or 26%;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far;
- (c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for Joint Ventures in regard to loss making units and sale of some Public Sector Enterprises;
- (d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been proposed; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has been set up by the Govt., inter-alia, to draw a comprehensive long term Disinvestment programme for the Govt. and they are seized of the matter.

(c) to (e) The Government have already formulated strategies to restructure the public enterprises under the Ministry of Industry, inclusive of loss making enterprises. Under such strategies various options like joint venture, sale of specific unit etc. are considered on case to case basis. Implementation of the strategies is a continuous process.

Export Promotion Council, Gujarat

1748. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to open offices of different Export Promotion Council (EPC) in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to promote the export of various items-products from the State;
- (d) if so, whether any amount has been earmarked for this purpose; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Central Government evolves Plans and formulates export policy to promote the export of various items/products for the entire country, including Gujarat taking into account the potentialities, specialisation in export production and infrastructural aspects of each part of the country.

Legislation to Prevent Corruption by Legislators

1749. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring forward legislation to prevent corruption by legislators in the country;

(b) If so, the salient feature thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Apart from the Lok Pal Bill, 1996 which has already been introduced in Lok Sabha on 13.9.1996 to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lok Pal to enquire into allegations to corruption against public functionaries which includes Members of Parliament there is no proposal to bring forward any other legislation in this regard.

BIFR to Look Four Private Sector Companies

1750. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether four private sector companies have succeeded in making their net-worth positive and have thus ceased to be sick industrial units;

(b) the total number of sick units which were undertaken for rehabilitation;

(c) If so, the number out of them have been rehabilitated so far;

(d) the total number of sick industrial units sanctioned for rehabilitation by the BIFR; and

(e) to what extent their performance has been better?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 30.6.1997, 1945 sick industrial companies were registered with it under the provision of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. 593 rehabilitation schemes have been sanctioned by the BIFR/Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for revival of the sick industrial companies. Out of the above, 181 companies which include 176 companies in the private sector and 5 companies in the public sector, have been discharged from the overview of BIFR consequent on implementation of rehabilitation schemes. The implementation of

the rehabilitation schemes of the remaining companies is monitored periodically by the BIFR.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

1751. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindi Consultative Committee of his Ministry has been constituted;

(b) if so, the number of its meetings held during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for the reconstitution of Hindi Consultative Committee or convening its meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons behind writing all the files of the Ministry in Roman/English and the reasons that modern equipments, computers are used merely in Roman/English; and

(f) the steps taken to do all works in Hindi in the golden Jubilee year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After convening the meeting of the Committee on 27.3.1996 only one meeting could be held during 1996-97 (on 22.1.1997) due to General Election of Lok Sabha and nominations of newly elected M.Ps to the Samiti, no meeting could be held during 1997-98 as yet.

(c) and (d) Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry of Commerce was constituted on July 27, 1994 and its tenure was upto July 26, 1997. Necessary action is being taken to reconstitute the Committee.

(e) It is not correct to say that notings on all files are being done in English. At present use of Hindi is being done on 1100 files in various sections in the Ministry. A part from this, computers and electronic typewriters are, as far as possible, put into use in Hindi also.

(f) A number of attractive incentive schemes have been introduced in the Ministry for doing work in Hindi so as to enhance the use of Hindi in the Golden Jubilee Year. Personnel in the Ministry are being motivated to do their work in Hindi by organising Hindi workshop etc.

[English]

Expert Group on Non-Banking Financial Companies

1752. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed an Expert Group to study and report on the supervision for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs);

(b) if so, when the said Group was appointed and the name of its chairman and other members;

(c) the terms of reference of the study;

(d) whether the said Group has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the salient features of the recommendations along with the time bound programme to implement the recommendations; and

(f) if not, the time by which the Group is expected to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) In order to design an effective supervisory frame-work, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Shri R.R. Khanna, Member of Advisory Council of the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS), by an order dated April 21, 1995. The composition of the Expert Group is as under :

1. Shri P.R. Khanna Chairman	Senior Partner, Khanna & Annadham, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi.
2. Shri J. Goswami Member	Chief General Manager, DFC, RBI, Central Office, Calcutta
3. Shri K.M. Elavia Member	Kalyaniwalla & Mistry, Chartered Accountants, Mumbai.
4. Shri G.S.R.K. Rao Member	Executive Director, Credit Rating Information Services of Inida Ltd., Mumbai.
5. Shri G.K. Raman Member	Managing Director, Sundram Finance Ltd., Chennai.
6. Shri S.D. Nadkar Member	Managing Director, Anagram Finance Ltd., Ahmedabad.
7. Shri V.S. Srinivasan	Managing Director, 20th Century Kinetic Finance Ltd., Pune.
8. Shri T. Bandyopadhyay Member Secretary	Addl. Chief General Manager, DFC, RBI, CC Cell, Mumbai.
9. Shri A.M.M. Sharma Special Invitee	Chief Genral Manager, DFC RBI, CO, Mumbai.
10. Shri P.R. Gopala Rao Special Invitee	Addl. Chief General Manager DCS, RBI, Central Office Cell, Mumbai.
11. Shri S. Bandyopadhyay Special Invitee	Addl. Chief General Manager (Since retired) DFC, RBI, Central Office Cell, Mumbai.

The terms of Reference of the Group were as under :

(i) Defining the supervisory jurisdiction of Non-banking financial companies (NBFC) in terms of entities and supervisory responsibilities and powers.

(ii) Defining the objectives, scope and strategy of prudential supervision of NBFCs.

(iii) Recommending a framework for on-site examination of NBFCs (including periodicity, coverage and methodology)

(iv) Designing an off-site monitoring system.

(v) Developing a system of supervisory ratings and making it the basis for modulating supervisory attention and resources.

(vi) Suggesting how external audits can be made a resource for prudential Supervision.

(vii) post examination and off-site review/follows up for making it result and action oriented.

(viii) Any other related areas including recommendations for training and computerisation.

The Group has submitted its report and the important recommendations are as under :

- Reliance mainly on off-site surveillance for supervision of unregistered NBFCs in view of their large numbers;
- Development of a suitable off-site surveillance system for the above purpose;
- Shifting all focus on on-site inspection from the present liability side examination to asset side examination;
- Preparation of a supervisory watch list of companies to modulating on-site examination;
- Very large companies (those with assest size of Rs. 500 crore and above) to be supervised on banking supervisory model;
- Company profile with various ratios to be developed for comparison with the Peer/ industry groups; and
- Finally statutory auditors should be obliged to report to RBI any infringement of regulatory guidelines.

In pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee a comprehensive inspection manual has been prepared by RBI dealing, inter-alia, with on-site inspection or large size Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) with emphasis on ascertaining quality of assets. RBI have also reiterated development of off-site surveillance mechanism to monitor financial health of NBFCs.

India Development Forum

1753. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance pledged by the India Development Forum (IDF) during 1997-98.

(b) whether the projects to be financed by this assistance have been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total pledges of Officials Development Assistance made by multilateral and bilateral donors in India Development Forum Meeting 1997 held on 23rd & 24th June, 1997 in Paris was US \$6.74 billion.

(b) and (c) The details of Projects for which the aid is likely to be utilised will be determined after aid negotiations with each donor agency are finalised.

Computer Centres Under his Ministry

1754. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of computerised centres working under his Ministry and its subordinate offices;

(b) the number of centres out of these working in Maharashtra;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up some more computerised centres in the State during 1997-98; and

(d) If so, the names of the places where these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Twenty Two (22)

(b) Three (3)

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

N.P. As of Commercial and Private Banks

1755. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new private sector banks, many of which are yet to complete three years of existence have accumulated a substantial amount at non-performing assets (NPA);

(b) if so, whether the total NPAs have crossed Rs. 100 crores.

(c) whether the Central Government has recently intensified on-site supervision of these new banks;

(d) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has

recently directed the Commercial Banks to declare the amount of net Non-Performing assets in their balance-sheet; and

(e) if so, the other steps the Government propose to take on these new Banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) According to Department of Supervision, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as on 31.3.97 the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of new private sector banks aggregated Rs. 211.83 crores forming 4.66% of their total loans.

(c) The functioning of new private sector banks is being closely monitored by RBI by conducting, besides periodical financial inspections, quarterly on-site assessment visits in the first year of their operations. During these visits various important aspects of the working of these banks including compliance with regulatory requirements and adherence to terms and conditions of licence are examined in detail. Irregularities if any, observed during these visits are followed up with the banks for compliance/ratification.

(d) and (e) In May 1997, RBI have advised all commercial banks to disclose the following items in the 'Notes on Accounts' to the Balance Sheet.

Percentage of share holding of the Government of India.

Percentage of net NPAs to net advances.

The amount of provisions made towards NPA.

The above disclosures are to be made by the banks from the financial year ended March, 1997, in addition to the disclosures that are being made at present. In so far as NPAs are concerned, the instructions of RBI relate only to disclose the percentage of net advances. The amount of NPAs is not required to be declared in the Balance Sheet as per the existing guidelines of RBI.

Central Government Standing Counsels

1756. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Central Government Standing Counsels in existence in various High Courts and Districts Courts, State-wise;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant at present, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) There are 33 posts (one for each High Court and its Benches) of Senior Central Government Standing Counsel.

(b) No post is lying vacant.

(c) Does not arise.

Bank Branches in Gujarat

1757. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open more branches of commercial Banks in the country, particularly in Gujarat during 1997-98 to promote trade and commerce; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that for period 1990-95, there was no need for evolving any branch expansion programme with targets like population coverage per bank office as was done in the past, in view of the growth in branch network in the country and decline in the average population per bank office (APPBO) in rural and semi-urban areas to 13,000 by the end of the 1985-90 period.

Under the extant branch licensing policy of RBI, it is left to the judgement of individual banks to assess the need for opening additional bank branches within their service areas. The banks' proposals for opening branches at rural centres are to be submitted to RBI through the concerned State Governments. As regards semi-urban centres, a specific quota is allotted to each bank depending on the size of the bank, for opening branches. The proposals for opening branches at semi-urban centres are considered by RBI on merits of each case. In respect of urban/metropolitan centres, identified localities are allotted to various banks for opening branches. Such proposals are also considered by RBI on merits of each case. RBI have also given freedom of Indian commercial banks which fulfil certain stipulated criteria for opening branches without prior approval of RBI on case to case basis.

The details of authorisations issued to various banks for opening branches at different centres in Gujarat where banks have yet to open their branches, as reported by RBI, are given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Number of Authorisations /Licences Issued During the period 1-4-1995 to 30-6-1997 to Commercial Banks for Opening Branches in Gujarat and which are yet to open

Name of Bank	Number of Authorisations/ Licences
1	2
1. Punjab National Bank	5
2. ICICI Bank Corp. Ltd.	1
3. City Union Bank	1

1	2
4. Vyasya Bank	2
5. Bank of Punjab	1
6. State Bank of Saurashtra	4
7. Bank of Baroda	5
8. Bank of Rajasthan	2
9. Canara Bank	2
10. Sabarkantha Gramin Bank	1
11. Sangli Bank	1
12. Bank of India	1
13. Union Bank of India	1
14. IDBI Bank	2
15. Corporation Bank	8
16. Global Trust Bank	2
17. State Bank of India	2
18. Kutch Gramin Bank	1
19. Oriental Bank of Commerce	4
20. Ratnaker Bank	1
21. Federal Bank	1
22. Karnataka Bank	1
23. Centurion Bank	1
24. Syndicate Bank	1
25. Central Bank of India	1
26. Dena Bank	1
27. State Bank of Patiala	2
28. Allahabad Bank	1
29. Nedungadi Bank	1
30. Indus Ind Bank	1

Export of Coal

1758. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coal during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of coal exported during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Details of coal production in the country during the last three years, State-wise, are as under :

	(million tonnes)		
State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)
Andhra Pradesh	25.65	26.77	28.73
Assam	1.19	0.82	0.75
Bihar	72.41	74.53	77.58
Madhya Pradesh	75.12	79.76	83.28
Maharashtra	21.00	22.82	24.86
Orissa	27.32	32.70	37.37
Uttar Pradesh	13.70	14.80	15.40
West Bengal	17.34	17.93	17.69
Total	253.73	270.13	285.66

(b) The quantity of coal exported by CIL during the last three years, Statewise, is an under:-

	(In lakh tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
West Bengal	0.70	0.76	1.15
Bihar 0.37	0.16	0.14	
Assam	0.05	Nil	Nil

(c) Export to Nepal and Bhutan is made in Indian Rupees and that of Bangladesh it is made in US \$. Foreign exchange earned by India, State wise, from export of coal during the last three years is as under :-

	(Fig. in US \$)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)
West Bengal	19.3 Lakh	14.4 Lakh	17.4 Lakh
Bihar	2.1 Lakh	Nil	Nil
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil

Decline in Sea Borne Foreign Trade

1759. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sea borne foreign trade has declined recently;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the share of Indian Shipping Corporations in general cargo trade; and

(d) the details of plans for raising the shipping foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The volume of cargo carried by Indian ships has been generally increasing even though it declined during 1994-95. However, the percentage share of Indian lines in the carriage of sea borne cargo has been declining. It has came down from 34.90% in 1992-93 to 27.80% in 1995-96.

(d) The Government is taking various measures from time to time for raising the Indian foreign trade as well as Indian shipping tonnage. Indian shipping companies have been given freedom to trade their vessels as per their commercial judgement in cross trade without any obligation to carry Indian cargo.

Duty Free Import Licences

1760. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duty free import licences have been issued by the Department of Foreign Trade during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and value of fake licences issued during the above period;

(d) whether CBI has chargesheeted some officers at Panipat; and

(e) if so, the action taken to recover the amount of loss caused to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Duty Free Import Licences are issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the provisions of the Duty Exemption Scheme as laid down in Chapter VII of the Export and Import Policy and Procedures 1992-97 and 1997-2002. Details of such licences issued during the past 3 years are as under :-

Year	No. of Licences issued
1994-95	45983
1995-96	38400
1996-97	12774
Total	97157

(c) All precautions are taken to ensure that licences are issued only to genuine firms. However when instances

of licences issued to fake firms/forged licences are detected appropriate action is taken under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992 and Customs Act 1962 for cancellation of such licences and initiation of penal proceedings.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The CBI has filed charge sheets in the Court of Special Judge, Delhi against the concerned Government officials. Penal action has been initiated under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992 for imposition of penalty.

Mahila Pradhan Bachat Yojna

1761. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the commission paid to the agents of Mahila Pradhan Bachat Yojna is on monthly or annual basis;

(b) whether there is inordinate delay in giving the commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in this regard during 1994-1995 and 1996; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The MPKBY agents can prefer their claims within four months from the date of the receipt from the investors but not more than one in a calendar month.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, there are no inordinate delays. Sometimes delays in settling. The commission claims to MPKBY agents do occur due to an increasingly large number of receipt of the claims from the agents.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The year-wise break-up of complaints received from the MPKBY agents is as follows :-

Year	No. of Complaints
1994	35
1995	32
1996	101

The specific complaints have been settled the measures taken by the government to minimise the delays in settling the commission claims of the agents include:

(i) Authorising the Regional directors to issue outstation cheques upto Rs. 5000/- to the Agents; instead of the earlier practice of issuing Bank Drafts.

(ii) Issuance of a set of guidelines by the National Savings Commissioner to all the Regional Directors to ensure quick payment within a maximum period of 8 weeks.

(iii) Conducting of Orientation Training Programmes for MPKBY Agents throughout the country to ensure expeditious processing of payment of commission claims.

Performance of Navaratnas

1762. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Committee has been constituted to monitor the performance of the nine top Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the autonomy to each such PSU proposed to be extended to some more PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms prescribed for such PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the apex level, a Committee of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary has been set up a forum inter-ministerial discussions and continuous overview of the globalisation effort of the nine public enterprises (Navaratnas). This Committee includes the following:

1. Member-Secretary, Planning Commission.
2. Finance Secretary or Secretary (Expenditure).
3. Secretary of the administrative Ministry and
4. Secretary, Deptt. of Public Enterprises (also the convener).

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken in this regard.

Plantation Companies

1763. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regulatory agencies and Finance Ministry are groping in the dark on the issues of regulating the newly set up plantation companies all over the country thriving with mobilisation of funds from small investors on long terms basis and assured high returns;

(b) if so, the names of such plantation companies and funds mobilised by them for plantation during the last three years, State-wise.

(c) the present regulatory mechanism for such companies and the inadequacy of regulations discussed in depth in the light of CRB scam, State-wise; and

(d) the policy action plan finalised to protect the interests of small Investors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The need for suitable measures for the regulation for plantation companies has been engaging the attention of the Government.

As per available information the number of plantation companies registered during the last three years with the Registrars of Companies is given in the Statement attached. Information in respect of such companies which have mobilised funds is not maintained as such funds do not fall within definition of "deposits", as per the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975.

No specific Government permission is required to start such mobilisation of money under the existing provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has in April, 1996 constituted a committee to study the growth rate and economics of commercial plantations in this regard.

The working Draft of the Companies Bill submitted by the Working Group has incorporated a wider definition of "Securities" to cover "units" issued by the plantation companies with a view to regulating them. The Government is likely to introduce the new Companies Bill in the current Session of Parliament in this regard.

Number of Plantation Companies Registered with the Registrar of Companies during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

ROC Office	No. of Plantation Companies
1	2
Calcutta	5
Jammu	10
Jalandhar	142
Ahmedabad	349
Hyderabad	98
Ernakulam	95
Bangalore	177
Pondicherry	0
Coimbatore	50
Gwalior	202
Cuttack	79
Patna	119
Jaipur	73

1	2
Kanpur	369
Chennai	259
Goa	21
Delhi & Haryana	779
Mumbai	772
	3599

1. There is no break-up of figures of companies which invited funds from the public and these which did not mobilise funds from the public.

Gold Import Through Airports

1764. SHRI BHAKTA CHARNA DAS :

SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state:

(a) the quantum and value of gold imported through each of the international airports in India as per the new gold import policy to import 5kg/10kg. of gold on payment of customs duty by NRIs since the permission given by the Government, year-wise;

(b) whether any irregularity in operation of this scheme has come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which this policy of gold import is likely to reduce the prices of gold in the domestic market and smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The import of gold by NRIs has permitted w.e.f. 28.2.92. The year-wise quantum and value of gold imported through each of the Airports is as per Statement attached.

(b) to (d) No major irregularities in operation of this scheme has come to the notice of the Government.

(e) Availability of gold in domestic market is an important factor in reduction of its price.

There has been reduction in price of gold compared to earlier years. It is also reported that the seizures of gold smuggled into India is steadily decreasing after introduction of the scheme, signifying reduction in smuggling.

Statement

Quantity and Value of Gold Imported under NRI Scheme
From 1992 to 1997

AIRPORT	YEAR											
	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997 (upto June, 97)	
	QTY	VAL.	QTY	VAL.	QTY	VAL.	QTY	VAL.	QTY	VAL.	QTY	VAL.
AHD	11.600	49	20.650	91	687.000	3192	19676.396	95322	3833.682	19896	1367.131	6537
DEL	9747.000	41390	21468.000	94160	29622.000	137635	83547.083	404742	56396.820	292688	32035.388	153186
BOM	46706.000	198335	46089.000	202155	49054.000	227924	1830.330	8867	59013.294	306267	64061.564	306328
MAD	17411.000	73935	18461.000	80973	24820.000	115323	40405.843	219968	53700.100	278692	25721.537	122994
CAL	61.900	263	342.100	1501	103.300	480	57.876	280	68.331	355	1149.602	5497
TRIV	5536.000	23508	6430.000	28203	3323.000	15440	3123.667	15133	3331.490	17290	1588.826	7597
CALC	12693.000	53900	23426.000	102751	50777.000	235929	71074.740	344320	74947.991	388964	51182.796	245223
ORS	32.700	139	22.620	99	23.960	111	3321.243	16090	4387.410	22770	2697.885	12910
TOTAL	92199.200	391519	116259.370	509933	158410.260	736034	228037.178	1104722	255679.118	1326922	179904.779	860263

KEY QTY IN KGS

VALUE IN RS. LAKHS

MRTP Act

1765. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Investigation and Registration, New Delhi has called the attention of all concerned engaged in any trade or service to know if they have entered into any agreements (oral or written) with any party containing any of the restrictive clauses enumerated under Section 33(1) of MRTP Act;

(b) if so, the reasons received thereto by DG(I&R);

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether it is a fact that many companies like Hindustan Lever, Ponds India Ltd., Nestle India Ltd., Colgate India Ltd. have restricted their authorised stockists to restrict their sales in a given area orally; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The Director General of Investigation and Registration (DGI&R) has called

attention of all concerned engaged in any trade or service to take immediate steps to register with his office under Section 35 of the MRTP Act, 1969 any agreement (oral or written) with any party containing any of the restrictive clauses enumerated under Section 33(1) of the Act. However, no response has been received by the DGI&R so far.

(d) No such case has come to the notice of the DGI&R.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tiny Industries

1766. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for evolving an industrial policy, separately for the development of tiny industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tiny industries functioning in the country;

(d) the total estimated value of annual production of these units;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to set up industrial complexes for these industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the package for the tiny sector are being worked out.

(c) The actual number of tiny units functioning in the country at present is not available. The 2nd All-India Census of Registered Small Scale Industries Units was carried out for the units registered upto 31st March, 1988. As per this Census, 10.55 lakh SSI units were registered out of which 6.10 lakh units were found working, but data could be collected from 5.82 lakh units only. Out of total registered units for which data were collected, 95.9 percent of the total registered SSI units were tiny units having investment in plant and machinery below Rs. 5 lakhs. During 1995-96, there were 20.84 lakh registered SSI units in the country. Going by the same ratios of working units and the tiny units, it is estimated that by the end of 1995-96 about 11.56 lakh registered tiny units were functioning in the country.

(d) No information on the annual Production of tiny units is available.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Impact of Import on Domestic Wire and Cable Industry

1767. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have surveyed the impact of its import policy on the domestic wire and cable industry;

(b) if so, the findings thereof especially due to the permitted project import of all equipments including wire & cables for power and industrial projects; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to rationalise the situation vis-a-vis Import of cables and domestic cables so that the Indian Cable Industry can compete with foreign suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Commerce has not conducted any survey of the impact of import policy on the domestic Wire and Cable Industry.

Financial Irregularities

1788. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ

No.4285 dated March 21, 1997 regarding 'financial irregularities' and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government there-on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item appearing in the Dainik Jagaran dated 18 December, 1996 refers, inter-alia, to 'imbalances' in primary co-operative societies and reported financial irregularities in a large number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). While the responsibility of overseeing the working of PACS vests with the State Government, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been entrusted with the responsibility of inspecting Co-operative banks under the provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Accordingly, NABARD has been periodically inspecting these institutions.

NABARD has reported that Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Uttar Pradesh had ordered an investigation into the allegations, the findings of which have revealed, inter-alia, that the actual amount of imbalances as on 31st March, 1995 stood at Rs.245.50 crores instead of Rs. 1200.00 crores, as reported in the newspaper. The factors responsible for these imbalances are, inter-alia, insufficient margins in disbursement of short-term credit, utilisation of recoveries in meeting the cost of management, levying of interest on the existing amount of imbalances, adjustment of recoveries towards losses on account of wastage of seeds and fertilizers, inadequate margin in consumer business and fair price shops and non-levying of interest when the amount of interest becomes equal to the principal.

(c) With a view to avoid recurrence of the problem of imbalances, an action plan has been drawn to make societies viable which, inter-alia, envisages introduction of a proper head of account to reflect cost of management. Instructions have been issued to ensure that the payment of wages to the employees of societies should invariably be made from out of the above head of account. Further introduction of financial discipline regarding recovery of at least 40% of demand has left an impact on the banks and they are making vigorous follow-up to ensure better recovery performance. It is expected that this would help in removing the problem of default at society level.

Rewards to Informers of Income Tax

1769. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are cases relating to giving rewards to those informers on the basis of those information

on which raids were conducted and additional tax amount was collected, pending with the Income Tax Department for several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of pending group cases in which payment of reward amount has not been made finally even after lapse of five years from the date of conduction of raids on the basis of information given by the informers;

(d) the rules regarding the time-limit for making payment of reward amount to informers; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious disbursement of reward amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yesm Sir. there are some cases of final rewards which are pending with I.T. Department for several years.

(b) to (e) Interim reward has been paid to all eligible informers. As per existing rules, final reward is to be given only on finalisation of all proceedings, including assessments and appeals etc. and after the additional taxes attributable to the information furnished by the informer have been realised. Many of the assessments pertaining to the aforesaid cases have not yet become final and/or taxes not recovered. Therefore, there cannot be any definite time frame for the disbursement of such reward. However, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has, from time to time, issued instructions to subordinate authorities for early disposal of such assessments and quick disbursal of reward to informants.

Jute Prices

1770. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of jute have sharply fallen in the recent weeks and adversely affected thereby lakhs of jute growers in the country;

(b) whether the Jute Corporation of India has made no procurement of jute during the current year and the Union Government's order for use of jute bags are not being implemented effectively;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Prices of raw jute have started falling sharply in the recent weeks due mainly to expected huge surplus of supply over requirement following harvesting of a bumper crop in the current season and availability of large carry over stock from 1996-97 season.

(b) to (d) In order to arrest the declining trend in prices of raw jute in the current season and to ensure implementa-

tion of Jute Packaging Order the following measures have been taken:

(a) Funds have been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start up MSP operations;

(b) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI on enhanced credit limit valid upto July, 1997.

(c) Government of India have also sanctioned a Bank Guarantee for securing required credit from the Banks.

(d) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI shortly to enhance the activities relating to MSP operations.

(e) Ministry of Textiles has already written to the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other Fertiliser Companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags. It is hoped that the demand for jute bags will certainly go up as the bulk purchasers have started placing the orders.

(f) Orders under clause 9 A of the Jute (Licensing & Control) Order, 1961 have been issued by the Jute Commissioner on 14.7.1997 directing jute mills to step up purchases of raw jute. Strict watch is being kept over observance of this directive.

(g) Compulsory linkage with purchase of raw jute from JCI against B.Twill allocation to jute mills from August, '97 onwards is under consideration so as to enable JCI to maximise purchases by simultaneous disposal to mills.

(h) In order to tone up depressed gunny market, foodgrains procuring agencies have, on Jute Commissioner's request, placed sizable order for jute bags for next Kharif packaging for delivery during July, 1997 to October, '97 which is expected to have a stabilising effect on raw jute prices.

(i) Prices situation is being monitored closely.

(j) Jute Commissioner has been directed to ensure strict implementation of the Reservation Order for jute Packaging.

[Translation]

Exports From Bihar

1771. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive study and survey has been made or proposed to be made to explore the export potential from Bihar;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of agricultural and mineral export potential therein; and

(d) the steps being taken for achieving optimum development of the State by promoting maximum export from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal in the Ministry at present, to conduct such a study.

(b) to (d) In view of the above, it does not arise.

[English]

Export of Spices

1772. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether spices board has launched an innovative schemes to promote the quality spices exports with better packing of consumer packets by introducing a 'logo mark', which will vouch for the quality and Indian-ness of spices;

(b) if so, whether the board has specified certain norms for the quality of the products, processing and packing materials;

(c) if so, the extent to which these steps have promoted exports of spices; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to promote quality spices to be more attractive in the Foreign Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government/Spices Board has launched a scheme to promote exports of quality spices, with improved packaging, in consumer packs by awarding a quality certification "Indian Spice Logo" as a mark of quality and Indianness.

(b) Yes, Sir. The logo mark is awarded only on fulfilment of certain prescribed norms and conditions for hygienic processing, packaging and product quality.

(c) The scheme has created an awareness on quality of Indian spices among buyers/consumers in the overseas markets. Exports of spices in consumer packs with "logo" was 700 tonnes in 1996-97 as compared to 340 Tonnes and 166 Tonnes during 1995-96 and 1994-95 respectively.

(d) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices are, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like logo promotion; grant of spice house certificate as a recognition of processor/exporters of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

Compensation to Legal Heirs of the Deceased Coal Mine Workers

1773. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal workers who lost their lives in coal mines accidents during each of the last three years-subsidary-wise;

(b) whether compensation has been paid to all the legal heirs of the deceased workers;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether employment has been offered to the legal heirs of the deceased workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, subsidiary-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The number of coal workers who lost their lives in coal mines accidents during the last three years (1994, 1995 and 1996) in Coal India Limited (CIL) subsidiary-wise and Singareni Collieries Company Limited is given below:

Company	No. of persons lost lives		
	1994	1995	1996
CIL			
ECL	79	20	20
BCCL	37	105	36
CCL	22	22	19
NCL	5	5	2
WCL	18	10	9
SECL	23	23	15
MCL	1	9	7
NEC	—	1	3
Total	185	195	111
SCCL	50	21	29

(b) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Abbreviations:

CIL	: Coal India Limited
ECL	: Eastern Coalfields Limited
BCCL	: Bharat Coking Coal Limited
CCL	: Central Coalfields Limited
NCL	: Northern Coalfields Limited
WCL	: Western Coalfields Limited
SECL	: South Eastern Coalfields Limited

- MCL : Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
 NEC : North Eastern Coalfields Limited
 SCCL : Singareni Collieries Company Limited

Banks Ombudsman

1774. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank had launched Banking Ombudsmen Scheme for quick and inexpensive redressal of grievances and resolve the complaints of customers;

(b) the details of Ombudsmen appointed under this scheme, so far, State-wise;

(c) the number of customers complaints disposed of under the scheme so far; and

(d) the extent to which the banking Ombudsmen helped to improve the services being rendered by the Public Sector Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAI. MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Ombudsmen Scheme announced on 14.6.95, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far appointed 14 (fourteen) Ombudsmen centres, the details of which are placed below as per the Statement attached.

(c) Since the inception of the scheme till 31.3.97, the Banking Ombudsmen have disposed of 2253 complaints out of 2902 complaints which has been received and appear to relate to the jurisdiction of Ombudsmen.

(d) The Banking Ombudsman Scheme has by and large prompted banks to streamline their internal complaints redressal mechanisms/procedures.

Statement

Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 1995

Sr. No.	Name of the Banking Ombudsman	Jurisdiction/States
1	2	3
1.	Shri B.N. Shetye	Maharashtra & Goa
2.	Shri A.K. Pandya	Madhya Pradesh
3.	Shri B.L. Chadha	Delhi, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, Dist. of Ghaziabad in U.P.
4.	Shri J.C. Lynn	Karnataka
5.	Shri R.C. Kapur	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & U.T. of Chandigarh
6.	Shri R.K. Ragala	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
7.	Shri J.P. Sharma	Bihar
8.	Shri O.P. Sodhani	Rajasthan
9.	Shri G.C. Agarwal	U.P. (Excluding Dist. Ghaziabad)
10.	Shri H.N. Das	Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland & Tripura.
11.	Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra	Orissa
12.	Shri R. Ramalingam	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, U.T. of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
13.	Shri S.L. Bose	West Bengal & Sikkim
14.	Shri S.A. Kamath	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Instrumentation Limited

1775. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been implemented in the Instrumentation Limited, Kota and the names of employees given gratuity amount alongwith the amount of gratuity provided in each case;

(b) whether the department has any plan to make this scheme more lucrative; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced in Instrumentation Ltd. in February, 1991. Information in respect of employees given gratuity is being compiled.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Statement regarding Review of the Working and Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman Diu etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): I bag to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Moti Daman, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Moti Daman, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2215/97]

Notification No. SD.472(E) and S.O.473(E)
Published in the Gazette of India
dt. 30th June, 1997, etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 472 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1997 containing order directing that with effect from the 1st July, 1997, the commodities as specified in the notification shall be packed in jute packaging material for supply or distribution in such minimum percentage as mentioned therein for the jute year 1997-98 and 1998-99, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 473 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1997 containing order directing that on and from the 1st day of July, 1997 that the export packaging and small consumer packs of 5 Kgs. and below in respect of sugar shall be exempted from the operation of order published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 1997 under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2216/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2217/97]

Memoranda of Understanding between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. and Ministry of Coal for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2218/97]

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Rules 1997 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): 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 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:-
- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 225(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1997.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Promotion) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 226 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2219/97]

- (2) A copy of the General Insurance (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 342 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1997, under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2220/97]

- (3) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax, 1961:-

(i) The Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 223 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997.

- (ii) The Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 352 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 1997.
- (iii) The Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 371(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997.
- (iv) The Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 466 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 1997.
- (v) S.O. No. 595 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (vi) S.O. No. 596 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Nadar Maharjana Sangam, Madurai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O. No. 597 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Orissa Women Voluntary Services, Cuttack, Orissa" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O. No. 598 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O. 599 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (x) S.O. No. 600 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. No. 601 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Asiatic Society of Bombay, Bombay" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O. No. 602 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Ramakrishna Viveka-nanda Mission, Barrackpore, West Bengal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xiii) S.O. No. 604 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to : "CHIEF Minister's Earthquake Relief Fund, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (xiv) S.O. No. 605 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O. No. 606 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Music Academy, Madras" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. No. 607 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. No. 608 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Theosophical Society, Madras" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. No. 609 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Aga Khan Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. No. 610 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to

"Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xx) S.O. No. 611 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Shri Anandpur Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxi) S.O. No. 613 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur, Nagaland" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.

(xxii) S.O. No. 614 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Centre for Study of Administration of Relief, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.

(xxiii) S.O. No. 615 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "T.T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, Madras" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxiv) S.O. No. 616 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Maharashtra State Bharat Scouts and Guides, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.

(xxv) S.O. No. 617 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sri Kailash Ashrama Mahasamsthana Trust, Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxvi) S.O. No. 618 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Tata Agricultural and Rural Training Centre for the Blind, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.

(xxvii) S.O. No. 619 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Indian Parliamentary Group, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxviii) S.O. No. 620 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.

(xxix) S.O. No. 621 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Spastics Society of Karnataka, Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.

(xxx) S.O. No. 622 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Consumer Action Group, Madras" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxi) S.O. No. 623 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxii) S.O. No. 624 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxiii) S.O. No. 625 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust, Madras" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxiv) S.O. No. 626 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Population Foundation of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

- (xxxv) S.O. No. 627 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "India International Rural Cultural Centre, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvi) S.O. No. 628 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Oil Co-ordination Committee, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvii) S.O. No. 629 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Institute for Financial Management and Research, Madras" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxviii) S.O. No. 630 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Indian Ex-services League, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxix) S.O. No. 631 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. No. 632 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding Exemption to "Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O. No. 633 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Little Sisters of the Poor, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xiii) S.O. No. 634 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Badhir Bal Kalyan Vikas Samiti, Bhilwara, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliii) S.O. No. 635 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Cry-Child Relief and You, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliiv) S.O. No. 636 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Krushna Chandra Memorial Trust (Anatha Annadana Kendra and Databya K Chikichalaya), Aska, Orissa" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xli) S.O. No. 637 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Delhi Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlii) S.O. No. 638 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Indian Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliii) S.O. No. 639 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Yug Nirman Yojana Trust, Mathura" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliiii) S.O. No. 640 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliix) S.O. No. 641 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Maharashtra Energy Development Agency, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (i) S.O. No. 642 published in Gazette of India

dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Association for the Welfare of Persons with a Mental Handicap in Maharashtra, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.

- (ii) S.O. No. 643 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "Bengal Social Service League, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. No. 644 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 regarding exemption to "North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (liii) S.O. No. 603 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. 9890 dated the 5th October, 1995.
- (liv) S.O. 612 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1997 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. 9881 dated the 28th September, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 2221/97]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 271(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/96-Service Tax dated the 3rd April, 1996 so as to include the names of 11 more Diplomatic Missions and also to restrict the facility of exemption from service tax on telephones in respect of some of specified Diplomatic Missions mentioned therein under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2222/97]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 265(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1997 making certain alterations in Schedule II to the Companies Act, 1956, under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2223/97]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 253 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amend-

ments in the Notification No. 34/97-Cus., dated the 7th April, 1997 so as to permit transferability of credits under Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2224/97]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1996-97, under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2225/97]

12.02.hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government business during the week commencing Monday, the 4th August, 1997 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Essential Commodities (Special Provision) (Amendment) Bill, 1997.
3. Consideration and passing of the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 and consideration and passing of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1997 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of the Private Security Guards and Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 1994 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): We would like to know from Shri Srikant Jena the latest position in respect of the Members' salaries and allowances. It is a point of general interest. When is this being introduced? These things are published in print media and aired through electronic media,

but we are getting nothing. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is being done to defame the Members deliberately. I urge that the Government should categorically make a statement regarding salaries, allowances and other amenities available to the Members of Parliament. It is told in media that the Members are getting too much benefits, but here we are getting nothing. Mr. Finance Minister is here. He has launched a move to get the black money converted into white but the Members are getting nothing. Nothing is being done to improve our lot. What they want to do for the Members? They don't have any concern for Members. These people are financially very sound but what about these ordinary Members, who are really very poor. What will happen to them.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I request you to please sit down. Please take your seats first.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, you are also a member of this House. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are all senior Members. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

Listen, I have received notices. They will be allowed first.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This is not the issue of notice. This is the issue of all the members of the House.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is heard. All the members speak together.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You are listening everything. You are deliberately ignoring our voice.... The condition of Members is very bad. It has been debated throughout the year, that some facilities will be increased, some amenities will be increased but nothing has been increased. In print media, electronic media, there is plenty of news about it and it appears as if the Members have got much facilities but actually we have received nothing. In this regard the Government should clarify the position. We are getting nothing.... *(Interruptions)*

What is his Cabinet doing? When meetings of the Cabinet take place? Nothing is known. If there is one Cabinet then it is alright. But their one Cabinet is Government of India, one is Saturday club and another one is in India International Centre. How many Cabinet they have got is not clear to us. They have got time for all these works but when comes the question of the Bill pertaining to the Members' Salaries and Allowances, certain amendments therein, they become evasive. It has been pending since long, but so far no decision has been taken thereon... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those members, who have given their notices will get the chance first.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not the question of giving any chance. I am making only an appeal to you. Mr. Minister is available here. What does he want to say on this score? The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. The Leader of the House, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has come. He has submitted the report of the Committee set-up to look into the facilities of the Members. What happened to that? The manner in which we are defamed is quite disgusting. People are told that we get too much money, whereas we are paid very little amount. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such injustice should not be done. Mr. Minister is sitting here. He should let us know as to what action he is likely to take in respect of the Bill pertaining to the salaries and allowances of the Members. All are speaking. You, please, say something, please give some information atleast. *(Interruptions)* All are speaking.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to say something then you may, please, say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is concerned with all the Members. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, regarding the Members' salaries and allowances and other facilities, whatever has been recommended by the Joint Committee on Salaries. *(Interruptions)* In the meeting with all the Party Leaders one year before.... *(Interruptions)* After Antulay Committee's recommendation, it was discussed by hon. Speaker and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and other Party Leaders were also there. Then, it was considered in the Cabinet and the Cabinet had agreed, to some extent, and not fully. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDHANA): Why?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We had already informed the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats about what the Cabinet had agreed. I think, that has gone to the Committee again. If the Committee rejects because if it is to be changed in the rules itself and if the Committee approves to change the rules and if the Committee again recommends certain things, then the Government will reconsider them. That also has been told.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): Shri Antulay and myself want to the hon. Speaker with the request that every Member of Parliament should be given a

car in his constituency when he is in his constituency. He is not making a mention of that.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Subsequent to that, we met the hon. Speaker. He told us that he had discussions with the hon. Prime Minister and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on this subject and the hon. Prime Minister has agreed with whatever the original recommendation was and said that it would be taken back to the Cabinet and a fresh decision would be taken.

Then, why are you telling only half? Please stand up and say the correct thing. Members are very much agitated. My MLA has come today. He is getting Rs. 16,000/- as salary. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: It is Rs.20,000 in Maharashtra.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan would you like to say anything?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: How long will this continue? (*Interruptions*)

How long will this go on, Sir? I propose to bring a Private Member's Bill to curtail all the facilities of the Cabinet Ministers. (*Interruptions*) All the facilities of the Ministers should be curtailed, Sir. What is this?.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK): Mr. Deputy- Speaker, Sir, you can also understand the insignificant value of a meagre amount of Rs. 1500/-(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJE (PANSKURA): Sir, this is the fiftieth year of our Independence. Before speaking about the salaries of the Members of Parliament, we must think about increasing the pension of the freedom fighters also.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Ministers are taking everything. We are also declared public servants. We cannot take donations.

[*Translation*]

If our salary and allowances are not increased, how will we meet our requirements? Some Members are here who are rich. They are running some other side business as well. Their case is different. But what will happen to those ordinary members who are the whole time political workers and who do not have any other source of income? Are they not aware as to how we are living our lives? Do they come from any outside world? Shri Ram Vilas ji is sitting over here. Doesn't he know all this? Doesn't the Parliamentary Affairs Minister know all this? I am submitting an application in his Chamber daily requesting him to do something. Our

salary and allowances should be increased. Most of the Members of Parliament are in poor condition. We fail to understand that when the question of increasing the facilities of Members of Parliament comes, why the rules and committees are talked of because the facilities of Ministers are increasing continuously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first you are a Member of this House only after that you are the Deputy- Speaker. Likewise, he is also a member of this House, first then a Minister. You please understand the difficulties of the Members. The publicity is that members get too much. Our image is distorted. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: A promise to provide car to Members in their constituencies was made, what happened to that? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister is going to say something. Let him explain.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was a member and also the convenor of the Committee, just now referred to by him. We know the difficulties of the hon'ble Members of Parliament and in this era of price rise, the money and allowances which they get is far less than what is given in other countries. (*Interruptions*)

Well, I admit that the facilities provided to Members of Parliament are less than the facilities provided to Legislators in some State Legislative Assemblies but let me first complete the sentence.(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has admitted that the facilities provided to MPs are less than that of legislators in some Legislative Assemblies.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I support your feelings and I share your sentiments. I have been in Parliament for the last 20 years i.e. from 1977 till date. Therefore, I know the difficulties faced by Members regarding water, electricity, telephone etc. I have to pay atleast Rs. 4-5 lakhs as electricity and water charges. Therefore, I understand your difficulties but, as you are aware whenever the question of extending facilities to Members of Parliament comes up in this House different opinions are expressed by us (*Interruptions*)

We have taken a decision in the Cabinet. There is no need to go in its details because we get minus points only by divulging its details. But it is true that Hon'ble Speaker had called us. We had met the Hon'ble Speaker alongwith Prime Minister and some Hon'ble Members. We have talked to Hon'ble Speaker. There are two parts of this subject—one is that salaries and amenities of Members are increased by introducing a Bill in Parliament and second is administrative aspect, which relates to increase our working efficiency. We have held discussions with Hon'ble Speaker on both the

aspects and an early decision is likely to be taken in this regard..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may issue the directions that final decision should be taken in this regard at the earliest. You may ask the Minister to stand up and give an assurance to this effect that final decision will be taken before the end of this season..*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to stand-up and give an assurance. What are you going to loose?*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, final decision should be taken before the end of this Session i.e. 14th August..*(Interruptions)*
[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I fully understand the feelings of the hon. Members. But I will not commit anything at this moment unless I bring this issue to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister because something has been discussed with the hon. Speaker and hon. Prime Minister. I will consult them and then I will come back before the House.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, last time the Government has said about the pension of freedom fighters also. This is the fiftieth year of our Independence.

[Translation]

Government should take a decision on freedom fighters' pension at the earliest. If a decision is taken before 14 August, 1997, it would assuage our feelings with which we want to give pension to the freedom fighters. So I urge upon the Government again and again that a decision must be taken before 14th August, 1997. Today is the 1st August and not many days are left before 14th August. So I request the Minister of State for Home to give an assurance in the House in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Members through you that Hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Committee in this regard and we have a meeting on this issue after taking 'options' and 'non-options' from the freedom fighters. After consultation with the senior freedom fighters, we have recommended to double the pension being given presently to the freedom fighters and to extend some more facilities to them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is all right, but a decision should be taken before 14th August.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : A decision will be taken before 14th August.

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Hon. Minister, a

number of applications for sanctioning of freedom fighters' pension are even now pending with your Ministry. Will you expedite the clearance of the same?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it is regarding freedom fighters' pension. This is the fiftieth year of our Independence. A number of applications are still pending. What do they do about them?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : If there is any particular case, please tell me.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): It is not a matter of any particular case. Many cases in respect of giving pension to freedom fighters are pending clearance in the Ministry of Home Affairs. You are requested to clear these cases by giving pension to all the freedom fighters at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the agenda items be taken up now.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): Sir, I seek a clarification. The Rajya Sabha Members are continuing to get the gas connection coupons. We are not getting them. Let the Government clarify it. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next agenda:-

Early approval for construction of 220 K.B. Bareilly, C.B. Ganj - Almora (UP) electric line, pending for approval with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India.

12.18 hrs.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*)

For discussion regarding approval to provide grant of 31 crore rupees each year to Uttar Pradesh by Central Government under Central Road Fund.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Almost in all the districts of Rajasthan particularly in Bara district of Kota division post offices are functioning in old, dilapidated and rented buildings. Discrimination and negligence is shown while allocating funds for construction of new buildings. Therefore, new departmental buildings may be constructed in all the districts of Kota division alongwith Bara district.

No appropriate action has been taken till date to connect all important cities of Rajasthan with cellular telephone facility. Therefore, I would like to request to consider this matter on priority basis.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Need to introduce Bill on merger of 9 hilly districts and holy place Haridwar to make a separate state of Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh during this session as per decision of the Central Government.
2. Need to punish the guilty persons by conducting a judicial inquiry into the incident occurred on 26.7.97 in Ranikhet cantonment of Uttar Pradesh where soldiers of Army equipped with arms illegally demolished the school building in civil area without permission.

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

The essential commodities have been affected due to smuggling of foodgrains in large scale in West Bengal. The discussion on crisis arising out of this situation may be held in next week.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make the following two suggestions with your kind permission to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include in next week's agenda:-

1. The potatoes in Bihar have been spoiled due to lack of appropriate arrangement for their storage and marketing. The Government should have made arrangement for this and also provide relief to the farmers.
2. The provision had been made in the last Railway Budget to construct a Diesel shed in Samastipur for which a foundation stone was also laid but work has not been commenced yet. The Minister of Railway is requested to start this work.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The factory is on the verge of closure due to non-receipt of work order (berth orders) from the Ministry of Railways and Coal. It has affected fifteen thousand employees and lakhs of families. The case of revision of pay scale is also pending for many years. The people of displaced families are not even getting employment. Hence, inquiry should be conducted through a committee constituted by the House.
2. Power and water supply is interrupted for 10-12 hours in Ranchi resulting into repeated agitations.

Electricity lines and water pipes have been damaged due to lack of their repair the electricity and water is not being supplied properly. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to take action immediately.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

The economic price of Food Corporation of India is increasing continuously. Pusa - 44 variety of rice is kept in fine category in Punjab while this quality comes under super fine category in Haryana. Therefore, action may be taken for making comprehensive reform in the existing formal and working procedure of Food Corporation of India.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (CHANDNI CHOWK-DELHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. It is proposed to close down thousands of small scale industries recently in the National Capital Territory of Delhi on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court due to which many workers would become unemployed and come to the verge of starvation. The matter with regard to provide means of employment to these workers and to rehabilitate them may be taken up.
2. The matter regarding setting up of a "Vikas Board" by Central Government to make available essential basic facilities to the people living in slum katras of "Old Delhi" area in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and to get the development works done there.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India.
- (2) Need to take steps to provide jobs to the persons whose applications are pending for a long time on compassionate ground.

[English]

12.26 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

The motion was adopted

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (TRIPURA EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one M.L.A. was kidnapped in Tripura.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have not yet started Zero Hour. You may be given permission during Zero Hour. Please take your seat now.

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL *

12.27 hrs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMERS AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : * "Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion Moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

Shri Shyam Behari Mishra. You have given notice, but you have not given the reason for opposing the introduction of this Bill. Anyway, I permit you to make a short statement. Please note 'short', because I give you permission even though you have not fulfilled the condition.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is in force in this country. For controlling the traders the Licensing orders, Consumers Protection Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 are in force. This Act was enacted only for five years because at that time there were drought conditions in the country. There was shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities. Today foodgrains are in abundance in the country. Foodgrains are being exported from the country. In such a situation the traders are being harassed. This legislation is increasing corruption and the officers are getting money illegally by harassing these traders. If such type of rule prevails

in the country as is in Bihar, then I can say nothing otherwise this law should be withdrawn. Therefore, moving the motion to extend if further is not at all required. Hence this motion should be withdrawn.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No notices have been given. Therefore, I do not allow anybody.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given one concession to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the special provisions of the Essential Commodities Act were enforced in 1982 because of shortage of foodgrains in the country and to save consumer from difficulties and injustice. Just to save them from difficulties the Parliament enforced it for five years from 1982 to 1987 at first instance. In 1987 people felt that this law should not be withdrawn, it should remain in force. Then it was extended from 1987 to 1992. In 1992, the Members of Parliament felt that it should remain in force then it was extended for the year 1997. Now, the period of extension has been completed. Again this department.....(Interruptions) kindly listen.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): It has been extended again and again....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to the Minister. It is not proper. Listen to him. Look I have already given concession.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: I request the hon. Members kindly to listen.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you please continue. Let them not listen. You please tell us.

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: The standing committee of this Department, has also recommended that this should be extended for another five years and it should be continued. We have asked for the assent of all the states. Almost all the states have agreed to extend it. In this situation the feelings of hon. Members is that injustice should not be done to them. Therefore, we have also made a provision for amendment in it. Firstly, the collector can confiscate this. There was a scope for appeal in the State Government. Now the hon. Members have demanded to make it justifiable. We are amending this law to make it justifiable. There is a provision to go to judiciary because the hon. Member has a doubt that corruption could prevail there and to eliminate it a provision should be made in it. Therefore, I request that leave may be granted to introduce this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special

Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce * the Bill.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the clause 3 of this Bill, under which the expenditure will be incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India. Under Article 117(3) of the Constitution, the President of India has recommended that the Bill may be introduced.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall call you. Have you given a notice? If you have given a notice, I shall call you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice about the Amarnath Yatra..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the matter of urgent public importance i.e., pollution in the river Damodar.

Central Coalfields Ltd. is dumping huge quantity of waste into the Damodar river. Rejected coal of the washery is also being dumped into Damodar which is further contaminating the river water. If rejected coal is sold through unemployed persons, it will not only generate employment...(Interruptions) but will also enhance the revenue. At the same time Jughat Power Plant Station will also be benefited by the sale of this coal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bajuban Riyan, I will call you though I have not seen any notice here.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Arrangements should be made to dump waste elsewhere. It should not be dumped into the river. Reply given to the starred question No. 953 dated 29th July by the Minister for Environment and Forest is absolutely incorrect. Therefore, I request the Government to form a high level Committee and we should be invited to cite the evidence.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (VIDISHA): Mr. Chairman Sir, after independence we established the PSUs for ourselves. Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru used to say that PSUs are the shrines of modern times. But today these shrines are becoming worse. After the implementation of Liberalisation Policy, industries which were making large profits during the

* Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

last three years are now suffering heavy losses. The condition is so worst today that the many industries are facing crisis. All major industries of the Public Sector are running under heavy losses. Public sector industries like Heavy Engineering Corporation, Hindustan Machines & Tools, Tyre and Bicycle Corporation of India, Hindustan Cables, Bharat Wagon and Engineering, Nefa Limited, and Bridge and Roof Limited etc. are running under the loss of over Rupees two thousand nine hundred and seventy five crores. Over two lac workmen and government employees are employed in these industries. In our Nefa Ltd. which was founded by Pandit Nehru, employees haven't been paid for the three months. Government doesn't seem to have any intention nor any plan to set things right in Public Sector industries. We MPs from Madhya Pradesh met the Prime Minister yesterday but there was no sign of hope.

Reduction in custom duty as a result of Liberalisation Policy lead to import of foreign goods in the country at lower rates. Foreign companies have entered freely. But no arrangements were made for our Public Sector industries to prepare for the circumstances arising out of it. We have constituted B.I.F.R. for the sick industries, to which their cases are referred but no decision are taken there. At present these industries are on the verge of closure.

I would like to request the Government to announce a policy to ensure payment to workers & employees of the PSU's to whom salaries have not been paid for the last three or four months, their children are on the verge of starvation. Hence to take the House into confidence Government should announce some policy for the Public Sector Industries. Till the policy is formulated, the Government should at least grant interim relief to those industries so that they can pay salaries to their employees; and Government should come out with a statement about the condition of Public sector industries..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again I am saying that I am going by the List.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): This is very important. The public sector undertaking has fallen sick. The workers are not getting their salaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am going by the List.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know. But this is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is noted that you have supported it. Shri Vishambar Prasad Nishad will now speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The hon. Minister of State for Finance is here. He should assure the House. The workers of public sector undertaking are not getting their statutory dues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has taken note of it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The workers are not getting their wages. They are not getting their statutory dues. They are not getting their provident fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already raised the question. He has taken note of it. You have also associated yourself with it and the hon. Minister said that he had taken note of it and that he would make a statement subsequently.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The hon. Minister is here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Minister want to make a statement now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): No. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The hon. Minister is standing there.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Finance Minister is here. He gave an assurance that the statutory dues of the workers would be paid. But the workers are not getting the salary. Since the Finance Minister is here, he should respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you know the procedure. If the Minister wants to respond, he can respond.

(Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (MAHENDERGARH): Those Members who shout, they only get the time and those who raise their hands do not get a chance to speak. Those Members who keep on shouting, they only get a chance. Everybody has got important points to make.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell me how to proceed. This is a list which has been given by the Speaker's Office to me. Please understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (FATEH-PUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a colony of Dalits in Ward No. 382 in Bara Hindurao in my district where thousands of Dalits are living.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please help me. As I said earlier, this is the list which has been given to me by the Office of the Speaker. Naturally, as the Panel Chairman, I have to go by

the instructions of the Speaker. What I am doing is, I am allowing you. What I am doing is that I am going by the list. But if some very important leader wants that he should be given the chance first in supersession of some other important Members of the House or some other hon. Members of this House, I think it is not fair. Therefore, I shall go by the list as prepared by the Speaker's Office. I shall call you one by one.

Now, Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again, you are raising it. Nobody is protesting it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Sir, there is a colony of Dalits in Ward No. 382 in village Bara Hindu Rao of Old Delhi where thousands of Dalits live*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad to speak. No other statement should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Sir, at Bara Hindu Rao in Old Delhi area thousands of Dalits are settled at Khasra No. 382 and.*(Interruptions)* this settlement of Dalits has been there since the British Rule. Side by side this colony, there is a Company named D.C.M. at Khasra No. 506 and 507. The said Company having encroached this Land has handed it over to Kailashnath Builders and Ansal Builders in order to construct a commercial complex. The poor people are being forced to evacuate the said place of land and they are being beaten up and harassed. And the female members of their families are being insulted. I would like to mention that the said piece of land is registered as inhabited by urban population. In the revenue record, consolidation No. 191 and Khatoni No. 235 in Tehsil and District Delhi. But these Kailashnath Builders and Ansal Builders are forcing the Dalits to evacuate the said land in collusion with the officials of D.D.A. and M.C.D. The Dalits, who have been settled there since the British Rule are being suppressed. The builders were constructing a commercial complex on an unauthorised land without any map having been sanctioned. The same has been stopped. An amount of crores of Rupees is outstanding. That should be inquired by C.B.I. The land where the Dalits are settled and which is Government land costs hundred crores of rupees and it is going to be a scam. I would like to make a request that poor people should not be harassed and this matter should be looked into and legal action should be taken against D.C.M. and Kailash Builders and Ansal Builders.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Mr. Chairman Sir,

*Not Recorded.

out of the total pilgrims, who visited Amarnath in 1996, and were missing, many were traced. But there are still 24 persons who have not been traced. And one of them is Arjun Singh S/o Shri Gangadhar Vaghela, Agra whose dead body has been recovered. A death certificate to this effect also been issued to the family of the deceased but despite all this, compensation has not been paid to the family so far. I would like to urge the Government through you that 24 persons who had visited Amarnath are still untraced and who-soever were traced they have not been paid any compensation, whereas the Central Government had made an announcement that it would be paying compensation. It seems that the Union Government is not taking this matter seriously. I would like to make a request to the Government that the family of the deceased pilgrims gone to Amarnath, should be duly compensated and adequate relief should be provided to them. I would like to make one point more in this context, that incidents of kidnapping taking place in U.P. A youth named Achal Agarwal, an exporter has been kidnapped in Agra. That Gang is getting shelter in Gujarat. Even after making several requests to the Union Government, no help is being provided by the Government to secure release of Achal Agarwal. I would like to make a request to the Home Minister through you that all Amarnath victims should be duly compensated. At the same time, those who are untraced, they should be traced and their family members should be made aware of the latest position. Secondly, Union Government and State Governments concerned should take joint action to chalk out a strategy in order to apprehend such Inter-State gangs which are operating their activities. I have pointed out the name of Achal Agarwal and there are others who have been kidnapped and the kidnapping gang is getting shelter in Gujarat. I would like that Union Government should provide full assistance to the U.P. Government to release Achal Agarwal — an exporter's son. This is the request which I want to make.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (KODARMA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood problem in my constituency. On 22nd July, 1997 one hundred and seven persons died due to fall down of a bus in a river in Girdih area. Similarly, there are 11 other rivers on which there are no bridges due to which there is a loss of crores of rupees every year. I have drawn the attention of the Government towards it. Bihar Government has no money to construct bridges on those rivers. Bihar Government's attention has been drawn to it but it has not paid any attention to it so far. It has been reported recently that 200 persons are reported drowned to death in different rivers. Every year 500 to 1000 persons die due to catastrophe posed by these rivers. A scheme known as Bihar Plateau Area Development Project (BPDP) is being run by the Union Government and World Bank in Bihar. A sum of Rs.449 crores has been provided by the World Bank for this purpose. 30% amount has been spent on it so far and the unspent amount would be surrendered to the World Bank by the year 1998. So, I would like to make a request through you that Bihar Government should be ordered to include four Districts Girdih, Hazaribagh, Kodarma and Chatra under B.P.D.P. because these districts fall under plateau area. At the same time, the

amount, which has to be surrendered should be utilized. I would like to read out the names of those 11 rivers on which the bridges are to be constructed. I would like to make a request to Central Government that it should order the Government of Bihar to take seriously the matter regarding construction of about 9000 metres long bridge on these rivers. The names of these rivers are:

1. Usri river of Girdih, 2. Bharkattaiengra river, 3. Fareabad - Badakar river; 4. Ganva Jodaseemar Sakri river 5. Chandori river, 6. Malda-Patna river 7. Lotaki river 8. Jharkhandi river 9. Kharideeh Irga river 10. Ranideeh Khowa Ghorjo Gandhari river 11. Sariga-Kheri river. Orders should be issued to construct bridges on these rivers in this golden jubilee year of our Independence.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA): Sir, Government must be asked to give an explanation....(Interruptions)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had already brought to the notice of Defence Minister the matter regarding Ranikhet cantonment in U.P.. But unfortunately, he is not present here today. The issue regarding calling or not calling out for Military in Bihar is being discussed here. Near about 200 soldiers came to the Ranikhet Cantonment in UP on 26th July, 1997 at about 5.00 A.M. in the morning. At Ranikhet Cantonment, there is an academic institution known as Vidya Bharti which runs several schools throughout the country. At Ranikhet cantonment, there was a recognised school known as 'Viveka Nand Mandir' which was being run under Vidya Bharti but the soldiers got it demolished. That is why bazar, Government offices, traffic and all other activities continue to standstill. But the army do not command respect now. I also hail from Ranikhet and this town is the Head quarters of Kumaun Regimental Centre. After that incident, I met Shri Mulayam Singh ji and urged him to take action against the Military Officer Commandants who were there. I have also met the Minister of State for Defence and also have written a letter to the Prime Minister but no action has been initiated from anywhere so far. As a result of it, the public is forced to live in the atmosphere of fear and terrorism. The public is of the opinion that this kind of terror was not unleashed and atrocities committed by the Military under Ranikhet Cantonment Act in the British regime in year 1924. Without the permission of civil authorities, Distt. Magistrate or Joint Magistrate of the area concerned, the uncalled and without any notice an entry of Military in such a way seems to be a part of a big conspiracy. Though the Defence Minister was apprised of this incident by the Fax and telephones and the life continues to be paralysed, yet taking no action so far in this regard creates doubts and apprehensions. All elected members of the cantonment Board have resigned. They are being threatened to be shot dead.

Sir, this is a very serious matter and I want that the Government should interfere in this matter. A judicial enquiry should be conducted against those erring officers who have demolished it without serving any prior notice. They should be paid compensation for Vivekanand Vidya Mandir which

was constructed with the donation provided by the society. Peace should be maintained in that area and action under court martial be taken against Army Cantonment. I want that the Government should give reply in this regard. The Government has not given any reply in this matter. The Government should give an assurance to this effect that the hon. Minister will take an action. This will pacify the people....(interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (MURENA): Sir, the telephone lines of Shyampur Kalan which is located about 225 kms. away from my parliamentary constituency Murena are completely out of order. The people have to go to Sawai Madhopur to avail telephone facility. They feel a lot of inconvenience I request the Central Government to take action to solve this problem. I would like to say that OFC facility provided in the area be linked with Sawai Madhopur of Rajasthan.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Very good. We want Members like him who take very less time in Zero Hour so that others also get chance to raise their issue.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (BELLARY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, from today all the Steel Rolling Mills in the secondary sector, that is, small and medium, in the country are closed indefinitely, throwing almost 12 to 13 lakhs of Labour Force out of job.

There is a crisis in the Steel Rolling Industry in the country because of the notifications No. 22/97 to 27/97 and 42/97 to 45/97 dated 25.7.97 issued by the Central Board of Excise & Customs, Ministry of Finance with respect to the new method to pay the Excise Duty on Steel Rolling Mills.

In India, there are around 1800 steel rolling mills in the secondary sector, i.e., small and medium units employing approximately six lakh labourers directly and another six lakhs indirectly. They produce approximately six million tonnes of steel per annum.

The new modified system of excise duty collection is based on the production capacity of the rolling mills and the formula prescribed by the Board gives the total production capacity as 50 million tonnes. Thus, the steel rollers are asked to pay almost ten times of the actual duty payable by them, as per the defective formula notified by the Central Board of Excise and Customs without taking the realities into consideration.

Besides this, the notifications are affecting only the secondary sector, i.e., small and medium scale units and the main plants like SAIL, TATA, RSINL, IISCO and other integrated steel plants in the private sector like Mukand etc. are left untouched, creating a disparity which is against natural justice.

I request the hon. Speaker to intervene....(Interruptions) The whole industry is in crisis. I would request the hon. Minister of State for Finance who is here to at least call

the representatives of the Rollers Association and work out the capacity utilisation and resolve the crisis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kondaiah, during Zero Hour, this is not the method to adopt. You could have taken resort to raise this matter under Rule 377.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA (JALAUN): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the proposal sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government for the development of the waste land. Nineteen district of the State have been included in the said proposal and Jhansi-Jalaun district is one of them. My parliamentary constituency Jhansi is an economically backward area. Most of the people are unemployed and living below the poverty line. Most of the areas of Bundelkhand are uneven and wasteland. This land needs to be developed for agricultural purposes. I request the Union Government that the proposed scheme for 1996-97 may be approved and the funds may be released so that the land of Bundelkhand are made fertile and the people may be benefited therefrom.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very sensitive issue. A news item was published in the new magazine 'current News' of 30th July "Pak spy is working as an employee of the Ministry of Defence". Sir, there is nothing confidential in this matter as some persons employed in the Ministry of Defence have been apprehended on the charges of espionage. Three employees have been apprehended during the period from 1st January 1995 to 30th June 1997. The disciplinary action has been initiated against one of them and he has been kept in the custody of the Army but only disciplinary action has been taken against the other two employees.

Similarly, Delhi Police arrested 6 persons on the charge of espionage for Pakistan. Among them the two employees were from Intelligence Bureau, three employees were civilian staff of the Defence Ministry and one was businessman. In April, 1997 the Rajasthan Police arrested a constable posted at Jailsalmer Sir, this is a very serious matter. Pakistan is running the espionage activity in the country in three ways. Their way of conducting espionage activity is to infiltrate ISI agents into the Indian territory through Nepal under different names and await the riots to break out by creating rumours.

13.00 hrs.

The second way is that they enter into those sensitive areas which are already disturbed. The extremists give them money and arms. The third way is that they persuade the employee of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs to indulge in espionage. It is very surprising to note that the employees of these Ministries entertain them just for the sake of a bottle of wine and a few thousand rupees. About ten thousand people have died due to extremist activities. With these words I conclude...Interruptions

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PUDRAUNA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, I have got an opportunity to speak after having waited for long...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today during the Bihar Bandh the police vehicle are being used to carry anti-social elements ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record except what the hon. Member, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra speaks.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sir, Narayani river flows through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. There is 40-50 km. long dam to check floods over there. Unfortunately two kilometres of erosion area falls in Bihar. The area of erosion is two metres below than level of river. The D.M. of Pudrauna telephoned me that erosion in Piprasi is occurring in larger area and the situation is very grim. Only 10-15 feet of dam is left now. Thousands of Pudrauna villages will be submerged with the change of flow of the river. The Irrigation Minister of Uttar Pradesh and I had gone to see the condition there. It is a matter of two States. I demand that the Union Government send a team of experts there so that the erosion can be controlled. Otherwise thousands of villages will be submerged and it will be difficult to rehabilitate the villagers. The Minister of the concerned department and team of experts should go there and see the condition.....*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Kumar, you know very well that what you are speaking is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again, nothing will go on record other than what Prof. Kurien says.

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I would like to mention an important matter.*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not degrade this Parliament.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record other than what is said by Prof. Kurien.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nitish Kumar ji, please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, I am forced to declare that the House stands adjourned till 2.10 P.M.

* Not Recorded

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Seventeen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(SHRI CHITA BASU in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Home Minister.

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, is he replying to the debate?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. He is making a statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): We would like to have a debate on this matter.

14.18 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

Issue of Seeking Army Assistance by the CBI for Execution of a Warrant of Arrest in Patna

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The issue of an attempt to utilise the services of the Army in connection with the arrest of Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav, former Chief Minister of Bihar, was raised in this House yesterday and Members had expressed concern about the same. I have ascertained the position in this regard.

Following the rejection of the petition for anticipatory bail of Shri Yadav by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the afternoon of the 29th July, 1997, the Central Bureau of Investigation took steps and made arrangements for executing the warrant of arrest issued by the Special CBI Court in Patna. This was to be done by the 6th August, 1997. The decision within the CBI was to effect the arrest on the morning of the 30th July, 1997 and instructions were issued by the CBI Headquarters to the local formation that assistance of the State authorities should be obtained in this operation, that the Chief Secretary of the State and other senior officers should be taken into confidence for this purpose, and that utmost tact and care should be exercised.

It appears that the officers concerned with this case decided to execute the arrest warrant during the course of the night of July 29/30, 1997. It further appears that after having been unable to establish contact with the Chief Secretary of Bihar and having been given to understand by the Director-General of Police of Bihar that making necessary security arrangements would entail some extra time, the Joint Director of the CBI at Calcutta, who has been supervising this case, directed the SP, CBI at Patna, to seek the assistance of the Army in the execution of the arrest warrant. The

letter of the SP, CBI to the Danapur Army authorities stated: "As per the oral directions issued by the hon. Patna High Court (Hon. Mr. Justice S.N. Jha and Hon. Mr. Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyay), this is to request you for favour of providing immediately an armed contingent, comprising of at least one company to assist the CBI party to execute the Non Bailable Warrant against Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Chief Minister of Bihar". The Army authorities at Danapur did not respond to this request on the ground that the Army will be able to come to the aid of civil administration only at the request of the notified civil authorities. They also informed the CBI officers that in view of the sensitivities involved, they had sought guidance from the Army Headquarters.

According to established procedure, the assistance of the Army can be sought by the civil authorities strictly in accordance with law and in limited cases where the assistance is absolutely essential for the maintenance of law and order and essential services, and in natural calamities. Further, the request has to be made meticulously in accordance with the procedure, by making it through the proper channel. The request made by the CBI officers to the local Army authorities at Danapur was in clear violation of the established procedure and also wholly beyond their authority. The overall national interest in a democratic society demands that the Army's assistance should be sought only in exceptional circumstances and following the due procedure. Any deviation from the established procedure has the potential of leading to grave and undesirable consequences. Since the request in this case had not been made through the authorised civil authorities, an explosive situation could have resulted from this unauthorised action.

Government have considered this episode with all the seriousness that it deserves. Government have taken a serious note of the conduct of the concerned CBI officers in seeking assistance of the Army without following the established procedure. A high-level inquiry is being ordered into the conduct of these officers and appropriate action will be taken based on the finding of the inquiry. Government will appropriately reiterate the instructions regarding the circumstances and the manner in which Army's assistance may be obtained by civilian authorities and will ensure that these instructions are scrupulously observed.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had said that the State Government machinery did not co-operate in this regard....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Kumar, please sit down.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (PURI): Chairman, Sir, this is an extraordinary case....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Rule does not provide it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: It does not, Mr. Chairman, you are right....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Rule does not provide but in exceptional cases....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, that day the chair had ordered that a statement be given about the fact whether the State Government had co-operated or not, but the Hon'ble Home Minister does not mention anything about it in his statement...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. Shri Nitish Kumar, you should see that I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPU YADAV (PURNEA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the chair had given instructions about two issues....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. There are certain procedures for the conduct of the business in this House. The hon. Minister has made the statement with the consent of the Speaker and the Rule does not provide any discussion, or any point to be raised, particularly in this House, by your seeking a clarification. Therefore, I am sorry, I am unable to allow anybody to seek clarifications.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV (BANKA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, these people are biased....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: There have been precedents when the Chair gave permission.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: The power of the Chair is unshackled....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow me to conduct the business of the House in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Chair had given permission in the past to seek clarification on a Minister's statement....(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, there have been many precedents....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this statement, nothing has been mentioned about whatever was said in the House about Coal India Plan.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadavji, every time you cannot raise your voice. And you cannot point fingers at me. Is it clear. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please behave yourselves.

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: It is after all Parliament. There are Rules of Procedure. I can only implore the House to please behave.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, two High Court advocates had gone to Patna from New Delhi by Coal India Aircraft and any Minister was not travelling in that plane. The Chairman had said that the Home Minister would mention in his statement about it but nothing has been mentioned in this regard in Home Minister's statement....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: We beseech you for your protection.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Am I to be taught by you? Please behave.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all these people are bent upon violating the rules....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: This is not teaching. We beseech you....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not degrade Parliament. I have to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: There have been many precedents.....(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: I am unable to allow any discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry I am unable to allow any Member of this House to make a statement on the statement made by the hon. Minister as per the Rules of this House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what was the behaviour of the Chief Secretary of Bihar Government and the Collector of Patna with the C.B.I. Officer? Had both of them misbehaved with the C.B.I. Officer. There is nothing mention about it in this statement.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You can do it as a matter of exception.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Admittedly, there are oral directions of the High Court. Mr. Chairman, kindly give us one minute.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: There are so many precedents.. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Give us one minute. That is all we require....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already said what I have to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Or else you make another rule. Please behave.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is an injustice being done. It is unfair. It is not for the first time it is done. As a special case.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: It is an extraordinary case....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have said whatever I have got to say.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter is within your powers. It is within your jurisdiction that you can allot time to one or two hon. Members to clarify....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: The repercussions are very extraordinary. Kindly give us a minute..... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Chair has allowed a discussion in the past on many occasions.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: The hon. Home Minister realises the repercussions. Kindly give us one minut....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is bent upon to violate all the rules..... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is within your jurisdiction. You can allot him sometime...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Kumar, you should know that I am here to function under certain rules of procedure.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: There cannot be any fetters on the powers of the Chairman..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANSARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order....(Interruptions).... I want to speak only about the rules because I was listening very patiently to the reply of Hon'ble Home Minister..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: My point of order is this that since the Chair is supreme in this House it is mandatory not only for the members of this House but for the Government also to follow each and every direction of the Chair. Yesterday, when this matter came up, Mr. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. The direction given by Mr. Deputy Speaker from the Chair at that time had three points. Directions were given on all the three points from the Chair. The entire position has become clear by the reply of Hon'ble Minister on one of those points. The remaining two points - whether about non-cooperation the State. State Administration or about misuse of the Government machinery, must be replied to and only then the House would be convinced. The rule, you are talking about is correct. In the Parliamentary procedure and practice there is no provision for clarification. Once Hon'ble Minister replies in this House but it is there in the other House. But this has been the convention of this House. The something happened day before yesterday....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav ji has just said two things. When I, Pappu ji and some other Members had raised this issue it was directed by the Chair that the Government lay a statement convening all the points. So far as approaching military by CBI is concerned, Hon'ble Minister has laid a detailed statement. It is evident from this statement that the CBI officials who work honestly have been victimised by the Union Government... (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, why such a situation arises...(Interruptions)...It is necessary to go into its background why was army approached? Army was approached, I did not mean approving it but I want to know under what circumstances Army was approached. The CBI Director send a fax to the local unit to execute the arrest warrant immediately and the same is released in the news papers. Right from seven O'clock it is aired on the electronic media, Star Plus and other networks that Lalooji will be arrested to night itself. The fax message in this regard was sent on the Director's level. And people stand gathering there. On one hand their is a fax message to execute the arrest warrant immediately and on the other hand such an atmosphere is created that the State Government is not cooperating, neither DGP nor Chief Secretary is cooperating...(Interruptions) What should the CBI do in such a situation. Why did such a situation arise...(Interruptions). By not executing the nonbailable warrant there was a total breakdown of the State Machinery. The State Government has given undertaking to the Court as per the law...(Interruptions).... The DGP, DM and all others officers have given undertakings that they would help but they did not. And in the circumstance the breakdown of the State Machinery there....

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just minute please whether the Union Government have no accountability under the circumstances. The total breakdown of State machinery...(Interruptions) They do not go by their words and the third point was that some private Members and the lawyer of the accused were flown to Patna by Coal India plane to help the convict..(Interruptions) Reply to this point was expected and there was direction from the Chair Too. Therefore, I request you that the hon. Home Minister should come to reward with his views on both of these and also on the additional two points...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Kumar, I have understood you.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a clear contradiction in what the hon. Minister has stated. I just want to bring to his notice with great respect this fact when he said that there is an omission and I say that there is a contradiction. There is no difference between what we are saying. I am very sorry to say that a political colour is being given to something which I think shakes the very foundation of our democracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What have you got to say on this?

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Kindly see this. Kindly see the enormity of the crime.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You are discussing something on the statement made by the hon. Minister. The hon. Members should understand this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: An honest fellow who is investigating into charges of corruptions....(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Don't talk about that. He seems to be an honest person...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Sir, I have not completed my statement...*(Interruptions)* The CBI had done it as per the oral direction given by the Patna High Court. What is the correct position? Is it as per the Joint Director's statement or is it as per the oral direction given by the High Court?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you defy the Chair? Does the rule permit the hon. Members to defy the Chair?

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: I will never defy the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, please sit down. I have checked the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pappu, please have patience. I would like to quote that too. The Deputy Speaker had stated it is not clear whether the incident of calling the army in Bihar has occurred or not and on whose instance it has happened. Secondly it is also not clear whether anybody has travelled by Coal India plane. I would like that the Government should make a statement either today or tomorrow.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It has been presumed by the gesture of the Chair in the light of Shri Chandrashekhar's statement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Who had given the instructions to call the army?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again what is this? Does the House permit this kind of a behaviour from the hon. Members?

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that in his statement certain points have been discussed and certain points have not been discussed. He may kindly get it checked up and reply or he may add further in his statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope that the hon. Members will not mind. I am just saying that according to the rules, any hon. Member has a right to table a motion asking for a discussion under Rule 193 or Rule 184 on the statement which I have made. A full discussion can take place.

Sir, there are two points which I could gather. I am sorry that I was not in the House yesterday. One point was regarding what Shri Nitish Kumar described as breakdown of law and order in Bihar.

We have no such evidence up to now before us. There is a complaint which is, of course, on record that the Bihar Government was not giving adequate assistance to the authorities for carrying out the arrest of Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. If they had not given adequate assistance, that does not amount to breakdown of law and order machinery. The question whether they were giving adequate assistance or not; if not, why not; for all these things, an enquiry will have to go into it fully. Naturally, the Bihar Government has denied it.

As regards the other point about the misuse of a plane belonging to Coal India, that does not relate to our Ministry. It relates to the Coal Ministry. If they have anything to say about this, they can do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So far as the information from the Coal Ministry is concerned, the hon. Minister has informed me that she is collecting the details. The details are not yet available.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I too have evidences...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Coal may kindly make the statement as early as possible.

If any hon. Member wants to give a notice for further discussion on the statement made by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, it would be considered by the Business Advisory Committee and the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA: Sir, the House is glossing over the major issue without knowing who had given the oral instructions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: No reply regarding Coal India has been given.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Mr. Chairman has already mentioned it.

14.43 hrs.

[English]

OBSERVATION RE : INSTALLATION OF
NEW CAMERAS IN THE CHAMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members may kindly recall that the issue of installation of certain new cameras in this Chamber was raised. The Chair had observed that the Members would be informed about this today.

Based on facts ascertained from Doordarshan, I may state that these cameras are of superior technology and are robotic. They are eight in number and would replace the existing four big cameras installed in the Galleries for live coverage of the proceedings of the House.

Due to the inadequate reach of every segment of the House by the existing big cameras and also because of their inability to take the desired shots from all the different angles, it was decided to instal a Remote Control Camera System for each House after studying such systems in various countries.

The new robotic cameras will be operated by remote control from the studio set up in Room No. 50, Parliament House. They will cover all areas of the Chamber including those which are difficult of access now. The ultimate output obtained by use of these cameras is expected to be of far superior quality.

These cameras have nothing to do with any kind of surveillance as apprehended by the hon. Members.

Regarding the observation of the Members that the installation of robotic cameras has not been done aesthetically, I may state that the work has been done by Doordarshan in consultation with the Chief Architect, CPWD. However, the views expressed by Members in this regard are being conveyed to the Doordarshan authorities and the Chief Architect, CPWD for appropriate and feasible action.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (MUMBAI-NORTH EAST): With remote control, they want to come to the House!

14.44 hrs.

MOTION RE : ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House may now take up the next business, that is, further discussion on the Motion moved by Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI-NORTH) : On a point of information, I want to know whether this debate will conclude today or not. When will the Home Minister reply? If we are given the schedule, it will be better for us to inform the Members so that the Members can be here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naik, I thank you very much because you have given me the opportunity to explain the position from the Chair. There are still fourteen Members to speak on this issue. Today is the Private Members' Business day and at 3.30 p.m. we will take up discussion on Private Members' Resolutions. If the House agrees that the remaining fourteen Members will also speak today, I think, there is no possibility of the hon. Home Minister to reply today.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): After 6 p.m., I am ready to reply to the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That list will not be complete by that time, I think. Fourteen speakers cannot complete by 6 p.m. It will be taken up again on Monday.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (MUMBAI-NORTH EAST): Sir, should we take that the reply by the hon. Home Minister would be on Monday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, on Monday.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY (MUMBAI-NORTH CENTRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Statue of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was desecrated during July last in Mumbai. The police opened fire on those dalit people who were deeply hurt due to this insult of the statue. Several people were killed and injured. I share the sorrow of those dalits brothers, who have been killed. I pay my homage to them. What has happened, has happened. It is a matter of regret. But whatever is going on in this House and out of this House because of this incident, in my opinion, it is matter of deep sorrow and concern.

The conspiracy to disintegrate the country in the name of religion is going on. But in my opinion the gentlemen who preach this endeavour byreferring to this incident and trying to disintegrate the society. It is very strange that the Maharashtra State where Chhatrapati Maharaj Shivaji the founder of Swaraj was born, where Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak who gave the slogan "Swaraj is my birth right" was born, where Shri Mahatma Phule who oppose the idea of untouchability, was born, where Baba Saheb Bheemrao Ambedkar who gave self prestige to dalits was born and more over even today the highest order of equality and governance prevail, the Congress leaders of the same State of Maharashtra are making efforts to defame the very same State at national level. The motion that has been moved by the hon. Member Shri Sharad Pawar before the House refers to the atrocities committed against dalits in various parts of the country but the statement made by him while moving his motion contains only the incidents occurred in Maharashtra and nothing else. The issues relating to state cannot be discussed in this House, so to raise these issues in the House, Shri Sharad Pawar in his motion mentioned about the incidents occurred in the other parts of the country. Saying something and doing other is his nature. The entire country knows it. It is not so that dalits are living in bad shape only in Maharashtra. While replying to a question of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi on 18th March in this House, the Minister of Welfare Shri Ramoowalla mentioned some figure which indicate that during the last year the incidents of atrocities on dalits were 14,285 in U.P., 5,197 in Rajasthan, 1,764 in Andhra Pradesh and 3,979 in Madhya Pradesh. In view all this do you consider it a very high degree of atrocities where only twelve people have been killed? But in the State where atrocities against 14-15 thousand dalits are committed in single year, Shri Sharad Pawar does not utter a single word against the Government of that State. There was no mention about Bihar, U.P. and Gujarat in his speech. Only to defame the Government of Maharashtra, he has raised this issue here in the House.

On 21st May, twelve people were killed in Mauhar. As there is Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh, Shri Sharad Pawar did not mention this incident, Shri Sharad Pawar has told so many things about Bala Sahib Thakre in his speech. He also said that the Home Minister should not believe on the words of Balasahib Thakre. I think Shri Sharad Pawar is right in saying so because he himself is such a person as is not belived by anybody not only in Maharashtra but also in the entire country. Today all the veteran leaders visit Balasahib in Maharashtra. They come from Latur, Sholepur, Nanded and from Shri Vardhan etc. The people who have been startled by the politics of Sharad Pawar visit Babasahib ji. Today what is the political position of Sharad Pawar ji? A number of Congress leaders supported Shivsena-BJP in protest against the policy of Sharad Pawar ji during the election of the Legislative Assembly. Shri Sharad Pawar also knows this thing. Even after the election, the Congress leaders have helped the Maharashtra Government of BJP and Shiv Sena. These very people have helped in Maharashtra. All the States did not vote in favour of Shri Sharad Pawar during the election of the Congress President. All the Veteran Congressmen in Maharashtra did not support Shri Sharad Pawar and supported Shri Sitaram Kesri. These incidents show that Shri Sharad Pawar has earned discredibility. Shri Sharad Pawar has the same image even in Maharashtra and the country will not believe on his unreliable statement. The people who are believing on him will definitely have to bear the consequences. Some demented persons put the garland of shoes on the statue of venerated Baba Sahib Ambedkar in Ramamata Nagar in Mumbai. There was no reason and rhyme for insulting Dr. Ambedkar. There was neither the Shiv Sena-Dalit conflict nor there was any problem created by BJP in Maharashtra. Nor any action was being taken against Dalits by Government. All of a sudden this insulting incident took place and after their god-like leader was insulted, the agitated Dalits came on roads. That was a natural reaction.

Police personnel made some efforts to pacify the agitation but unfortunately, the image of the police has also maligned during the congress rule. The police have also earned unreliability like the congress politicians. Having seen this that people will continue agitating the police opened fire as per its old practice. This is very sad. I do not want to support such a firing. It is not only the Government of Maharashtra which have suppressed the agitation by making open fire by the police. But in every state, police deal with the public in the same manner. Such type of practice had been going on even before independence. Congress have made this action more rigorous. Even during the agitation of united Maharashtra, it was only Congress Government which got 105 people shot dead in Mumbai. It was also during the Congress Party rule that at the time of agitation over delimitation, Mumbai police had gunned down 59 activists of Shivsena. Had the Congress Party been in power in Maharashtra today, there would have been more casualties in Rama Mata Nagar.

Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Ram Naik ji etc. have recalled the tribal Gowari massacre which occurred in Nagpur two years back. It is very sad. Even today, the question arises

to change the Government. But the Congressmen do not raise any question to bring about change in policy of rigidity, inhumanity and insensitiveness. Dalits have not get benefits of freedom so far. They do not think about it. Even today in several states the condition of dalits is like a slave. Even today, ruling class, high class rich people are humiliating dalits. Dalits have to migrate from villages to cities. But even in cities it is very difficult for them to live peacefully and comfortably. Administrative machinery cannot administer justice to dalits and exploited and oppressed people whether it belongs to any party.

Sir, BJP made Ms. Mayawati the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. This is a welcome step. I do not want to make any comments on their generosity and compulsion. But if we want to make our country prosperous, we will have to embrace dalits as the freedom fighter Sawarkar had said several years back. Had the nationalist forces accepted it, there would have been no partition of our country.

Sir, I have read in the newspapers that during the discussion on this issue in Rajya Sabha, a member of Congress party from Maharashtra had stated about independent Dalitstan. If it is wrong, I would not raise it. But is it not a strategy of congress party to make a plan to divide the country for grabbing power? There is definitely some wicked politics behind the insulting incidence which took place in Ramamata Nagar. The way the congress party has raised this issue gives an impression that the congress itself is behind this incidence. The affection of congress towards dalits is a betrayal. If the congress had truly loved dalits, there would have not been any dalits problem. Maharashtra is a great land but congress has tried to defame it by this motion. Therefore, I oppose this motion.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: I am on a point of order. Sir, Sharad Pawar ji or other hon'ble Members who have brought this motion, no one is present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not any point of order.

[English]

There is nothing binding on them.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Once a Motion is moved.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDUKKI): These people still feel that Shri Sharad Pawar is the most powerful man in Maharashtra.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Once a Motion is moved, the Motion belongs to the House. It is not that what you say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: You are perfectly right that he need not be present but at least the Home Minister or the Minister of State for Home Affairs must be present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some Minister is here.

SHRI RAM NAIK: No. Where is the Minister of State for Home Affairs?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think he is taking note. I think you are taking note of it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is not the question of taking note. The Propriety demands and we can understand if the Home Minister is not there because he is busy. But what about the Minister of State for Home Affairs? Why are they taking the discussion so casually?

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, Propriety demands that someone from the Home Ministry should have been here.

Shri Pramothesh Mukherjee.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Please excuse me. The contention of our Members is not that as to why they are not present. They are under the impression that since the Mover being not present here, he might have withdrawn the present Motion and gone away. That is the impression being created in the minds of our people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are right in pointing out this. I am thankful to your Members because they are very much alert. That is good.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (BERHAMPORE) (WB): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to express our views on this Motion. On behalf of my Party, RSP, I rise to condemn the situation created by the police firing on the Dalit people in Mumbai. At the same time, we also condemn the atrocities committed on Dalits in Madurai District, in the southern parts of Tamil Nadu, in the other parts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and in the whole country. Sir, at the same time, we also condemn the brutal activity carried out in the house, property and on the life of the Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra. I mean to say that we condemn the attack on the house of Shri Chhagan Bhujbal, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council of Maharashtra.

15.00 hrs.

This is an organised attack upon democracy, upon the democratic fabric of the Constitution. So, we condemn this situation.

The most unfortunate incident...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung. Now, there is a quorum. The hon. Member, Shri Pramothesh Mukherjee may continue his speech.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Thank you, Sir, After all, the Quorum is made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You thank the Members, Shri Anil Basu and others, who came at last to complete the quorum.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, I was speaking about the incident of police firing in Mumbai. The most unfortunate incident of police firing over *Dalit* people in Mumbai on the 11th July, 1997, has shocked the whole nation. It has cast a very dark shadow of aggression upon the human and democratic rights of the poor people in the 50th year of our Independence. Anyway, *Dalits*, the most oppressed section in our society, do have the highest regards and sentiments of their own and those sentiments were seriously wounded by the desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar, and being angered by the highly surcharged emotions, they assembled together to raise their protests against the uncivilised act of desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar.

Sir, actually, what I read from the situation of that day in that area is that there was no provocation.

There was no provocation, there was no capability of violence on the part of the mob and there was no justification for police firing. Protests, *hartals*, *dharnas* and strikes are within the rights of the people living in the democratic set up of India. We are living in a free and sovereign country. We have the right to organise any protest, any *hartal*, any strike in the greater interest of the working class. It was their right to raise their voice against the uncivilised act. So, there was no justification for police firing. They had no serious arms or anything else in their hands to destroy the law and order situation in that area. So, there was no provocation to justify the police firing. And yet the police fired on them. What we read in the reports is that the police fired in a standing position, which is not permissible within the code of the police or in the Police Manual. To disperse any mob, to disperse any rioting mob, police may fire but they can fire in a sitting or lying position; they can never fire in a standing position. But here we see that the police fired on the *dalit* people in a standing position and the injuries were above the waist. The injuries could be done below the knee but that was not done. Is it the conduct of the agitated police in a democratic country? Is it the way to disperse the rioting mob? This is my humble question to you, Sir.

We should think over how the police officers have been agitated and how their psyche has been agitated. Someone asked me whether the police officer was a Hindu that he was killing the Muslims. Someone asks me in this independent country whether the police officer was an upper caste officer who was killing the lower caste people. This question has arisen in the minds of the working class people. How can the police officers be so much agitated that they can fire in a standing position to kill the people of this sovereign and independent country? Police have got no right to do so.

It is the observation of some journalists and it is the observation of the local people that the agitated psyche of

the high police officers and the tacit sanction of the casteist politicians of the State combined together resulted in firing over the mob and in killing of these people. So, this is the worst outcome of the caste system in our society. This is the worst outcome of the casteist politics of the ruling party in Maharashtra. I do not want to say anything more about this.

I would like to place on record that this is not a new phenomenon in the history of Mumbai in the past few years. It has been observed that during the last five years, more than 500 incidents of desecration of statues have taken place. How does it take place? Where is the genesis of the conflict between the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji? Both of them are national heroes. Chhatrapati Shivaji and Dr. Ambedkar are the pride of the nation. They are the pride of the history of India. But where does the conflict arise between the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji? Who has created such a conflict and such a tension between the two sections? One section is of *dalits* who are worshipping the statue of Dr. Ambedkar like God, and the other section is of Sena, who are worshipping the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The genesis of this conflict, the genesis of this tension, the genesis of these clashes has started from the controversy over the renaming of the Marathwada University after Dr. Ambedkar.

Can anybody in this House deny the fact that there was a serious controversy at the time of renaming of the Marathwada University after Dr. Ambedkar which was the claim or demand from the people that University should be re-styled as Dr. Ambedkar University? Somebody has said that it should be named as Chhatrapati Shivaji Memorial University.

SHRI RAM NAIK: No, no. It is definitely wrong. Who has given this information to you?

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: I am sorry my hon. friend Shri Ram Naik. With your kind permission I quote from this report. It was published in *The Pioneer* of 14 July, 1997 and is titled "Sena on trial". I may be allowed to quote from it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): You have to authenticate it.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Let me first complete my statement. I quote:

"In the past five years, as many as 508 incidents of desecration of statues have been reported. This figure was revealed by Chief Minister Manohar Joshi in a statement made after a similar incident involving BR Ambedkar's statue at Shrirampur in Ahmednagar district on March 16, 1997. That incident too sparked off instant riots, with one killed and five injured in police firing. The mushrooming of statues of leaders in the State, especially those of BR Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji, at last count about 10,000, has only served to provide a ready site to politically motivated conflict. The genesis of this conflict, essentially one between Dalit groups and the Shiv Sena, can be traced to the long-

running controversy over the renaming of the Marathwada University after BR Ambedkar"

This is my submission. It may be a false report. You may rectify it. You may give your counter judgement. But this is what I have got. The genesis of the conflict had started from the incident of controversy over renaming of the Marathwada University after Dr. Ambedkar. This incident cannot be allowed in a sovereign democratic country. We condemn this incident. I urge upon the Central Government and the concerned Ministry of Home Affairs to immediately interfere in the affairs of Maharashtra.

Sir, law and order are the essential things of a State Government. They are the essential subject of a State Government. I do not want to mention that the State Government have absolutely failed to control the law and order situation. I do not want to advocate the imposition of the President's rule or the imposition of Article 356 in Maharashtra. But I can say emphatically that if such is the social phenomenon when the incident of controversy between the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji has taken place in such a shape, the Central Government has to interfere in the affairs to control it, to root out these things and to root out the cause of tension. This is my humble submission.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): What exactly must the Central Government do? If you do not advocate imposition of Article 356, then what should do they do?

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: There are many things...(Interruptions) You do not force me to tell all those things.

SHRI RAM NAIK: He is also confused. That is why he is seeking your advice...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am not the competent authority to decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, I will draw the attention of the House to another point that Mumbai is the financial capital of our country, India. I think the progress of the whole country depends upon the peace and tranquillity in the life of Mumbai. If there are no peace and tranquillity in Mumbai the progress of the country would be at halt. It is the most important thing to be considered here today.

We know the history of Karachi in Pakistan and what had happened there. There are caste and communal clashes in Karachi. Karachi has become the hotbed of Pakistan. We cannot allow Mumbai to become the Karachi of India.

I know the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The communal and caste clashes are going on and the whole history is going to be rewritten in another way. That is the crux of the history of Yugoslavia and parts of East European countries in this century. We cannot allow India to become Bosnia-Herzegovina. We cannot allow Mumbai to become Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Shri Pramotes Mukherjee]

There is mushrooming of statues but there is also a social phenomenon, that is, the impact of black money. Can anybody refuse or deny it that there is no influence of the Gulf economy on the life of the people of Mumbai today? They are going to be influenced by the impact of Gulf economy. Some people are getting richer by getting involved in this kind of business in the Gulf countries. I do not know how far it is legal or illegal. That is a separate question. But I have seen, while travelling as a leader of the parliamentary team over Mumbai, the impact of Gulf economy on the life of the people of Mumbai which is determining so many things. I have also seen that there is an influence of black money and underworld on the political and social life of Mumbai. Is the Maharashtra State Government alone sufficient to control the impact of Gulf economy and to control the impact of underworld on the political and social life of the people of Maharashtra? It is not so.

I do not want to mention that there is a nexus between the politicians, the underworld and the Mafia world. The socialists and the political scientists will say such things. But as a Member of this House, I can say that the whole public life, the peaceful life and the developing life of Mumbai is going to be polluted by the underworld, by the influence of the black money and by the influence of the Gulf wealth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing underworld here.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: This has an impact on the controversial issues, like the one of this statue.

I was hearing one fine story from my good old friend, Shri G.M. Banatwalla. I was listening to him — he was a Member of the Maharashtra Assembly at that time — how the Shiv Sena was created by the direct or indirect sanction of the then Congress Chief Minister and how they have allowed it. So, it is a creation of the capitalist framework of the society. Should I mention all these things? I want to mention that today we have to forget our partisan spirit. We have to take into consideration that the success and development of our whole India depend on the economic life of Mumbai and on the peaceful and developing economy of the whole town of Mumbai. So, the peace and tranquillity should be restored in the life of Mumbai immediately. At the same time, the social barriers and economic inequalities between the two groups should be removed. I have seen the *bastis* and slums at the Bandra station area. I was talking to Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, the leader of Shiv Sena in this House, about the things I saw there.

On the one side, there is uneven development of capitalism and modernism; skyscrapers and big buildings are there and on the other side, people are shelterless. So, the Central Government has to pay adequate assistance for the shelterless people. This shows that the uneven development of capitalism and modernism has been going on there. I do not want to mention who is responsible for this. But I want to mention that economic inequality is also a factor behind such unhappy and unfortunate incidents. All these things should be taken into consideration by the Central Government to

resolve this problem keeping in mind that the success and economic development of the country depend on the peace and tranquility of social and political life of Mumbai.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the most disappointing situation and I feel very sad to know that on one hand preparations were being made for giving right to the lowest class of society making President of our country from this said community and on the other hand, atrocities were being committed against dalits by the Government in Mumbai city of Maharashtra. This is the worst tragedy. The statue of Dr. Ambedkar was defiled. There are no words to condemn it. It has been condemned almost by all sections of society and by each and everyone. But words fail to condemn it. In a few days, we are going to celebrate golden jubilee of our independence. But even at the time of this golden jubilee, the situation is that dalits of our country are seeking justice—

Kya isliye tazdir ne chunwaye the tinke,

Ban jaye nasheman to koi aag lage de.

This is a fact that indiscriminate firing was done. Mr. Chairman, Sir, initially, police remained very careless and it proved its carelessness. As it has been stated that there was a police post near Dr. Ambedkar statue and it was hardly one hundred metres away from it. But the police could not see all this defilement and they remained unaware of it and when police were informed about it, they wasted a lot of valuable time to decide as to whether any 'Punchnama' will be arrived at or not. As a result of that tension kept on increasing, S.R.P. vans kept on arriving. And after required number of S.R.P. vans reached there, indiscriminate firing was done. I do not want to go into the details of this incidence because members of different parties have already made a mention about it in this House. You can easily guess as to what extent this firing was indiscriminate towards dalits colonies and a poor dalit woman had succumbed to seven bullets. It seemed as if seven rifles or S.R.P. were pointed towards that old dalit woman. The firing was so much cruel and indiscriminate that a Deputy Commissioner of police had himself resigned in protest. One more employee of the Secretariat had also resigned in this connection.

This is the situation today. On the one hand the police was firing at the helpless Dalits and at the same time the police remained a silent spectator when the house of the Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council was attacked. As already has been said that his house is located in the high security and protected area. There was already an information that there will be attacks on his house. Keeping in view the said information, the police and security forces were present there in large numbers but when the attack took place the police remained a mute spectator. The Minister of Home Affairs Shri Inderjeet Gupta himself has said in this House that the attackers were very angry and if Mr. Bhujbal, the leader of the opposition had been there, only God knows what would have happened there and no one knows whether he would have been alive or dead.

Mr. Inderjeet Gupta has given his statement in this House. There was a news in caption in the news paper of Shiv Sena that Bhujbal was not there so his furniture was burnt to ashes. This is the situation and this all has happened.

But I am sorry to see that the discussion which is going on makes me feel that we are sitting here only for political exploitation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it a debate where some one says-you have killed many persons then the other Member says, when your party was in power you also have killed so many people. What kind of Debate it is in which human life is considered only in figures. Each and everyone's life is valuable...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI): When the incident of bomb blast occurred in Maharashtra...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Pramod Mahajan was also saying....(Interruptions). It is something different-not allow others to put forth his view...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am reminding him...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He remembers.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, this as- persion is not called for. It should be taken out of the record...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Pramod Mahajan had also stated that Salman Rushdie's book should be banned. When the peaceful and unarmed procession was going on. They were subjected to indiscriminate firing and many people were killed. It is a fact that we have to shed our blood under each regime. Today it seems that the blood was not being shed for the justice rather it was done only to settle our own political scores. And it make us realise that we are of no importance and this is the reality.

Yesterday, an hon. Member was saying that he was sorry for the fact that Mr. Banatwalla was not present in the House and it was said two times. At that time I was in the Prime Minister's office and giving ears to all these things. This is a reality that blood has been shed and many people have been killed at different places.

Today, ten years has passed when an incident in Maliyana near Meerut had taken place but justice has not

been done as yet. I am telling the truth. There were different parties ruling in U.P. but none of them did justice. This is the reality. What should I do now ? Some affidavit is being mentioned.

15.32 hrs.

MOTION RE : TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now 3.30 PM. Please continue on Monday next. Now we go to the Private Members' Business.

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (KHALILABAD): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

15.33 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before we take up the Resolution which is under discussion, that is, the Resolution on Illegal Immigrants moved by Shri Jaga! Vir Singh Drona, I would like to inform the House that 6 hours and 32 minutes have already been taken on this Resolution against 6 hours and 20 minutes allotted for its discussion.

The House has now to extend the time for further discussion on the Resolution. Is it the pleasure of the House that time for this Resolution be further extended by half-an-hour?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): The time may be extended for only half-an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is now extended by half-an-hour. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan is absent. Shri Girdhari Lai Bhargava may now speak.

15.33 hrs.

(SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Mr. Drona from the core of my heart that he has moved a very good Motion in

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

the House. It has been stated in this Motion that "the House expresses its deep concern over the illegal immigration at large scale in the country since 1975". It does not include Hindus, Muslims, Bengalis and Assamees only. Rather it means those people who have migrated/intrude without the permission of the Government of India. Further, it has been stated this House recommends that all important steps should be taken for identifying illegal immigrants and sending them back to their own countries". It means they should be requested to leave this country and go back to the place from where they have come. This is the spirit of this Motion. The Motion does not force them to leave this country.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that there is already 95 crore population in our country. There is a scarcity of employment and the living standard of the people is low. The living standard of the people is not upto the mark and there is no system to ensure security for them. Moreover, about 2½ crore people migrating from the other countries have settled on this sacred land of India. Therefore, this is not a political issue rather it is a National issue, an issue of patriotism importance. All the people must consider on this issue with one voice and one spirit.

The people via Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P. and from the East i.e. from Bangladesh have migrated here. If we retrospect in the past, we will find that even the neighbouring country like Pakistan is vigilant about the migrants and no persons from other country settle there.

Hon'ble Member Mr. Drona might have made a reference about Kanpur apart from many other things. I can cite an example of Jaipur city where I was Chairman of U.R.T. The land which was acquired for Talwar scheme today on the same land lacs of jhuggis have been built there. Facilities like drinking water electricity and ration cards have been provided to them. Since ration cards have been issued to these people they are also getting the ration from India. Not only this, their name have also been included in the voter list. When we approach them for vote, it depends on them whether to vote in our favour or not. But if we oppose here, this very news reaches there. Then they say to me that Drona Saheb and Rasa Singh ji were opposing in the House. I think this is a matter of concern. Therefore, the Government should seriously consider the fact that the people who have migrated and settled in India to whom ration cards have been issued, whose names have been included in voter's list who have got employment and which is not proper at all from the security point of view, such people should be repatriated gracefully. This has also led to an adverse impact on population balance. I would like to point out that this problem has started from 1971.

I would like to say something about Assam where there are 126 seats in Legislative Council and out of which 48 seats are falling under the areas adjoining to the border. Being a border area these people infiltrated into Assam and prevailed upon the voter list. Similarly there are 294 in West Bengal out of which 62 had been grabbed illegally. These people are indulged in smuggling of sugar, pulses, spices and kerosene oil from India and electronic goods, silver, gold, and illegal

weapons into India from the countries where they have come from. The Government should consider in this regard. Today these people have shifted to Bihar from West Bengal and most of them have shifted to Delhi from Bihar. I have been told that they are residing in the colonies like Seelampur, Seemapuri, Azad Market, Nizamuddin, Jungpura, Sadik Nagar, Sarai Rohilla and Jama Masjid etc. The people from Bengal, Assam and Bhutan have come to these places and established big colonies and have made their hold in trades also. Not only this, they have also got a Muhajir Union in Bengal. This union hold a press conference and made a statement that they would struggle for the citizenship of India. Bengladeshees struggled for getting the citizenship of India and the Government could not do anything. When the Press Conference was going on the media persons and other people did not ask anything from the Government about the matter. I humbly say that today also they are trying to get the citizenship. But it is a matter of sorrow that the people have made it also a political question. We have been witnessing the fact from very beginning that BJP which was earlier known as Jansang, had stated that Indian citizenship would not be granted to foreigners. Even in Bhopal session in 1992 BJP had stated that they would repatriate the foreigners settled here, gracefully. But other parties did not support BJP. BJP is not in the power. Now the people always say that if the elections were held this time BJP would surely come into power and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee would become the Prime Minister. No body knows when next election will be held and when we will come to majority. But the people also have not supported on this issue. The other parties say that whatever BJP says, we should not believe is that.

That names of these people have also been included in the voter's list in West Bengal and with their support one political party is ruling there for the last 20 years. Similarly the condition of Bihar has also deteriorated due to the intruders. This is not only a political problem but also a national problem. In this context, I would request that these people should be identified and identification can be done easily for example if some one lives in a locality or village, he can be identified by his way of living and appearance. If there is some department under police and State Government it should be informed that an unfamiliar person an outsider is staying in our locality and this person should be identified. If proper information is received, the State Government should definitely make efforts in this direction.

Similarly, no citizen ship register has been maintained. Today any outsider comes and gets his/her name included in the voter's list. It is essential that the names should be included in the voter's list on the basis of verification otherwise, any one would be able to get his name included in the voter's list at the time of revision of the voter's list. The Election Commission of India has announced about the revision in voter's list. So any person can get his name included in the voter's list and became a citizen of India. Therefore, a register of citizenship should be maintained.

In the same way there should be restriction on movement in border areas. Today the intrusion of terrorist in Kashmir is going on without any check. They enter Rajasthan and

Gujarat through the routes of Badmer and Kutch and never go back. All this facts have to be considered.

At the end, I would like to say that if your own house is open, it is natural that someone will come; sit, drink water and eat and will take away your belongings. If we do not pay attention towards our house, somebody may occupy our house as well. Then he may say that this is his own house and that it is each man's right to be accommodated in it. He may say that he has been coming here for last 20-22 years and has been doing routine works like eating, drinking and sleeping. It is very important that the Government should pay attention towards our big house which is Mother India. I think that the amount which is being spent by State Government on the people PIF and NTF has been wasted. These people guard the residences of senior officers and get salaries from the Central Government. Even they are not prompt in their duty. That is why if we consider all these aspects, we find that when any Minister of neighbour country visit India Like Smt. Khalida Begam, former P.M. of Bangladesh who had visited India and stated that this is the problem of Bengalees and Assamees. It all depends upon the Government of India as to how the Government sort out the problem. In the same way, I would like to request the United Front Government which is an alliance of 15 parties that it should display its courage by refusing citizenship to the outsiders who have come to Bengal, Assam and who have come from Bhutan and denying them the amenities so far provided. All these people should be repatriated gracefully.

Whatever I am saying is that the proposal putforth by Shri Dronaji regarding illegal entry of people on large scale into our country after 1975 should be considered.

I support Shri Drona's view. I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now only fifteen minutes are left for this Resolution. If the Members agree, I will ask the Minister to intervene and the Mover of the Resolution to reply to it.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (BALRAMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Private Member's Resolution is important some more members want to express their views. Though it is Private Member's Resolution but it is a national issue, the problem is serious and crucial. Some more time be extended for this Resolution so that we can also express our views.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satya Deo Singh, your name is there in the speakers' list. But the only thing is that from BJP alone, nine Members have participated in the debate on this Resolution. I think, all the points have been brought before this House. So, if you all agree, I will call the hon. Minister to intervene. Otherwise, we will have to further extend the time.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, every

Member has a right to speak his own mind. It is not the question of a party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not like that.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: It is above party levels. Therefore, I will request that some more time be granted for this Resolution because it is a very important and crucial Resolution and more so, when we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Independence...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not go into such details. The problem is that without adhering to any timetable if you are going on like this, it will be very difficult to finish it. You know for how many days one subject is being discussed. To begin with, two hours were allotted for the discussion on this Resolution but we have already taken seven hours and it is still not concluded. In spite of that, if we go on like this, it will be an unending discussion.

If you are insisting, I will allow you to participate. Otherwise, I will call the hon. Minister to intervene.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Sir, please allow me for a few minutes.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are other Resolutions also which are equally important.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: I do agree that other Resolutions are important. That is not my point.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Apparently, most of the people from one section of the House are speaking. It is an important Resolution but all the views and aspects have come. Now there is only repetition. So, other Resolutions should be allowed to be taken up. There are 15 more minutes. I think, both the hon. Minister and the mover can finish it within this time limit and then we can move on to the next item.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (GUWAHATI): Sir, I have also given my request to participate in the discussions on this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name has been received just now. This is not the way. For the last three Fridays we are discussing this particular Resolution. You have sent your request just now. I will not take any more slips today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): Sir, I have a submission to make.

From 3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., it is the Private Members' Business. If the next Resolution is there, it has to be introduced. Once it is introduced, it becomes alive. As such some time should be extended for this Resolution so that three or four speakers, who are waiting for their turns, get the opportunity to speak on it and then the hon. Minister can intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House to extend the time and exhaust the list of the speakers?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, another half-an-hour can be given for it. So, there will be 45 minutes more.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: There is enough time, Shri Prithviraj Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: But other Resolutions are also to be taken up and discussed.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: For other Resolutions, there might not be many speakers to intervene.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Private Members Resolution, we are not able to take more than two or three Resolutions in a year. One Resolution goes on for two Sessions. Unless we adhere to some time limit, it will not be possible to complete it within the time allotted. We should have some understanding and complete such Resolutions within the time limit of two hours so that we can move on to the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us try to complete it within another half-an-hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona, it is not that only he is worried. The Chair also is equally concerned. There are three important Resolutions before the House. During one Session, we are even not able to complete one Resolution. All the other Resolutions before us are equally important. This is all that I suggest.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, let us not waste the time by getting into arguments. Now, I understand the spirit of your arguments.

Now, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat -- Not present.

Shri Satya Deo Singh. Please conclude in five minutes time.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to convey my thanks to those hon. Members who have supported Shri Drona's proposal to extend some more time for this Resolution. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. The problem of intrusion in our country has not only increased but also it has taken a very serious turn.

Today, this problem has turned into many folds in our country. It is not a question of few people intruding into our country but it is many folds problem. The first problem is that it is endangering the integrity, unity, economy and social harmony of our country.

The problem of intrusion has not only been discussed through this Resolution but this has been discussed on several occasions through Parliamentary Questions and debates. This problem is creating religious frenzy too. The activities of IST have been matter of debate in this House. The problem of intrusion has endangered our nationality. The intrusion is causing conspiracy for sabotage, encouraging anti-national elements and giving them protection. I belong to Balrampur district and its boundaries are common with Nepal. Kathmandu in Nepal has become headquarters of ISI agency of Pakistan. Not only intrusion is taking place from Nepal border but also arms and drugs in large quantity are supplied there from into our country. This is affecting the character and life of our young generation.

The problem of intrusion particularly intrusion from Bangladesh has become grave and Assam Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh which were earlier parts of Assam have become the areas of intrusion and the original residents of these areas have become minority. They are losing their identity. This problem has arisen into Bihar also. Population in Kishanganj, Purnea, Katihar, Sahibganj and Dumka districts of Bihar has increased rapidly as compared to other districts because there is large number of illegal intruders from Bangladesh. This problem is prevailing in West Bengal also. Even cities like Malda, Murshidabad, Calcutta etc. are facing this problem. There are large number of Bangladeshis in Delhi and they are intruding into Indian territory from Rajasthan and Gujarat. In Varanasi, U.P. every fifth rickshaw puller is a Bangladeshi. Unfortunately no of political parties and political leaders are patronising this illegal intrusion. They want to make it a Hindu-Muslim issue to cover this problem. They want to divert the attention of the people, whenever this problem has been raised by BJP and Bhartiya Jan Sangh, it has been given political colour. Today we should not forget that this country has been divided. It has been divided into two nations. It has been divided on religious grounds. We have decided at that time that those people who repatriated in our country would be given a right of citizenship. Today Chakma are being killed who have come into India to save their life. They should not be treated as intruders. This is not correct that only North Eastern region will bear their burden, it has to be borne at national level. The Union Government should pay its attention towards them. It is our duty to give refuge to those Chakma refugees on humanitarian grounds and save their life because they are coming into our country for fear prosecution in their country. The former Prime Minister went to North Eastern region in October, 1996 and was there for one week. It is being said that never in the history of India, any Prime Minister visited North Eastern region for such a long time. He studied the problem of development, intrusion there, held several discussions with the people and met the Chief Ministers. Therefore, a notification was issued in this regard which stated.

[English]

"New Initiative for the North Eastern region".

[Translation]

and I quote the words of the hon. Prime Minister:-

[English]

"It was represented that the laws existing for the detection of foreigners such as Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal (IMDT) Act, 1983, as amended, have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in consultation with States. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened."

[Translation]

There was a lot of discussion over this statement in this House and also outside the House and in this discussion concern over the state of Assam was expressed and it was said that today their existence is endangered, their cultural and other values are disappearing and that too in their own State. Lots of infiltrators are coming there from Bangladesh. An important issue in the Assam Accord was the sealing off of the border but the Government after 1985 has not been able to do it till date. The most difficult thing is to identify the foreigners as a person arrested under the National Security Act has to prove that he is not guilty. Likewise the person who claims to be a foreigner has the legal responsibility to prove that he is a foreigner.

Sir, it seems as if the State Government want to consider their duty as fulfilled by shifting their responsibility to those who being the patriotic citizens come forward to tell that they are not Indians nor NRIs but infiltrators from outside. I want to quote Mahatma Gandhi who had expressed concern, especially over the State of Assam in 1944. How farsighted he was and how correctly he could identify density of this problem. He had said it in 1944 when there was no division of Bangladesh or Pakistan and East Pakistan. He had said that if migration at such a large scale would be there from one region to the other that the number of natives in the latter becomes less, then such a thing cannot be tolerated. If the people of Assam do not oppose it, I would consider them very weak indeed. I am not saying this, but it was said by none other than the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi in 1944 which we would remember probably now while enthusiastically celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Further, whatever Mohammad Ali Jinnah said in 1947 that is the part of history. I want to quote what he had said to his Private Secretary Moinul Haq. Within ten years I will present Assam to you in a silver platter. They had planned as to what extent they will get their people infiltrated in Assam even after partition. Bangladeshes are intruding in Assam and other States in a planned way.

Sir, everybody knows how far Assam is secure. It is a fact that foreign tourists were not allowed to visit the State upto 1983 but we had done nothing to check infiltration there which is being done by foreign missionaries for converting religion and we had not expressed any concern over it. We

had assumed that now this State is safe. The environment here is good and no foreign national and tourist will come here and we will be able to keep this beautiful State safe. The State is gifted with immense natural wealth, prosperity, forest, water resources and oil but what is the situation there today? The development of North Eastern region has come to a standstill today. Hon'ble speaker has informed us that we will convene a special Session of the House on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year of Independence in which there will be no Question Hour, Zero Hour and draw the attention of the country towards some important issues and try to find out their solution. Population is one of those issues. Population is increasing alarmingly in the country and what steps should be taken to check it. In what manner it should be discussed and long term measures should be adopted. But we should think about the increase in population of North Eastern region which is mainly increasing due to infiltration. Today employment opportunities are not available for youth in North Eastern region and whatever opportunities are available those are being grabbed by the foreign nationals. Economic security has been provided to them, land has been allotted to them, their names have been included in the voter lists and the people who have nothing to do with this country are deciding the fate of this country. They had not come here with good intentions. They had come here for sabotage, to destroy unity and integrity of the country, to destabilise the economy of the country and to disrupt the progress of the country. It appears to me that it has become our duty to protect them and fight for them.

16.00 hrs.

It is very sad to say that infiltration is increasing in North East today. Today youths are unemployed and get involved in anti-national activities. Such activities attract the youths. There is no development in North Eastern region. One of the major cause of this is the increasing population of foreigners in this region. That is why this crisis has arisen there. We will have to think that if infiltration in the region is not stopped, if the youths in the region are not brought into the mainstream of the country then funds will not reach there and this region will not develop. Today private sector's people are not willing to go there. There is nothing in the North Eastern States. Therefore, when we are celebrating the 50th Year of Independence, we will have to resolve that if we have to divert more funds from the developed parts of the country to the region like North East for its economic development where infiltration is increasing and which is proving our weakness, we should sanction more funds for economic development of such region. In addition to this, until we do not take effective steps and frame national policy on infiltration and do not try to implement the same seriously this problem cannot be resolved. I am sorry to State that the Government in the centre do not heed to this national problem.

The problem in Jammu and Kashmir is somewhat different. Pakistan is involved in infiltration there. Foreign mercenaries are being hired from Sudan and Afghanistan. The Government itself admits that training camps are being run there and those mercenaries are creating disturbance in our country. Their language and costumes are similar to the

[Shri Satya Deo Singh]

Indians so they get themselves mixed up with our people. Whether we will let it go on and can we shirk from our responsibility.

Recently our Prime Minister had been there to inaugurate a rail line with a package of development programme. He made an announcement in the Lok Sabha knowingly or unknowingly that the Government is ready to have unconditional negotiation with terrorists not with Hurriyat Conference. There is no need to negotiate with Hurriyat conference. But what is the intention of the Government to hold talks with terrorists without any condition, through their intention is not good. Do you know as to what extent your announcement will be harmful for the country?

This encourages the infiltrators to sneak into our country. They feel that there is no restriction in this country, sneak into it and talk at coffee table. On the other hand, people of our country are not getting employment. We are taking loans and more loans from foreigners. Our economic resources are becoming limited day by day and we are compromising with the terrorists and infiltrators. This dual policy can not work simultaneously. After this announcement of the Prime Minister when the jawans of our security forces who are posted there, who are fighting with the terrorists, who are safeguarding the Independence of our country, who are ensuring peaceful atmosphere in the country so that we may express our feelings freely in the Parliament and are sacrificing their everything, are being killed, then on what ground you will hold talks with the terrorists. I would like to ask that for which objective our Jawans of security forces should lay down their lives? Should we not think of it while giving such statements? Should we not bother about it?

During last few days replies to these questions were received. One may ask any question, the replies to all questions were there at the table. In reply to question No. 17 to 87, the Government says that it is correct that camps are held in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied areas to educate and train such elements so that they may be sent to Jammu and Kashmir and they may involve themselves in terrorist and secessionist activities there. All these information are being provided by the Government, but after that the chapter is closed. I would like to thank Shri Dronaji who has, through this resolution, drawn the attention of the House to this national problem. I would like to state to the Government through this House that this problem is not merely for the debate. We utter few words here then forget it. This resolution should have come from the Government. The 50th year of Independence should be devoted to protect the life of every citizen, to provide the right to live to every citizen and to enhance the pace of development in every region. The people should have firm belief that this country is safe and secure. There will be no place for infiltration in this country.

The foreign nationals shall come to this country in a proper manner and in accordance with the law of the land. If they want to get the citizenship of this country, then they will get it in a proper manner. We have to take firm steps to contain infiltration. Do not give it a political colour. If their names are included in the voters list and we are elected to

this House by getting their votes and form the Government, then for how long these governments will work and for how long this House will work like this? If a question mark is put on the nationality of the country and the integrity of the country is attacked in an organised manner and the unity and integrity of the country is sacrificed on petty issues of winning and losing, then the day is not far away that when we are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence, we will not be able to pay our sincere homage to those martyrs who have sacrificed their lives have shed their blood and secured the independence of the country to see that India emerges as a great and glorious nation. In order to make India a great and glorious nation it is the prime duty of the Government to provide security to its citizens and not to guard the foreigners.

With these words, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and allowing me to express my views on this serious and difficult problem. Many-many thanks.

[English]

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (GUWAHATI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much that you have considered my notice to take part in a very important Resolution moved in this House. I do not know whether during the last 50 years any such resolution regarding illegal immigrants has been moved on the floor of this House or not. While appreciating the concern expressed by some of the hon. Members of this House regarding illegal migrants entering into the territory of India, I also express my anguish that the immigrants and the infiltrators have not been properly distinguished. Even though the Resolution is about the illegal immigrants, I believe that these are illegal infiltrators because immigrants have a right to settle in a particular country, of course, with permission. But the infiltrators permeate, percolate stealthily. They never inform the Government. They never inform anybody. They take any route and then they permeate into the regions where they find themselves secure.

Now, unfortunately, this country has been facing the problem of illegal infiltrators not only from today but since long. More particularly, we are concerned about the period after 1950. Other Members have expressed concern about the State of Assam. I am grateful to them. When they express concern about the North-Eastern States, I am really grateful to them. Many of the Members may not know that till 1824, Assam was a sovereign State. And only on 26th February, 1824, Assam was integrated with the rest of the country by the Britishers and that too through a pact, called *Sandhi*. The pact was performed not on the soil of Assam but it was done in Burma, now known as Myanmar. Unfortunately, since 1947 and even prior to that, the undivided Assam has become a tragedy of events.

There were many events and most of the Members of Parliament know about some of the events but the majority of the events are not known to them.

In 1947, as has been rightly pointed out by Shri Satya

Deo Singh, a conspiracy was hatched that there would be a grouping system and in that grouping system, the State of Assam would be annexed to the particular 'C' Group. Due to the blessings of late Mahatma Gandhi the father of the Nation and due to the foresight of the late Gopinath Bardolui and his Colleagues, the State of Assam could be rescued and it was annexed to India. Since then events followed one after the other.

The first onslaught on the State of Assam was that a huge influx of refugees were coming from Bangladesh erstwhile East Pakistan to Assam with the connivance of the political leaders and also with the permission of the political leaders. You might know that the then Prime Minister of India the late Jawaharlal Nehru rebuked Gopinath Bardolui who resisted this and said Assam was small state and this very small part of the country could not take the burden of so many Bangladeshi (East Pakistan) refugees and requested him to divide these refugees among different parts of the country. But he did not do it. In return, Gopinath Bardolui was rebuked. When this was protested by the subsequent Chief Minister of the State, Shri Bisnu Ram Midhi, you will be surprised to know, he was transferred as the Governor of Tamilnadu so that the obstacle to the settling of these refugees from Bangladesh could be removed. Since then this process of infiltration, this immigration and this influx of refugees from Bangladesh has been continuing.

Shri Satya Deo Singh was correct when he stated that today the entire demography of the State of Assam had completely changed. We are now shaky. We are not afraid of our existence, we have a fear psychosis in our minds that we might have to take refuge in other states, otherwise we shall be thrown out from our soil which was a sovereign State till the year 1824. But for what? This definitely does not speak any good of the Government. The then Government could not foresee that a small sub-nationality of India would be annihilated in course of time. We are now going to be annihilated.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has ruined the whole State of Assam. We are now seven sisters. We were seven times bigger than the Assam of today. Now, by taking the help of this provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the State has been fragmented and divided. It has been balconised one after another because it has been so provided in the Constitution. What is the very purpose of the Constitution? Is it to annihilate the people? Is it to subjugate the people? Is it to divide the people and then rule? Then there is no difference between the Britishers and my own Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sarma, please stop for a minute.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, please allow me for two to three minutes more. I shall conclude within that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. I am not asking you to conclude. The time allotted to you is over and so, maybe, we have to extend the time for another half an hour or until we complete.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, kindly do that.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT (AGRA): Please extend the House for half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have extended for three times.

[English]

You have come only now. We have to take up some other Resolution also. So, please conclude as early as possible.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, there has been a fraud on the Constitution. I want that the country should be governed with the help of the Constitution but the Constitution should not be taken as a plea to balconise the States, make them smaller so that they could be ruled easily and then swamp the States with foreigners.

Now, Assam is going to be swamped by the foreigners. I do not know whether the Members of Parliament know the figure of illegal migrants or not. In Assam illegal migrants constitute more than 28 percent of the population. It amounts to 70 lakh. To give shelter to all these illegal migrants itself is a problem for the State of Assam as the State's economy would be destroyed, eaten up by these illegal migrants. Not only that, there would be another serious consequence of it and that is, they would rule us. They would become the legislators, the Members of Parliament, the Ministers or the Governors and they would rule us. These illegal migrants should have been detected by the provision of law. We have different laws. We have the Foreigners Act and the Citizenship Act. These Acts have not been implemented by the Government of India. I urge upon the Government to do justice to the laws enacted in this august House. This is one aspect of illegal immigrants.

I believe Assam would not be thrown to the path of another tragedy. You might know, on this very floor of the Parliament, the then most powerful Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, once bid farewell. We, the people of Assam do not want to again bid adieu. We do not want that. We want to remain in India. We want to become a part and parcel of India. We are as good Indians as other Indians living in different parts of the country. We want to be good Indians. Good Indians must be helped, fostered and given cooperation by the Parliament which is sovereign.

You would recall that there is a Common Minimum Programme of the present Government and in that programme the Assam Accord of the very important aspects for the State of Assam — was included. This Accord may protect the interests of the State of Assam. But that Accord is yet to be implemented. Not a single clause has so far been implemented. We urge upon the Government to take this Accord very seriously so that the problems of influx and other problems arising out of this influx are taken care of.

I am really sorry that the time allotted to us is not enough. Therefore, I shall try to be brief.

[Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma]

The Chinese aggression is still fresh in our memory. We do not want another aggression by any country on the State of Assam or for that matter on the entire North-Eastern region. We want protection. The safeguard is guaranteed in the very Constitution but that guarantee has not been given by the Government to the people of Assam. We hope that the present Government would give us that guarantee.

You may remember the death of Shri Hiralal Patwari, who was a candidate for election to the Parliament from Mangaldoi constituency. He died in 1978 when we came to know that the electoral rolls of Assam were full of illegal immigrants. It was to the extent of 50,000 illegal immigrants in one constituency only.

You can very well imagine what the plight of the State will be where just one constituency is infested with as many as fifty thousand illegal voters.

Very recently, on 17th July this year, a circular has been issued by the Election Commission for intensive revision of electoral rolls only for the State of Assam. You may know about it. You may enquire about it. I have a copy with me. You will be surprised to know, the provision that has been mentioned in that circular says that those who are born on or before 1.7.1987, irrespective of either of whose parents is born in India or not, will be a citizen of this country. Can this hon. House agree to this proposition? Should we not revolt against it? I urge upon all the Members of this House to definitely revolt against this provision that anybody and everybody either of whose parents is an Indian citizen or not but born on or before 1.7.1987 should be included as a voter. Do you subscribe to this view? I do not. It is because, if that is done, Assam would have to be for good considered not a part of India. It will be taken away.

Therefore, I urge upon this hon. House, through you Mr. Chairman, that they should become sensitive to this particular provision and revolt against it to make necessary impact on the Election Commission, and for that matter the Government of India, so that this provision is corrected according to the provisions of the Constitution and according to the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The IMDT Act has been referred to. The Citizenship Act is an Act which is applicable to the whole of the country. The Foreigners Act is also applicable to the whole of the country and so also the other Acts. The IMDT Act is an Act which is applicable only to the State of Assam. And the very implication of this Act is, for identifying an illegal immigrant the onus of proof lies with the person who says that that person is a foreigner, and not with the foreigner himself. If I say that so and so is a foreigner, the onus of proof lies with me and not with that foreigner. Can such an Act be implemented in the State of Assam? Should we not say that either this Act be repealed or amended so as to make it effective and nonpartisan in its application?

We, the Assamese, and more particularly the members of the Assam Gana Parishad, believe that it is a pluralistic society where people belonging to many religions and people speaking different languages live. We do not distinguish the foreigners, the illegal immigrants on the basis of

religion. They are from Bangladesh, they are from Bhutan, they are from Myanmar and many of them are from Nepal. All of them are definitely not of one particular religious group. They belong to different religious groups. Therefore, while identifying, while detecting, while deleting their names and deporting the foreigners, this particular provision of secularism must be availed.

Mr. Chairman is very kind. I know that he is a very sympathetic person. He has given me only two or three minutes extension.

Has any hon. Member of this House seen the Census Report of 1991? If they have seen it, then kindly look at the population pattern of the State of Assam and see for yourself, convince yourself and compare it with the Census Reports of 1901 and 1951. And convince yourself as to how many foreigners are living in Assam and take with that the rate of growth of population of Assam which is the highest in the country. In Assam, if the highest rate of growth of population takes place out of its natural course, then also, you compare the Census Reports of 1901, 1951 and 1991 and convince yourself, how many illegal immigrants have entered into the State of Assam? On the basis of this, through Mr. Chairman, I request the Government of India, of which I am a part, to take corrective measures immediately.

I only say that we must not involve ourselves in politics with difference of opinion and dilute this vital issue. Cutting across party lines, we must have to save our nation from the infiltration and influx of these foreigners, more particularly the territories of Indian Border. Shri Satya Deo Singh and many others have mentioned, that Infiltrators are there in Delhi also. But a population of more than 1.2 crore in Delhi cannot be outnumbered by the infiltrators. A population of five lakh of infiltrators in Mumbai with a population, which according to Shri Ram Naik is around 1.8 crore, including the suburb, may not be overwhelmed. But a population of only 2.25 crore in Assam, if encroached upon by or entered into by 70 lakh illegal immigrants, probably the populace will be easily swamped in course of time, may be within five or ten years. We want an assurance from the Government of India. I request, the hon. Chairman to see that this guarantee is given by the Government of India to save ourselves.

Political will is the call of the hour. Today, we have the United Front Government. I think, they will be able to do something. I urge upon any Government that may come to power the political will is the call of the hour to resolve this issue. We must not play politics with the sovereignty of the nation or with the influx of foreign nationals. Assam is an integral part of India. We want that it should remain a part of India. Its situation should not be allowed to further aggravate. Assam is restive. Therefore, I request, through you, Sir, that we must rise above politics to resolve the issue, once for all.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): Sir, I congratulate Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona for moving this Resolution. He has opened the eyes of the country as well as of the Government. That how the people who have infiltrated

into India illegally are creating problems for the country. It is a multidimensional problem. My Hon'ble friend from Assam who was speaking just now has expressed the pitiable condition of Assam. It is truly the condition of the whole nation. The Government should pay attention to whatever has been said by him. There is danger to the country on both East and West borders. He has told about danger in Assam. There is danger in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and as I have said, there is danger from Pakistan and Bangladesh side also. At present it appears that some forces are attacking the country in a civilian manner through foreigners. This is such an attack which is carried out without any armaments. That is why people are unable to know about it. Our political leaders are busy strengthening their vote bank. They are of the opinion that these immigrants will prove boon for the ruling party and they will use them as the vote bank. That is why the unity and integrity is being put at stake.

So the Government should learn lesson from Smt. Indira Gandhi. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev ji is seated here. When Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India in 1971, a war was fought with Pakistan and as a result of which Bangladesh was created. It was created on the ground that the people of Pakistan Committed atrocities on the people of East Pakistan and pushed about one and a half crore people of East Pakistan to India. Smt. Indira Gandhi had said that she would solve this problem and will sort out this issue and take revenge for each and every displaced person who had come to India from Pakistan and she did it. I would like to say that India should show the same will power which was shown at that time by Smt. Indira Gandhi and the immigrants in India who are coming illegally, may not be treated as vote bank. The unity and integrity of the country should be protected in the larger interest and infiltration should be checked.

ISI is infiltrating in the country. The Home Minister of India is sitting here. He may go through his papers. Secret agencies have reported and indicated that ISI have established its roots in Meerut, Hapur and many other places. Aligarh is also a similar place and Muradabad is the fourth place which I am pointing out. This is in my knowledge but he has original information. The activities of ISI throughout the country are continuing through immigrants who have sneaked into India unlawfully. The same persons are also active in Kashmir. They are also active in other parts of the country. They were responsible for the heavy bloodshed in Bombay where hundreds of people were killed. I would like to say that activities of ISI should be checked. But unfortunately, some political leaders of United Front are giving protection to ISI and members of their family are in connivance with them. I would like to say that the political parties should give up their political interest and they should not make any alliance with the ISI to strengthen their vote bank and to become God Father of a particular community. They conspire alongwith the local people, create law and order problem, indulge in rioting and in this way create anarchy in the society. The Government must tell this in clear terms that India is not an orphanage where whosoever wants may come. There is no other country in the world where citizen of other country can settle without permission of concerned Govern-

ment. But India is such a country where nobody bothers who comes and who goes. It should not be so. Consequent upon the conspiracy hatched by ISI agents and a political party, riots of Sia and Sunni in Lucknow and communal riots of Hindu-Muslims with SC's in Agra broke out and a conspiracy is also being hatched to break out racial riots in Agra.

Once hon. Speaker was telling on the occasion of 50th anniversary of Independence that our major problem is rapid growth of population. We know that every year we add a population of 1.80 crore to this country which is equivalent to the population of the Australia. Probably, it is likely to be discussed at 50th anniversary of independence. The population of our country is increasing and one reason behind this increase is high birth rate—which is understandable and the second is, inflow of immigrants who are illegally settling in our country. At least this inflow should be prevented. My friend Sharmaji was telling just now that influx of foreigners in Assam is more than the number of children taking birth in our country. In this way the population is increasing. It is necessary to check the growth of population.

Farmers brought green revolution, and increased food production, production on other fronts also increased but how far the means of production will be increased under the pressure of ever increasing population including the illegal influx of crores of people. Resources are limited and population is increasing rapidly and therefore it is necessary to check the foreigners who are intruding in this country. It is really surprising that how election commission decided that if foreign parents give birth to a child in India, the child would be called Indian. Government must look into these laws that such things should not be there. Due to increase in population food has become inadequate. At present increase in population is the biggest problem of country, in this way we are lagging behind on the social front and in providing common facilities to our citizen. This is the root cause of unemployment problem.

I would like to request the Government through you that it is essential for country's unity and integrity, geographical security and the basic character of cultural identity and also in order to maintain our economic growth that Government should ban entry of illegal persons into the country, expel them and take strong action who have already entered the country. As Sharmaji was pointing out, that cultural, social and ethnic character of the country is itself in danger.

At the time of formation of Pakistan Mohd. Ali Jinnah had said that we would occupy the entire area of Assam by increasing population. Their infiltration into UP might create a new Pakistan and these deep conspiracies planned by Muslim League are now taking place. So our unity and integrity are in danger. We should be careful and I once again congratulate Dronaji who has raised this important matter in the House. I would like to urge upon the Government of India to take effective measures in this matter without indulging themselves in dirty and selfish politics.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (RAJAPUR): Thank you Sir.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

It is one of the most important issues that we always politicise and try to say that it has been raised by a particular party or by a particular individual with political motivation and try to overlook the national importance of such issues.

I am very glad that my esteemed friend, Shri Drona has raised this important issue before Parliament. I am also really grateful to another illustrious Member from Assam, Dr. Sarma for raising another very important point that is threatening the cultural identity of a very important State of Assam.

Sir, I sometimes wonder that as a country, as a nation, do we really have to raise these issues? If we go to any other country in the world, like the United States of America, there are some persons who cross borders from Mexico. They try to fence the entire border and they try to throw away the persons who have crossed over from Mexico. They do not let them come even to their country. Here, we have been allowing as if India is the only country in the world which has got no borders. It means anybody can come any time, anybody can cross the borders any time, bring in arms and take away arms and we are going to look at them harmlessly. That is, what we feel is, our culture. But in the process the entire country's identity is at stake. I think, it is high time that the Government came out with a very concrete policy.

Sir, when WTO negotiations were going on, India raised a very important issue. We wanted that if there is a flow of free capital, if there is a flow of any free trade or services and if goods are to flow without any barrier then why should there be barriers between the countries as far as labour, which is also one of the important constituents of that economic activity, is concerned? Why should that also be not allowed to flow from one country to another country? All the countries in the world, particularly the developed countries, opposed this concept.

If we had accepted this concept, Indian labour also could have gone to USA like USA goods come to India. In that case, probably we would have considered these illegal immigrants in a different context. When Indian labour want to go to another country, they are faced with all sorts of problems. India is one country which does not really bother about this and people from other parts of the world would like to come into our country.

Sir, I would like to point out a very important issue, which is pertaining to Assam. I would like to highlight that because the State from which I come from is the State of Maharashtra, which is also facing this problem in a very big way. Whenever any citizen from Maharashtra or for that matter any other part of the country raises such issues, it is always said that this is a coloured issue and they are trying to raise it on religious grounds. There is no religion involved in this. It is purely a patriotic issue. So, I will take the State of Assam as an example.

Sir, a popular movement in the State of Assam was started in late 1970s and early 1980s for establishing cultural identity of the local Assamese. If we had awakened at that time, probably today we did not have to face this

issue, which is now engulfing the entire country. Even at that time it was thought to be a movement launched by the Opposition to destabilise the Government which was elected in the State and it was also thought that probably if we try to hit the genuine demands of the citizens of Assam, some of the votes that we could garner would be lost. In the process we have politicised this issue and today the State of Assam is virtually on the brink of extinction on cultural grounds. I think, we must get ourselves united and all the political parties, all the citizens of this country must unite and should not look at it as an issue raised by a particular party on religious grounds.

Sir, I would not try to differentiate those who are crossing the border. Once they cross the border, they come to us as foreigners. What religion they possess and what national identity they have before they cross the border are not important because they are illegal immigrants who have crossed the border without valid documents.

Sir, there is the economics side to it, which, of course, has been highlighted by many friends. It is very obvious. I would not like to go into it. What is important is to see that when the people crossed over into the country, with what motivation they are coming. Whenever the refugees have been crossing the border in different countries, they come to the notice of the United Nations and the United Nations has an organisation which exclusively looks after the plight of the refugees. Even the United Nations Refugees Organisation also says that they have to be segregated and they should not be allowed to intermingle with the local population. In any case, even the United Nations does not talk about giving citizenship right to such immigrants. But here, even without anybody demanding it, we are out to give them citizenship right and we are giving it to them even without verifying the entire process as to how a person could become a citizen. This is a very serious matter. Unless we really try to dwell upon it with all the seriousness that it demands, we would have lost a good opportunity and probably one State of Assam would go away today and later on many other States would face the same fate and this august House, which is supposed to be the most sovereign body, which is supposed to look after the interest of the entire country would not have served its job if we do not look into this issue.

Sir, I remember that when people from Tibet crossed over the border into India, we, as a country, realised their plight and provided them proper house and proper accommodation. We also tried to segregate them and kept them in different places. They have been there in the Dharmshala in Himachal Pradesh, they have been there in the State of Karnataka and they have been there in different parts of the country. Sir, there are people, particularly from Bangladesh, who are coming in such numbers into all parts of our country and are involving in such activities that really demand the Government to awaken. Is there any machinery on the part of the Government to detect such foreigners coming into the country? If we do not have any such machinery, then it is a very serious matter. The Government is not able to give the figures about how many immigrants have really crossed over.

There are certain constituencies particularly in Assam,

where the number of registered voters had increased disproportionate to the normal rise in the population of that area. If there is an increase of one or two or three per cent in the national population, the number of voters who are registered in a particular constituency is rising by 15 to 20 per cent. This is something very unusual and cannot be explained by a normal logic. There could be only one explanation that there are illegal immigrants who are coming into the country and now we are thinking of giving them citizenship right.

Sir, the citizenship right is not something which can be doled out like this. By this, we are trying to insult the remaining citizens of the country. We are insulting the sovereignty of the country and I think we have to follow the proper system which is mentioned in the Citizenship Act and we cannot just keep on giving away citizenship like this. I think we will really have to be alive to this issue.

Sir, I realise the constraint of time. I thank you for according me this opportunity. Also I must thank the Mover of the Resolution as well as the other Members who have spoken on this Resolution.

16.45 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): I am thankful to Shri Jagatvir Singh Dronaji, who is the mover of this resolution and also to those hon'ble Members who have participated in the debate. I am thankful to them also. I have expressed my views in true sense and besides this I personally give more importance to this illegal immigration. This is a very serious problem. Hon'ble Members have expressed their views in regard to illegal infiltration to our northeast from Bangladesh and also other princely states including Gujarat by making West-Bengal as corridor. In this connection, I would like to say that this phenomenon is not of today. But even before Independence people used to come from that areas. What are the reasons thereof? We have a long border. Its distance is about 4000 k.m. We have a neighbouring country called Bangladesh. Its border is not only wide but its geographical sketchies such that sometimes canals and sometimes hills fall under our area and sometimes under their area.

[English]

I think this is in a position of being criss-crossed.

[Translation]

And in the past these three countries were one country. They had same language. They had uniform culture and moreover the population of Bangladesh is much more in comparison to its area and their land is also not very fertile. Due to frequent floods there is loss to life and property and as far as relationship is concerned, some friend from that side used to say that everybody is separated from each other.

[English]

This is also a factor of attraction for the people from that side.

[Translation]

There could be another reason also. When our political leaders want to make them member individually or party basis. When they are required to get votes, at that time they tolerate this illegal immigration. However, whatever may be reason, we should think about this serious issue above the party politics. When I study the figures I realize that in north eastern states number of foreigners is much high, in that case the major step we should take relates to issue of vested interests beyond party politics. We must overcome the issues meant to bargain votes. Apart from it, the Government of India is also serious on these issues while taking measures on it. We have increased the border security force on our borders for through check up and we have increased the border outpost on borders. We have increased the Out-post Towers and the range of surveillance equipments have also been raised. We have confident that we have made our border roads alert so that in the coming days there will be complete check up. Besides this wherever necessary we had made arranged for fencing and all the time the mobile task force remains vigilant whose expenses are borne by Government of India. Apart from it under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary we have constituted a committee and alongwith this, our officers initiated discussions with the Government of Bangladesh from time to time. We are satisfied with the new regime which come into power under the premiership of Sheikh Hasina. The number of intruders into our country have declined. I will give some figures in this regard. I can't give the accurate number of interception which had taken place in 1991. But the interception used by our BSF and other organisations in 1991, on the basis of that there were 83,857 interceptionists caught during that period. Those illegal immigrants were sent back and after that the number of immigrants has declined. In comparison to 1991 in 1996 the number has come down to 13745. Therefore, I assure the country on behalf of the Government that we will check it up completely. Many hon. members have pointed out the issue in regard to Jammu-Kashmir, indeed it is also a serious matter but I would like to assure that the people of J&K, our great para military forces and our military forces not only defeated the evil designs and activities of ISI in J&K.

I think they have now more courage and are compelled to abscond. We have succeeded in making popular government in Parliamentary Election and now the situation is such where role of ISI was very brutal and people of my native place were perplexed with their life and at the time of election. When I asked them whether they need road, school building, their only reply was that we have no problems because our life has become tensed and insecured and we want to die. But two months before when I went there I visited border areas, villages and found that now there is a atmosphere of confidence because now public are attending meetings and they also demand water. Therefore, I want to assure you that now infiltration will come to an end. One of

[Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar]

the Hon'ble member has pointed out the infiltration of ISI which is taking place in Meerut and Aligarh. I would like to assure them that the evil designs of ISI emerged in Kashmir and we have rooted them out, in the same way it will be rooted out in other parts of the country. Tourist will come to J&K and the places which have been made hell by ISI will again become heaven. The emergence of ISI in Meerut or Aligarh will be dealt in the same way. Today you have expressed its emergence here and there. You should inform us immediately. We will save our country from the evil designs of these people by making all kinds of sacrifices and we are ready to make all sacrifices to check this illegal immigration. I have expressed my personal feelings. On behalf of Government of India I want to assure you and all people that the decision we have taken.

[English]

I think those are sufficient to check illegal immigration completely.

[Translation]

On this basis, I request the Hon'ble Member Shri Jagatvir Singh Drona, who has introduced this Resolution—

[English]

that this Resolution need not be adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Resolution was very clear and we had heard very attentively the views expressed by the Minister of Home Affairs. Whatever he had spoken, in fact had endorsed it. But I don't know as to why he has asked me not to press for this resolution and withdraw it. Is it not a contradiction? If we go through his speech, we will find that he has spoken totally in favour of my Resolution. He has linked his views with my sentiments. My Resolution is very clear:

17.00 hrs.

"This House express its grave concern over the large scale illegal immigration into the country since 1975 and recommends that concrete steps be taken to identify all those illegal immigrants and deport them to the country of their origin."

There is nothing against the Government in this Resolution. Whatsoever the government may be in power it is concerned about the security of the country. This conclusion is emerging out of the views expressed by you in your speech. I was thinking that you would appreciate my Resolution and thank me that atleast I invited the attention of the Government to this national problem.

Many Members took part in the discussion, 29 Members have expressed their views. Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had also expressed his views. In the beginning of my speech itself, I had emphasised the basic problems. Today In a country having a population of 95

crores which does not have adequate food for its countrymen and also does not have adequate employment opportunities and resources to raise their standard of living could bear the additional burden of Immigrants. It would be an additional burden on our country.

Dr. Sarma has stated that there are about 70 lakh infiltrates in Assam. Such a large number of infiltrators reside there. My estimate was of about 30-35 lakh. I did not know that my estimate of 2.5 crore would reach the level of 3 crores. It may be on any account. There will be an additional burden on our country as a result thereof. If our country spends ten rupees per day on each of these 2.5 to 3 crore people, who do not have any relation with our country, it comes to an additional expenditure of about 25-30 crore rupees. Mr. Munshi has stated that we are having emotional with them. It can not be denied. In 1947, when our country was divided, we had an option either to live in India or to live in newly constituted country, Pakistan. After that international boundary came between the two countries. Today if anyone whether he is a Hindu or a Muslim or anyone else enters the country illegally by crossing the boundary, he would be called illegal immigrant. It would be the foremost duty of a citizen to identify and repatriate them to their respective countries of origin. The laxity shown in this regard is improper. I endorse the speech of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. About one crore such infiltrators are living in West Bengal. They stage demonstration on roads. They demand the creation of Mahazir-Sangh, as their Home Land. They hold conference in the lawn of Press Club of Calcutta. The 2203 kilometer stretch of Indo-Bangladesh border along West Bengal is having 160 such entry points through which infiltrators are coming to our side. The strength of West Bengal Legislative Assembly is 294. About 60 illegal immigrants are members at present, in the Legislative Assembly. They are playing a decisive role. The density of population is on rise border area and as a result thereof developmental opportunities are becoming limited. Out of 126 seats in Legislative Assembly of Assam, 40 seats have been occupied by such immigrants. It is improper that illegal immigrants intrude and imbalance the density of population in the border area. I agree with you that it has reduced the employment opportunities. They consider our country as an hospice. It does not make any difference if the Government desire to adopt a humanistic approach towards them, but it would be wrong if the Government continue to accept them, for then they would continue to intrude here and if their names are included in the electoral-rolls to provide political benefit to the Government as is happening in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. Such a series of incidents are occurring in border areas because of our political approach and this aspect is not at all being looked into. Our next generation would have to bear its adverse effect. This country has already borne the burnt of partition and is again preparing itself for another partition. Just now Shri Satya Deo Singh had made a reference to statement of Shri Jinnah wherein he had expressed his grief for non-inclusion of Assam in Eastern Pakistan at the time of partition in 1947. I too agree with Shri Satya Deo Singh. I want to quote a conspiracy which is being hatched in a planned manner. Shri Baljeet Rai, D.G.P. (Retd.) had

served for a long time in eastern states. He had some facts based on his experience, on the basis of which he wrote a book titled: "Demographic Aggression against India - Muslim Avalanche from Bangladesh". It has been clearly mentioned therein that how it is being done in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura and Eastern states. It mentions how the four districts of Bihar namely, Purnea, Katihar, Kishanganj, Araria and ten districts of Assam namely Dhubri, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Nalhari, Koraghat, Lakhimpur, Dorand, Naogoan, and Kamroop have at present just become extension of Bangladesh. It is a fact that their identification is a tough task. Their physical traits are almost same as ours. It is also a fact that earlier too their flow was towards East Bengal. But after partition East Bengal came to be known as East Pakistan. East Pakistan was our enemy. Then it gained freedom. During Smt. Indira Gandhi's time, historic incident took place in the war of 1971 when 93,000 solidiers of Pakistani Army were forced to surrender. At that time while expressing gratitude, Sheikh Mujiburahman had been the sole incharge of Bangladesh. At that time we thought that it would be a secular state like India where people of different religions could live. But it did not happened. Bangladesh also became a muslim Nation and since then this problem is prevailing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to paucity of time I do not want to repeat all those points. But I would like to ask as to what seems to be objectionable in it to the Minister of Home Affairs or the Government. The Government should clarify its policy in this regard.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I have stated that Government have adopted certain measures to check it and Government is also confident that there will be a total check up. Then what is the need to move this private Resolution? I would like to request not to press it but to withdraw it.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: In this Resolution, there is nothing against the Government, it is in the interest of the nation. We all have spoken in our speech and it would also be the policy of the Government. You can see the file pertaining to immigrant in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the policy of the Government in this regard. Even during the tenure of Shri Rajesh Pilot as Minister of State for Home Affairs, there would have been some policy in regard to immigrants. They should be identified and repatriated to their country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my suggestion is that a National citizenship register should be maintained and immigrants should be repatriated respectfully to their countries. If the Government of any country objects to this proposal, it would lose the faith of their countrymen. I have not censured the Government, I have just made a suggestion. If Central Government and Ministry of Home Affairs disagree with it, then you come to your record otherwise I will ask for division. There is nothing in this Resolution like that, you should accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not withdrawing it?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: The question to with-

draw it does not arise. You accept it and at least bring it on record that immigrants would be repatriated to their countries after identifying them.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I have said that identity cards have been issued in border districts and steps have been taken in this regard. You please don't politicize it.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: This is not incorrect, this is the same whatever you are doing.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: Then why you moved the resolution?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Because inspite of the steps taken by you, things kept on deteriorating.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: Then why you have made it prestige issue? I would request for third time. Earlier I have requested twice.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: You please give me an assurance.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I have giver you an assurance two times. I again give you an assurance third time that we will check the illegal immigration completely.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Is it the policy of the Government?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Government have accepted my viewpoint and after the clear cut assurance from the Minister of Home Affairs that he agrees with my Resolution, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.12 hrs.

STEPS FOR THE ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION

[Translation]

SHRI SHRI RAM CHAUHAN (BASTI): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

"that this House express deep concern over corruption prevailing in every walk of life and request the Government to take strict action to eradicate this evil."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today corruption is rampant in every walk of life. No field is free from corruption whether it is judiciary, legislative or executive. This is the burning problem of our country. When corruption rises in the country, the pace of development comes to a standstill. We chalk out many plans in this House and pass many budgets but when funds are released for villages and districts, the amount decreases. The corruption starts from the beginning. All the officers and

[Shri Shri Ram Chauhan]

staff indulge themselves in corruption which compelled former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to say that when we allocate one rupee it becomes 20 paise on reaching to the villages. Where does the eighty paise go? Certainly, it goes to the pockets of some persons due to which proper development and upliftment of the country does not take place and financial condition of the villagers is affected. Hence it is a very serious problem. The Government consider it, make many announcements and deliver speeches in this regard but does not take any positive step in this direction.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that our newly elected hon. President has mentioned about corruption in his speech. His speech was not only listened in India but also in other countries. The hon. Prime Minister has delivered his speech some time before. In this Lok Sabha he said that the roots of the corruption are deep and people have to come forward to eradicate it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that hon. President who is the first citizen of the country. They can give a new direction and provide corruption free administration to this country. They ask the people to come forward but do not make any announcement regarding formulation of strong steps. That is why problems are increasing and this great country is facing these problems. It is said that earlier, this country was considered a very great country and its borders were fully secure. Once upon a time, our country was very prosperous and its civilization and culture were great. Historians once called India "Sone ki Chidiya" (Golden sparrow). According to them, there was prosperity in the country. But today, you will find that a number of infants die due to lack of milk. Even during marriage season we have seen that so many girls belonging to the poor families are married without golden 'mangalsutra'. This is the condition of the country which was once called a 'golden sparrow'. But now the condition of our country is deteriorating. The root cause of this deterioration is corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to explain my point through an example. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya has written six golden pages of Indian history out of which one page has been devoted to Chandra Gupta and Chanakya. During the period of Chandra Gupta and Chanakya, people did not lock their doors. It was because everything was available at that time and there was no shortage of any commodity. Thefts and dacoities take place if commodities are not available in sufficient quantity. People lock their doors due to fear of theft and dacoity only. Chinese traveller Fahayan visited India to see as to how the borders of this country are secure, how this country is so great. He was very much impressed by the prosperity of this country and hence, he desired to meet the advisers and the Prime Minister of India. When he proceeded towards India, he thought that Chanakya might be living in a bungalow near Rajpath, but when he moved ahead asking people about Chanakya's residence, they pointed towards a pathway. He further moved on that track and people told him that Chanakya lived in a hut. When Fahayan approached that hut and called Chanakya, he was writing something in the light of a lamp. When Fahayan called Chanakya, he did an act. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to what I am going to tell. Chanakya lit another lamp with the help of the lamp which was already

lighting and put out the first one. Thus, Fahayan received correct information from Chanakya about the composition of state affairs, its system and other things in the light of another lamp. While returning, Fahayan said that he had understood all the things but he was not able to understand the act which he did when I called you. Chanakya asked him as to what he did at that time. Fahayan said that when I called you, you lit another lamp and put out the first one whereas the light and shape of both the lamps were the same. Why did you do that? Thereupon, Chanakya gave a reply and that reply is a slap not only on the politicians but also all the Officers and personnels in the country who are indulged in pilferage and corruption. He replied that the oil being used in the first lamp was provided by the State and that I did my official work with the help of the first lamp. But I did my personal work with the help of the second lamp by purchasing oil from the market from my salary. When you called me, I was doing official work. Therefore, I was using the first lamp but when you called me, I used another lamp for which I purchase oil from my salary because our personal conversation was about to begin. Even a single drop of official oil should not be used for personal talks. When there is the best feeling of general welfare among the people then only, a country makes progress and that era is called a golden era, and that country is called a golden sparrow. Due to such feeling India is great. If such feeling had been there today, the area of our country would have been two and a half or three times wider.

Today, let us ponder over the fact that the people holding highest position in power are not honest. Corruption always percolates from top to bottom not from bottom to top. Corruption, always goes from top to bottom as water falls from 'Auroti'. If the Prime Minister himself is involved in corruption, his Minister becomes corrupt, his secretary and the officers working under his control will also become corrupt. If Officers are involved in corruption the Governors and Chief Ministers in States will also become corrupt. If such a situation is created in States, all the I.A.S. and P.C.S. Officer will indulge in corruption and this trend will reach the S.P.s and D.M.s in the districts and B.D.O.s, Tehsildars and clerks working under their control. Therefore, if we want to remove corruption from our country, people holding the highest position in power should improve their image.

Today, allegations are being levelled against many persons. Bofors gun deal kickback have found mention in the editorial of one of the newspapers today. If such scams take place even in the deals of Defence, it definitely proves that we have no respect for our country. We receive kickback even while we purchase equipment for the security of our borders. That is why, the Government had been changed in the country. With the help of this slogan a gentleman became the Prime Minister but even after the expiry of 10 years, investigation officers are continuously seeking powers and permission to prosecute the guilty persons. The whole country wants to know the names of the culprits. The Government has been changed in the country due to Bofors scam but nothing has been done even after ten years. Permission is not being granted to prosecute the guilty persons in order to keep some persons in power. How unfortunate it is that no

concrete steps have been taken in this regard for last ten years and the position remains to be the same.

Our country is an agricultural country. 85 per cent population of our country depends upon agriculture but scams like urea scam, gur scam and sugar scam have taken place here. There is a large number of cattle in our country and it has been on the number one position in animal husbandry for long time but now they have become the source of income and cows are being slaughtered for exporting their meat. The fodder scam has occurred in India which has got the largest cattle population. Nothing more needs to be said about the pitiable condition of those involved in the fodder scam. This issue has been debated in the House so many times even two-three days ago, it was hotly debated in the House. But why does such a situation arise? When an administrative head of a state gets involved in the scam, it does put a question mark on our moral bearing and conduct. Unless and until we strive to character building and educational upliftment, this country will continue to bog down in the quagmire of corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our top leaders holding high positions just escaped from landing up in jail in the Saint Kitts forgery case. This House also saw the MPs bribery case so as to save the rule and the Chair of Prime Ministership. A case is going on in the court. The Democallies sword is hanging over several people. To what level our public life has stopped to, this is a glaring example.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when all out efforts were being made, to save the government, one of his ministers was found involved in a scam in the telecom deals and the minister had go to jail. Such situations still exist in this country. Share scam occurred in this country and paper scam has recently rocked Gujarat. Today's newspapers have reported a scam in the purchase of computers for Kendriya Vidyalayas giving details of Procurement of Computers in 1997 at the rates of 1994 and their supply to Kendriya Vidyalayas. In 1994, the computer's price was 84,000 rupees and now in 1997, the computer's price is near about 30-35 thousand rupees but the purchase was made at the rate of 1994. The Mukta and Panna area in Mumbai where expansion work was conducted by ONGC with the cost of 500 crores of rupees has been given to MNCs and commission agents. Everyday new scams are being unearthed in this country. Therefore, this country ranks in the list of most corrupt countries. Our image, our reputation in foreign countries has been tarnished and this country has earned the dubious distinction of a nation of corrupt people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will have to bring about improvement to save this nation. This country has been a country of sages and virtuous people and has given several examples to the world. 'Nothing for oneself, everything for the nation' people with this motto have ruled over this country but today people in high offices are utterly corrupt. Therefore, I would like to emphasise that unless and until we hit hard on the very roots of corruption which has eaten its way into the innards of this society, we cannot weed out corruption from this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a sum of 10,000 rupees used to be realised under the Indira Awas Yojna which was eaten up by the officers of the district and blocks and now as a result of our efforts, 20,000 rupees are allocated under Indira Awas Yojna but the officers of block and district eat up the substantial amount out of it and finally people get in between 10,000 to 5,000 rupees varying from place to place. Large scale irregularities have also been reported in the ongoing work of free boring of tubewells.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, these days our courts are coming forward to put a check on our politicians. They are playing to the gallery but is our judiciary free from corruptions? When you ponder over this issue you will come to know that even our judiciary is not free from corruption. It is O.K. that the guilty should be punished but the courts too, are not free from the corruption. Unless you pay Rs.2/- or 5/- to the peon who calls the name, he does not allow the person to get in. Likewise, you have to pay Rs.10 or 15/- to the court clerk to get the next hearing. Therefore, the courts which have been assigned to dispense justice, are not free from corruption. This is really shameful. The courts which make high claims for dispensing justice, should analyse their own system and ponder over the issue of corruption in courts. If he openly takes the bribe of Rs.5/- or 10/- then how would we dispense justice and educate the masses. Those who have got money, can influence the justice, in several cases, oral evidence and cross examination are completed but final verdict is not given because our judiciary has fallen into the all possessive degradation in our society, therefore, justice is not dispensed with in the manner it ought to be. Several detainees are lodged in the prisons for last 20-25 years and nobody is there to defend their cause as they have got no money. Had they got money, they would not have been behind bars for so long. All these fact do put a question mark on our legal system.

If we want to bring about a change in the society then, our Prime Minister, Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and S.P.s of jails should be men of high integrity. If an honest S.P. is posted in a police station, the police stations are not sold out. Otherwise the police stations are sold out for Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 20,000. If the police stations are sold out, then the Sub-Inspector would ask the policemen to bring money so that he could pay it to the higher ups. This way, the policeman also indulge in corruption to pay his Sub-Inspector and the Sub Inspector has to pay to his S.P., so as to save his posting as the incharge of police station. The S.P. too, gets his posting after paying to his higher ups. The S.P. too get his posting after influencing DGP and others. Therefore, one has to pay to get a good posting. Therefore, unless we streamline and bring transparency in the system, the cancer of corruption which has eaten its way into the innards of society making it hollow from within, can not be weeded out from the country.

The schools are the centres of learning. Money is taken for allowing cheating in schools. Different rates prevail for guaranting first class, second class and for just passing the Board Examinations. As such where moral education is given, there the situation is deteriorating. These things must be controlled. The child who gets education in school, who is

[Shri Shri Ram Chauhan]

the future of India, all depends on him in the country. One who passed by giving money to become the best citizen, he gets degree but not the knowledge. That is why he continues to roam here and there and the problem of unemployment increases. These trivial troubles are the hardwork of highly placed people and due to them these problems increase. Therefore, I would like to tell you that this is a very serious problem of this country. Everyday this is discussed in this House on this or that context. Everyday a new scam is reported in the newspapers and debunked by the media or other magazines due to this the image of our country is earning a bad name and today we are not able to show our face abroad...*(Interruptions)* Our colleague Chandrabhushan Singh is saying that we figure at the eighth place in the list of most corrupt countries of the world. India, once a leader of the world is now being counted as the most corrupt country. This is a matter of great misfortune and this august House has maximum responsibility in this regard.

This House must take a decision after discussing this resolution which would be implemented from top level of echelon, only then we would be able to do away with corruption, otherwise there would be no end to it. As long as the Hon'ble Prime Minister did not take a leading role in these matters and did not request his ministers and ensure that every body was govern by the same code of conduct irrespective of his position, we will not be able to protect the future of this country which is going to dogs due to corruption. Prosperity and development can be ensured only when we start this process at the highest level of power. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Shri Shri Ram Chauhan and also thank him for having brought this very important Resolution before this august House.

Corruption is eating into the vitals of the nation. Economy is gravely affected by corruption, whether it is at political level, whether it is at bureaucratic level, whether it is in business, international trade or day-to-day dealings of ordinary citizens with the State. In every walk of life today one hears of deep-rooted corruption. But talking about corruption endlessly will not end it. We, in this august body, the highest democratic institution in the country, must come to some concrete plan of action in this 50th Year of Independence, if the situation is to be changed.

Ours has been a feudal society for centuries. We had very little democratic traditions or the western type traditions which Greece and Rome had and later on, the British parliamentary system, followed by democracy in United States and other western countries.

Fifty years ago when we got freedom, our founding fathers sat down to draft the Constitution for this country. It was great people like Nehru, Gandhi, Ambedkar and Rajender Babu who gave us the Westminster like democracy. But democracy has not really taken deep roots.

Corruption has led to a situation where people throw out political parties in general elections. If you look at the

results of the 1977 elections, corruption was a major issue; in 1989, it was an issue; and even in the recent elections, the issue of corruption has played a major role. People have given their verdict. They have thrown out people for either real corruption or perceived corruption or because of media propaganda. Whether at the Centre or at the State level, whenever people have perceived a political party as being corrupt, they have thrown that political party out.

On the economic side, we had adopted a mixed economy hoping that it would be better than the other two systems — completely planned economy like the socialist economy or completely free economy like the American system. But we ended up, perhaps, getting the worst parts of both worlds. The centrally planned sector of our economy became very inefficient and corrupt. Similarly, the private side of our economy also had its own ills. It was also equally corrupt. So, we are worried now as we adopt market economy, globalise our economy, privatise our State enterprise and marketise it. We are unwittingly ushering in consumer culture. Whether it is through cable TV, whether it is through multinational companies coming in, bringing in multinational culture in our country, whether it is through pop music or through fast food, western consumerist culture is invading our society at a very rapid pace.

The problem with a globalised economy is that it is an economy where market forces alone decide in which direction the economy should go. The disparity in the society would increase. It is increasing. Today, qualified, better skilled, western educated, English speaking, elitist people are getting huge salaries. It is not uncommon to hear of Chief Executives of multinational companies getting consolidated salaries in the range of Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crore per year. On the other hand, rural, less educated, semi-urban people are not getting jobs. There is an army of educated unemployed people who are not even able to get a job worth Rs. 1,000 per month. Disparity and tension in the society are increasing. All these are putting additional pressure on simple living people forcing them to take shortcuts, adopt corrupt ways of life.

As I said, discussing this issue alone will not be enough. It is a happy day today that we are again focussing the attention of this highest forum of democracy in our country on this very crucial and important problem. I would now like to focus on certain areas. We, in this 50th year of our independence, should sit down to draft the agenda for the next fifty years. Various political parties and various organisations are sitting down to hold seminars and write articles. As you know, our Party is meeting in the next ten to fifteen days in a plenary session in Calcutta where we would be pondering, deciding and deliberating about the direction which our Party wants to take and about the direction in which we want our nation to go on the political, economic and social spheres. For the next fifty years, when we ponder over the issue of corruption, cleaner public life, cleaner bureaucratic life and cleaner life in business, first of all, we would see that democracy has to be strengthened. In order to strengthen democracy, make it deep-rooted, really meaningful, we have to aim for a better informed and alert citizenry.

When we consider the quality of our voters, the citizens of our country, the thing that hits us directly in the eyes is the level of illiteracy of our people. It is really unfortunate that even after fifty years of Independence we have still not achieved the objective of full literacy. The 1991 census shows

that hardly half of our population was literate. The UN give us the figure of 48 per cent. According to Government of India, it is 52 per cent. If you see the number of illiterates in our country, today it is really far greater than what it was at the time of Independence. Growing population has contributed to it. But the fact remains that illiterate citizenry and illiterate population cannot really contribute to the making of a great democracy. Unless democracy is deep rooted, unless people are alert, unless people know the value of their votes and unless people throw out corrupt politicians at all levels, it would be very difficult to eradicate or reduce the problem of corruption.

When we are deliberating on this issue, achieving full literacy in the shortest possible time should be the first priority. I am sure the latest thinking of the developmental economists and the UN Development Programme are all focussed on the third world, especially on these glaring issues. With better literacy, people will be better informed about their rights and duties. They will take the whole election process — the process of electing their representatives — more seriously.

The next direct assault on corruption will be by enacting a legislation for right to information. I am very happy that the present Government is seriously considering bringing in such a legislation. There have been some half-hearted attempts by some States like Rajasthan to bring in such a legislation. Rajasthan started it but stopped it half way. People should have the right to information, at least about the developmental projects, the money that is spent on rural development projects, the people for whom this money is being spent etc. That would be the first step towards ending corruption. The second step is to change our secrecy laws which are antiquated, behind which bureaucracy often hides and a lot of corruption goes behind it. Right to information is something on which the House should have a unanimous opinion and force the Government to bring in an enactment as soon as possible.

To make the citizens more informed and alert, I would request the hon. Minister of Education to see that study of the Constitution of India, the great Constitution of ours drafted by Dr. Ambedkar, should be made compulsory at all levels. What is the position today? During the entire course of our education, only in fifth standard or sixth standard there is a mandatory Civics class and in that one chapter is devoted to the Constitution. After that one is not forced to ever look at the Indian Constitution. It is true for every professional except the lawyers. But in United States of America, if one wants to become a citizen of that country, he has to appear for an examination on the US Constitution and is required to get through that examination. So, my request is that the study of the Constitution should be made compulsory in all professional courses. A copy of the Constitution must be present in every school and college. It is not so today. Unless people know what the Indian Constitution stands for, they will not be aware of their rights and responsibilities. There is also a need to increase the content of legal education in all streams of discipline.

The next important area that I would like to come to is the judicial and the constitutional reform that we must undertake. We know that there are a lot of corruption cases in courts. There are some special courts trying them. Everyday we are hearing some corruption cases taken up, cases against politicians and bureaucrats. But it is a fact that crores

and crores of cases or litigations are pending in courts. This backlog has to be removed either by forming more courts or computerising the whole system. In any case, this has to be done. We have to have more special courts to try cases of corruption, be it political corruption or bureaucratic corruption.

The Chief Justice of Supreme Court recently mentioned that an attempt was made to influence him. It is a very serious matter and the House had deliberated it. But what did it mean? An attempt was made by some individual at the highest level of judiciary for the Supreme Court. Justice to withdraw from the case. It means that if a particular Justice withdraws, somebody else would come in who would be more amenable. So, without deliberating more deeply on it, a point was made by the mover of the Resolution that even the judiciary, particularly at the lower level, is not free from corruption.

Then, we will have to have a consensus on an independent investigative agency. The role of CBI has been criticised vehemently in the last few years, of seeking publicity by some and going slow by others. There are cases with the CBI which have been directed by High Courts and the Supreme Court which are pending. I will just cite one example here. On the 23rd July of last year, a death took place in Maharashtra. There were political connections. A person called Ramesh Kini was killed in mysterious circumstances in Pune and his widow has alleged that certain high political people were involved in it. The Maharashtra Police obviously went slow. The Mumbai High Court got into it and for the first time in the history of Maharashtra, ordered that the case be investigated by the CBI. The decision was appealed against; the Supreme Court upheld the decision; but the CBI is sleeping over it. Nothing is happening. This is the condition of cases. I think CBI needs to be restructured. There has to be an independent investigative agency which can look after at least cases of political and bureaucratic corruption.

We have all talked about Lokpal. I think we must have a consensus and a political will to bring it soon. Which way it may actually take shape has to be gone into. A lot of parliamentary committees have gone into it. It is something which will have to be enacted very soon.

The next area which I would like to touch upon is the corruption at political level, elected representatives and electoral reforms. I am of the firm view that unless we have a compulsory interparty democracy, roots of democracy will not really reach the bottom most level. We had seen how the Election Commission got involved and forced the political parties including mine and Janata Dal to hold elections as per their constitution. I think that even involving the Election Commission in the process of party elections to a limited extent would not be a bad idea. It is being done in US. I would say that this also should be considered.

Another aspect is the training of elected representatives, particularly at Panchayat level. Unless lakhs and lakhs of elected Panchayat officials get trained in the functioning of democracy, we will not be able to root out the problem at the political level. We have to involve the NGOs and we have to create the atmosphere through NGOs, through the people, through the media. The political parties must nominate people with cleaner image.

[Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan]

When we talk of electoral reforms, we find that election funding is the root cause of corruption and we have to see that some State funding should come in as election funding.

The next area that I want to touch upon is business and industry. As we privatise the infrastructure in different area like power, telecom, petroleum and road sector, we have to see what happened in the case of Enron. We have seen what has happened in the case of privatisation of basic services in telecom. The famous Sukh Ram scandal was there. The mover referred to the petroleum scandal, the Reliance and Enron and Panna Fields. They are all a cause for worry. When we are privatising infrastructure, it is necessary to have transparent regulatory authorities before you privatise it. We did not form it till the tender for basic services was there. And we know what had happened.

SEBI came in only after the securities scam. Now we are discussing the Bill for Insurance Regulatory Authority. The Banking Regulatory Commission also came in after the scam. Every field that we want to privatise must have a very transparent regulatory authority working in it. Only then, will the privatisation of infrastructure, which is necessary, would succeed.

The reduction of Government controls with the economic reforms of 1991 has helped to reduce corruption in business and industry to an extent. But it has to go further. The unnecessary Government controls will have to be taken out while keeping the role of the State in necessary basic areas. But I think, from many of the production sectors, the State can withdraw.

The bureaucracy is also a major cause of corruption. Transfers have become the biggest industry in some of the States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is not development or industrialisation, but the biggest industry is transfer of bureaucrats. There are some honest officers. They need to be encouraged. They need to be supported. A complete politicisation of bureaucracy is one of the worst diseases that this democracy can face. That is what is happening. We will have to work out a political consensus that bureaucracy should not be politicised. I think, the frequent change of Governments will help bureaucracy towards that objective. The coalition Governments that are now an order of the day will also perhaps help it. But we will have to have a consensus on that.

There is a lot of corruption in international business, particularly in large deals, in Defence deals and in deals about infrastructure. The Government of the United States of America has a law called US Foreign Corruption Act. But many of the European Governments do not have such an Act. It is not illegal for these foreign Governments to pay bribes to the leaders or the politicians or the bureaucrats of the third world countries. I think, we will have to work at the international fora. All the third world countries will have to work together so that such an Act is enacted whereby the practice of foreign suppliers indulging in corruption in one country or giving bribe to the officials of another country is considered a crime as it is considered in the USA. Corruption is a very major and deep issue. I think, the House should deliberate it at a great length. Unless the vitals of this economy stop from being eaten up by corruption, the country will not progress. I once again thank the mover of the resolution for

having brought this resolution. I support it. The House should consider this issue seriously and come out with a concrete action plan to root out this evil.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Sir, I support the resolution moved by Shri Chavan that "This House does express its serious concern over the corruption prevalent in each sector of public life and urge upon the government to take stern action for eradicating this evil."

I remember the lines of one urdu poet that "Gulistan barbad hone ko ek hi ullu kafi hai, anjame gulistan kya hoga, jahan har sakh par ullu baitha hai." Sir as by predecessor speaker has just said that whether it is economic, political, judicial, educational, administrative, religion or any other sector, everywhere we see corruption. It seems that corruption has entered in our each and every field of life. Sir, first, the condition of democracy is that there should be transparency in public life and conduct of leaders. If in a country where it is said 'Achara parmoh dharmah' today corruption enters in each and every nerve of society, would it not be a mockery. Today itself I was surprised to read in a magazine as to which is the most corrupt country in the world and which is figured last in corrupt. In this regard an organisation in Berlin namely 'Transparency International' has conducted a survey.

18.00 hrs.

He has conducted a survey. Ten marks will be there for the survey. It was said that where there is least corruption will get ten marks. No country in the world could get full ten marks but among the least corrupt countries were; Denmark, Finland and Sweden. I don't know how Sweden figures among them? The issue of Bofors relates to that. But ten countries having maximum corruption in the world has been selected. First name was Nigeria, Pakistan at Fifth number and Hindustan at Eight number. By knowing this our head comes down with shame. Besides other countries were Bolivia, Colombia, Russia, Mexico, Indonesia, Venezuela and Vietnam. Our country was prosperous one. For that it was said

"Etdeshay parastasya sakashad agrayanam

swam-swam christeren shikhsen prithvya sarvmanava."

The country in which ruling people bear a good moral conduct and they were found honest, they were regarded as worship worthy and people while bowing in front of them used to get education of character and good conduct by paying obeidance to them...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you can continue later. The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, August 4, 1997.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 4 1997/ Shravana 13, 1919 (Saka).